

# The Telegraph

## FSA: meat and milk from offsprings of cloned animals will be allowed

Milk and meat from the offspring of cloned animals should be allowed to go on sale, according to the official food regulator.



A row broke out last summer when it emerged that meat from the offspring of a cloned cow had been sold unwittingly without a licence being obtained Photo: REUTERS



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The Food Standards Agency has published its final opinion on the controversial issue of whether consumers should be allowed to buy products derived from cloned animals or the offspring of cloned animals.

An ill-tempered row broke out last summer when it emerged that meat from the offspring of a cloned cow had been sold unwittingly in butchers' shops without a licence being obtained. Animal welfare campaigners said that cloned animals suffer far more than standard animals, and many consumers said they had a serious ethical dilemma about whether the practice should be allowed.

At the time the FSA said the farmer and butchers responsible had broken all its rules and that any product derived not just from a cloned animal but also the offspring of a clone had to require a so-called "novel food" licence before being sold.

The FSA at the end of last year said it could find no scientific evidence that there was any reason why cloned meat or milk could not be eaten safely, but its statement today – laid out in its agenda for the next board meeting – is the first time it has formally stated that consumers should definitely be able to eat these controversial products.

Though the milk or meat from the offspring of cloned animal should be able to sold, the FSA did say it would still require products directly derived from a cloned animal to seek a licence.

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[Meat from offspring of clones on UK shelves](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/foodanddrinknews/8415170/Meat-from-offspring-of-cloned-animals-to-go-on-sale-in-UK.html)

(<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/foodanddrinknews/8415170/Meat-from-offspring-of-cloned-animals-to-go-on-sale-in-UK.html>)

[Green light for cloned cow milk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/8341212/Milk-from-cloned-cows-given-green-light-by-Defra.html) (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/foodanddrink/8341212/Milk-from-cloned-cows-given-green-light-by-Defra.html>)

[We don't want to eat cloned animals](http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/peterwedderburn/100077424/read-our-lips-consumers-dont-want-cloned-animals/)

(<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/peterwedderburn/100077424/read-our-lips-consumers-dont-want-cloned-animals/>)

[Cloning: questions and answers](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/agriculture/farming/8341381/Cloning-QandA.html) (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/agriculture/farming/8341381/Cloning-QandA.html>)

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Earlier this year Jim Paice, the food and farming minister, made it clear that the Government, along with the European Commission, believed it was unnecessary and impractical to ban food from the offspring of cloned animals ending up on supermarket shelves.

He added: "For the future, the Government shares the Commission's view that there should be no restrictions on the use of offspring of cloned animals."

The FSA's official recommendation will upset a range of consumer and animal welfare bodies, which lobbied against any cloned animals or their offspring entering the food chain. Which?, the RSPCA, the Soil Association and the World Wildlife Fund all argued against the relaxation in the rules.

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