

## **Freed-range animal production**

"Free-range" animals suffer like intensely-confined animals, as they endure the horrors of abusive handling, transport, and slaughter.

The USDA, which defines free-range and free-roaming for labeling purposes, relies "upon producer testimonials to support the accuracy of these claims.

The term "free-range" has no legal meaning, and can mean that the animals are in slightly larger cages than industry standards. No government laws or standards regulate the use of terms like "free-range" and "free-roaming" on egg cartons, so some "free-range" eggs may actually be produced by hens who spend their lives in small, conventional battery cages. Often, "free-range" hens are un-caged but confined indoors in crowded sheds similar to "broiler" houses. Hens are still subjected to de-beaking, and male chicks are generally disposed of at free-range egg production facilities.



Free-range mammals raised for food production are not always adequately protected against inclement weather. Many die from dehydration or freeze to death. Sometimes they are swept away in floods. Injured or ill animals often do not receive necessary veterinary attention. They experience trauma and pain as they are branded with hot irons.

Free-range animal production does not equate to cruelty-free animal production.