

## IVU Online News – June 2011

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### Exoneration for Our Austria Colleagues!

We are very happy to announce that all 13 Austrian animal activists have been freed and cleared on all charges of criminal conspiracy: [www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/austrian-animal-rights-activists-not-guilty/4773](http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/austrian-animal-rights-activists-not-guilty/4773)

To learn more, go to [www.vgt.at/index\\_en.php](http://www.vgt.at/index_en.php)

While there's good news from Austria, unfortunately, the U.S. seems to be moving towards curtailing the rights of animal activists to speak for our voiceless fellow animals: [animalbeat.blogspot.com/2011/04/mark-bittman-on-factory-farm-inhumanity.html](http://animalbeat.blogspot.com/2011/04/mark-bittman-on-factory-farm-inhumanity.html)



What have become known as Ag-gag laws are intended to prevent whistleblowers from exposing animal cruelty on factory farms. Bills to ban photographing or videotaping on factory farms without the property owner's consent have been proposed or passed in the U.S. states of Iowa, Florida, and Minnesota in 2011: [www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Ag-gag\\_laws](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Ag-gag_laws)

And, here's an animation about these bans in the U.S.: [motherjones.com/media/2011/05/zina-saunders-undercover-animal-abuse-videos](http://motherjones.com/media/2011/05/zina-saunders-undercover-animal-abuse-videos)



### **The Global Veg Explosion**

IVU Manager, John Davis, has a weekly blog on the VegSource website.

One of John's recent blog posts chronicles some of exciting developments in the veg movement as it becomes a truly international presence, thanks to some extent to the efforts of IVU Regional Coordinators in various parts of the world:

[www.vegsource.com/john-davis/the-global-veg-explosion.html](http://www.vegsource.com/john-davis/the-global-veg-explosion.html)

### **San Francisco – Here We Come!**

The dates for the 2012 IVU World Vegetarian Congress have now been set for 28 Sep-4 Oct, 2012 in San Francisco. And, what modern event would be complete without its own Facebook page -

[www.facebook.com/InternationalVegUnion?ref=ts#!/event.php?eid=215452428473359](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalVegUnion?ref=ts#!/event.php?eid=215452428473359)

- and website: [www.ivu.org/congress/2012](http://www.ivu.org/congress/2012)

Stay tuned for lots more about the Congress in future months. It's not too soon to be making your travel plans.



### **IVU Revises Its Definition of Vegetarian**

Recently, the IVU member organisations voted by a 94% majority to modify the definition of 'vegetarian' used in our Memorandum of Association -

[www.ivu.org/members/memorandum\\_articles.html](http://www.ivu.org/members/memorandum_articles.html)

The new definition reads,  
"IVU defines vegetarianism as a diet of foods derived from plants, with or without eggs, dairy products, and/or honey".

The main reason why the IVU International Council proposed this change was to "highlight diets derived from plants, while at the same time including those vegetarians who also eat non-flesh animal based foods, such as dairy and eggs. Our goal is to maintain the crucial unity of all vegetarians while acknowledging the benefits of plant based diets for human health, the environment and our fellow animals".

More on this change: [www.vegsource.com/john-davis/vegetarianism-re-defined.html](http://www.vegsource.com/john-davis/vegetarianism-re-defined.html)

### **New IVU Member**

**The Vegan Chef Network** - supporting chefs to make the world more vegan - [www.facebook.com/theveganchefnetwork](http://www.facebook.com/theveganchefnetwork)

The Vegan  
Chef Network

## The Environmental Case Against Meat

Our friends at the Swiss Union for Vegetarianism have assembled the following collection of materials on why meat production harms the environment:

[www.vegetarismus.ch/info/eoeko.htm](http://www.vegetarismus.ch/info/eoeko.htm)

Topics covered include food wastage, marine animals, forest destruction through liquid manure and over-acidification of the soil.



