



# Poultry Press

*Promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl*

## "A Killing Floor Chronicle: A down-and-out former poultry worker's online memoirs of his gruesome job have electrified animal-rights activists worldwide"

*by Stephanie Simon, Los Angeles Times, Dec. 8, 2003*

*"He came forward from a world that's completely locked away out of sight. Very few people have the courage."*  
- UPC President Karen Davis, quoted in "A Killing Floor Chronicle."

For 5 years **Virgil Butler** killed 80,000 birds per shift on a 9-man team in a Tyson chicken

slaughter plant in Arkansas until Tyson fired him in 2002.

Two months later, Butler described slaughterhouse abuses — "just a part of a regular night's work" — at a news conference sponsored by PETA. Only one reporter came, and no one wrote it up. But over the next few months, animal rights groups featured Butler on their websites and in their newsletters. (See the Spring and Summer-Fall 2003 issues of

*PoultryPress*.) "Each time they did, hundreds of e-mails poured in, thanking him for, as one writer put it, 'being a voice for the animals.'

"Amazed, emboldened, Butler began to think of himself as more than an assembly-line killer. He gave up his fried ham and pork rinds in favor of a vegan diet."

And he started a website recounting his experience at Tyson: the birds' horrific slaughter, broken bones, electric shocks, bruises, and being boiled alive in scald tanks; co-workers ripping off the

heads of live chickens, stomping them to death and blowing them up with dry-ice bombs for fun. Butler knows the chickens' panic: "sometimes, you catch one looking up at you, eye to eye, and you know it's terrified."



Photo By Lesley P. Nobles

### United Poultry Concerns

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Butler took his first job in the poultry industry at 14 when he joined a crew that went "from farm to farm, grabbing chickens and stuffing them into wooden crates for transport to the slaughterhouses." Later, he took a job killing chickens at Tyson where the live birds are considered nothing more than "pre-processed product."

"But the longer he worked the kill floor, Butler said, the more it began to disturb him." He took drugs, started carrying a knife. "It felt like you were losing your humanity," he recalls. "There is blood everywhere. It's just you and the dying chickens. You are ashamed to tell others what you do at night while they are asleep in their beds."

Though Tyson disputes Butler's claims, after logging on to his website the company "announced plans to inspect its slaughterhouses to ensure humane treatment of the 42 million chickens it slaughters each year." [UPC Editor's note: Even if sincerely attempted, these "plans" could not be carried out under the current system of hanging the birds upside down in shackles and submerging them in a torturous electrified water trough designed to paralyze their muscles to release their feathers and keep them from flapping rather than to relieve their suffering.]

Plugged to a computer in a battered camper in the mountains of Arkansas, Virgil Butler and his partner, Laura Alexander, are taking the plight of chickens to the world. As Butler explains it: "One person can make a difference if you just don't shut up. If you keep talking long enough, people will hear you." 

Butler and Alexander run a chat room at:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/activistsagainstfactoryfarming>

Butler's website: [www.cyberactivist.blogspot.com](http://www.cyberactivist.blogspot.com)

LA Times article: [upc-online.org/slaughter](http://upc-online.org/slaughter)

 **What Can I Do?**

 Plan to attend UPC's Fifth Annual Forum, Aug. 21-22, 2004, in Virginia, and hear Virgil Butler speak about his experience at Tyson. (More about our Forum in future issues of *PoultryPress*.)

 Order our new booklet *Poultry Slaughter: The Need for Legislation*. \$2 per copy incl. shipping. \$1 per copy if you order 3 or more. Also available on line at [www.upc-online.org/slaughter](http://www.upc-online.org/slaughter)

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<p><b><i>PoultryPress</i></b>                  is published quarterly by                  United Poultry Concerns, Inc.,                  a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization                  incorporated                  in the State of Maryland.                  Federal I.D.: 52-1705678</p> <p>EDITOR:  <b>Karen Davis</b></p> <p>GRAPHIC DESIGN:  <b>Gary Kaplan/ GK Graphic Designs</b></p> <p>WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR:  <b>Gary Kaplan/ GK Graphic Designs</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>UNITED POULTRY CONCERNS, INC.</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p><u>OFFICERS:</u>  <b>KAREN DAVIS</b>, PhD,  <i>President-Director</i></p> <p><b>GEORGE ALLAN CATE</b>, PhD,  <i>Vice President-Director</i></p> <p><b>JOAN MEANOR</b>  <b>HOLTGRAVER</b>, MA,  <i>Secretary Treasurer-Director</i></p> </td> <td> <p><u>WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR:</u>  <b>GARY KAPLAN</b></p> <p><u>GRAPHIC DESIGNERS:</u>  <b>GARY KAPLAN</b></p> <p><b>JILL HOWARD CHURCH</b></p> <p><u>OFFICE MANAGER: &amp;</u>  <u>PHOTOGRAPHER</u>  <b>SUSAN RAYFIELD</b></p> </td> <td> <p><u>CONSULTANTS &amp; INTERNET</u>  <u>RESEARCHERS:</u>  <b>MARY FINELLI</b>  <b>PATTRICE JONES</b></p> <p><u>SANCTUARY ASSISTANTS:</u>  <b>SONIA MALDONADO</b>  <b>CAROL BAKER</b></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p><u>ADVISORS:</u>                  Carol J. Adams, <i>Author</i>                  Nedim C. Buyukmihci, <i>VMD</i>                  Sean Day, <i>Attorney</i>                  Jim Mason, <i>Author</i></p> </td> <td> <p>Ingrid Newkirk, <i>PETA</i>                  Sheila Schwartz, PhD, Humane                  Education Committee of NYC                  Kim Sturla, <i>Animal Place</i></p> </td> <td> <p>Deborah Tanzer, PhD,                  Psychologist                  In Memoriam: Henry Spira,                  Animal Rights International</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><u>OFFICERS:</u>  <b>KAREN DAVIS</b>, PhD,  <i>President-Director</i></p> <p><b>GEORGE ALLAN CATE</b>, PhD,  <i>Vice President-Director</i></p> <p><b>JOAN MEANOR</b>  <b>HOLTGRAVER</b>, MA,  <i>Secretary Treasurer-Director</i></p>	<p><u>WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR:</u>  <b>GARY KAPLAN</b></p> <p><u>GRAPHIC DESIGNERS:</u>  <b>GARY KAPLAN</b></p> <p><b>JILL HOWARD CHURCH</b></p> <p><u>OFFICE MANAGER: &amp;</u>  <u>PHOTOGRAPHER</u>  <b>SUSAN RAYFIELD</b></p>	<p><u>CONSULTANTS &amp; INTERNET</u>  <u>RESEARCHERS:</u>  <b>MARY FINELLI</b>  <b>PATTRICE JONES</b></p> <p><u>SANCTUARY ASSISTANTS:</u>  <b>SONIA MALDONADO</b>  <b>CAROL BAKER</b></p>	<p><u>ADVISORS:</u>                  Carol J. Adams, <i>Author</i>                  Nedim C. Buyukmihci, <i>VMD</i>                  Sean Day, <i>Attorney</i>                  Jim Mason, <i>Author</i></p>	<p>Ingrid Newkirk, <i>PETA</i>                  Sheila Schwartz, PhD, Humane                  Education Committee of NYC                  Kim Sturla, <i>Animal Place</i></p>	<p>Deborah Tanzer, PhD,                  Psychologist                  In Memoriam: Henry Spira,                  Animal Rights International</p>
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# "Wood-Chipped Chickens Fuel Outrage"

