

EVEN NOW - 9/19/15



The Cruelty Behind your Ballpark Hot Dog

Op-Ed - 9/18/15 LA Times - by Bruce Friedrich

Late last year, a government inspector paid a visit to Clougherty Packing, the Vernon slaughterhouse responsible for killing the animals that, in the afterlife, become Dodger Dogs and Farmer John-brand meats. With the inspector watching, an employee tried to render a lame pig unconscious, a procedure that should require one shot to the head with a stun gun. Because the pig was not properly restrained, however, the employee had to shoot her multiple times.

Later, the inspector witnessed another botched stunning: the employee had to "pull out the stuck rod from the skull and reload the captive bolt" before he finally succeeded. In both cases, there was no backup stunning device available.

"Dozens of slaughterhouses either can't or won't follow the law. Yet the USDA allows them to continue operating."

Such sloppy work amounts to "egregious" illegal activity under the Humane Slaughter Act which declares that livestock must be slaughtered "only by humane methods." The US Department of Agriculture---according to its own policy directives---is supposed to suspend plant operations in response to such infractions. It can also refer abuse for criminal prosecution or, in extreme cases, effectively shut down a poorly run plant by withdrawing its grant of federal inspection.

Yet official records that I received through the Freedom of Information Act show that after the Clougherty Packing debacle, as well as similar incidents across the country over the last two years, the USDA declined to punish the perpetrators, issuing administrative warnings instead.

USDA inspection records chronicle workers running over crippled animals with construction equipment, animals regaining consciousness after having been shot through the head with a captive bolt, and workers intentionally abusing injured animals. Dozens of slaughterhouses either can't or won't follow the law. But the USDA allows them to continue operating.

At a Minnesota slaughterhouse, a plant manager repeatedly electrocuted a cow that was trapped in the stunning box with a hole in her head. For more than 15 minutes, the worker tormented this cow with electric prods, trying to force her from the pen "despite this being physically impossible." When she was finally killed and extracted from the box, this poor animal had four freshly broken ribs and multiple deep wounds where her "hide had been forcefully ripped off, varying in depth but in some regions down to the [muscle] beneath."

Over less than eight months, this plant was cited 14 times for humane slaughter violations and its operations were suspended on multiple occasions, but it was not shut down and no one was criminally prosecuted.

At a plant near Fresno, a worker unloading animals from a truck dropped a crippled calf from a height of about three feet onto the concrete floor of the slaughter pen. "This calf landed on its body and remained recumbent on the concrete." The worker continued, pushing four more calves "off the trailer, chin first onto the concrete." Although plant operations were briefly suspended, the worker was not charged for this intentional and criminal cruelty.

As if such documented brutality weren't bad enough, undercover investigations consistently find that abuse is even worse than is indicated in the USDA's official records.

At a slaughter plant in Chino that processes large numbers of crippled dairy cows, the Humane Society of the United States secretly documented workers beating animals, shocking them, ramming them with forklifts and using high-power hoses to shoot water into their nostrils — all in an attempt to force them to stand. USDA inspectors were in the plant during each incident, but they never cited the plant for abuse.

The USDA's own inspector general warned in 2013 that Humane Slaughter Act enforcement was both "inconsistent" and "lenient." In a random sampling of inspection reports, the inspector general found 10 egregious violations of the law that did not result in plant suspension, including a captive bolt lodging in a conscious pig's skull for at least four minutes before the animal was killed, a pig being boiled alive and a forklift operator driving repeatedly into a crippled pig.

If the USDA is going to follow its own policy directives and enforce the Humane Slaughter Act, it should consider two crucial reforms.

First, all egregious violations of the law should automatically result in at least plant suspension. Over the years 2013 and 2014, I documented dozens of examples of such violations that resulted in mere warnings. That simply makes no sense; an egregious infraction deserves a stern response.

Second, the USDA should refer intentional abuse for criminal prosecution. The Humane Slaughter Act is a

criminal statute and violations can — theoretically — result in fines and jail time. Not only is criminal prosecution a suitable punishment for animal abuse, but the predictable threat of prosecution would act as a deterrent, discouraging mistreatment in the first place.

Personally, I see no ethical difference between eating a chicken or a cat, a pig or a puppy; I don't think slaughtering animals for one's dinner can ever be humane. But, for now, the Humane Slaughter Act is all we have; the least the USDA could do is enforce it.

Bruce Friedrich is director of policy for Farm Sanctuary, a national farm animal protection organization.