More specifically about global warming, from another source, here's a recent blog from The World Bank: [blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/diet-low-carbon-planet](http://blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/diet-low-carbon-planet)



## Review of 'Potato' the Book

*Potato: A Global History* by Andrew F Smith. Reaktion Books, 2011, 144pp, hardback, £9-99. ISBN 978 1 86189 799 2

*Potato* is a concise and readable history of the world's favourite vegetable in which the New York food historian and editor of Reaktion Books' *Edible* series Andrew F Smith traces the evolution of the common potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) from its South American origins to the present day. The potato first reached Europe in the 16th century and rapidly gained

popularity owing to its adaptability, ease of cultivation, relatively short growing season and heavy cropping. Its versatility is well known: potatoes can be boiled, baked, fried, roasted, steamed, sautéed, mashed, hashed and scalloped, made into potato crisps, flour and starch and even used to make vodka. Today, potatoes are grown commercially in more than 130 countries and annual global production exceeds 300 million tonnes (making potatoes the world's third most prolific crop behind wheat and rice), so that the average global citizen consumes about 33 kg of potatoes per year. No wonder that the United Nations declared 2008 to be the International Year of the Potato. Looking ahead, the potato is likely to play an ever-increasing role in the world's future food supply.

The dust jacket claim that potato has changed – and continues to change – the world sounds extravagant until you consider the disastrous European potato famine of the mid-1840s. The almost total failure of the potato crop due to potato blight was particularly devastating in Ireland where an estimated one million people died of starvation and a further million emigrated to North America or Australia, precipitating a century-long population decline. The potato could also claim to have played a pivotal role in the 1992 US presidential campaign when the hapless incumbent Vice-President Dan Quayle mistakenly added an "e" to the end of the word in a school spelling contest he was invited to officiate. 'Potatogate', as the story was dubbed, undoubtedly contributed to the failure of the Bush/Quayle re-election campaign.

At little more than 100 pages, including 49 illustrations and 12 pages of mainly vegetarian recipes, *Potato* is not as filling as its subject matter, but the book would make a novel and attractive gift for the spud-enthusiast-u-like, and reading it won't turn you into a couch potato.

- Reviewed by Paul Appleby, April 2011

### **Legumes Speak To Us – Short Video**

Here's a clever, two minute video (in French with English subtitles also) produced by our friends in Quebec, Canada. The title is 'Legumes Speak To Us', and the legumes have a lot to say about the harm we do by eating meat:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6c3MArAH4sA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6c3MArAH4sA)

Watching the video is also a good education about the tremendous variety of legumes. For more info, Stéphane Groleau, [veganquebec@yahoo.ca](mailto:veganquebec@yahoo.ca)



### **New from Vegatopia**

[www.vegatopia.org](http://www.vegatopia.org) seeks to promote ethical veganism via research and teaching. People from there presented at the 2008 IVU World Vegetarian Congress in Dresden, and they've kept busy since then.

Visit their website for details, but here are four very interesting papers of theirs.

Two papers on "Happy Meat" - as known as free range, environmentally friendly, green meat - are in open access journals, so freely available online. The first is titled 'From "Animal Machines" to "Happy Meat"? Foucault's Ideas of Disciplinary and Pastoral Power Applied to 'Animal-Centred' Welfare Discourse' [www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/1/1/83/pdf](http://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/1/1/83/pdf)

The second free online paper is 'Getting [green] beef? A Vegan Response to The Ecologist Magazine's 'Meat: Eco Villain or Victim of Spin?'' [www.criticalsocietyjournal.org.uk/Archives\\_files/2.%20M.%20Cole.%20%27Getting%20%5Bg reen%5D%20beef%27.pdf](http://www.criticalsocietyjournal.org.uk/Archives_files/2.%20M.%20Cole.%20%27Getting%20%5Bg reen%5D%20beef%27.pdf)

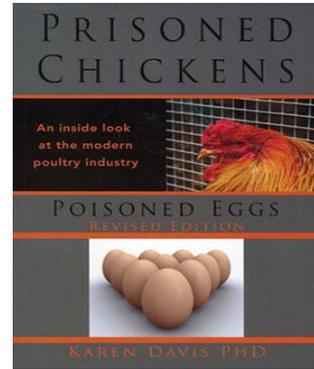
Two other papers need an academic login to read the full papers, but the abstracts are available online and if you write to the author, he can send you the papers via attached file: [matthew.cole@vegatopia.org](mailto:matthew.cole@vegatopia.org)