## Los Angeles Times Covers Wood-Chipper Cruelty Investigation



Photo By: San Diego County Department of Animal Services

**B**ased on records obtained under the California Public Records Act, UPC has asked the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to remove Dr. Gregg Cutler from its animal welfare committee for telling the Ward Poultry Farm in San Diego County to throw thousands of live hens into wood-chipping machines in February 2003. The AVMA, which does not support wood-chippers as a form of euthanasia, told UPC on Nov. 6 that procedures for handling our complaint were being initiated.

On Nov. 22, *LA Times* reporter Jia-Rui Chong ran a story on the case. Pointing out that **"United Poultry Concerns has been circulating the San Diego County documents and vowed that animal groups would continue to nettle the American Veterinary Medical Assn. until it removed Gregg Cutler from its animal welfare committee,"** the article also cites the complaint filed by the San Diego County Dept. of Animal Services against veterinarians Gregg Cutler and Doug Kuney, who authorized and supervised the use of the wood chippers, to the California Dept. of Consumer Affairs Veterinary Medical Board requesting an investigation.

If the Board believes that an ethical or professional

breach of conduct has occurred, the case will be sent to the state attorney general's office which may present it to an administrative law judge, who can put a veterinarian on probation or suspend or revoke his/her license. UPC is joining the San Diego County Dept. of Animal Services in urging the Veterinary Medical Board to investigate this case to determine if punishment is warranted. 🐔



### What Can I Do?



Urge the AVMA to remove Gregg Cutler from its animal welfare committee. Cutler authorized the use of woodchippers, lied to the AVMA that he did not, then admitted that he did, and is now accusing county humane officers of misrepresenting him.



#### Contact:

Bruce Little, DVM, Executive Vice President  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
1931 North Meacham road, Suite 100  
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360  
Ph: 847-925-8070. Fax: 847-925-1329



Urge the California Dept. of Consumer Affairs Veterinary Medical Board to investigate the case against Gregg Cutler and Doug Kuney with a view to revoking their licenses to practice veterinary medicine in California.



#### Contact:

Administrator  
Veterinary Medical Board  
1420 Howe Avenue, Suite 6  
Sacramento, CA 95825-3228  
Ph: 916-263-2610. Fax: 916-263-2621  
Email: vmb@dca.ca.gov

# Assume No Animal Products Are Safe

By Karen Davis, PhD

Like all modern farmed animals, cattle suffer from many diseases because of how they are raised and fed with little known effects on the people who eat them and their products. Government and industry reassure us that virtually no farmed animal diseases are transmittable to humans. When a known transmittable infection is confirmed in a particular animal, as mad cow disease was confirmed in a cow on December 25, they reassure the public there is nothing to worry about. It's just "one animal"; the nation's food supply "remains safe."

But scrutiny belies these assurances. For example, on December 23, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman told reporters that the infected Holstein cow was never meant for the U.S. food supply and, at the same time, that inspectors were trying to trace the whereabouts of the infected flesh. In fact, no one knows where it went. It could be, or it could have been, by now an ingredient in dog food, pig chow, poultry feed, hamburger, chicken nuggets or all of the above. It could be stewing in a sewage plant somewhere or "misfolding" in an individual's neural pathway.

Talk about "isolated cases" any more is nonsense regardless. Agribusiness is global, and for this reason alone the synergies of animal and human diseases elude exactitude. However, we do know some things from which reasonable conclusions and choices may derive.

Take cattle feed, for example. Realizing that cattle get fatally infected with mad cow disease by eating feed containing tissue from the central nervous systems of infected cattle, and that a variant of this fatal neurological disease may be transmitted to human consumers of beef products, the U.S. and Canada banned certain cattle-derived feed ingredients from cattle feed in 1997 - brain, spine and the bones called vertebrae that protect the spinal cord.

However, nervous system tissue along with the stomachs and intestinal contents of poultry and pigs are fed to cattle, as are poultry manure and used poultry-house bedding, or "litter," into which the birds excrete their waste and decompose by the millions each year. Cattle raised next to chicken houses are often "grazed"

on this noxious waste.

Thus, even if feeding cattle to cattle is banned in the U.S. and Canada, feeding the banned cattle tissue to poultry and pigs is common and legal in both countries. Protein additives extracted from diseased cows and fed to chickens and pigs contain the same infectious prions that cause mad cow disease. When the birds and pigs who ate the prions are in turn fed to cattle, the infectious tissue is recycled back to its source.

If the danger of this circular disease route seems remote, consider that the prion proteins responsible for mad cow disease can withstand the intense heat that is used to render diseased cattle into poultry and pig feed, and that birds have been shown to have the same type of prion proteins as mammals, including humans.

For these reasons, the 2002 Nobel Prizewinning professor of biophysics at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich Switzerland, Kurt Wüthrich, warned last summer that chickens could be a "prion reservoir" that poses a "mad cow" threat to humans. Other distinguished scientists including D. Carleton Gajdusek, the first to be awarded a Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work on mad cow-like diseases, and Dr. Pat Brown, medical director for the U.S. Public Health Service, speculate that pigs and chickens could be harboring mad cow disease and passing it on to humans.

And while to date no pigs, chickens or turkeys have been reported with the disease, Michael Greger, M.D. of Cornell University says these animals die so young that "they may not have time to develop symptoms," yet they could act as "silent carriers."