Workers at a dairy facility in Idaho use a tractor to drag a cow on the floor by a chain attached to her neck in this undercover video footage of animal abuse shot by an investigator working for the animal welfare group, Mercy for Animals. (Courtesy of Mercy for Animals)

Animal Abuse Whistleblowers Not Criminals

At the request of the **Animal Legal Defense Fund** and other organizations, a federal judge recently struck down an Idaho law that made it a crime to conduct undercover investigations and videotape operations at an agricultural production facility without the owner's permission. People working undercover could also have been convicted for not disclosing their connections to animal welfare groups or media outlets when seeking employment at such a facility. The ruling was the right one. It's simply bad policy to tailor the law to protect a favored industry from scrutiny.

The Idaho law is one of a passel of so-called ag-gag laws passed in eight states. They vary, but all are intended to thwart animal welfare advocates working undercover to expose cruel — and usually illegal — practices on factory farms. Videos released by animal welfare groups have documented patterns of horrific animal abuses that resulted in changes in procedure, criminal charges and the shuttering of slaughterhouses.

The Idaho law was passed in 2014 after an investigator working undercover at a dairy farm secretly taped workers beating, kicking and jumping on cows. The investigator released the video to a group called **Mercy for Animals**, which gave it to state regulators before releasing it publicly. Outraged state legislators passed the bill — sponsored by the Idaho Dairymen's Assn. — on the

grounds that the agriculture industry needed protection from animal rights activists.

In fact, that industry, like all businesses, already has remedies under state law if it is damaged by such activities. As District Court Chief Judge B. Lynn Winmill noted in his summary judgment, the facility owners could sue investigators for fraud or defamation — or launch a public relations campaign in the same court of public opinion that animal welfare groups use.

Farms are hardly the only target of undercover investigations — witness the recent firestorm around Planned Parenthood, for example, or the controversy that toppled the low-income housing activist group ACORN. One can only imagine the outcry in Idaho if the Legislature did for Planned Parenthood what it did for factory farms.

Agribusiness may consider them terrorists, but undercover investigators have played an important role as whistle-blowers, revealing an array of serious, often shocking abuses of animals in an industry that is woefully under-monitored by federal regulators, who are spread too thin. These revelations have an impact not just on animal health but the food supply. Lawmakers shouldn't seek to protect the perpetrators of bad agricultural practices at the expense of public safety and the humane treatment of farm animals.

Hello, everyone!

You can help stop this insanity by **going vegan**. You can find **nutritional information** and **helpful tips** to make your switch to a lifestyle that is compassion-compatible.

Find links to **recipes here** or read these **new 35 vegan veggie burger recipes** by **vegan richa** below:

35 Vegan Veggie Burger Recipes

By Richa



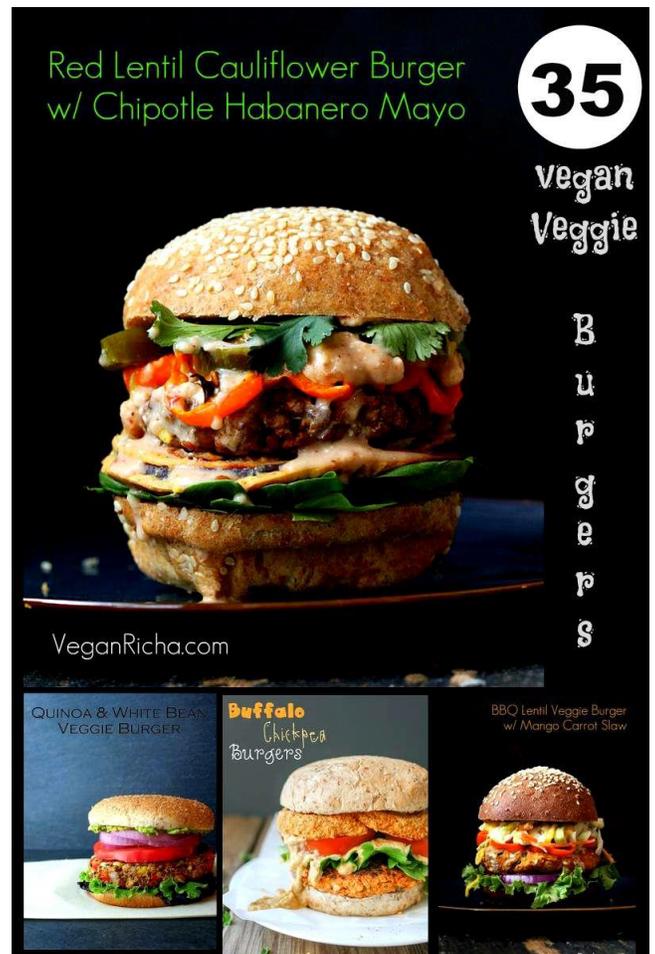
Before we hit all the pumpkin, squash, orange and fall, make these Burgers!

35 Amazing Vegan Veggie Burger Recipes.

No fake meats, loads of beans, lentils, veggies and loads of gluten-free and soy-free options. The kind of burgers we love in this house.

