The milk of human kindness..?: the routine suffering of dairy cows and their calves is one of the biggest and dirtiest secrets of the modern farming industry / Animal Aid.

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Animal Aid (Society: Tonbridge, England)

**Publication/Creation** 

Tonbridge: Animal Aid, [ca.2002]

**Persistent URL** 

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/x8wn8jkt

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Wellcome Collection 183 Euston Road London NW1 2BE UK T +44 (0)20 7611 8722 E library@wellcomecollection.org https://wellcomecollection.org The dairy industry argues that it provides a range of irreplaceable, health-sustaining milk, cheese, yogurt and flavoured drink products. Not only are there now delicious, dairy-free versions of all these items, but there are no nutrients in milk products that cannot be obtained from plant

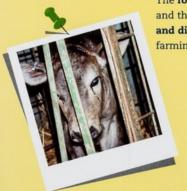
food - calcium included. Contact Animal Aid for full details.



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The of human kindness The routine suffering of dairy cows and their calves is one of the biggest and dirtiest secrets of the modern



farming industry.



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While many people now know about the plight of battery chickens and intensively reared pigs, they still believe that the dairy industry works to ancient, natural laws and that farmers are simply on hand to take the milk that cows automatically produce and have no need for.

As well as giving the cow and her calf a punishing time, the dairy industry discharges huge amounts of pollution into the environment in the form of manure, methane gas and effluent from silage – the last being a commonly-used feed made from fermented grass. Around one quarter of the agricultural water pollution incidents recorded by the National Rivers Authority are related to dairy farming.

The reality is very different.

Just like human females, cows produce milk only after giving birth. But in order to yield the vast quantities demanded by the modern industry, they are subjected to a constant cycle of pregnancies - nearly always by artificial insemination, and often involving the surgical manipulation of embryos. They are also given a difficult-to-digest, high protein diet.

Soon after birth their calves – who are fed skimmed milk powder rather than their own mothers' milk - are stolen away and most are bartered for a few pounds. They are no more than a waste by-product of the industry. Separation of mother and infant causes acute anxiety for both. Cows will bellow for their lost young for days.

The multiple burdens cows endure are responsible for the high levels of stress-related illnesses present throughout the UK herd.

When they are no longer profitable milk machines, the spent cows are 'culled'. Many will be exhausted and leaking milk through distended udders by the time they are trucked out to the slaughterhouse. They used to be made into cheap burger or pie meat. But because of BSE, they are now simply killed and turned into waste. Some are in an advanced stage of pregnancy when destroyed.

stop the BSE in

Because cows are re-impregnated while still making milk from the pregnancy that has just ended, they become seriously run-down and emaciated. Often, their back and hip bones can be seen starkly protruding.

Around 20% of UK dairy cows are lame at any given time - either because their swollen udders prevent them from standing or walking properly; or as a result of their dirty, crowded and damp winter housing.



Every year, there are between 30 and 60 cases of mastitis per 100 British cows. Mastitis is an acutely painful infection of the udder and is routinely treated with antibiotics. Traces of these drugs, as well as legally permitted pus and blood cells, may be found in milk sold for human consumption.