Knowing what we now know about mad cow disease and how it travels - including the fact that its travels cannot truly be traced, given the realities of the industrial economy - we should give serious thought to the role of animal products in our diet and that of our children. A vegetarian diet is not only an ethical opportunity to create a less violent world but a food safety initiative that doesn't depend on the government. Why worry about getting mad cow disease when you don't have to? 🐔

## UPC & University Students Protest Serving Animals To Raise Funds

### Urge Animal Shelters to Adopt an Animal Friendly Menu for Shelter Events

For the second year in a row, UPC urged the New Hampshire SPCA (NHSPCA) not to serve animal products at its fundraisers. Animal protectionists around the country responded to our online alert. As one shelter director said, "We should not eat whom we shelter."

UPC learned of the NHSPCA's plan to serve chicken and fish from animal rights group leader Larissa Mullen, a student at the University of New Hampshire where the fundraiser was held on Nov. 15th.

Armed with UPC literature **Mullen's group held a successful protest.** According to Mullen, "Many people were very supportive. We got a number of people who were going to the event to take flyers inside to pass out to other people inside. We actually had someone who read a flyer come back out and tell us he supported us. The NHSPCA's webmaster agreed it didn't make sense to post pictures of adoptable roosters while the society made money off a chicken dinner." 🐔



Photo By: Larissa Mullen

Stratham, NH 03885  
Ph: 603-772-2921  
Fax: 603-778-7804  
Email: [Info@NHSPCA.org](mailto:Info@NHSPCA.org)  
Website: [www.nhspca.org](http://www.nhspca.org)  
Board of Directors

Richard Ford, Chairman  
New Hampshire SPCA  
108 Portsmouth Avenue  
Stratham, NH 03885



### What Can I Do?

Politely urge the NHSPCA to serve only vegetarian meals at their fundraisers. **Invite them to read *Food for Thought***, an Animal Place booklet with sample vegetarian recipes and policies, and comments from shelter directors who support humane menus for shelter-sponsored events. (It's FREE from Animal Place, 3448 Laguna Creek Trail, Vacaville, CA 95688, Ph: 707-449-4814; fax: 449-8775. [AnimalPlace.org](http://AnimalPlace.org).)

#### Contact

Lisa Dennison, Executive Director  
New Hampshire SPCA  
PO Box 196

#### Points to make to animal shelters and humane societies that are still serving meat to raise money:

It is the responsibility of SPCAs and humane societies to help raise the intrinsic value of animals in people's minds. This translates into not serving them at shelter-sponsored functions.

Shelters are role models for their community on how to treat animals. SPCAs need to raise the public's awareness and increase their sensitivity towards all animals. Moral consistency is a reasonable goal toward which

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animal protectionists must strive. (Imagine if United Poultry Concerns offered a fur coat to raise money for chickens.)

Charitable donations should not be used to perpetrate cruelty.

SPCAs and humane societies need to be the community leaders in compassion.

They can no longer ignore this issue. Time is long overdue to adopt a humane menu, which is as easy as going to the vegetarian cookbook section of the local bookstores.

Send them copies of UPC cookbooks *Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey: A Poultryless "Poultry"*

*Potpourri* and *Replacing Eggs* (to order, see our merchandise pages).

**For More Information:** Contact Animal Place for a copy of *Food for Thought: Adopting an Animal Friendly Menu*. This FREE 12-page booklet is the ideal publication to share with your local shelter (to order, see above).

**For Recipes Online:**

Compassion Over Killing: [www.tryveg.com/recipes.php](http://www.tryveg.com/recipes.php)

Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine: [www.pcrm.org/health/RVSK/RVSK.html](http://www.pcrm.org/health/RVSK/RVSK.html)

Vegetarian Resource Group: [www.vrg.org/recipes/index.htm](http://www.vrg.org/recipes/index.htm)

**UPC Banner Hits Chicago Streets, Thanks to Action Volunteers for Animals**  
**"Don't Just Switch from Beef to Chicken! Get the Slaughterhouse Out of Your Kitchen!" read by millions**

This summer, **Ava Barcelona and Action Volunteers for Animals** made a huge United Poultry Concerns banner and took it to the streets along with UPC literature. Ava told UPC: "The banner can be read from very far away. When thousands of cars passed by us throughout the summer, **the cheering was very loud, hundreds of thumbs up!** During the week of the Taste of Chicago, we stood with the banner near the main convention center entrance. Though most of the million visitors came to "taste meat," we did not have to deal with a single case of confrontation. Without a doubt, this day was the highlight of my life." 🐔



Photo By: Action Volunteers For Animals

**A LEGACY OF COMPASSION FOR THE BIRDS**

Please remember United Poultry Concerns through a provision in your will.  
 Please consider an enduring gift of behalf of the birds.

A legal bequest may be worded as follows:

I give, devise and bequeath to United Poultry Concerns, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation incorporated in the state of Maryland and located in the state of Virginia, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and/or (specifically designated property and/or stock contribution).

We welcome inquiries.

**United Poultry Concerns, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 150 • Machipongo, Virginia 23405-0150**  
**(757) 678-7875**



Photo by Tal Ronnen

## Freddaflower Memorial Fund

In loving memory of my dear pet and companion, **Henrietta**, who passed away on December 8, 2003 after a long struggle with Marek's disease. Henrietta was rescued from a Delaware auction in early 1993 and given to me as a welcomed and cherished gift. Over the past eleven years, Henrietta traveled extensively, riding on my shoulder from Washington, DC, to her new home in San Francisco, California. After visiting every state in between the two cities, she enjoyed the life of an urban chicken, living in a 27th story high-rise in her own bedroom, with spectacular city and bay views.



Henrietta will be deeply missed and forever loved by her friends and family. -Bob Wucher



Would you like to sponsor a rescued UPC chicken or duck for \$6 a month, \$72 a year? If so, please send us your check or money order stating the number of birds you wish to sponsor. Pay bi-annually, or in one yearly installment. Upon receiving your sponsorship fee, we will send you a color photo of your happy bird(s), and his, her, or their name(s). Thank you for helping us save and care for our beloved feathered friends.

### BECOMING A UPC E-SUBSCRIBER IS EASY!

"Dear UPC, Every day I look forward to your emails. Because of you mainly, I'm returning to vegetarianism and hope to be as vegan as possible." - Georgia Conroy"

Want to Do More Chicken-Writing? Sign up and receive our electronic Action Alerts at <http://www.upc-online.org/email>

### PLEASE, JOIN US TODAY!

#### We NEED Your Strong and Continuing Financial Support

New Membership **\$35**    2004 Membership Renewal **\$30**

Membership includes our quarterly PoultryPress Newsletter to keep you informed of current issues, and how you can get involved in many other ways. If you would like to become a monthly supporter, go to our website at [www.upc-online.org](http://www.upc-online.org) and click on the link to set up your account. It's that easy!

