

# Food and Life

Why the churches have had and  
should continue to have an  
interest

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# Dobingate



# We have been here before: another significant problem in our Food Chain

## After BSE, it beggars belief that meat contamination is still rife

**T**he equus-trim gags are running thick and faster than Kuhn Star on the home stretch at Huddersley spaghetti biology nights anyone? A deep-filly-ed punisher? I'll start with the Horse d'auvergne, thanks.

After two weeks of revelations about traces of horse meat in beefburgers sold at leading supermarkets, frozen food company Vindus has tossed up in the fact its lasagna is 100 per cent horse.

I'm taken aback that nobody noticed, because horse is much tastier than beef. My husband bought a salami in Italy last summer, which was so deliciously moist and tender, I checked the packaging so we could buy another – and found a picture of a pony.

As it happened, we didn't buy another, because the girls started



Equus-trim of tests: the horse-meat scandal is a catastrophe for consumers

meat supply chain is riddled with encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic.

was spread from herd to herd by feeding vegetarian cattle with feed containing meat-and-bone meal made from BSE-infected tissues. Secondly, the routine use of low-grade "mechanically recovered meat" (MRM) in pies, sausages and economy burgers placed the human population at risk.

MRM comprised the residue left on a carcass after all the prime cuts were removed: it was pressure-blended off the bones and formed a reddish slurry, which could contain BSE-infected spinal chord and bone marrow. This process was subsequently banned for sheep and beef and a new low-pressure removal technique introduced, which, in turn, was banned last year by the European Commission.

Natively, it turns out, the British public believed that our meat industry had cleaned up its act. We've been happily eating

# The inherent question: Is it or isn't it

## Horse meat could be in school meals

By Christopher Hope, Victoria Ward and James Kirkup

FOOD served in schools and hospitals may contain horse meat, it emerged yesterday. A government spokesman was

unable to guarantee the authenticity of meat products sold to patients and children.

Samples of food have been sent for testing but the results will not be available until April 8.

The police were drawn into the scandal yesterday amid fears that criminals may be involved in supplying horse meat labelled as beef. The development followed confirmation that some Findus beef lasagnes were made entirely of horse meat.

The meals were eventually withdrawn from sale but the

public was not informed that the product was contaminated for more than a week.

Owen Paterson, the Environment Secretary, insisted yesterday that there was no danger to public health. When asked if he would feed his family a lasagne from his corner shop, he said: "Emphatically I would yes."

Yesterday, Aldi withdrew its own-brand frozen lasagne and and bolognese after they were

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# The Tesco Statement

The problem we've had with some of our meat lately is about more than burgers and bolognese.

It's about some of the ways we get meat to your dinner table.

It's about the whole food industry.

And it has made us realise, we really do need to make it better.

We've been working on it, but we need to keep going, go further, move quicker.

We know that our supply chain is too complicated.

# The Findus statement

## **FINDUS UK – A MESSAGE TO OUR CUSTOMERS**

At Findus UK our first priority is our customers and providing quality products they can trust. But we know that many of you have been concerned by the news this week that tests have shown that some of our Findus Beef Lasagne products have been found to contain horsemeat.

We understand your concerns, we are sorry that we have let you down and we want you to know the facts.

On Monday 4th February 2013 we undertook a full product withdrawal of our Findus Beef Lasagne whilst we investigated.

Findus UK had extensive DNA testing completed by leading independent experts. On Wednesday 6th February these tests confirmed that horsemeat was present in a number of samples and this information was shared with the Food Standards Agency.

The affected product is:

- **Findus Beef Lasagne – 320g**  
(barcode 5050093307376)
- **Findus Beef Lasagne – 360g**  
(barcodes 5050093306119 and 5050093307345)
- **Findus Beef Lasagne – 500g**  
(barcode 5050093307444)

We do not believe this is a food safety issue but as a precaution, we are asking customers who may have already bought Findus Beef Lasagne (identified on packaging with the barcodes above) to contact our Consumer Care Line on our UK Freephone number **0800 132584** (or if you are calling from the Republic of Ireland **01800 800500**) for advice and to receive a full refund. Alternatively, you can email [careline@findus.co.uk](mailto:careline@findus.co.uk)

All other Findus beef products have been tested and are not affected.

We are acting to make sure this cannot happen again.