The first of these two papers is 'Vegaphobia: derogatory discourses of veganism and the reproduction of speciesism in UK national newspaper' [onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-4446.2010.01348.x/abstract](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-4446.2010.01348.x/abstract) (Based on part of a paper presented in Dresden)

The second paper is 'The Conceptual Separation of Food and Animals in Childhood' [www.ingentaconnect.com/content/berg/fcs/2009/00000012/00000004/art00003](http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/berg/fcs/2009/00000012/00000004/art00003) (This uses the same visual model that was in the Dresden presentation, applied in a different context)

## Review of *Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs*

*Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs: An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry, Revised Edition.* By Karen Davis. (Summertown, TN: Book Publishing Company, 2009. 209+xiv pp. Paperback. \$14.95. ISBN:978-1-57067-229-3.)



This is a book for anyone who needs a detailed overview of the farmed chicken industry and who seeks to understand the philosophy that guides its practices. Karen Davis writes as an activist for chickens and other birds used in farming and is the director and founder of United Poultry Concerns. She dedicates her writing to 'the chicken' but especially to Viva, a crippled and abandoned broiler hen who, she tells us, deflected her from making a lifelong career as an English teacher to becoming an activist and writer (p. xiii). The first edition, she explains, was written to bring to light a story that has been told largely through the channels of the poultry industry, and this is the story of the transformation of the chicken from an active outdoor bird, scouring the woods and fields to a sedentary indoor meat-and-egg machine, filled with suffering, diseases and antibiotics? (p. v).

For the most part she tells the story of the life and death of chickens used in farming by using industry references and direct quotes from industry publications, which she contrasts with the words of activists. The author's own voice seldom intrudes, but when it does, it is to make a reasoned comment or pose a pertinent question.

The early part of the book sets out to tell us about who chickens are. Not surprisingly, I found there was a lot I did not know, and I learned much about their natural history, personalities, and behavior in their natural state, reproduction, family life, and special abilities. This was an enjoyable section to read, although it was also sobering and rather depressing to find out that chicken farming is not new and that as long as 4,000 years ago, Egyptians were using chickens in farming on a large scale and even building fire-heated incubators that could hatch 10,000 birds at a time.

But the section on who chickens are is not just a pleasant segment in a dark book; it is critically important to everything that follows. Here we fleetingly rediscover the free bird of the ancient forests, a sentient, complex, social being rather than the object of cartoon fun, a fast-food item, or a living commodity. It is with this conception of chickens as sentient beings who have interests in life (Regan, 1988) in mind that we are invited to evaluate what follows. The remainder of the book deals with chickens through the eyes of an industry where the chicken is socially constructed as machine and commodity, where chickens are crammed together, starved, gathered up, minced, gassed, debeaked, clipped, and whatever else might lead to the maximum profit in the minimum time.

Davis documents industry practices with clear, concise, scientific language, well supported by references, and provides the economic justifications and descriptions used by the industry. We learn about such things as transportation; housing; trade-offs between death rates, disease, and profit; calculations of pounds of flesh per square foot; ammonia concentrations; a whole range of farmed chicken disorders; stunning; slaughter; and the disposal of corpses.

Descriptions are meticulous; for example, the section on killing explores the

advantages and disadvantages of neck cutting (various types), the vacuum chamber, and gassing with carbon dioxide or argon or nitrogen; discusses the problems of using carbon monoxide; and also mentions suffocation and chopping by high-speed blades.

The book is a chilling journey into an often surreal and at times frankly bizarre world. The landscape of Marek's disease, ammonia blisters, Gumboro, swollen head syndrome, animals grown too heavy for their skeletons, chicken rage, live hang rooms, the gigantic mechanized bird harvester, the national Chicken of Tomorrow program, and the Nozbonz1 is brought vividly to life. This world, we are also reminded, is populated not only by profit-driven multinational agro corporations but also by pharmaceutical companies, government departments, research institutes, and universities.

The text tells us a great deal about the chicken industry, and what we read is deeply disturbing and a moral challenge that is sufficient enough in itself. However, we may also reflect on what it tells us about our own species and will find here abundant and depressing evidence of our human ability to objectify living others and of our capacity to be held utterly in the thrall of a particular ideology. It is a frightening demonstration of complete moral disengagement and objectification (Bandura, 1999). Toward the end of the book, we look to the future with the hope that apparently more enlightened practices in the industry, such as free-range farming, might offer some respite. Sadly, these often turn out to be false dawns, and research now is moving toward altering the bird to fit the industry rather than the other way around. Experiments with red contact lenses, blind chickens, birds without feathers, and chicks with wings clipped off confirm that it is, for the most part, business as usual.