Tips to make great Veggie/Bean Burgers:

- Keep burger patties mixture moist. Use egg replacer/binder. If the mixture feels dry, mash it well and add a flax egg, aquafaba egg or applesauce/sweet potato puree until the mixture can be easily shaped without falling apart.

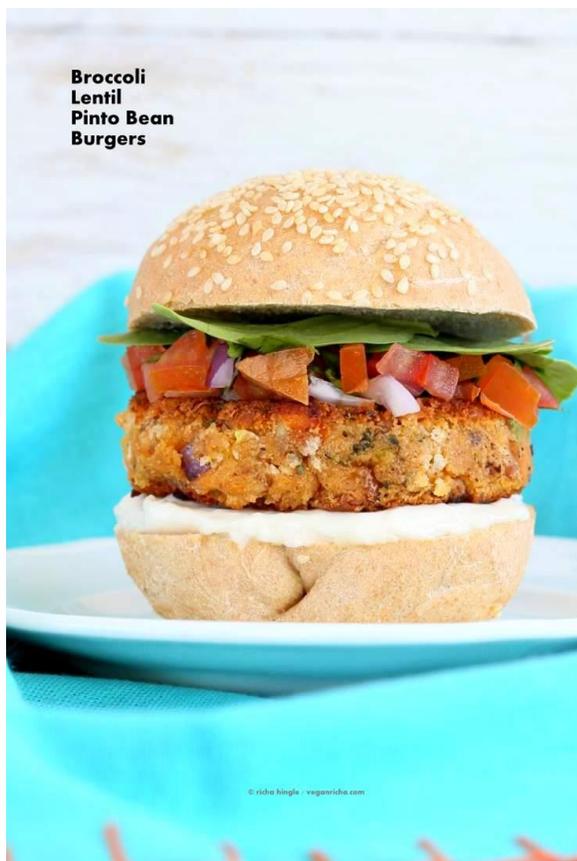


- If the mixture is too wet, chill it for 15 minutes or more, Or add breadcrumbs/flour.
- Keep track of the extra moisture from the veggies. Some veggies like cauliflower or zucchini will keep leaking moisture into the patties. Pre-cook the veggies before adding to burger mixture, or keep the time lag between prepping, making the burger mixture to cooking the burgers minimal.
- Mash it well. Larger beans or larger chopped veggies will lead to the patties breaking easily. Mash them beans and finely chop the veggies.
- Pack the patties well. For pretty and well packed patties, use large cookie cutters!

Thank you to the creative bloggers who have developed these amazing number of options. Here goes...



- [Amaranth Black Bean sliders with roasted red pepper sauce \[Vegan Richa\]](#) – Shown Here
- [Spicy Green Lentil Burger \[Vegan in the Freezer\]](#)
- [Curried Sweet Potato Lentil Burgers with Cilantro Aioli \[My Darling Vegan\]](#)
- [Kidney Bean and Kale BBQ Burger \[Veggie Inspired\]](#)
- [Barbecue Black Eyed Pea Burgers \[Fat Free Vegan\]](#)

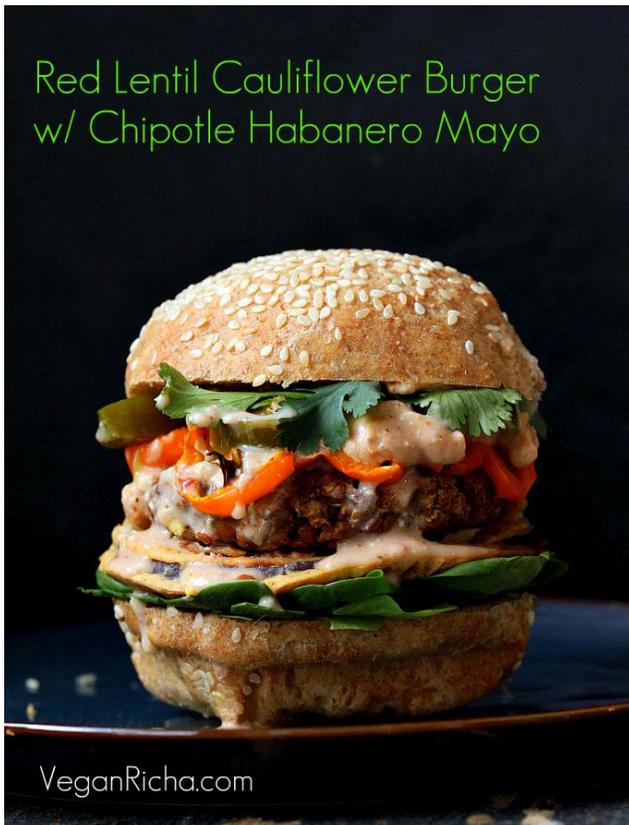


- [Bean Broccoli Lentil Burgers \[Vegan Richa\]](#) – Shown Here
- [Za'atar chickpea Burgers with Apricot Chutney \[Keepin' it Kind\]](#)
- [Buffalo Chickpea Burger \[Veggies Don't Bite\]](#) – Pictured in Collage
- [Mexican Green Chili Veggie Burger \[Minimalist Baker\]](#)
- [Basic Veggie Burger \[Oh She glows\]](#)

