

Facts on Animal Cloning

- Animals bred through cloning are born to mothers in the usual way and grow up just like other animals.
- Cloning is simply a breeding technique that creates an identical twin of an existing animal.
- Livestock cloning does not change the animal in any way. It is not genetic engineering. There is no such thing as “cloned food.” Animal clones will be used as breeding stock.
- Animal cloning offers great benefits to consumers, farmers, and endangered species, including:
 - Cloning enhances the availability of the best possible livestock by allowing farmers to be certain of the genetic makeup of a particular animal, thus allowing them to better produce high-quality, safe, and healthy food.
 - Cloning can offer a tremendous advantage for farmers whose livelihoods depend on selling high-quality meat and dairy products. The breeding technique allows a greater number of farmers the ability to preserve and extend proven, superior genetics. Ranchers would be able to select and propagate the best animals — beef cattle that have lean but tender meat, and are disease-resistant.
 - Cloning reproduces the strongest, healthiest animals, thus optimizing animal well-being and may minimize the need for veterinary intervention.
 - Cloning can be used to protect endangered species. For example, in China, panda cells are kept on reserve should the panda’s numbers be threatened by extinction.
- In January 2008, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a risk assessment that concluded that meat and milk products from cloned animals and their offspring are safe for human consumption, and no different from foods produced through other breeding methods.
- Under current FDA labeling guidelines, food products from animal clones will not require special labeling because these foods have been deemed to be nutritionally and compositionally equivalent to products from conventionally-bred animals.
- Animal clones will primarily be used as breeding stock to improve the health and quality of animals used for food production. So, most consumers will likely never eat an animal clone; rather, meat and milk products in the marketplace will come from the offspring of animal clones. These offspring would be bred through other conventional breeding techniques, and not be clones themselves.

- With FDA's safety conclusion now in place, cloned animals produced to date are unlikely to enter the food supply for another three to five years.
- To meet consumer, meat and milk producer and processor requests for "clone-free" products, in December 2007, the major cloning technology providers launched an animal tracking system to identify animal clones as they move into the food processing system over time. This tracking system will be the only way to help ensure "clone-free" marketing claims.