



THE
HUMANE
FARMING
ASSOCIATION

• CAMPAIGN AGAINST FACTORY FARMING •



HFA CAMPAIGN UPDATE

- **New Book by HFA's Gail Eisnitz**
- **Veal Production Hits Historic New Low**
- **Rescued Animals at Suwanna Ranch...and more!**

You can change lives.

With a Humane Farming Association bequest, you can take pride and comfort in knowing that your gift will ensure the protection of animals for years to come. And because HFA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charity, the tax savings will significantly reduce the tax burden to your heirs.

Your bequest can take the form of a cash gift, real estate, life insurance, retirement account, securities, and/or other property. Often the tax advantages are such that the gift has little impact on the estate that your heirs will receive.



Plan now for the future. For information on how to make a planned gift to the Humane Farming Association (HFA), please contact Jill Mountjoy at (415) 485-1495 / hfa@hfa.org. To those of you who have already included the work of HFA in your will, *thank you for your loving remembrance of the animals.*

HFA Fights to Protect Animals from Weather Disasters: *Effort Could Save Millions of Animals, Taxpayer Dollars*

Government waste abounds. Regardless of one's political affiliation, reimbursing livestock producers for farm animals who die in harsh weather — *whether or not the animals were provided protections from the elements* — is clearly an enormous waste of taxpayer dollars.

Under USDA's Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), when farm animals die in inclement weather — including hurricanes, floods, blizzards, hail, extreme heat, and extreme cold — farmers and ranchers are rewarded with a government check. In other words, producers, who paid no insurance premiums and, in many cases, failed to protect animals from harsh weather, are *awarded our tax dollars* for the deceased animals.



The livestock industry should not be rewarded for allowing cows to freeze in the snow.

Currently, USDA does not require producers to provide animals with even the most basic protections from extreme weather.

LIP represents the misuse of taxpayer dollars and government waste at its most flagrant.

LIP reimburses producers 75 percent of the dead animals' market value, and there is no limit on the amount of LIP compensation that an eligible producer can receive.

Since LIP's inception in 2008, USDA has doled out more than *half a billion* dollars to livestock producers under this cruel and wasteful program. Between 2021 and 2023 alone, the amount issued by LIP totaled \$170 million for the loss of more than 2.3 million farm animals.

The number of farm animals who suffer and die from adverse weather is staggering. In 2018, approximately 5.5 million poultry and thousands of pigs perished from hurricanes Florence and Michael. That same year, winter storms resulted in the deaths of more than 37,000 cattle in Montana. In 2020, over 100,000 poultry in Louisiana were killed in Hurricane Laura. Three years later, a deep freeze in Texas resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of farm animals, including 455,000 chickens. In 2022, a heat wave in Kansas wiped out at least 2,000 cattle. The next year, winter storms reportedly killed thousands of cattle, sheep, and goats across Wyoming. And this past year, Hurricane Helene killed over 1.5 million chickens, pigs, and cows.

In 2019, HFA asked members of Congress to take action to ensure that farmers and ranchers receiving this government handout first put in place life-saving protections for their animals. This means developing and executing disaster preparedness plans for their livestock and poultry. These plans, HFA suggested,

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Your support saves lives! *We thank you.*





Compassion, Care, and Refuge — Saving Lives All Year Round

HFA's SUWANNA RANCH

The Nation's Largest Farm-Animal Sanctuary



HFA Chief Investigator's Powerful New Book

“For years, Eisnitz has been a courageous and eloquent champion for the millions of suffering animals in ‘factory farms’ who can’t speak for themselves. Shocking, heartbreaking, and full of compassion, this book will reach into your heart, make you think about what you eat, and inspire you to do your bit to make this a more caring world.” — Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE

“A light in the darkness of institutional animal abuse, Gail Eisnitz has been relentless in her efforts to make cruelty visible and accountable. She is a writer of great skill and enormous compassion, a truly heroic woman.”

— Matthew Scully, author of **Dominion** and **Fear Factories**

“This riveting book is a testament to one woman’s courage in the face of powerful and corrupt business interests, crippling health issues, and jaw-dropping animal abuse. If you wish to eat like you give a damn, read this book.”