A question that might be asked is, does the position of the author as an activist make the book any less valid than a so-called academic text on the subject? My answer to that would be no. The book is well referenced using industry and other journals, and there is never any pretence by Davis that she is other than an activist. Universities, research institutes, and government departments have their own agendas, as do the individuals who work for them, and to pretend otherwise would be simplistic. At least in this text the agenda is stated openly.

This is a 'one stop' book on the chicken farming industry, detailed enough for most of us and with good leads for those brave individuals who wish to delve further. A great strength of the book is its accessibility; it is clear, well written, and often broken into relatively small blocks. It is also a rich source of texts for those interested in analyzing linguistic constructions and discourses related to nonhuman farming, mass violence, and capitalism.

Note: A piece of plastic pushed through the nasal septum of male birds to prevent them from eating the food of female breeding hens.

#### References:

- Bandura, A. (1999). Moral disengagement in the perpetration of inhumanities. *Personality & Social Psychology Review*, 3(3), 193.
- Regan, T. (1988). *The case for animal rights* (2nd ed.). London, England: Routledge.

*Reviewed by Les Mitchell, Hunterstoun Centre, University of Fort Hare, South Africa, reprinted from with permission from Journal of Animal Ethics, 2011, published by University of Illinois Press.*

## **Creating Your Own Veg Food Guide**

Many veg organizations create food guides, online or print, that help people find vegetarian eateries, or eateries that at least offer some veg options. These guides support food outlets that sell vegetarian dishes and make life more convenient for vegetarians and meat reducers.



Here's the story of how one IVU member organisation, Vegetarian Society (Singapore), VSS, does their food guide: [www.vegetarian-society.org/?q=products#02](http://www.vegetarian-society.org/?q=products#02) The print food guide is in addition to the veg eatery listing on their website - [www.vegetarian-society.org/?q=products#02](http://www.vegetarian-society.org/?q=products#02) – and their iPhone app: [mobyfab.com/blog/vss-foodguide-is-top10-app-in-singapore](http://mobyfab.com/blog/vss-foodguide-is-top10-app-in-singapore).

The main person leading the Food Guide effort is Clarence Tan, who kindly agreed share what he and his Singapore team do.

### **How did VSS come up with the idea of a Singapore Vegetarian Food Guide?**

Credit must go to STB (Singapore Tourism Board, part of the Singapore government) for this. Demand for veg food, especially among tourists from India and China, led STB to approach us with the idea.

### **What are the features and parts of the food guide, and how is it organised?**

Probably 90% or more of local veg restaurants are featured, as well as a select few non-veg eateries (that have a large veg selection). Readers tell us that the way it is organised – by districts – makes it easy to find outlets in their area. The current edition also has an index, so you can find restaurants by name.

### **Putting together a food guide is a big job. How did you manage to do it?**

It was a huge effort indeed, but we had a great team of enthusiastic veg foodies who went around Singapore visiting and reviewing 100+ restaurants.

### **Does VSS make money or lose money on the food guide?**

Hopefully, we are able to break even. Hopefully, people will buy copies for their friends. It also supports the veg eateries, many of whom struggle to cover their overhead.

### **How is the guide distributed?**

We work with Pansing, a book and magazine distributor, who distributes the guide to most major bookstores, such as Borders and Kinokuniya. The booklet is also available online (minimum order is 4 copies): [www.vegetarian-society.org/products](http://www.vegetarian-society.org/products). One more place to buy the Food Guide is at Whole Earth restaurant.

### **This year, you came out with a new edition. What was the process? Was it easier than doing the original?**

It was a little easier, but by no means a walk in the park. Fortunately, the good feedback, and seeing the guide enjoyed by readers, makes all the effort worth it.