Additional Tax-deductible Contribution:

\$20    \$35    \$50    \$100    \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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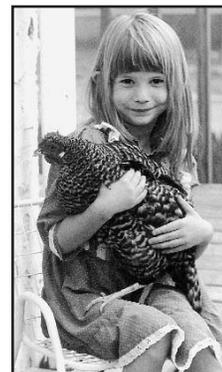
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Please make your check payable to **United Poultry Concerns. THANK YOU!**

**Are you moving?** Please send us your new address before the next newsletter.

**Do you want to be removed from our mailing list?** Please tell us now. The U.S. Postal Service charges \$.70 for every returned mailing. Remailing the newsletter costs UPC an additional \$1.06. Due to the enormous cost of remailing newsletters including the time it takes, we can no longer provide this service. Thank you for your consideration. Please keep up your membership. We need your **continuing** financial support.



**United Poultry Concerns**

PO Box 150 • Machipongo, VA 23405-0150

# UPC's Forum on Promoting Veganism Widely and Effectively (Part II)

**O**n August 16-17, UPC held its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum at the University of Colorado, Boulder campus. Following are summaries of talks by Zoe Weil of the International Institute for Humane Education ([iihed.org](http://iihed.org)), Paul Shapiro of Compassion Over Killing ([cok.net](http://cok.net)), and Karen Davis of United Poultry Concerns ([upc-online.org](http://upc-online.org)). We thank Nalith Inc for assisting us in putting on the Forum. Part III appears in the next issue.



## "Inspiring People to Be Vegan" by Zoe Weil

How do we motivate people to make more compassionate choices? Take the contest between the sun and the wind to see which one can get a person

to take her coat off. The wind blows and blusters but the person simply wraps her coat tighter, whereas the sun simply SHINES, and finally the person removes her coat under the sun's warmth. In the contest between the forest fire and the campfire, people flee from the forest fire but are drawn to the campfire. When we are the sun and the campfire, people will want to join us. To get people to want to be vegan, we must be the best person we can be - warm, loving, and kind. Our judgment should be against injustice, not against people.

As a humane educator, I want to turn students on, not off, to educate not indoctrinate. **A humane educator inspires others** by providing accurate information, teaching critical thinking, and inspiring the 3 R's: Reverence (the emotion), Respect (the attitude), and Responsibility (the action).

We can help students come to their own conclusions, for example, by showing them the "happy hen - pretty farm" logos on egg cartons versus photos and video of how the hens really live. Have them stand bare-foot on a plastic crate for 20 minutes and imagine if

they had to stand that way for a year. Have them examine the cost to the environment of producing a hamburger versus a veggie burger with this question: which one harms less? In asking to address a classroom, I let teachers know my bias: living a life that causes the least harm.

## "Effective Vegan Advocacy on a Tight Budget" by Paul Shapiro



I hope animal advocates will allocate a lot more resources to farmed animal issues because 99 percent of exploited animals are dying to be eaten. Here are some **things I've**

**learned about practical advocacy.** Nothing is cheaper than teaching by example. Since we are the ambassadors for animals and people don't separate the message from the messenger, we need to be and look like the kind of people other people will want to be and look like - "he looks great and he's vegan!"

I used to say I would "die" for animals but wasn't even willing to wear a nice shirt for animals - my identity was more important to me than being an effective advocate. To be effective we need to be as close to other people as we can. Lecturing on diglycerides to people who are gnawing on an animal's leg bone, giving them lists of 100 ingredients to boycott, is not effective. We should applaud people for even small steps, which for them may be big steps, like being vegetarian 3 days a week or choosing a "free-range" egg over a battery-hen's egg. Imagine if we could bring each person down from consuming 300 eggs a year to 200 - what a downturn for the egg industry! At the same time, we should not encourage people to substitute one animal for another - that's not progress. Here's a list of some of the cheapest, easiest ways to promote veganism:

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- 🐔 Leafleting on busy street corners and campuses.
- 🐔 Letters to the editor and op-eds.
- 🐔 Library displays including free literature: many libraries are delighted to have attractive free displays.
- 🐔 Feed-Ins - choose a place to feed people delicious vegan "chicken nuggets," say, and bring the box.
- 🐔 Restaurant Outreach: going to restaurants and getting one or more vegan meals on the menu; getting your local deli to carry mock turkey and ham; getting the meat distributor to carry mock meats to receptive outlets. These are all things that COK has done, and does, successfully in Washington DC. It works better than picketing the meat distributor.
- 🐔 Put videos on cable access: it's usually free and people watch!

It's important to show people exactly what happens to animals as a result of meat, dairy, and egg consumption. Even if we don't do undercover investigations ourselves, we should use the footage that COK and other groups provide. **We must show people that meat means misery.** The least we can do is to bear witness. As I lie in my comfortable bed at night, I think of the hens on wire mesh floors with no comfort ever. People should know exactly why we are so adamant about standing up for animals.

"Should Animal Advocates Support a 'Humane' Animal-Based Diet?" by Karen Davis

Imagine if suddenly there were no more animal

products and people had to eat the delicious vegan food we had for lunch today - people would be happy!

Vegan advocates are faced with media promotion of chicken and fish farming "to alleviate poverty and feed the world." We're faced with media promotion of diet books with lots of salads, whole grain products AND meat linked to images of healthy-looking "South Beach" glamour. Even progressive publications like *The Nation* urge readers to view solutions to low-income people's dietary inadequacies as a meat, dairy and egg-based solution.

Animal advocates should read movement literature but we should also read outside our movement to see how the rest of the world is thinking in order to shape our message more effectively in terms of that thinking, and to write letters to the editor in order to move farmed-animal and vegan issues into mainstream discourse - something that is starting to happen because of our clamor.

A problem with supporting "alternative" animal products (organic, "free-range," etc.) is that it can lead people to feel so morally satisfied they won't even bother to try vegan food. An environmental conference I recently attended served nothing vegan, and the litany of "animal stewardship" was invoked like scripture. If people are willing to invest time and money in "organic" meats, antibacterial kitchen sprays, and so on, let's encourage these people to invest in, say, a vegan cooking class. Most important is to **be confident and positive.** When I travel I wear my "Stick Up for Chickens!" button and somebody always asks "what does that mean?" This opens up a discussion and gives me a chance to hand the person a brochure. From my experience I believe people are open to our message. 🐔



Photo By: Annie & Neil Hornish

## Good News!

Vegetarianism has been on an upswing in the United States. The Vegetarian Resource Group (vrg.org) estimates there are about 5.7 million adult vegetarians, up from 2 million a decade ago. Let's boost that number tremendously in 2004. *Go Vegan & Get Others to Join You!*

# The Place of United Poultry Concerns in the Chronology of Humane Progress (from Moses to Walt Disney)

United Poultry Concerns thanks Merritt Clifton and ANIMAL PEOPLE for this feature and for permission to reprint it.

