

Meat from Cloned Animals
The Beyond Factory Farming Coalition's Position Paper
February, 2007

The Beyond Factory Farming Coalition is categorically opposed to the cloning of animals, and the use of cloned livestock meat, milk or eggs for food.

Cloning is not necessary. We don't need it in order to have enough to eat. Canadian farmers produce high quality livestock, dairy and poultry without resorting to cloning.

Cloning causes unnecessary suffering in animals. Many cloned animals have deformities and are otherwise unhealthy.

Cloning is used by industrial agriculture to provide a way to control the breeding and reproduction of animals. It does not benefit farmers, consumers or animals. However the risk (economic, health, pain and suffering) are born by farmers, consumers and animals.

Cloning reduces livestock biodiversity by limiting the gene pool according to the interests of the directors of the cloning enterprise. Loss of genetic diversity within a species increases disease risk and creates populations susceptible to devastating blights, and disease epidemics. Widespread cloning of breeding stock combined with industrialization of livestock production could dramatically increase the rate of extinction of rare livestock breeds, destroying humanity's heritage of livestock breeding.

Selling cloned meat in the food system is simply a way for the industrial users of cloning to dispose of the bodies of cloned animals – it is not a method of food production.

Cloned animals such as goats and cattle may be used to produce drugs or industrial chemicals in their milk. The health impacts of consuming meat of animals genetically engineered this way is unknown and should be avoided.

The United States Food and Drug Administration is proposing that meat from cloned animals may be sold without being labelled. If cloned meat is to be sold, it must be clearly labelled and labelling must extend to restaurant menus, institutions (such as hospitals, schools and prisons), prepared and packaged meat. Consumers should be able to make an informed choice about what they are eating. People must have the opportunity to refuse cloned meat and provided with non-cloned meat instead.

Canadians should not be forced to eat unlabelled cloned meat imported from the USA. If the USA approves cloned meat for human consumption, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency must create effective systems to ensure that cloned meat does not enter the food system in Canada.

Cloned meat in the food system is contrary to food sovereignty. Cloning is part of a system that seeks to transfer control over food production away from farmers and communities and embed it in corporations. Intellectual property rights are a central aspect of this framework of control, and cloning is a mechanism for maintaining control over animal genetics.