



A factory farm is moving into your area, or one operating near you is causing problems and you aren't sure what to do. This Guide has been created to help you understand the issues surrounding factory farms and assist you in organizing your community. We have included tips on the type of information to gather, where to gather it, and what to do once you've obtained all the relevant information.

We have found the most important steps in dealing with a factory farm are to educate yourself and to organize your community and surrounding region. This is a community battle, and you need help from as many people as possible.

You may feel overwhelmed, unsure, and even a little lost. We want to assure you that you are not alone. There are many groups around the country working on the same issue, and we will do our best to network you with them.

If you have any tips or suggestions for future groups, please let us know. We are grateful for any information you would like to share.

The Beyond Factory Farming Coalition's vision is "*Livestock Production for Health and Social Justice*". Our mission is to promote livestock production that supports food sovereignty, ecological, human and animal health as well as local sustainability and community viability and informed citizen/consumer choice.

We wish you the best of luck,

The Beyond Factory Farming Coalition Team

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## Definitions

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### **Animal Unit**

An animal unit is *not* simply one animal, but rather a measuring unit for livestock production that varies from province to province. In most cases one animal unit is calculated based on the amount of feed consumed, or the amount of manure produced, by one 1,000 lb cow. For example, in Alberta one animal unit may be equivalent to 1 dry dairy cow, 2 feeder steers, 5 feeder pigs, 18.2 weaners or 500 broiler chickens. Check your province for the applicable definition in your area.

### **CAFO**

Confined Animal Feeding Operation

### **CFO**

Confined Feeding Operation

### **Factory farm**

A large-scale industrial site where many animals (generally chickens, turkeys, cattle, or pigs) are confined, fed, and treated with pharmaceuticals to maximize growth and prevent disease. The animals produce much more waste than the surrounding land can handle. These operations are associated with various environmental hazards as well as cruelty to animals (*from the Sustainable Table website [www.sustainabletable.org/intro/dictionary/](http://www.sustainabletable.org/intro/dictionary/)*).

The term *Factory Farm* was first used by Ruth Harrison in her 1964 book “*Animal Machines*”—an exposé of the intensive housing of veal calves, chickens and pigs.

### **ILO**

Intensive livestock operation (or industrial livestock operation)

### **Proponent**

The person or company that is proposing to build the ILO

### **Socially responsible livestock production**

Socially responsible activities are those in which the individual(s) profiting from the activity pay(s) all the costs the activity generates and shifts none of those costs to others who will not profit from the activity. So, socially responsible farming would be farming where all the costs of the farm (air and water pollution, etc.) are contained within the farm’s boundaries and are not shifted off the farm.

### **Value chain**

A term used to describe the series of commercial transactions between primary production (on farms) to sale to the final consumer.

### **Vertical Integration**

When a corporation owns or controls two or more steps (primary production, secondary processing, bulk distribution, retail marketing) in the production-distribution system of a given product.



## Three Ways To Use This Guide

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### **On the fly**

You are faced with a situation that is developing very quickly. You need to act without delay. Print the *Checklist* and go through the steps outlined there to the best of your ability.

### **Urgent, but not in a panic**

You know that a proposal for a mega barn is in the works, but you have time to get organized. Review the checklist first. Then read each section of the guide as you take on the various tasks involved in confronting a factory farm.

### **Digging in for the long haul**

You are dealing with a long-term problem, either with a persistent proponent, or an expansion of an existing barn. Use the checklist and the written sections of the handbook as well as the in-depth resources that are listed and available on the internet or at the library.