— Jonathan Balcombe, PhD, *New York Times* bestselling author of **What a Fish Knows**



Gail A. Eisnitz

Mozingo Photography

“*Out of Sight* is a brave, important, and inspiring book that deserves a broad global audience. It’s a testament to one woman’s unwavering empathy and strength in the face of profound obstacles. A truly stirring account of endurance and triumph.”

— Marc Bekoff, PhD, Author of **The Emotional Lives of Animals**

We are very proud to announce the publication of *Out of Sight, An Undercover Investigator’s Fight for Animal Rights and Her Own Survival*, the long-awaited new book by Humane Farming Association (HFA) Chief Investigator Gail Eisnitz. Gail’s brilliant new book is a must-read testament to one woman’s unwavering empathy and strength in the face of profound obstacles. It is a truly stirring account of endurance and triumph for everyone who cares deeply about animals.

Out of Sight is an insightful, often harrowing, memoir that follows Gail’s decades-long career fighting to expose the scandalous underbelly of the U.S. meat industry. At the same time, her new book is an intensely personal tale of redemption that chronicles her private struggles with an often incapacitating medical condition.

Slaughterhouse, Gail’s first blockbuster book, is considered the definitive book on meat-packing abuses. Indeed, her work at HFA was the driving force behind a front-page exposé in the *Washington Post*. That story, in turn, resulted in an annual multimillion-dollar Congressional appropriation for enforcement of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. It was the first funding ever allocated for a law that had been on the books for over forty years.

Gail was subsequently awarded the prestigious Albert Schweitzer Medal for achievement in animal protection. On behalf of HFA, she has repeatedly appeared on network television, and her interviews about farm-animal cruelty have been heard on more than one thousand radio stations.

Out of Sight is a deep dive into the meat industry’s treatment of farm animals and a powerful exploration of resilience, healing, and one woman’s lifelong mission for justice for animals.

Please help HFA get this important book on the best-seller list by ordering your copy today! *Out of Sight* is now available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or your local book store.

“Shocking, heartbreaking, and full of compassion.” —Jane Goodall

Out *of* Sight

An Undercover Investigator's Fight *for*
Animal Rights and Her Own Survival



Gail A. Eisnitz
author of Slaughterhouse



HFA's Suwanna Ranch provides over 7,000 acres of protected habitat for animals seized in cruelty cases. Your support saves lives!

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would have to be submitted to USDA before harsh weather struck and before compensation was made.

As a result of our efforts, language has repeatedly been included in the annual Agriculture Appropriations bill approved by Congress *encouraging* USDA to work with producers *who wish* to develop disaster plans to prepare for extreme weather events and prevent livestock injuries and deaths. *But that language is still far from being strong enough.*

For this reason, Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA), who has spearheaded this effort for HFA for years, is working to strengthen that language in the current Fiscal Year 2026 Agriculture Appropriations bill. Our new language would require that no compensation be issued to producers under LIP “unless the applicant offers 1) a disaster preparedness plan that is specific to the species of animal(s) and region of the country, and 2) a description of how the plan was executed to prevent livestock injuries or deaths.”

In addition, at HFA’s request during the last legislative session, the “Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for Farm Animals Act” was

introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. This legislation *required* that farmers and ranchers develop and execute disaster plans before they ever receive compensation under LIP. HFA is currently working to get the “Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for Farm Animals Act” reintroduced in the 119th Congress.

As HFA fights to reform the Livestock Indemnity Program, an industry bill has been reintroduced in Congress that would undermine our efforts. This damaging legislation — the so-called “Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act,” H.R. 2156 and S. 984 — would allow even the country’s largest animal factories to receive compensation under LIP. In short, H.R. 2156 and S. 984 would open the floodgates for reimbursement for deceased animals to massive factory farms across the U.S. HFA is determined to see that this does not happen. ***Please take action today!*** ❖

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please contact your U.S. Representative and Senators to urge them to support measures that require disaster preparedness plans to be in place before producers receive compensation under LIP.

Explain that in addition to essentially rewarding producers for bad behavior, LIP also represents misuse of taxpayer dollars and government waste at its most flagrant. Inform them that many livestock and poultry trade associations recommend or even require disaster planning as a component of their auditing and certification programs.

