

COUNTDOWN TO EU BAN ON BARREN BATTERY CAGES

From 1st January 2012, barren battery cages will be banned in the EU. Compassion in World Farming welcomes the ban and sees it as a very major step forward for farm animal welfare.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has assured Compassion in World Farming - Ireland that they are confident that the vast majority of Irish egg producers will meet the requirements of the ban on time.

However, some other EU countries are lagging behind. Despite being given 12 years to prepare for the barren battery cage ban, some countries still do not have action plans in place to show they will be ready by January 2012. If they continue to stall, millions of EU hens could still be confined in barren battery cages after the ban comes into force. We must not let this happen.

Barren battery cages do not cater for important needs of hens. We must ensure that they are not in use in any EU country after the ban comes into effect on 1st January 2012.



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PLEASE HELP us to ensure that all EU countries meet the 1st January 2012

deadline for the ban on barren battery cages. Post off the enclosed postcard to the European Commission today.

The postcard thanks the Commission for supporting the ban on barren battery cages, and urges the Commission to ensure that all EU member states produce an action plan for implementing the ban by the January 2012 deadline. (The card needs an 82 cent stamp.)

CAMPAIGN TO END LONG JOURNEYS FOR SLAUGHTER ANIMALS

An EU-wide petition, initiated by Danish MEP Dan Jørgensen and backed by the German animal welfare organisation, Animals' Angels, calls for journeys for live animals going to slaughter to be limited to 8 hours maximum. Compassion in World Farming is supporting this campaign.



Compassion in World Farming believes that the long distance transport of live animals for slaughter is unacceptable and should be replaced by a trade in meat.

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe says: *"... the long distance transportation of animals for slaughter should be replaced, as much as possible, by a carcass-only trade."*

Live exports from Ireland

232,070 cattle and calves were exported from the Republic of Ireland to Continental EU countries in 2010. Mostly, these animals are going to farms on the Continent for further rearing before they are slaughtered. A small number of Irish cattle are exported to Morocco.

PLEASE HELP by collecting signatures on the enclosed '8hours' petition.

Deadline 4th November 2011.

Please return filled or partially filled petitions to Animals' Angels at the address shown on the petition.

For more information on the '8hours' campaign, or to sign on-line, go to www.8hours.eu

EXPORTS TO EGYPT MUST ONLY BE MEAT, NOT LIVE ANIMALS

We are very concerned about recent media reports saying that live cattle exports from Ireland to Egypt could resume, since Egypt is set to import Irish beef again.

There have been similar media stories before but, so far, live cattle exports from Ireland to non-EU destinations have not actually started (other than a small number of Irish cattle taken overland to Morocco). However, we cannot ignore the latest media reports because we know there are serious animal welfare problems in Egypt.

The animal welfare organisation Animals Australia filmed cruel practices in Egypt, including slaughterhouse workers cutting through the leg tendons of fully conscious cattle to make them easier to handle. Because of these welfare problems, exports of live animals from Australia to Egypt are now very restricted, as explained by Animals Australia:

"Due to an Animals Australia expose of cruel practices in Egypt, the Australian Government suspended all exports of cattle and sheep to this country. After a resumption of sheep exports (late 2006), Animals Australia again exposed terrible abuse of our sheep in Egypt. The Australian Government has now prohibited the export of sheep, but shipments of cattle resumed in 2010, now restricted to being sent to a single feedlot and abattoir in Egypt which complies to specific requirements."

Compassion in World Farming - Ireland has written to Agriculture Minister Simon Coveney, detailing our concerns about the lack of animal welfare protection in Egypt. We have urged Minister Coveney to ensure that any exports to Egypt from Ireland are in the form of meat, not live animals.

For more information: www.AnimalsAustralia.org



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Photo: In the past, thousands of Irish cattle were loaded onto ships destined for non-EU countries.

PLEASE HELP by writing to Agriculture Minister Simon Coveney. Urge him to ensure that any trade to Egypt, or to other non-EU destinations, is in the form of meat, not live animals.

Minister Simon Coveney,
Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Email: minister@agriculture.gov.ie

(a letter is better than an email, if possible)

Please send Compassion in World Farming - Ireland a copy of the reply you get from the Minister (no need to send copies of standard acknowledgement letters). Our address is below.

History

In the past, many thousands of Irish cattle were shipped on long sea journeys to countries in North Africa and the Middle East, including Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the Lebanon.

When the EU subsidies that supported the trade were scrapped in December 2005 (following a campaign by Compassion in World Farming and other animal welfare organisations), live exports from Ireland to non-EU destinations virtually ceased.

SUPPORTING OUR WORK

There are no longer annual subscriptions to Compassion in World Farming - Ireland. We just ask supporters to make an occasional donation (it doesn't matter how small) at least once a year. Supporters receive our Irish Newsletter by post or by email or both. Supporters can also receive Compassion in World Farming's full-colour international magazine, *Farm Animal Voice*, on request. All donations are very welcome. Please send them to the address below. We always send a receipt so that you know your donation has arrived safely.



Thank you to all our supporters for writing letters and for giving donations that allow us to continue our work in Ireland. Together we CAN make a difference!