**From ANIMAL PEOPLE, April 2003**  
**By Merritt Clifton, Editor**

**More Than a Meal:**  
**The Turkey in History, Myth, Ritual, and Reality**  
**By Karen Davis, Ph.D.**  
**Lantern Books (One Union Square West**  
**Suite 201, New York, NY 10003), 2001**  
**192 pages, paperback, \$20.00**

**T**his review appears on the same page as the conclusion of the first installment of my "Chronology of Humane Progress," an attempt to put into context the major ideas and events that over the past 3,300 years have often falteringly coalesced into the global animal protection cause of today.

The second installment ends with the major events of 1998, to give current and recent developments at least five years to settle before trying to decide what really made a difference and what was just part of the flow.

Even 1990 is too recent to judge from adequate distance, but as best I can determine right now, the two most significant animal protection events of that year were the first March for the Animals and the incorporation by Karen Davis of United Poultry Concerns.

The March was in effect the beginning of the modern animal rights movement in which the bad guys were someone else, doing awful things in either an academic ivory tower or Dr. Frankenstein's castle. The formation of United Poultry Concerns marked the start of the second phase, in which activists shifted their attention to what they could personally do to set an example and make a difference: fix feral cats, get involved in electoral politics, and go vegetarian or vegan.

There were active vegetarian communes in the U.S. more than seventy years before anyone founded a humane society, and there were many other farm animal advocacy organizations before UPC. Already integral to the animal rights movement were the Farm Animal Reform Movement (1981), the Humane Farming Association (1985), and Farm Sanctuary (1986). Henry Spira, the most accomplished anti-vivisection crusader of all time, had argued since 1985 that the movement should logically refocus on diet, since that would be the next opportunity to effect a steep reduction in what he termed "the universe of suffering."

Neither was Davis the first to point out that chickens and other poultry, doing more than 95% of all the human-caused animal suffering and dying in the world, hold a far higher moral claim on humane movement consciousness than they have ever received. Spira recited that statistic like a mantra while pushing poultry baron Frank Perdue in futile hope of getting him to make reforms. Peter Singer, Jim Mason, and John Robbins had already pointed out the numbers in *Animal Liberation*, *Animal Factories*, and *Diet For a New America*.

But none of them had strong big-group support for campaigns on behalf of poultry. The Humane Society of the U.S. began one campaign decrying the "breakfast of cruelty" featuring bacon and eggs, then backed away as if splashed with hot grease. American SPCA president John Kulberg spoke in favor of vegetarianism and got fired.

Who would stand up for the chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese? "Not I," said one big-group executive after another. "Then I will," said Davis, flapping her arms and thrusting her beak at *Vegetarian Times* founder Paul Obis like one furious Little Red Hen (with jet-black hair) after Obis accepted an ad for a prepackaged chicken pilaf mix.

Except for Obis, who could not get away on that occasion, hardly anyone took the Little Red Hen seri-

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ously at first. She had no money, no major political connections, and was even by her own admission an extreme eccentric, reportedly allowing rescued chickens to run in and out her windows and across her desk in the middle of the few very important mass media interviews that came her way.

But the Little Red Hen turned out to be the right person for the job. Reporters left those strange interviews saying to themselves, and me, in calls seeking further perspective, "Karen Davis is a chicken! She is telling us what chickens would, if they could." They couldn't help realizing that chickens are much more intelligent and sensitive than they had ever imagined. They found Davis likably charismatic, perhaps because of her oddness, and eventually she began getting more ink than many of the supposed movement superstars.

More important, some reporters confessed that they could no longer eat chicken. Somehow the Little Red Hen had gotten to them.

### Speaking for turkeys

Those who know chickens really well are aware that they do not limit their circle of compassion to their own kind. . . . [A] hen will faithfully sit on any eggs she is given, and will mother the hatchlings to the best of her ability whether they are close relatives, reptiles, or even a neonatal kitten placed in the nest to keep warm - and not because hens are too stupid to know the difference. On the contrary, many hens will somehow know enough to lead ducklings and goslings to water, and will even try to lead a kitten to kibble, skipping the nursing

stage perhaps because they simply lack the means to nurse.

I like to think that such an instinct is why the Little Red Hen wrote *More Than a Meal* on behalf of turkeys - and made it her best book yet. Davis has done some first-rate investigative reporting to chase down the origins of myths about turkeys, and the origins of turkeys themselves. Her writing is passionate, yet not shrill. For me, on a recent flight from San Francisco to Seattle, it was a page-turner, opened at takeoff and completed right at landing.

As we taxied to the gate, the young man across the aisle and one row back tapped me on the shoulder, and asked if he could have the title, in order to buy his own copy. He had been reading along with me, he explained, and got hooked.

Handing him my card, I expected to hear that he was an animal rights advocate and militant vegan.

Not at all. He was a second-generation wildlife biologist. His dad was restoring huntable turkey populations not far from Davis' home in Virginia.

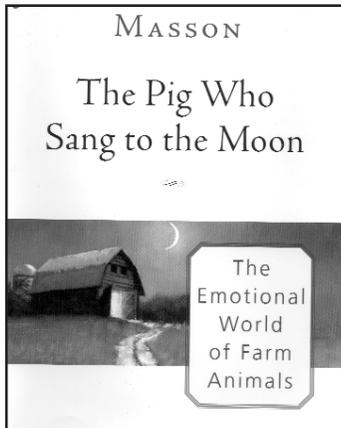
Still, the young man never knew before that there was so much to know about turkeys, and he sounded as if the Little Red Hen had ensured that he would never see turkeys the same way again. -M.C. 🐔

Merritt Clifton is the Editor of ANIMAL PEOPLE, the leading independent newspaper providing original investigative coverage of animal protection worldwide, founded in 1992. PO Box 960, Clinton, WA 98236. Tel: 360-579-2505. Fax: 360-579-2575. Email: [anmlpepl@whidbey.com](mailto:anmlpepl@whidbey.com). [www.animalpeoplenews.org](http://www.animalpeoplenews.org)



Photo By: Susan Rayfield

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**By Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson**  
**Ballantine Books, 2003**  
**Hardcopy, \$25.95 + \$4 shipping. Canada \$37.95**

**Film: The Emotional World of Farm Animals With Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson**  
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**Reviewed by Karen Davis, PhD**

*To the extent that you prevent an animal from living the way he or she evolved to live, you are creating unhappiness for that animal. - Jeffrey Masson*

*"We are expected to keep them out of sight." - "meat"-chicken farmer*

**T**he fate of farmed animals since World War Two has been to be locked up. Their fate is to be buried alive in a brown wash of one another and one another's manure, sealed up in bodies and buildings that reflect not their will but ours until we kill them or

## Book & Film Review: The Pig Who Sang to the Moon: The Emotional World of Farm Animals

they have the luck to die first. Their feelings are buried inside. "Farmers" can say they don't have any feelings. Their sound is either shrieks or silence - that and the sterile scientific jargon in which we've impounded them.

