

**Humane Party Jobs Report:
Assessing the Exploitation of
Animals in the United States'
Agriculture, Food, and Related Industries
Sectors**



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Report Preamble

The present document is meant to assess the exploitation of animals in the United States by job sector type, specific to agriculture, food and related industries (i.e. textiles). The assessment will consist of all jobs that are related to these sectors and will be categorized based on the following categories:

- Specific job sectors that exploit animals
- Job sectors that exist because of the exploitation of animals
- Job sectors that exist that support the exploitation of animals
- Job sectors that do not exploit animals

While we recognize that there is also exploitation of animals occurring within the research and education job sectors of the United States' economy, many of these jobs would fall under the pharmaceutical industry and would be better assessed in another report.

Bias

There is an ethical obligation to disclose the bias of the preparers and analyzers involved in this report. The Humane Party aims and fights to free all animals from abuse, exploitation, and property status. It is in the Humane Party's interest that the results of this report support its goal insofar as possible. All members involved in this investigation, analysis, and report have acted at the margins of this bias, striving for their judgment to remain unaffected by said bias.

Sources

The sources used for this report include data from The USDA Economic Research Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012 Census of Agriculture, United States Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics, pew research reports, journal articles and previous Humane Party reports.

Keywords

United States, jobs, exploitation, animals, agriculture, food

Introduction

In 2017 the United States raised over 9.63 billion land-based animals. This number includes cows, veal (baby cows), cows for their milk, chickens, chickens for their eggs, turkeys, goats and sheep (both for their meat and their wool). There are also aquatic species (both wild and cultivated) as well as bees for honey, however specific numbers were not readily available. This massive industrial raising of animals for food and fiber requires a complex system of

workers anywhere from owners and operators, to support services in mechanics and technology, to seasonal agricultural workers and slaughterhouse janitorial services.

Not all jobs are equal in their exploitation of the specific animal species. In order to fully assess which jobs are most exploitative, we have created a classification system as follows:

1. Specific job sectors that exploit animals

These jobs would consist of the primary raisers of animals, fisher people, trappers, and hunters (where jobs are required, but not recreational). These sectors would also include transportation of live animals and breeders of animals.

2. Job sectors that exist because of the exploitation of animals

These jobs would consist of all work that would be required to deal with the animals after leaving the farm, for the most part processing and manufacturing of the animal products.

3. Job sectors that exist that support the exploitation of animals

These jobs would consist of all support services that are required to raise the animals and then sell the product of animals. For example, grain production needed to feed the animals and restaurants and grocery stores, currently the mechanism for selling the animal products. Also, bakeries and confectionary making which would utilize the products of animals.

4. Job sectors that do not exploit animals

These jobs consist of all work that does not currently exploit animals, for comparative purposes. For example, vegetable and melon production or beverage stores.

Key Findings

From the most current information available, we found:

- The total workforce in the United States at the end of 2017 was **154,065,000**
- The amount of jobs in the agriculture, food, and related industry sectors total **23,234,985** (15.1% of total workforce)
- There were **2,509,362** jobs (10.80%) that specifically exploited animals
- There were **796,050** jobs (3.43%) that existed because of the exploitation of animals
- There were **16,989,533** jobs (73.12%) that supported the exploitation of animals
- There were **2,940,040** jobs (12.65%) that did not exploit animals
- The largest work sector was restaurants and other eating places that employed **10,509,980** workers (45.23%)

Discussion and Tables

In a series of tables, we will show all jobs in each sector as well as the percentage of total jobs in the industries.