# Lack of respect or just plain greed?

## Nose to tail: the modern meat trade

*Europe's horsemeat scandal has shed light on the amazing complexity of the modern meat supply chain*

### When did meat exports begin?

Since it perishes rapidly, meat wasn't suitable for trade across long distances for many centuries. Even now, the high costs of storage and transport mean that only about 8% of the world's meat is bought and sold across borders. Still, in the later 19th century it became obvious that there were huge surpluses of sheep and cows in some parts of the world (Australia had 60 million sheep and just two million people in 1880) and growing, hungry populations in Europe. In 1877, the first successful exports of frozen meat crossed between Argentina and France. Three years later, after a journey of 64 days from Australia, a cargo of frozen beef, mutton and lamb was unloaded from the merchant ship *Swatlowan* in London for sale at



*Offcuts are where the profits are*

The astonishing achievement of a sophisticated retail operation drive the proportion of income on food to an all-time low: half what families spent on in the 1950s. However, this involves a stream of particular demands on suppliers, especially when it

### What do they require of

The ability to deliver a constant huge quantities and highly uniform products. Take beefburgers sold in burgers in the UK. McDonald's, which opened its first restaurant in 1974, requires the slaughter of 9,000 cattle a week (specifically forequarters and flanks). But the beef you get in a beefburger is the cheapest ones you can buy.

# Does it really take 450 different companies to make a Lasagne?

According to the financial services firm KPMG, no fewer than 450 different parties – from farmers to renderers, meat traders to processors, packers to retailers – might now be involved in the supply chain of a 21st century mass-produced lasagne.

# Comment by the Bishop of Hereford

- “This breach of trust by suppliers begs a serious consideration of the ethics behind the drive to ever cheaper food. I hope that all involved in the food supply chain will take a long hard look at their actions, procurement processes and decision making in order to stop these sorts of practices. We need there to be proper care in the whole supply chain involving growers, producers, suppliers and retailers.”

# Sir Albert Howard, 1945

- The person in the street must do three things.
- 1. Create their own garden
- 2. Insist that public meals are composed of fresh produce
- 3. Use their vote to compel elected representatives to ensure that public health in the future is based on fresh produce

# A Kellogg's advert and a real concern



**Food poverty in the UK is increasing.**

**The average annual UK food bill  
will rise by £357 by 2017.**

**How will the UK's poor cope?**

# Historic Involvement

- “ God said, Throughout the earth I shall give you all the plants which bear seed, they shall be yours for food.” (Gen,1,29)
- “There was famine in every country. Joseph opened all the granaries and sold grain to the Egyptians for the famine was severe.” (Gen, 41,53-56)
- Jesus” told them to give her something to eat” (Luke 8,55)

# Two Basic Points

- Jesus said” A man scatters seed on the ground; he goes to bed at night and gets up in the morning and meanwhile the seed spouts and grows.” (Mk.4,27)
- Jesus took bread and after giving thanks he broke it and gave it to them and said” this is my body.” (Lk.22, 19)

# Why the churches are involved

- Food is not just another commodity
- The price of food should not be more affected by the price of other futures, such as metals, rather than grain stocks.
- The availability and supply of food should not be affected by the need to use grain to produce petrol.
- Food should be at the heart of communities

# Food and Politics

- New sectors of society are succumbing to poverty and new forms of poverty are emerging.
- There is excessive zeal for protecting knowledge.
- Space needs to be created in the market for economic activity according to principles other than pure profit. (Benedict XVI, 2009)

# Embedded values



# Embedded Values

- Does it meet the requirements of the ten commandments in respect of honouring creation and humanity
- How, by whom and at what cost food has it been produced
- Has it been fairly traded
- Does biotechnology meet these needs
- Can Care farming help

# Food and Farming in Scotland

- Scotland's rural sector covers 94% of land and is home to 19% of the population.
- Food industry is valued at around £30bn and employs around 20% of the working population.
- Scotland's rural population is growing
- Around a third of people in rural areas are involved in voluntary activities

# The Importance of Scottish Food production

- Food prices have been affected by government actions for most of recent history
- The gap between increasing world production and world population growth is decreasing
- An approach to the proportion of our food which we produce based only on economic factors would be unwise
- The aim of producing approaching two thirds of our food from our own resources would seem to be prudent