**13th International Vegan Festival** – 4-12 June, 2011 - Malaga, Spain [www.ivu.org/veganfest/2011](http://www.ivu.org/veganfest/2011)

**7th Asia for Animals Conference** – 10-14 June, 2011, Chengdu, China - [www.asiaforanimals.org](http://www.asiaforanimals.org)

**37<sup>th</sup> NAVS Summerfest** – July 5-9, 2011, Johnstown, PA, USA - [www.vegetariansummerfest.org](http://www.vegetariansummerfest.org)

**Animal Rights 2011 Conference** – 21-25 July, 2011, Los Angeles, USA - [www.arconference.org](http://www.arconference.org)

**Animal Freedom Day** - 23 & 24 July, 2011 – Events to be organised locally - [animalfreedomday.com](http://animalfreedomday.com)

**VegSource Healthy Lifestyle Expo 2011** - 14-16 October, 2011, Los Angeles, USA - [www.HealthyLifestyleExpo.com](http://www.HealthyLifestyleExpo.com)

**3rd China Xiamen Veg Food Fair and International Forum** – 20-23 October, 2011 – [www.vffair.com](http://www.vffair.com)

**Southern Africa Vegetarian Congress** - 27-30 October, 2011 [tentative], South Africa – contact Coordinator for Africa, Emanuel Eyoh, [nigveganimal@yahoo.com](mailto:nigveganimal@yahoo.com)

**5th Asian Vegetarian Congress** – 8-9 November, 2011, Hangzhou, China - [www.5avu.com/en\\_index.asp](http://www.5avu.com/en_index.asp)

**2012 IVU World Vegetarian Congress** – Oct 1-8, 2012 (provisional dates!), San Francisco, USA - [www.ivu.org/congress/2012](http://www.ivu.org/congress/2012)

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## Welcome to Organisations That Have Recently Registered with IVU

### CHINA

zgnong - health & environment (in Chinese) - [www.zgnong.com](http://www.zgnong.com)

### ITALY

Cascina Rosso Organic Farm and Bed & Breakfast - [www.cascinarosso.info/English\\_home.html](http://www.cascinarosso.info/English_home.html)

### NEW ZEALAND

Turanga Creek - Organic Wines - [www.turangacreek.co.nz](http://www.turangacreek.co.nz)

### USA

Awareness Helps: Animal Abuse, Green Living & More – [www.awarenesshelps.info](http://www.awarenesshelps.info)  
Vegetarian Club of Canton, OH - [www.vegetarianclubofcanton.org](http://www.vegetarianclubofcanton.org)  
Vegetarian Society of South Jersey - [www.vssj.com](http://www.vssj.com)  
Youth Empowered Action (YEA) Camp - [www.yeacamp.org](http://www.yeacamp.org)

## Other Online Sources of Veg News

In addition to *IVU Online News*, there are many other places to go online for general veg-related news, rather than news mostly about one country or one organisation. Here are some.



1. Dawn Watch [www.dawnwatch.com/alerts.htm](http://www.dawnwatch.com/alerts.htm)
2. European Vegetarian Union [www.evana.org](http://www.evana.org)
3. Farmed Animal Net [www.farmedanimal.net](http://www.farmedanimal.net)
4. Vegan Outreach [www.veganoutreach.org/enewsletter](http://www.veganoutreach.org/enewsletter)
5. VegE-News [www.vege-news.com](http://www.vege-news.com)
6. VegNews [www.vegnews.com](http://www.vegnews.com)
7. VegSource [www.vegsource.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi](http://www.vegsource.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi)
8. AnimalConcerns.org doesn't have a newsletter, but they post stories daily at [www.animalconcerns.org/categories.html?do=shownews](http://www.animalconcerns.org/categories.html?do=shownews)
9. IVU-Veg-News E-Mail List [www.ivu.org/news/veg-news](http://www.ivu.org/news/veg-news)
10. Care2 [www.care2.com](http://www.care2.com)
11. Vegetarianism in the News [www.vegsoc.org/page.aspx?pid=928](http://www.vegsoc.org/page.aspx?pid=928)

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## Please Send News to IVU Online News

| [Dear Veg Activist](#)

Please use this newsletter as a way to share your knowledge, ideas and experiences with fellow veg activists.

| [Thx.](#) --[george](#) jacobs – [george@vegetarian-society.org](mailto:george@vegetarian-society.org)



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