Agriculture, food and related industries jobs total: 23,234,985

1. Specific jobs that exploit animals

Table A

Job Sector	# of Jobs	Percentage of total (%)
Cattle ranching and farming (incl. feedlots)	1,314,373	5.66%
Animal aquaculture and other animal production (incl. equines, fur animals)	532,382	2.29%
Dairy cattle farming	246,729	1.06%
Poultry and egg production	170,219	0.73%
Sheep and goat farming	144,323	0.62%
Hog and pig farming	81,736	0.35%
Fishing, hunting and trapping	19,600	0.08%
Totals	2,509,362	10.80%

2. Job sectors that exist because of the exploitation of animals

Table B

Job Sector	# of Jobs	Percentage of total (%)
Animal slaughtering and processing	505,230	2.17%
Dairy product manufacturing	140,710	0.61%
Animal food manufacturing	59,920	0.26%
Seafood product preparation and packaging	32,260	0.14%
Support activities for animal production (i.e. trainers, veterinarians)	30,360	0.13%
Leather and allied product manufacturing	27,570	0.12%
Totals	796,050	3.43%

3. Job sectors that exist that support the exploitation of animals

Table C

Job Sector	# of Jobs	Percentage of total (%)
Restaurants and other eating places	10,509,980	45.23%
Grocery stores	2,692,460	11.59%
Other crop farming (hay & sugar)	988,224	4.25%
Oilseed and grain farming (majority for animals)	920,449	3.96%
Specialty food services	694,570	2.99%
Bakeries and tortilla manufacturing	310,360	1.34%
Specialty food stores	230,790	0.99%
Other food manufacturing	216,500	0.93%
Apparel manufacturing	123,000	0.53%
Textile product mills	116,410	0.50%
Textile mills	111,870	0.48%
Sugar and confectionary product manufacturing	74,920	0.32%
Totals	16,989,533	73.12%

4. Job sectors that do not exploit animals

Table D

Job Sector	# of Jobs	Percentage of total (%)
Fruit and tree nut farming	805,590	3.47%
Drinking places (alcoholic beverages)	386,780	1.66%
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	378,751	1.63%
Support activities for crop production	344,410	1.48%
Vegetable and melon farming	318,348	1.37%
Beverage manufacturing	244,390	1.05%
Fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty food manufacturing	165,480	0.71%

Beer, wine, and liquor stores	155,430	0.67%
Grain and oilseed milling	60,140	0.26%
Tobacco farming	35,776	0.15%
Cotton farming	32,875	0.14%
Tobacco manufacturing	12,070	0.05%
Totals	2,940,040	12.65%

Discussion on Worker Exploitation

In all job sectors non-legal migrant workers are also being exploited. According to pew research data, there were at minimum 10.7 million undocumented workers in the United States in 2016. According to specific industry data from pew *research-Hispanic trends* (from 2012), more than 1 million undocumented immigrants work in the agriculture, food, and related industry sections.

The National Agricultural Worker Survey states that all agricultural workers represent some of the most economically disadvantaged people in the United States. “In addition to low wages, agricultural workers rarely have access to worker’s compensation, occupational rehabilitation, or disability compensation benefits.”

It has been stated that many of these industries would not survive were it not for undocumented workers.

These are not solely non-human animal exploitative industries but also human animal exploitative industries. In the case of the human workers, whether they are working in the animal or the plant-based industries, their personal sufferance is equally distributed.

Conclusions

By accurately assessing where the animal exploitation is occurring, we can begin to consider the possibility of transitioning to non-exploitative job sectors. Only the specific job sectors that exploit non-human animals would need to be completely eliminated (for example, the animal farmers), however all these workers could be re-trained to cultivate a non-exploitative plant-based product and farmer's existing lands and animal raising facilities could be re-utilized. All the other exploitative (those that exist and support) job sectors could see a relatively swift transition.

Simply stated, if we were to eliminate all jobs on animal raising farms and in trapping, hunting and fishing, 99.9% of all animal exploitation in the United States and her waters would end.

We are not saying that any of this would be easy. To transition to a plant-based, free from harm economy, all industry leaders would need to collaborate. All farmers, food product manufacturers, restaurant owners, and grocery chains would need to work together to realize this goal. It would require help from animal rights' activists and politicians who currently have very different views on animal rights.

In closing, the United States agriculture, food and related industries job sectors need a drastic overhaul. With over 23.23 million workers exploiting more than 9.63 billion farmed non-human land animals and over 1 million undocumented human workers employed every year, these industries require change.

If the agriculture and food industries are to continue to be the backbone of our national security and a source of human pride, then shifting to a more compassionate way for all beings is 100% necessary.

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