



THE HUMANE FARMING ASSOCIATION

• CAMPAIGN AGAINST FACTORY FARMING •

HFA CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

- **USDA Lawsuit Victory**
- **HFA Fights Rotten Egg Bill in Massachusetts**
- **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 / or email: 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.*

The Massachusetts Rotten Egg Bill

HFA Fights Harmful Legislation & Files Lawsuit

Four years ago, Massachusetts voters overwhelmingly approved a ballot initiative (Question 3) that established minimum space requirements for egg-laying hens.

Specifically, the law requires that each laying hen be provided with **no less than 1.5 square feet** of floor space. The measure, which covers eggs from both in-state and out-of-state suppliers, was voted into law by an overwhelming 77 percent of voters.



HSUS "approved" egg factory.

Despite the fact that this law is scheduled to go into effect in January 2022, for over a year, the corrupt Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has been working with the egg industry's trade association, United Egg Producers (UEP), to pass legislation that would **drastically reduce the amount of space** hens are provided.

Together, they have been pushing legislation that would allow hens confined in multi-tier egg factories to be provided with **a mere one square foot** of floor space.



These so-called "cage-free" hens will never step foot outside this factory-farm prison.

This would enable egg producers to crowd 50 percent more hens into egg factories than allowed by the voter-approved law.

The corrupting legislation is sponsored by Representative Daniel Cahill and Senator Jason Lewis and supported by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. If this betrayal of farm animals and voters sounds familiar, it's because this is exactly what happened in California three years ago.

As you may recall, the egg industry and HSUS co-wrote California's Rotten Egg Initiative (Prop 12) which sharply reduced the amount of space hens receive — and resulted in an explosion of multi-tiered egg factories in California.

The Battle Continues

Last year, HFA lobbied Massachusetts state legislators in order to stop this shameless betrayal of farm animals and voters.

Fortunately, after much hard work, *HFA was successful* in stopping those efforts to weaken the law.

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In the News...

The Boston Globe

“It’s outrageous that we need to resort to litigation to force Attorney General Healey to follow the law.”

“Healey’s support of industry efforts to reduce the amount of space provided to farm animals is a slap in the face to Massachusetts voters,” said Bradley Miller, National Director of the Humane Farming Association.

The egg industry and HSUS then proposed amendments to the state’s budget bill that would have effectively *repealed* Question 3 and replaced it with the weakening standard. HFA successfully defeated those amendments as well.

Now, in 2021, the egg industry and the corrupt HSUS are at it again.

They are once again pushing legislation that would repeal Question 3 and replace it with the cruel *one square foot* per bird standard.

Attorney General Ignores The Law

When Question 3 passed in 2016, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey was charged with the responsibility of promulgating regulations to implement that law. She was given more than three years to issue the regulations by January 1, 2020.

In violation of the law, Healey has failed to issue — or even draft — the required regulations. Instead, she has supported egg-industry efforts to *reduce* the space requirements for hens and shift regulatory

responsibilities to the industry-friendly Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

In January, HFA filed suit in Massachusetts Superior Court against Attorney General Healey for her failure to produce the required regulations. The purpose of HFA’s lawsuit is to compel the Attorney General to promulgate the Question 3 regulations.

“The Attorney General’s statutory deadline of January 1, 2020 has come and gone,” reads HFA’s lawsuit, “and, based on the Attorney General’s attempts to shift her responsibility elsewhere, she refuses to even belatedly comply with her legal obligations.

“As a result, farm animals will be forced to endure inhumane conditions that Massachusetts voters have overwhelmingly declared that they wish to be condemned as illegal.”

ACTION NEEDED

HFA is once again battling the egg industry and its corrupt allies at HSUS in order to preserve an anti-cruelty law passed by voters.

If you are a Massachusetts resident, please contact your state representative and senator to urge them to oppose HD 596 by Representative Daniel Cahill and SD 212 by Senator Jason Lewis.

Tell them that the legislature should not weaken the 2016 ballot initiative (Question 3). Explain that hens deserve to be given more than one square foot of floor space each.

Let them know that the legislature has a duty to uphold the will of Massachusetts voters and that it should not undermine the farm-animal protection law which has already been overwhelmingly approved.

For contact information for your state legislators, go to: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>. **Thank you.**

Lawsuit Against Dangerous USDA Slaughter Rules Withstands Challenge

Early last year, the Humane Farming Association and consumer advocacy organizations Food & Water Watch and the Center for Food Safety filed suit in federal court challenging the U.S. Department of Agriculture's New Swine Inspection System (NSIS). The intent of our litigation is to overturn new regulations which drastically deregulate commercial pig slaughter.



We are pleased to report that U.S. District Judge Jeffrey S. White has rejected the government's motion to dismiss our lawsuit. In a February 2021 decision, Judge White upheld the validity of our case and reaffirmed that we do, in fact, have the legal standing to sue.

