

Europe votes to ban cloning due to animal welfare concerns

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The EU Parliament voted to [ban the cloning of animals](#). Furthermore, imports of descendents of cloned animals, and all clone-derived products have been banned from the European market. This decision stands the EU apart from many other countries: farmers in the [United States](#), [South America](#) and [China](#) commonly use cloning as part of farm breeding programmes. If you can have ten cows producing high yielding dairy cow calves rather than one, it sounds like a useful boost in productivity. If you own an ultra-efficient meat producing pig, why not use technology to create an exact genetic replica? Isn't it like reproduction without the uncertainty of mixing male and female genes in the usual uncontrolled natural way? And if so, why has the EU voted to ban it?

The answer is simple and refreshing: European law makers are concerned about the severe impact of cloning on animal welfare. The [low efficiency rates of cloning](#) (6% to 15% for cattle and 6% for pigs) means that multiple embryo clones need to be implanted into several dams to obtain one cloned animal. Additionally, clone abnormalities and the abnormally large size of newborn animals leads to a high incidence of difficult births and neonatal deaths. European consumers are clear that this is unacceptable, with [67% agreeing that there are ethical concerns](#) for rejecting animal cloning.

Read full, original post: [No clones please, we're European](#)