

Overall, these are fairly minor criticisms of a book which all sheep-keeping beginners would do well to acquire, read and take note of the many common-sense pieces of advice it contains.

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Agricide: The Hidden Farm and Food Crisis That Affects Us All, 2nd Edition

Michael W Fox (1996). Krieger Publishing Company: Malabar. 278pp. Hardback. Obtainable from the publishers, Krieger Drive, Malabar, Florida 32950, USA (ISBN 0 89464 945 0). Price \$29.50.

Dr Michael Fox presents a powerful title with more than a hint of impending catastrophe awaiting the reader. The text soon bears this out with an inventory of examples and ideas as to how man in general, and the current American agricultural system in particular, will lead to Armageddon if left unchecked.

It is not an easy book to become involved in until one has become used to the language and the farming practices described. This is further complicated by a feeling of being submerged in an inventory of examples of a factual nature, too many of which are qualified by 'may', 'might' or 'can'. These early chapters deal with changes that have taken place in agriculture since the war, resulting in a move away from a traditional family-based occupation to one driven by business interests, which have in turn led to large, impersonal systems. The author argues that in spite of the best intentions of farmers, these modern farming methods give little consideration to the long-term effects on soil, crops and animals. Whatever one feels about the nature of these changes and their results, there can be little doubt that they have contributed to moving both animal and food welfare up the political agenda.

If one manages to sustain interest into the second section of the book, I believe more rewards are to be found. Dr Fox develops his arguments and ideas further and points a way forward in what is a complex, ongoing problem of how to integrate the views of many interest groups in the future of farming. Many of his aspirations were echoed in the recent address of the Prince of Wales to the Soil Association Conference. We have, of course, watched similar changes occur in the United Kingdom over the last fifty years, driven by the same need to produce food cheaply and in quantity. My own practical experiences with animals tell me that we haven't travelled quite as far and as fast as the United States. Dr Fox concentrates on where these developments could lead us and shows us how we can make changes in our diet and land management practices to avoid the worst of these implications.

Responses in animal welfare practices have already taken place although not always as quickly as some people would like. It is difficult to find a path which avoids complacency on the one hand, with prematurely changing established systems before we fully understand the animals' needs.

Recent animal welfare initiatives in the United Kingdom have begun to point a way forward. We have already banned veal crates and sow tethers are soon to follow. The Farm Animal Welfare Council has established the 'five freedoms' for farm livestock and this is supported by the RSPCA's freedom-food campaign. The British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Foundation has created the first university chair of animal welfare and helps

fund research and education in these matters. These first steps must be developed globally along with farming methods that sustain cultivated land, if the worst predictions of this book are to be avoided.

After explaining his own personal convictions, Dr Fox sets out many extremely practical suggestions for attitudes to the care of animals, once we accept that we shall be keeping them for food and clothing for many years to come. He should be congratulated for stimulating the welfare debate in such a thoughtful way.

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Taking Animals Seriously: Mental Life and Moral Status

David DeGrazia (1996). Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, New York. 302pp. Paperback. Obtainable from the publishers, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK; or 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA (ISBN 0 521 56760 2 paperback, 0 521 56140 X hardback). Price £14.95 or US\$18.95 paperback or US\$59.95 hardback.

This book deserves a honorary place in the lineage of famous animal ethics books following on from *Animal Liberation* by Peter Singer, *The case for Animal Rights* by Tom Regan and *Animals and Why they Matter* by Mary Midgley. There are at least three reasons to be so enthusiastic about this book. Firstly, it reflects (as did the books by Singer, Regan and Midgley) the current 'state of the art' in basic ethics applied to human-animal relationships. Secondly, it offers an elegant model to overcome the seemingly incompatible positions of utilitarianism and deontology. And last but not least, the book is literally stuffed with examples, illustrations from daily (laboratory) life and challenging thought experiments and arguments.

Peter Singer and Tom Regan changed the world by providing two consistent sets of arguments to criticize animal experimentation. Their books represented two different attempts to transpose ethics developed for human society to the society of living beings (humans and animals). Peter Singer emphasized that most of the formulated justifications for animal-use fail because the gains of animal experimentation are not well-balanced against the costs (suffering) inflicted upon sentient animals. The principle of equality (same cases have to be treated in the same way) is also applied inconsequently with respect to animals. Tom Regan took the perspective of basic rights. Comparable to human rights, some treatments imposed on animals are morally wrong regardless of the possible advantages in terms of knowledge and biomedical therapies. He emphasized the moral status of the animal as the focus of criticism against selfish use of animals. The framework by Tom Regan offers the best opportunity to formulate an abolistic position. Peter Singer's position still allows animal experiments when experiments with human beings are also justified. Both arguments were directed against animal abuse. Mary Midgley, although still criticizing animal use, showed us that matters are more complicated. There are some basic philosophical problems within the various ethical theories which need thorough reflection, for example, autonomy, personhood and rights.