Please also urge your U.S. Representative, as well as your U.S. Senators, to OPPOSE H.R. 2156 and S. 984, the “Fair Access to Agriculture Disaster Programs Act.”

For contact information for your legislators, go to: www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member or call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. *Thank you!*

HFA Calls for Legislative Action After County Fails to Enforce Rooster Ordinance

HFA is seeking court action for a third time in its unrelenting crackdown on cockfighters in a county where authorities refuse to enforce the law.

Background. The Humane Farming Association (HFA) and the Illinois-based Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK) filed suit in California Superior Court against Monterey County officials back in 2020 for their failure to enforce that county's rooster-keeping ordinance. That law would curb cockfighting by prohibiting the keeping of five or more roosters without a permit.

HFA and SHARK had documented that illegal gamecock operations existed throughout the county. After providing our evidence to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury, that body conducted its own investigation and confirmed that there were an estimated 1,000 illegal rooster operations in the county. The Grand Jury also confirmed that, at the time, there was not a single

current rooster permit in effect.

Before filing HFA's lawsuit, our investigative team provided the addresses of numerous gamecock facilities to county officials, but

they refused to enforce the law. Thus, we filed suit against the county.

As a result of HFA's lawsuit, the county agreed to our central demands. County officials consented to hiring additional animal control officers, establishing a special rooster-keeping task force, training law enforcement officers about cockfighting-related prosecutions, and promptly investigating all the addresses of illegal operations we had provided as well as any we might provide in the future.

Despite the success of HFA's lawsuit and the promises the county made, Monterey officials appear to have washed their hands of enforcing the rooster ordinance.

Instead of denying permits and prosecuting animal abusers, Monterey County Animal Services spent the subsequent years *issuing permits to individuals raising cockfighting roosters.*

In response to this malfeasance, HFA then filed a lawsuit against a rooster-keeper to whom the county had issued a permit.

While we were pleased that our legal action shut the operation down and succeeded where the county had failed, HFA could not, nor should we have to, sue the 1,000 other illegal rooster keepers that operate throughout the county. That is the job of Monterey County Animal Services.

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HFA's investigation revealed that there were as many as 1,000 illegal rooster operations in Monterey County. Most of the birds are kept tethered and all are eventually maimed and/or killed during cockfights.

HFA is determined to end this abuse.



County Lets Violator Off the Hook

In a recent example of Animal Services' flagrant disregard for the rooster ordinance, last summer, HFA was contacted by Monterey County residents whose neighbor, a gamefowl breeder, housed hundreds of roosters of the breeds used for cockfighting.

This game fowl breeder had applied for a rooster-keeping permit with the county back in 2021. In an uncharacteristically proper move, Monterey County Animal Services had denied his permit and issued a cease-and-desist order.

But despite the fact that the rooster keeper had cockfighting paraphernalia on the premises, had been the subject of noise complaints over the years, had building code violations, and had been issued the cease-and-desist order, Animal Services inexplicably *allowed* the breeder to continue operating for three years with impunity.

Under the rooster-keeping ordinance, "poultry hobbyists" — members of local, state, or national organizations that promote breeding of poultry for exhibition, show, and/or sale — can apply for an exemption to the ordinance. But there are no exemptions for individuals raising roosters for cockfighting.

In 2024, the game fowl breeder filed for a "poultry hobbyist exemption" for 240 birds, a move that triggered a visit to his premises by County Agriculture Commissioner staff. The inspection revealed that he was a member of an organization



Cockfighting is a blood sport in which two roosters specifically bred for aggression are placed in a small ring and forced to fight to the death. This usually includes roosters having razor-sharp knives strapped to their legs and being artificially stimulated to fight with the use of steroid injections.

that promotes the right to keep and fight cockfighting birds and that his roosters were "dubbed" (their wattles and combs removed so they couldn't be torn off during a fight) and their spurs trimmed (so they could be fitted with gaffs or knives for fighting).

For those reasons, his hobbyist exemption was denied.

The breeder appealed that decision. Only then did the Monterey County Board of Supervisors get involved to consider the appeal. And only after a strong letter from HFA attorneys to the Board of Supervisors demanding that his appeal be denied, as well as testimony at the Board of Supervisors meeting from neighbors, the undersheriff, and the Agriculture Commissioner, was the

rooster keeper's appeal denied.

