



ITALY

BLUE

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Inside a chicken farm. Just two days after they hatch, the chicks are taken away to be fattened.

Number of farmed animals in Italy

- ▶ Pigs: 11 million
 - ▶ Dairy cows: 2.3 million
 - ▶ Laying hens: 37 million
 - ▶ Chickens: 500 million
 - ▶ Goats and sheep: 13 million
 - ▶ Rabbits: 24 million
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- ▶ Slaughter: in Italy more than 700 million animals are slaughtered every year
 - ▶ Overcrowding: the density of chickens reared for their meat ranges from 17 to 20 per m² – an area smaller than a size of A4 paper
 - ▶ Antibiotics: in Italy (the country with the highest use in Europe) 70% of antibiotics sold are destined for farm animals



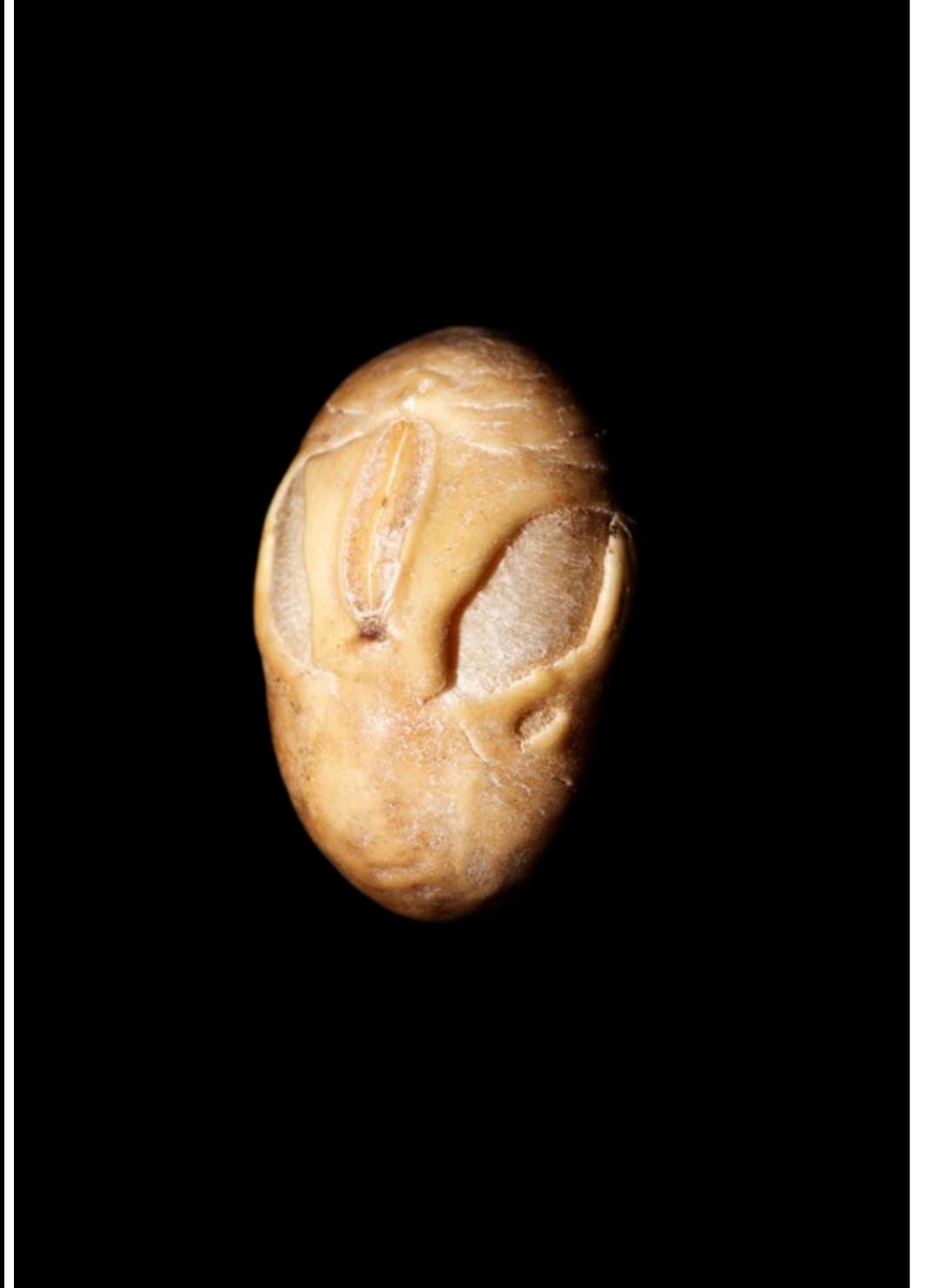
Outside view of a battery hen farm.



