SOMETHING BETTER
Why Millions of People Are Going Vegetarian
A National Trend

“The drop in chicken [consumption has been] dramatic over the last five years or so; pork also has been slipping... we’re eating less meat because we want to eat less meat.”


More and more people are deciding to cut out chicken, fish, and other animal products, and replace them with tasty vegetarian meals. Average meat consumption in the U.S. has dropped 10 percent in the past few years. And a whopping 15 million Americans have gone vegetarian.

You care about animals and don’t want them to suffer. Once you see what modern farms look like, you can decide whether or not you really want to support them by buying meat. More and more people are learning that they can become more healthy and energetic — and spare dozens of animals each year — by going vegetarian.

“[I] went vegetarian a few years ago. I would feel guilty that what was on my plate was walking around yesterday. Either I could live with that or I could stop eating meat. I chose the latter, and I’m happier for it.”

Carrie Underwood

“Usher is the latest big name to ditch animal products...
   No beef, no chicken, no fish...
   He says he not only loves [vegetarian] food, but it’s the healthiest way to live.”

AOL Entertainment
A Healthier Life

According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, people who go vegetarian have:

- lower body weight
- less heart disease
- less cancer
- lower cholesterol
- lower blood pressure
- lower rates of type 2 diabetes

Going vegetarian doesn’t mean changing what you believe. It just means putting your beliefs into action – for a better you and a better world.

Meats like chicken and fish are linked to many health problems. Chicken and eggs are two of the biggest sources of saturated fat intake. That’s one reason they are linked to higher death rates from breast cancer. Chicken and fish have high levels of cancer-causing chemicals such as dioxin, arsenic, and mercury.

“I realized how absurd the notion of ‘needing’ meat in the diet was. From that point on, I never looked back...View it as a positive change and look forward to all of the new amazing, healthy, and delicious foods you can eat.”

-MAC DANZIG, Ultimate Fighting champion
Are You Against This Cruelty?

“They lie covered in their own urine and excrement, with broken legs from trying to escape or just to turn, covered with festering sores, tumors, ulcers, lesions.”

-MATTHEW SCULLY, Speechwriter for President George W. Bush

Pigs are kept indoors for their entire lives on concrete floors with no bedding. Female pigs are locked in cages so small they can’t even turn around for months at a time. Because pigs are very smart (smarter than cats and dogs), this causes severe mental problems. Some will repeatedly bite their cage bars; others become depressed and lie on the ground without moving.

When they are six months old, pigs are electrocuted or shot in the head with a “captive bolt gun.” (A gun that shoots a metal rod into the pig’s brain.) Pigs that don’t die right away are drowned alive in boiling water.
“Every factory-farmed animal is, as a practice, treated in ways that would be illegal if it were a dog or a cat.”

- THE NEW YORK TIMES, “Against Meat” (October 7, 2009)

Chickens live their entire lives inside dark, crowded sheds. They have been bred to grow so fat so quickly that their legs can’t even support their weight. By the time they are one month old, a third of them are in constant pain and have trouble walking. They spend nearly all of their time lying in the feces that coat the shed floor.

Hens who get sick or injured do not receive veterinary care. They are left to suffer and die on their own or are clubbed on the head. Hens often have their hips, legs, and wings broken by rough handling. At the slaughterhouse, birds are electrocuted and have their throats cut. Many are drowned alive in tanks of scalding hot water because they were not killed correctly.
We know that if someone offers to show us a film on how meat is produced, it will be a horror film."

- JONATHAN SAFRAN FOER, New York Times Bestselling Author

Cows raised for beef have their testicles and horns cut off without pain relief. Many also suffer third-degree burns during branding. Dairy cows spend most of their lives locked to small stalls inside concrete warehouses. Many are chained by the neck to their stall. To keep them producing milk, cows are repeatedly impregnated. Their babies are taken away immediately after birth. Cows often suffer infections and swollen udders from the milking machines. Many lose the ability to walk correctly by four years old.

Nearly half of all fish and other sea animals who are eaten are raised on factory farms. Fish are packed into small pools that are so filthy and crowded that as many as a third die from disease. Sea lice may chew off the fish’s skin, sometimes down to the skull. Because of the stress of overcrowding, fish often bite off the fins, tails, and eyes of other fish.

Both wild fish who are used for food and farmed fish have miserable deaths. Fish who are pulled out of the water painfully suffocate as their gills collapse. It can take as long as ten minutes for them to die. Fish who are cut open remain conscious for many minutes as they slowly bleed to death.
The medical research is clear: going vegetarian is one of the best things you can do for your health. People who make the change live longer, look better, and feel better. They weigh less, and many report having more energy.

But it’s important to eat right. Filling up on soda and French fries is easy, but it’s not healthy. Here are two simple recommendations when going vegetarian.

1. **MAKE SURE TO EAT THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF CALORIES EACH DAY** to get the protein your body needs. Beans, nuts, plant-based meats, tofu, whole grains, and dairy-free protein shakes are great sources of protein.

2. **IRON IS IMPORTANT.** Whole grains like oatmeal and wheat, beans, and dark leafy greens are filled with iron. People with low iron levels should discuss iron supplements with their doctor.
Going vegetarian can be fun and delicious. You can keep many of the foods and flavors you already love – and try a few new ones.

You already eat lots of vegetarian food. So keep filling your plate with the foods you know and love! Good, simple breakfast choices include cereal, bagels, granola, toast, muffins, waffles, and fresh fruit.

Familiar lunch and dinner options include a veggie sub with chips, pasta with tangy marinara sauce, bean burritos packed with guacamole and salsa, stir-fried vegetables and tofu over rice, creamy mashed potatoes, and hearty lentil soup.

Next, replace animal meat with vegetarian meats. There are so many mouth-watering options now that you’ll wish you had tried them before! They are also very convenient – just warm and serve in minutes. Satisfy your craving with protein-packed meat-free sausages, burgers, chicken nuggets, meatballs, lunch meats, hot dogs, ribs, chicken patties, ground beef, and more.