"We had three years of a known out-of-compliance operation that continued," said one frustrated member of the Board of Supervisors. "The undersheriff mentioned that there was a cease-and-desist order issued. Was that cease-and-desist order from Animal Services? Was that ignored?"

An official with Animal Services confirmed that the order was ignored and that the breeder still housed the birds. She then tried to shift the blame for the department's failure to enforce the law, claiming that "rooster enforcement is very labor intensive" and that Animal Services didn't have the staff to enforce it.

Despite HFA's lawsuit settlement in which Animal Services promised to hire additional personnel to administer the rooster ordinance,

the official reported that there were only two animal-control officers on staff to enforce anti-cruelty laws across Monterey County.

HFA Pressing Ahead

Fast forward six months.

In early 2025, HFA learned that, despite the denial of his appeal, the breeder apparently continues to house roosters — a larger number than before — with impunity.

Having exhausted all permitting remedies and despite the fact that he admitted being a member of an organization that promotes cockfighting, had dubbed birds and cockfighting paraphernalia on his property, and keeps hundreds of roosters of the cockfighting breeds, Animal Services and the Sheriff's office have apparently failed to obtain and execute civil or criminal warrants to search the breeder's premises with the goal of shutting his operation down.

For these reasons, HFA is gearing up to file suit against this game fowl breeder. While our last legal action of this nature was highly successful, it shouldn't fall to HFA to file suit against individual rooster keepers. Enforcing the rooster ordinance against game fowl operations in the county is the job of Animal Services.

Monterey County Animal Services officials *should* be living up to their commitments, hiring more animal-control officers and taking action to shut down illegal rooster operations in the county, as promised in the agency's legal settlement with HFA. Instead, they are issuing permits to these cruel operations.

Facilities that raise roosters for cockfighting violate both the letter and spirit of the law which was enacted specifically to crack down on cockfighting. ❖

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

One solution to the rooster problem in Monterey County — and throughout the country — would be to limit the number of roosters allowed per acre of property and to require that owners possessing more roosters than allowed prove that the birds are not being used for cockfighting.

And that is exactly what Assembly Bill 928, the "Cockfighting Cruelty Act," is seeking to do in California.

Recently introduced in the California legislature by Assemblymember Chris Rogers (D-Santa Rosa), AB 928 would prohibit the possession of more than three roosters per acre. (The bill exempts commercial poultry operations, poultry hobbyists, schools, animal agencies, and projects from Future Farmers of America and 4-H.)

For roosters over the established limit, the owner would face civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per bird.

Passage of AB 928 would go a long way toward outlawing operations where roosters are kept for cockfighting.