A sow during the gestation period.



Inside a turkey farm. The lights inside the hangar are left on all night in order to speed up the animals' growth.



Soybeans. Soya is a key ingredient of animal feeds for factory farming.

Overcrowding, mutilation, massive doses of antibiotics, and short lives transformed into cheap steaks. Factory farms, for breeding and fattening pigs, cows, hens, chickens, turkeys and rabbits, are run on the principle of maximising profit and minimising costs. Those managing them claim that they ensure the animals protection, food and treatment from disease. Yes, but at what cost? The practice of “industrial” animal farming is widespread in all developed countries and is subject to rigid regulations (which are not always respected) and also to frequent condemnation.

Criticisms include the huge doses of antibiotics used, the enormous environmental impact linked to the disposal of slurry and waste, the vast quantities of water and huge tracts of land dedicated to the monoculture of cereals and soya to provide animal feed (to the extent that many refer to this aspect as an “ecological time bomb”).

But the greatest criticism is reserved for the overcrowding that transforms farms into cruel batteries in which the animals cannot even move: one hangar can house up to 30 thousand chickens, while it sometimes occurs that pigs live alongside their own dead offspring, squashed by the weight of their mothers. Such situations create stress and aggressive behaviour directed towards themselves and others: it is for this reason that egg-laying hens often have parts of their tails and beaks sheared off.

The images in this photo report were taken secretly in Italy inside a series of intensive farms in the region of Emilia Romagna, in the cities of Parma, Modena, Bologna, Cesena and Ravenna. Emilia Romagna is recognised as a cradle of excellence in Italian food production (products such as Parmigiano Reggiano, Prosciutto di Parma, Felino Salami and mortadella from Bologna), but it is also one of the areas in Europe with the highest concentrations of intensive farms.



Inside a pig-fattening farm.



Inside a dairy farm. The calves are taken from their mothers after just 24 hours and placed in a separate cubicle so that they do not drink her milk.



Inside a farm breeding rabbits in cages. Often rabbits are squashed to death by others.



Inside a pig-breeding farm. A piglet warms itself beneath a lamp.



Inside a farm breeding rabbits in cages.



Inside a turkey farm. The lights inside the hangar are kept on all night in order to speed up the animals' growth.



Inside a pig-fattening farm.



Inside a chicken farm. The lights are kept on all night in order to accelerate the animals' growth. Each hangar can contain up to 30,000 animals.



An external fan at a farm for rearing chickens for meat. The air outside and inside these places is unbreathable.



A sow alongside the body of her dead piglet. Frequently the sows accidentally squash their young due to the limited space in which they are kept.



Eggs at a cage-free farm. The hens lay eggs at an unnatural rhythm: around 300 a year.



Inside a chicken farm. Just two days after hatching, the chicks are taken away to be fattened.



Outside view of a pig-breeding farm.



For the sows the weaning period is 28 days, after which they are separated from their young, pending being impregnated again.



Inside a turkey farm. A turkey in a poor state of health.



Outside view of a battery hen farm.



Inside a chicken farm. Just two days after hatching, the chicks are taken to be fattened up.



Inside a dairy farm.



Inside a pig-breeding farm.



Inside a pig-breeding farm. It is not uncommon to find dead piglets left where they are for days.



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