- [BBQ Veggie Burger with Mango Carrot Cabbage slaw \[Vegan Richa\]](#) – Shown Here
- [Smoky BBQ Sweet Potato Burger \[The Vegan 8\]](#)
- [Cauliflower Hemp Burger \[Veggies Don't Bite\]](#)
- [Sweet Potato Veggies Burgers \[Healthy Happy Life\]](#)
- [Harry Potter's Curried Pumpkin Burger \[Healthy slow Cooking\]](#)



- [Spicy Chickpea yellow Lentil Burgers \[Vegan Richa\]](#) Shown Here
- [Black Bean Mole Burgers \[Coconut and Berries\]](#)
- [Black and Beet Mushroom Walnut burgers \[Healthy Happy Life\]](#)
- [Moroccan Yam Veggie Burgers \[Oh She Glows\]](#)
- [Black Pepper Chickpea Lentil Burgers \[Crazy Vegan Kitchen\]](#)
- [Mediterranean Chickpea Tabouli Sliders \[Zsu's Vegan Pantry\]](#)



- [Red Lentil and Cauliflower Burger with Onion rings and Chipotle Habanero Mayo. \[Vegan Richa\]](#) – Pictured
 - [Black Lentil Pistachio Shittake Burgers \[Olives for Dinner\]](#)
 - [Lentil Tamarind BBQ Burgers with Chickpea Fries \[Choosing Raw\]](#)
 - [Olive Lentil burgers \[The PPK\]](#)
 - [Quinoa White Bean Veggie Burger \[The Simple Veganista\]](#) – Pictured in Collage



© richa hingle / veganricha.com

- [Sweet Potato Chickpea Peanut Asian Burgers w/ Almonds Sriracha Sauce \[Vegan Richa\]](#) -Pictured
- [Spicy Chickpea Burgers \[Running On Real Food\]](#)
- [Chana Masala Veggie Burger with Mint Chutney \[Holy Cow\]](#)
- [Spring Beet Veggie Burgers with strawberry ketchup \[Fragrant Vanilla Cake\]](#)
- [Black Bean Plantain Burgers \[Healthy Happy Life\]](#)

- [Grill-able Artichoke Cauliflower Spinach Bean Burger \[Vegan Richa\]](#) – Shown
- [Classic Veggies Burger \[Sunday Morning Banana Pancakes\]](#)
- [Baked Eggplant Burgers \[The Tolerant Vegan\]](#)
- [Smoky black Bean Beet Burgers \[Minimalist Baker\]](#)
- [African Sweet Potato Black Bean Burgers \[Fat Free Vegan\]](#)

Source: *VeganRicha*



Spinach
Artichoke
Cauliflower
Bean
burger.
Grill-able!

veganricha.com

If you have **skills and talents you are willing to share** with EVEN by donating some of your time...

If you want to attend **EVEN's 11th Annual Vegan Thanksgiving Peaceful Potluck** this year on Sunday, 11/22/15...

If you want to receive **free EVEN e-mailings**...

...contact us at eugvedunet@comcast.net

There are so many things you can do to help EVEN's vegan education efforts, to help the animals, to live Ahimsa, to help yourself and others.

Thank you!
Lin :)

Lin Silvan

Founder and Executive Director

Eugene Veg Education Network (EVEN)

www.eugeneveg.org

Eugene Veg Education Network

---EVEN - serving as a vegan resource since 2005---

Check Out [EVEN's News Blog](#) for hundreds of valuable, vegan morsels.

The **Eugene Veg Education Network (EVEN)** is a **501(c)(3)** non-profit serving as a resource for those seeking information on a **healthful, vegan lifestyle**. EVEN's emphasis is one of **non-violence, compassion and sustainability**. Focus is on the **interconnectedness of all life** and how a plant-based diet benefits the earth, non-human animals, and the individual. EVEN's Mission Statement is **to inform, educate & encourage our members**--- as well as the larger community ---by providing pertinent information on veganism and its positive impact on the health of the planet and all its inhabitants. www.eugeneveg.org **Peace.**

Vegan means you sleep better knowing your dinner didn't die screaming.



Vegan. It's the least we can do.