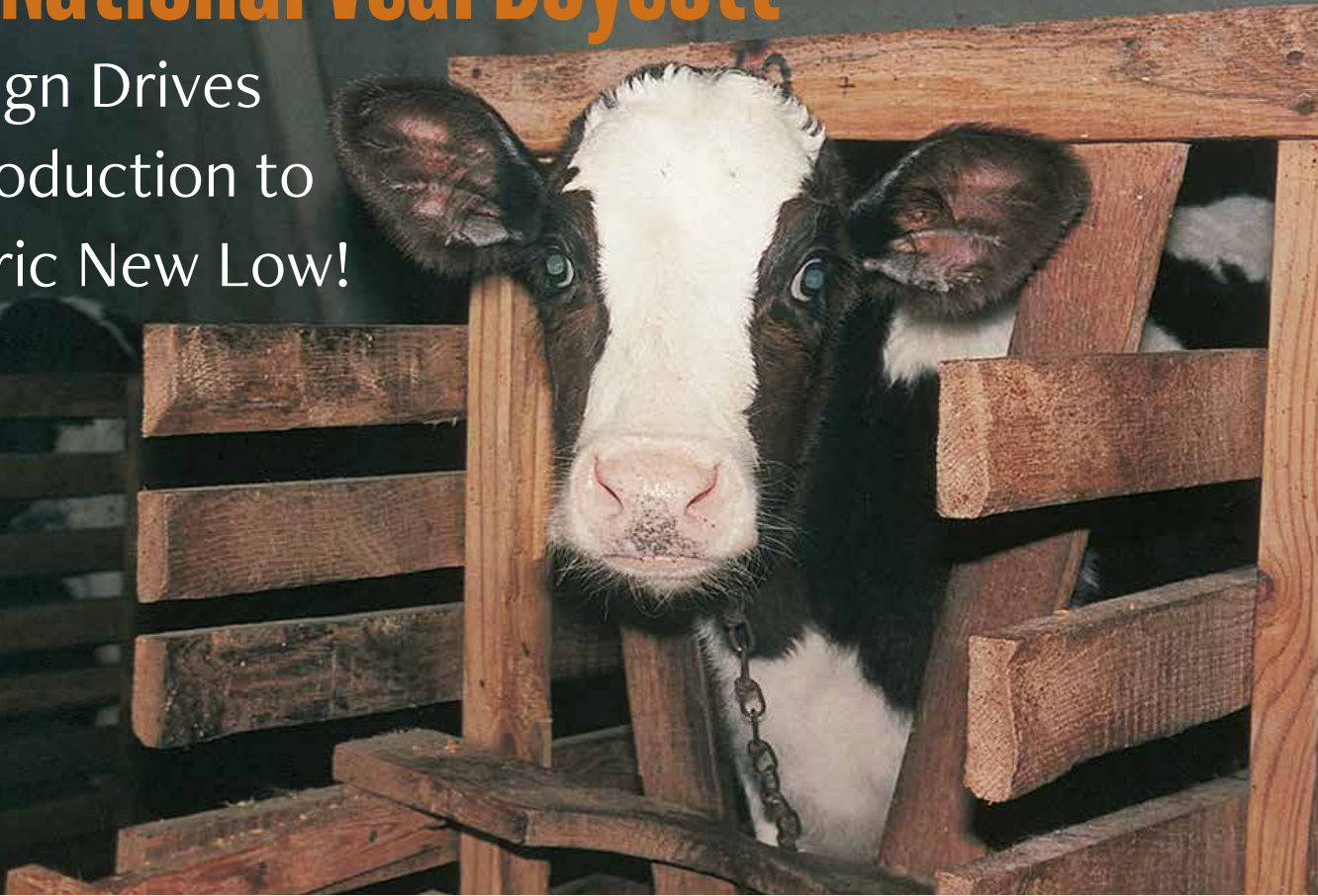
If you are a California resident, please contact your State Assemblymember, urging him or her to support and cosponsor AB 928.

To find your Assemblymember, contact your local library or visit: <https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>.

Thank you!

HFA's National Veal Boycott

Campaign Drives
Veal Production to
a Historic New Low!

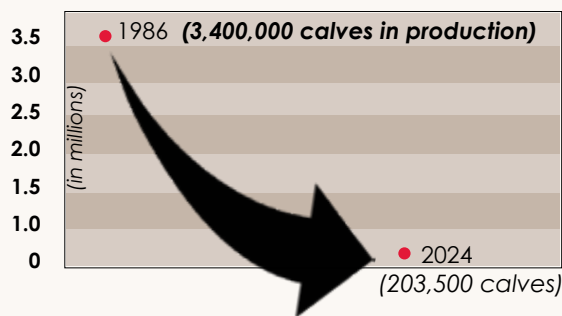


HFA's success in enacting groundbreaking anti-cruelty laws is by no means our only reason for encouragement.

We are happy to report that HFA's National Veal Boycott campaign has brought veal consumption in the U.S. to a historic **record low!**

When HFA began the National Veal Boycott, veal production was the most rapidly expanding segment of the meat industry. But after years of unrelenting activism, including full-page exposés

Compassion and Activism Win!



The numbers shown above tell the real story of HFA's unparalleled success in preventing the suffering of millions of animals.

Today, veal production numbers have plummeted from a high of 3.4 million calves to their current level of 203,500. **Your support saves lives!**

in national publications, veal production numbers have dwindled from a high of 3.4 million calves **to a record low of 203,500.**

As we continue our battle, we are encouraged by the fact that, this year alone, more than *three million baby calves will be spared* the horror and agony of veal production.

But we can't let up now!

Your support will help HFA make even further progress in the months ahead. *We thank you!* ❖



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