The Federal Meat Inspection Act, first enacted in 1906, mandates that federal meat inspectors evaluate each animal arriving at a slaughter plant and every carcass after the animal is slaughtered. Under the new (NSIS) system, however, federal inspectors are no longer required to perform many of these critical responsibilities; instead, their meat inspection duties are being handed over to the slaughter plants' own employees.

As if that weren't bad enough, NSIS also removes limits on slaughter line speeds, thus allowing slaughterhouses to kill animals at whatever speeds they wish. Until now, slaughterhouses have been

allowed to kill as many as 1,106 pigs per hour, or one pig every three seconds. These rules open the floodgates and give the nation's largest slaughterhouses permission to operate at unrestricted speeds, killing and inspecting pigs as fast and as recklessly as they wish.

By ruling in our favor, Judge White recognized the dangers this program poses to public health, declaring that "the Court concludes there is a credible threat that Plaintiffs' members face an increased risk of illness from consuming adulterated pork products, thereby sufficiently establishing standing based on potential future harm."

ACTION NEEDED

The HFA-supported "Safe Line Speeds During COVID-19 Act of 2021" has just been introduced in Congress to temporarily suspend increases in slaughterhouse line speeds. These bills direct the Secretary of Agriculture to suspend waivers that allow large slaughterhouses to increase their line speeds during the pandemic and, most importantly, suspend the conversion to the dangerous New Swine Inspection System by hog slaughterhouses during the pandemic.

Please write to your U.S. Representative to urge him/her to cosponsor HR 1815, the "Safe Line Speeds During COVID-19 Act of 2021" introduced by Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and ask your U.S. Senators to cosponsor S 713, the Senate version of that bill introduced by Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ).

Explain that these bills would temporarily halt line speed increases in large slaughterhouses which threaten public health, increase animal cruelty, and endanger workers. You can take action directly at www.HFA.org/legislation. Or, if you prefer sending letters/calling your legislators, go to www.usa.gov/elected-officials or call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. **Thank you.**



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

HFA's SUWANNA RANCH





Your support saves lives!

HFA's Suwanna Ranch is the largest farm-animal sanctuary in the United States. Suwanna Ranch provides hands-on care, rescue assistance, and refuge to hundreds of abused and neglected animals each year. Our program encourages agencies across the U.S. to use their legal authority to take action and rescue farm animals from criminal neglect and cruelty.

On behalf of the over 1,000 rescued animals at Suwanna Ranch, we thank you!



HFA's National Veal Boycott

Campaign Drives
Veal Production
to an Historic New Low

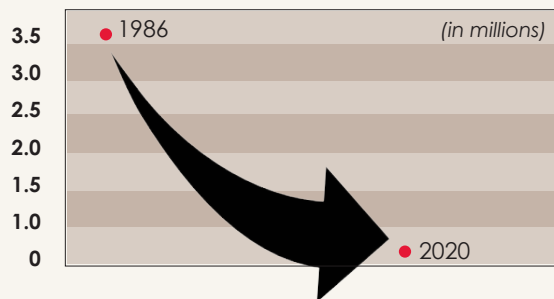


HFA's success in enacting groundbreaking anti-cruelty laws is by no means our only reason for encouragement.

We are happy to report that HFA's National Veal Boycott campaign has brought veal consumption in the U.S. to yet another ***all-time 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,

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 447,000. **Your support saves lives!**

including full-page exposés in national publications, veal production numbers have dwindled from a high of 3.4 million to a low of 447,000.

As we continue our battle, we are encouraged by the fact that, this year alone, *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! ❖

HFA Anti-Cockfighting Lawsuit Succeeds

Last August, HFA and the Illinois-based Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK) filed suit in California Superior Court against Monterey County officials for their failure to enforce the county's rooster-keeping ordinance. That law is intended to curb cockfighting by prohibiting the keeping of five or more roosters without a permit.

Using aerial drones, HFA and SHARK were successful in documenting the fact that illegal rooster-keeping operations exist throughout the county. We provided our evidence to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury, which reports on the operations of local government. After conducting its own investigation, the Grand Jury concluded that there were an estimated 1,000 illegal operations confining thousands of roosters in cages throughout the county.

The Grand Jury also confirmed that there was not a single current permit in effect. And, echoing our own findings, it blamed several county agencies for their many failures to enforce the law. "An illegal operation will often include hundreds of roosters kept in makeshift enclosures," noted the Grand Jury. "The result is environmental pollution, health and safety issues, building code violations, and the potential spread of Virulent Newcastle Disease.... Illegal rooster-keeping operations commonly involve cockfighting which is a magnet for gambling, drugs, and organized crime."

Prior to filing our lawsuit, we provided the addresses of numerous violators to county officials,

but they refused to enforce the law. Thus, acting on our evidence of widespread illegal rooster-keeping

operations, and backed up by the Grand Jury report, HFA and SHARK filed suit against the county.