*The Pig Who Sang to the Moon* is a must read for humane educators and for anyone who thinks that animals exploited for food are emotionally eviscerated brainless automatons. The "farmers" and corporations want us to think so, like the guy who wrote in *The New York Times* in November, regarding industrially-raised turkeys: "every bit of natural instinct and intelligence has been bred out of these turkeys."

Masson takes us on a journey to meet and experience animals who are commonly regarded as "food," before they are stupidly hacked and squished into blobs and icky liquids packed in cellophane and grease. He invites us to empathize with "a pig looking up to the full moon, emitting mournful sounds much like singing," the exuberant rooster who having found food, "calls both hens and chicks together to eat it while he stands like a father and host at a banquet," the sheep who responds to his name being called by jumping through the clover with "all four feet a few inches off the ground at once," the goats who so "loved to hear the sound of their hooves" on a corrugated roof they would wait in line and take turns, the calves signaling "to let other calves know that they are about to commence play."

He invites us to listen to the "penetrating piping of abandoned ducklings," "the slow quacks between adult ducks indicating affection," and a gander trying desperately to help his mate with a broken wing limp over a vast plain to their southern wintering grounds:

She had set out on the long journey to the Falkland Islands by foot. He would not leave her, so after flying for a few hundred yards, he would alight and wait for her to catch up. He would fly ahead, to show her the way, then return "again and again,

continued on page 13

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calling to her with his wildest and most piercing cries, urging her to spread her wings and fly with him to their distant home."

Having gotten to know chickens and turkeys and ducks and studied the faces of factory-farmed animals in footage and photos over the past twenty years, I see in this image of the desperate gander and his struggling mate a symbol of the agony in the birds and mammals we've imprisoned "in situations where they cannot express the emotions they inherently possess" apart from desperation, fear, loneliness, degradation and defeat. Farmed animals carry within themselves an imprint of their "distant homes."

Those of us who run farmed animal sanctuaries try to create places where the animals we rescue can express many of the vital emotions they inherently possess. If you haven't visited a farmed animal sanctuary, but would like to, *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon* takes you to several of these earth islands and tells you how to reach them literally. It was lovely having Jeffrey Masson, the author of *When Elephants Weep* and many other bestselling books, and the award-winning filmmaker Stanley Minasian, visit our sanctuary in preparation for the book and the marvelous film about making the book, *The Emotional World of Farm Animals with Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson*.

*The Pig Who Sang to the Moon* is a stirring, wryly humorous, sorrowful and engaging book that left me wondering why, after all Masson knows and declares -

that animals cannot be humanely raised for food, that we should stop raising them for food and that he would not help a farmer with advice on how to raise animals less inhumanely - he himself is not yet vegan: "From theory to practice has not been easy for me," he confesses.

My opinion of this imposition is given in part on page 227: "Many people who have thought about it even more deeply than I have, like Karen Davis," Masson writes, "will not eat eggs even when they come from the chickens on her own sanctuary and even though they have the best life you could imagine for a chicken. She wants people to move away from the idea that their taste has a 'right' to be satisfied and that animals in general, and chickens in particular, may be used to satisfy that taste."

This said, I highly recommend the book and the film. For those who are not yet vegan, the suffering animals you meet in both works will haunt you with their imploring question, "Why are you doing this to me?" You will want to stop doing that to them, and you will stop, because there are abundant vegan food choices available to all of us, while the animals called "food" are stripped to the bone of comfort and joy, and because, as Masson and the film both say and show, "farm animals have the capacity for all the deep feelings of their forebears [and] they are remarkably similar to human beings in their ability to feel anxious, bored, sad, lonely, or deliriously happy." What more do we have to be told to show compassion in our diet? 🐔

## STOCK CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear Friends,

Several of our members have made financial contributions in the form of stock to United Poultry Concerns through our securities account. We are deeply grateful for these gifts, and anticipate more in the future. There are two obvious benefits in making stock contributions. Please consider these advantages in making your future gifts to United Poultry Concerns.

**Donors may give as much stock as they want to a nonprofit organization without impinging upon their estate.** By giving this way, they avoid paying a capital gains tax on their assets, because they are gifting their assets.

**The benefits to the nonprofit are obvious.** In giving a gift of stock, you enable the nonprofit of your choice to grow and do more. It's as simple and important as that. Everyone wins.

United Poultry Concerns has a securities account with **Paine-Webber**. For information on how you can donate to us this way, please call our financial advisor, **Claudia Puopolo**, at Paine-Webber at **757-490-5639** or **800-368-4070**.

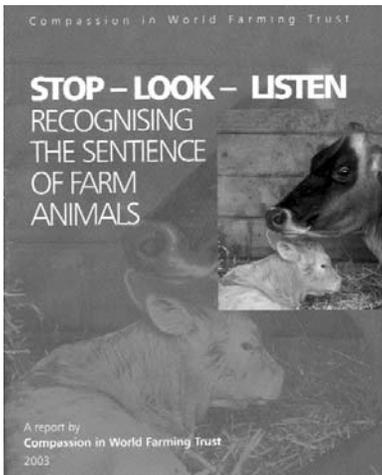
From United Poultry Concerns and all our Feathered Friends, we thank you for helping to ensure our future!

Sincerely,  
Karen Davis, Ph.D.  
President



# Stop Look Listen - Recognising the Sentience of Farm Animals

**Order this powerful new 44-page full-size booklet from UPC**



**S**top Look Listen - *Recognizing the Sentience of Farm Animals* (2003) is a must-have educational resource for humane educators, animal advocacy organizations, schools, and libraries. **Available from United Poultry Concerns for \$2.50 including shipping,**

*Stop Look Listen* is a documented report by Dr. Jacky Turner, including photographs, by Compassion in World Farming Trust, a world leader in "Advancing Farm Animal Welfare."

From the Preface

By Joyce D'Silva, CEO, *Compassion in World Farming Trust*

Everyone who cares about the protection of animals

rejoiced when a Protocol was formally added to the European Treaty in 1997 recognising animals as sentient beings. This achievement was largely due to nine years of hard work by animal protection organizations such as Compassion in World Farming.