# Worrying Predictions

- The absolute level of food production worldwide is rising but despite this, food prices have been rising
- Although absolute food production is rising, world population growth is outstripping the increase.
- Measured in terms of days of consumption, world grain stocks have now fallen to half the levels of the mid-1980s
- In the short run food prices may well fall or be volatile, but the underlying supply shortfall must be confronted
- Systemic change will eventually be necessary

# Difficult Challenges

- Nitrogen fertilizers and many pesticides require substantial quantities of energy in their manufacture
- Fertilizer and pesticide production account for over a third of the total energy used in agriculture.
- The initial step in the production of nitrogen fertilizers requires 33.5 GJ/ ton and releases 1.8 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from natural gas( equal to a car travelling over 12,000 km) or 3 tons from coal.
- Fertilizers need about 4% of total world fossil fuel use.

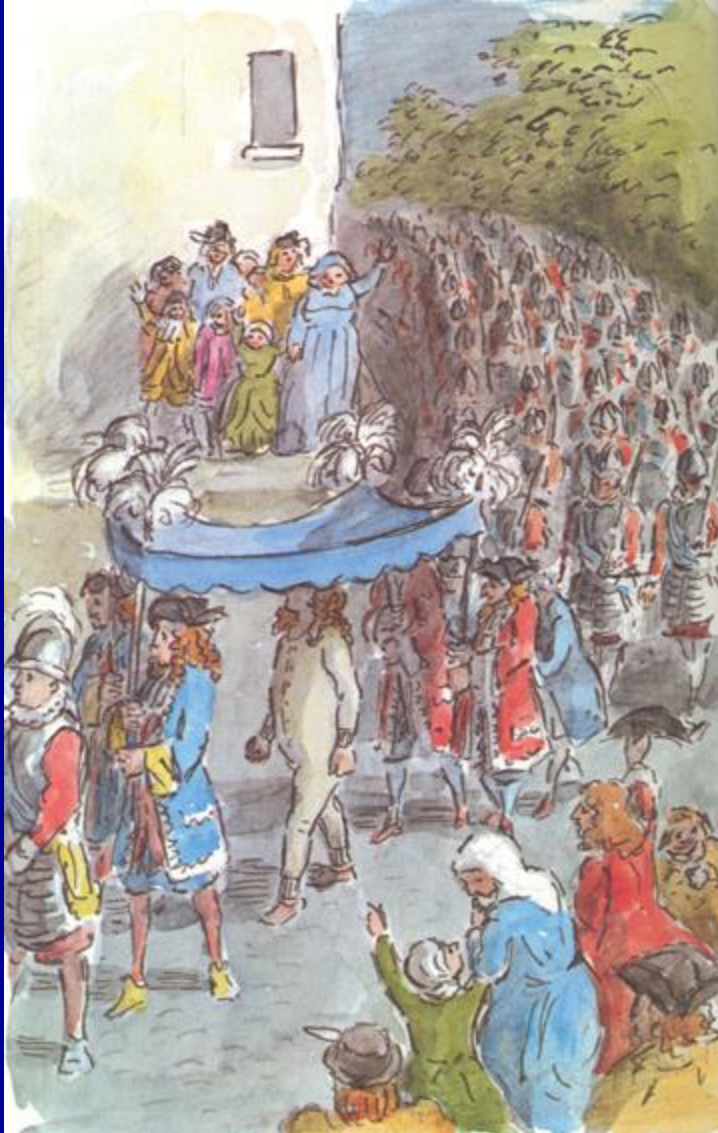
# **Accommodating Diversity: A Framework To Aid Decision Making (After Banner)**

- 1. Is the development a harm which should not be permitted? i.e. are there inherent, non-utilitarian, moral-based issues which cannot be accepted.**
- 2. Do the projected benefits really outweigh the project's costs or dis-benefits, i.e.. what are the key consequential issues.**
- 3. Can significant dis-benefits be minimised.**



**Jack Spratt could eat:**

**No such thing as a  
free lunch**



**The King's New Clothes:**

**There is no other way**

# What can we do

- Advocacy
- Leadership
- Witness
- Use of our purchasing power. “We have more power as consumers than as citizens!”
- Voluntary action
- Partnership

# Food related issues need to become central to our future planning



*Food and how it is produced is central to our care for the environment and our relationships with both our fellow Scots and others in the global population. Food Policy sets the tone for the country we aspire Scotland to be.* 🍌🍌

Rev Prof Atkinson, Chair, Action of Churches Together in Scotland