

Turkeys

Every year, over 250 million turkeys are slaughtered in the U.S. Forty-five million are slaughtered for Thanksgiving alone. All these turkeys are crowded by the thousands inside huge warehouses where they hardly have enough room to move. This mass-production system causes intense suffering, disease, and death.

Confinement

- A typical barn contains 10,000 turkeys, giving each turkey less than three square feet to live their entire lives.
- These sheds are highly automated, often with one worker responsible for the care of thousands of birds. Sick or injured animals often suffer unnoticed, and if they are found they are typically killed since culling is cheaper than veterinary care.
- This overcrowding makes sanitation very difficult. Ammonia fumes from wet litter and fungus and other particulates from the excrement cause skin irritation, blisters, and severe respiratory problems. People in these sheds say it is difficult to breath without a mask.
- Turkeys are unable to express their most basic natural instincts in these crowded sheds, such as nesting, roosting, foraging, or dustbathing, leading to frustration and stress.
- Due to this stress, turkeys exhibit abnormal behavior such as pecking and clawing other turkeys who are unable to escape it due to overcrowding. Instead of relieving the cause of these behaviors, industry cuts off the turkeys' upper beaks, the end of their toes, and their snoods without administering anesthesia.

Genetic Manipulation

Producers use selective breeding to make turkeys grow larger more quickly. This increases profits but intensifies suffering.

- Domestic turkeys now grow three times faster than wild ones, being sent to slaughter as early as 14 weeks.

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- Millions of turkeys die every year from organ failure, because their hearts and lungs don't grow as quickly as the rest of them and can't deliver enough oxygen to the muscles.
- Their legs also do not grow fast enough to support their abnormally large bodies, causing crippling joint disorders, skeletal deformities, and lameness. Birds unable to walk are unable to reach food and water stations and may die from starvation or dehydration.
- Due to genetic manipulation, the consumer-desirable breasts of the turkey have been bred to grow so large that turkeys are no longer capable of reproducing naturally—they are now solely artificially inseminated, a very stressful procedure.

To the Slaughterhouse

- Turkeys are commonly shipped in open crates stacked on large flatbed trucks. Many birds die from exposure, but the loss is more economical to industry than sheltered shipping.
- At the slaughterhouse, workers hurry to pull the birds from crates, with many injuries resulting. Some turkeys are dumped by forklift, inevitably dropping some where they are crushed or die slowly from injuries or starvation.
- The Humane Slaughter Act, requiring animals be rendered unconscious before slaughter, specifically excludes birds. They are commonly shackled by their feet onto a moving rail that dips them head first into an electrified bath which is designed to paralyze them but not numb them, so that they are conscious but limp as they continue to the machine that cuts their throats, at which point they usually bleed to death before being submerged in a tank of boiling water. Invariably, some birds avoid one or both of these first actions and are boiled fully conscious.

Thanksgiving doesn't have to be violent!

You can choose life instead. Find delicious, appealing, peaceful Thanksgiving recipes online.

For more general info, visit: HowDoIGoVe-gan.com

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Animal Rights Advocates of Upstate, N.Y.
 P.O. Box 18415, Rochester, NY 14618
 (585) 234-1306 www.ARAUNY.org
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T.11/15

Information obtained from FarmSanctuary.org

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