But fine sentiments, even enshrined in law, do not automatically change the reality on the ground. Even though "human rights" are enshrined in national or international law they are violated on a daily basis in many countries.

With the sentience of animals, there is a further problem. What do we *mean* by this term? Does it mean simply that animals can feel pain? It does mean that, but in our view it means much more.

It means that, as Charles Darwin so bravely put it, humans and the "higher animals" have "the same senses, intuitions, and sensations, similar passions, affections and emotions . . . the same faculties of imitation, choice, imagination, the association of ideas and reason though in very different degrees" (C Darwin - *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*, 1871)....

The time has surely come to broaden our definitions of animal sentience and welfare and embrace gut

continued on page 15

## A LEGACY OF COMPASSION FOR THE BIRDS

Please remember United Poultry Concerns through a provision in your will.  
Please consider an enduring gift of behalf of the birds.

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I give, devise and bequeath to United Poultry Concerns, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation incorporated in the state of Maryland and located in the state of Virginia, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and/or (specifically designated property and/or stock contribution).

We welcome inquiries.

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**P.O. Box 150 • Machipongo, Virginia 23405-0150**  
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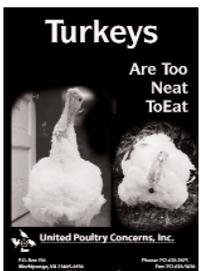
Photo by Tal Ronnen

feelings and common sense. Find me a 7-year-old child who, upon seeing a bird in a tiny cage, does not immediately want to set the bird free. We can learn much from the uncluttered minds and open sensitivities of the young.

One problem with realising the full implications of animal sentience may not be the difficulty of "liberating" animals, but of liberating ourselves from centuries of conditioned thinking. Only then can we see animals for who they are and award them the respect and compassion they deserve.

In our report you will find numerous examples taken from the scientific literature showing how farm animals feel and think, and how current farming practices sadly still cause them suffering. My hope is that this report will help to move forward the process of full appreciation of the implications of farm animal sentience. The animals themselves have waited too long. 🐔

**Compassion in World Farming (CIWF)** has created a website devoted to the subject of animal sentience: what it means, how it can be shown, and why it is important. Starting with a major feature on farm animals, the site will grow to include sentient behavior in wild and companion animals: *"We aim to make you appreciate the complexities of animal minds and, hopefully, help you make decisions whenever you are faced with an issue concerning the treatment of animals."* [www.animalsentience.com](http://www.animalsentience.com)



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POSTERS

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*Photo by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals*

Full-color poster vividly captures the truth about factory chickens for the public. Vegetarian message. 18"x22".



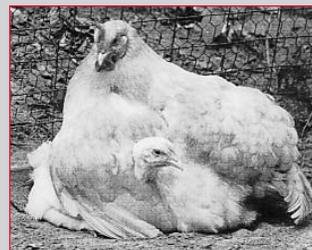
**Friends, Not Food**

*Photo by Franklin Wade*  
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**What Wings are For: Chicks Need Their Mothers**

*Photos by Kay Evans & Karen Davis*  
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This beautiful color poster shows the rescued Cypress hens at UPC. Perfect for your office, your home, your school — Size 11.5 inches  
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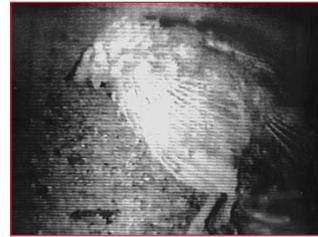


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## Raw Footage, Raw Pain

By Rocky Mountwin Animal Defense

This powerful 12-min. video takes you inside Boulder Valley Egg Farms in Colorado. \$10.00



## Hidden Suffering

By Chickens' Lib

This vivid half hour video exposes the cruelty of the battery cage system and intensive broiler chicken, turkey and duck production. \$17.95

## Humane Slaughter?

By Farm Sanctuary

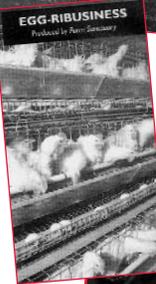
HUMANE SLAUGHTER takes the viewer into poultry slaughterhouses to witness the horrendous suffering endured by chickens and turkeys. 9 min. \$17.95



## Egg-ribusiness

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This fully narrated video illuminates the intolerable conditions imposed on egg laying hens and unwanted male chicks by the US egg industry. 14 minutes. \$17.95



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Our video shows chickens at UPC's sanctuary doing things that chickens like to do! 16:07 min. — Color \* Music \* No Narration. \$10



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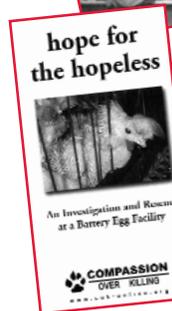
This powerful 5-minute video takes you inside today's factory-farmed duck sheds in the US. \$10



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Our stimulating booklet catalog has all the information you need to hatch great new lessons for young students – videos, books, models, and more. \$2.50



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*By Karen Davis*

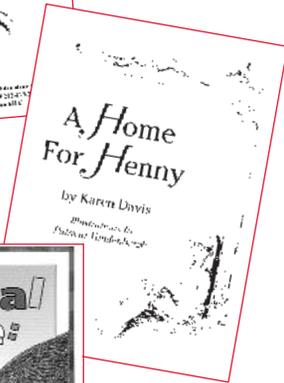
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*By Karen Davis*

This wonderful children's book tells the touching story of a little girl, a chicken, and a school hatching project. Beautifully illustrated by Patricia Vandenberg, it's the perfect gift for a child, parents, teachers, your local library. \$4.95



## Animal Place: Where Magical Things Happen

*By Kim Sturla*

Enchant young children with this charming tale about a stubborn girl who is secretly touched by a cow while visiting a sanctuary for farm animals. \$11.00



## Clara the Chicken

*By Jackie Greene*

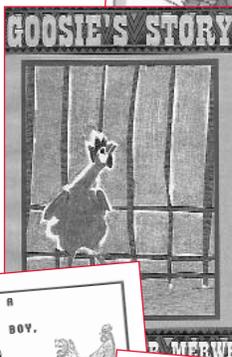
This endearing children's book tells the story of a rescued hen named Clara and those who love her. \$4.95



