

SUBMISSION TO ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Animal activists have become a thorn in the farming community. They have become everyone's expert when it comes to farming animals and the problem is that at the moment the Government is looking at reviewing the housing of hens in Hencoops. The Government is asking the community at large whether hencoops should be banned. Again the problem is that Government is not asking the **Medical Experts** or seriously considering what the farmers view is (*who has learnt and become an expert in his/her own right*) who condone free range farming, but asking your average Joe Blow who knows very little about farming. The risks of the spread of animal viruses such as Acute Respiratory Syndrome, have reached alarming proportions around the world with people catching animal viruses and dying.

Also, recent tests have shown traces of DDT, DDE - arsenic, cadmium, lead mercury, fungicides Polychlorinated biphenyls, chlorinated organic pesticides and other pesticides in eggs.

Organochlorides and chemically manufactured pesticides have been linked to cancer, asthma and many other conditions.

Recent tests have also shown that the developing foetus is highly susceptible to harmful substances in the bloodstream. Furthermore this work has also shown foetal response to incredibly small dilutions of poisons.

The irony is that all egg farms were free range farms back in the day, however because people were getting sick, Government itself asked farmers to put their hens in cages to reduce the risk of contamination. Too many people were getting sick.

Professor Peter Curson, an **Australian expert in Medical Geography** recently stated in the media, that when farmed poultry came into contact with wild birds and animals it raised the chance of the spread of respiratory and other viruses. Thus viruses like those responsible for SARS and BIRD FLU could spread from wildlife to poultry and other farmed animals, and on rare occasions mutate into human infections. This has been the case in the Asian Region where not only have people been infected, but 100s of millions of hens have been slaughtered as a result of the bird flu. In the past, cases have also been reported in Australia. In

2016 450,000 hens had to be slaughtered for contracting the Bird Flu here in Australia. Over 30 Million hens were slaughtered in Korea only last year. –Where is the animal welfare in that when you expose farming animals to this virus?

I see the whole process as a time bomb waiting to go off - much the same as the Asian experience. Already we have become the laughing stock around the world and looked upon as being a “Complacent” country for a virus that has been named “The Aussie Flu Virus”

This virus has been killing record numbers of our elderly over the last 12 months. Pneumonia like symptoms where the lungs fill up with fluid. These viruses continue to mutate and spread from one species of animal to another including humans. Even our hospitals are contaminated with contagious diseases.

We also have the ever increasing problem of *Salmonella Enteritis* which attacks the ovaries of hens. Under free range conditions this bacteria can spread from hen to hen and the end result is food poisoning. Singapore has banned Free – Range Farming.

The egg is a raw natural product that doesn't have the luxury of having been pasteurised. Therefore, live bacteria or other microorganisms have not been eliminated from the egg as has been done to milk. It is a known fact that salmonella is most prevalent in free range eggs because these hens have access to their own faeces where this bacteria lurks.

Hens are also exposed to rodents and their excrement which in many cases is infested with chemically manufactured pesticides such as arsenic and obviously disease.

Consumers are unaware of the dangers of free range farming. Egg cartons should have a list of the risks (much the same as cigarette packets) for the consumer as stated by Professor Peter Curson. You cannot control what the hen consumes. I've seen a hen swallow a dead mouse which died after eating rat bait which the main ingredient is arsenic. The hen didn't die but the arsenic can make it's way into our food chain through the egg.

I've heard many reps say to me over the years that they'd never eat a free range egg. I ask why and the answer is always the same. "You don't know where the hens been"

I belong to a small Association called the **Micro Range Farmers Association**. We are against free range farming because of all of the above. Farmers have a responsibility to the consumer and the public at large in farming responsibly and providing food that is safe to consume contaminant free. We believe that full controlled feeding methods need to be in place for farmed animals to avoid contamination to consumers. We also believe that hens need to be protected from the environment. Hens only spend 12 months of their working life in pens and are then sold of to backyarders or processors.

The documentary below explains all. This is a serious issue and Government needs to take the advice of medical experts. Please ban free range farming before it's too late.

All farming animals should be kept in pens or cages and controlled feeding methods need to be engaged to guarantee that impurities do not exist in our food chain. Also the spread of disease is a serious issue and must be addressed. Let sanity prevail in this crazy and diverse world we live in. We must look to science for all our answers, and not to the opinions of the uneducated who are brainwashed by animal activists.

<https://youtu.be/B93uZPvThKc>

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/2018/01/12/16/25/deadly-aussie-flu-a-wakeup-call-for-complacent-australia>

My letter to you is brief and I have not gone into much detail. I have only skimmed through some of the issues. You will get a better understanding once you view the You tube video link I have provided. Very important that you take the time and view it. I thank you for reading my letter.

Kind Regards

Con Tamvakis.

Ps – Responsible Farming is good farming.