A Widespread Problem

Although cockfighting is illegal nationwide, it's still a major problem. HFA is partnering with SHARK to shut down cockfighting operations in Kentucky, Alabama, Ohio, North Carolina, California, and other states.

We have not only documented these illegal activities and shared our findings with local and state police, but we have also successfully shut down numerous illegal cockfights.

In addition to animal cruelty, our lawsuit focused on the well-established link between cockfighting and disease spread. We noted that fighting roosters "may carry and transmit a variety of diseases." In fact, from 2018 to 2020, as county officials were refusing to enforce the ordinance, Virulent Newcastle Disease was spreading like wildfire through parts of California, resulting in the killing by agriculture authorities of 1.2 million chickens in backyard and commercial flocks. Yet, Monterey County's illegal rooster facilities were being allowed to operate unregulated.

As a result of our lawsuit, the county agreed to our central demands. First, they consented to hire more animal control officers. The county also agreed to establish a Task Force including representatives from the D.A.'s

office, the Sheriff's office, the local SPCA, the Board of Supervisors, and others. The county will also educate and train law enforcement officers about cockfighting-related investigations and prosecutions. Finally, the county committed to promptly investigating all addresses of illegal operations we provided as well as any we provide in the future.

While we are very pleased with the successful outcome of our litigation, we will continue to monitor the county's progress. ❖

HFA Investigation Results in Criminal Charge at Slaughter Operation

Acting on evidence provided by the Humane Farming Association, federal prosecutors have filed a criminal action against Alfredo Alcala-Gomez in the federal District Court for the Northern District of California. He is now being charged with inhumane slaughter under the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA).

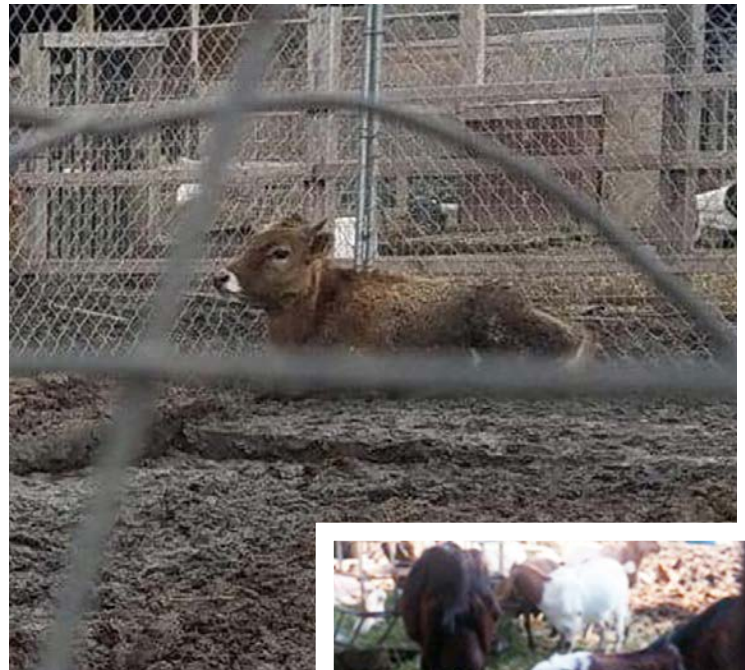
This comes as a result of an HFA investigation into a Napa County, California operation that boarded goats, sheep, cows, chickens, ducks, and horses for tenants, allegedly slaughtered animals in violation of the law, and apparently sold the meat for human consumption. As is so often the case, local law enforcement had failed to take any action, so HFA filed a formal complaint with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

According to court documents, the defendant “did knowingly slaughter, and handle in connection with the slaughtering of, a goat, without first rendering the goat insensible to pain as required by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, before the goat was shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast, and cut...” An HFA informant reported hearing and witnessing goats being slaughtered in violation of the law.

The informant stated that the animal was not rendered unconscious before slaughter, as is required by law, and that after the goat’s throat was cut, the worker removed the hide, head, front legs, back legs, then cut down the animal’s midline and put the entrails in a black trash bag. Indeed, video obtained by HFA showed a struggling goat being killed in this terrible way.

We were also informed that customers paid \$350 per butchered goat and \$250 per butchered sheep and that there was “blood all over the box of meat.”

The case HFA presented to federal authorities was two-fold, hinging not only on the cruel slaughter of



Criminal Charge Filed.
HFA’s investigation has resulted in a prosecution for illegal slaughter.



goats in violation of the HMSA, but also on the alleged sale of uninspected meat products.

While we are pleased that a prosecution has been initiated in this case, we are disappointed that only one count of inhumane slaughter was filed. We provided evidence to federal authorities pointing to the fact that this brutal activity appeared to be taking place on a routine and long-term basis.

As of this writing, HFA is continuing to press federal authorities to take further law enforcement action in this case.

It is your support that makes this work possible. ❖