## Goosie's Story

*By Louise Van Der Merwe*

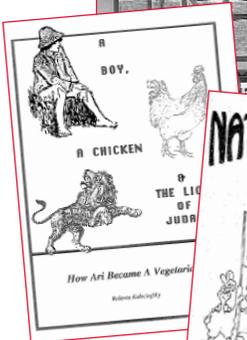
A wonderful illustrated children's book about a "battery" hen who is given a chance to lead a normal life – a happy life. This moving book will be warmly welcomed and shared by children, parents and teachers, highlighting as it does the concern and compassion we ought to feel for all our feathered friends on this earth. \$4.95



## A Boy, A Chicken and The Lion of Judah – How Ari Became a Vegetarian

*By Roberta Kalechofsky*

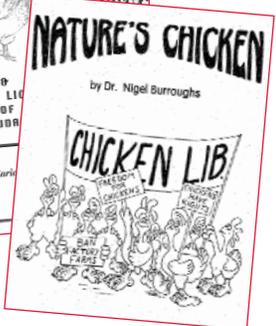
This wonderfully gifted children's story, set in modern Israel, is about a young boy's quest for moral independence. An intelligent book for all ages. Winner of the Fund for Animals "Kind Writers Make Kind Readers Award." \$10.00



## Nature's Chicken, The Story of Today's Chicken Farms

*By Nigel Burroughs*

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## BOOKS

### More Than a Meal

By Karen Davis

"More Than a Meal challenges all Americans to think about the values that they want their annual family ritual to embody."--Peter Singer, DeCamp Professor of Bioethics, Princeton University \$23.50

### Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry

By Karen Davis

This book is a fully-documented source of up-to-the-minute information about chickens, including everything from how a chick develops inside an egg to the causes of salmonella, and much more. Provides a chilling account of the morally handicapped poultry & egg industry. \$14.95

### Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey: A Poultryless "Poultry" Potpourri

By Karen Davis

This delightful vegan cookbook by United Poultry Concerns, Inc. features homestyle, ethnic, and exotic recipes that duplicate and convert a variety of poultry and egg dishes. Includes artwork, poems, and illuminating passages showing chickens and turkeys in an appreciative light. \$14.95

### Animals and Women: Feminist Theoretical Explorations

Edited by Carol J. Adams & Josephine Donovan

"Karen Davis's brilliant essay [Thinking Like a Chicken: Farm Animals and The Feminine Connection] brings together the books' central concepts, leading to conclusions that rightly should disturb feminists and animal advocates alike." -- Review by Deborah Tanzer, Ph.D. in The Animals' Agenda. \$16.95

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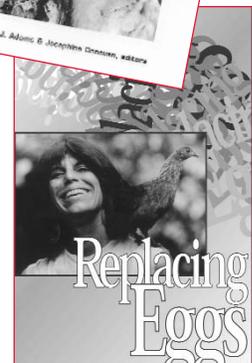
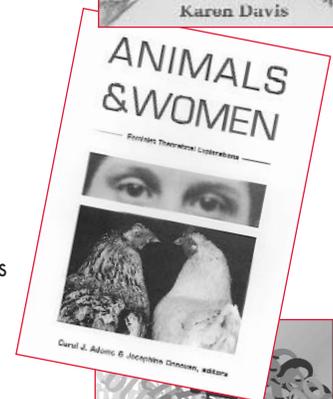
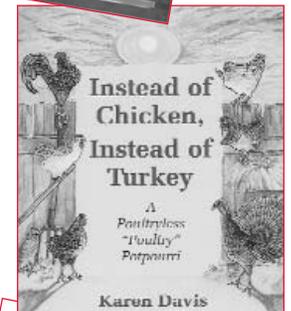
#### More Than a Meal

*The Turkey in History, Myth,  
Ritual, and Reality*



Karen Davis, Ph.D.

"More Than a Meal: More than a meal is a meditation on the history of turkey, turkey and turkey of the turkey, but it is a powerful reminder of the value of Thanksgiving in such the turkey story is a story and a story of..."



# POSTCARDS

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### UPC Ordering Information:

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To order indicated items send check or money order to:

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### FACT SHEETS

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- "Debeaking"
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- "Starving Birds for Profit Has Got to Stop" (forced molting)
- "Poultry Slaughter: The Need for Legislation"
- "Why Be Concerned About Mr. Perdue?"
- "The Rougher They Look, The Better They Lay" (free-range egg production)
- "Intensive Poultry Production: Fouling the Environment"
- "Philosophic Vegetarianism: Acting Affirmatively for Peace"
- "The Rhetoric of Apology in Animal Rights"
- "Providing a Good Home for Chickens"
- "School Hatching Projects: A Poor Lesson for Children"
- "Chicken Talk: The Language of Chickens"
- "Celebrate Easter Without Eggs"
- "Chicken for Dinner: It's Enough To

Make You Sick"

- "Say Hi To Health and Bye To Shells From Hell"
- "Don't Plants Have Feelings Too?"
- "Guide to Staffing Tables: Do's & Don'ts"

### BROCHURES

**20 for \$3.00:**

- "Chickens"
- "The Battery Hen"
- "Turkeys"
- "Ostriches & Emus: Nowhere To Hide"
- "Japanese Quail"
- "Ducks: Free as a Bird"
- "The Use of Birds In Agricultural and Biomedical Research"
- "'Free-Range' Poultry and Eggs: Not All They're Cracked Up to Be"
- "Live Poultry Markets" (in English, Hispanic, & Chinese)
- "Chicken-Flying Contests"

### LEAFLETS (FLYERS)

**20 FOR \$1.50**

- "Chicken for Dinner?"
- "Food for Thought" (turkeys)
- "Where Do Eggs Come From?"

## Bumper Stickers

Don't Just Switch from Beef to Chicken: Get the Slaughterhouse out of your kitchen. \$1 each

Don't Just Switch from Beef to Chicken: Go Vegan. \$1 each



### Fabulous Turkey Button

Full Color! \$2.00 Each

### Beautiful Chicken Button

Other Buttons \$1 each

Stick for your Chickens

Be Kind to Turkeys: Don't Gobble Me



## T-Shirts IN 2 STYLES!

### Too Neat to Eat

Beige or white T-Shirt in full dazzling color.

Specify "Rooster" or "Hen with Egg."

Sizes: S,M,L,XL - \$18.00





Photo by: Mara Davis

“Five-year-old turkey Florence sleeps soundly this Thanksgiving, knowing she lives a peaceful life at Karen Davis' Poultry Sanctuary in Machipongo. Florence was rescued from the Potomac Poultry Company near Baltimore in January 2000 and, unlike most genetically-modified white turkeys, will live happily ever after for many Thanksgivings to come.” *Eastern Shore Post*, Nov. 26, 2003

## UNITED POULTRY CONCERNS, INC.



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