



HFA CAMPAIGN UPDATE



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 Joint Investigation

Results in Federal Case Against Cockfighters

The Humane Farming Association (HFA) and Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK) have been working together to expose and eliminate cockfighting. Our campaign has taken us across the United States, from California to North Carolina, from Alabama to Ohio, and many states in between. Now, it has resulted in the first massive raid in Kentucky — the nation’s hotbed of cockfighting — by the FBI and other agencies.

To date, we’ve conducted undercover investigations, placed ads in major newspapers to solicit information from whistleblowers and to generate letters to state officials, and provided evidence to law-enforcement authorities. We also filed two separate lawsuits in Monterey County, California, where officials had refused to enforce that county’s anti-cockfighting ordinance. (See page 9.)

Additionally, our undercover investigations — in Kentucky and Ohio — were the subject of three television news exposés. One of the exposés won



HFA’s actions are resulting in crackdowns on illegal cockfighting operations.

Cincinnati WKRC Investigative Reporter Duane Pohlman an Emmy Award.

We have been battling on several fronts. First, we’ve been investigating and working to shut down illegal cockfights both directly and by sharing information with state and federal authorities. For over two years, we’ve been providing authorities with undercover video recordings, printed schedules of upcoming cockfights, names and photos of pit managers, and drone footage from ten long-running cockfight pits.

Because the biggest obstacle we’ve faced so far has been local law enforcement’s refusal to do its job, we’ve also been blowing the whistle on local sheriffs’ offices whose complicity and misconduct have enabled cockfighting to flourish.

Cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states and all U.S. territories. It not only represents animal cruelty, but is also linked to illegal gambling, drugs, and organized crime. Even so, while HFA and SHARK successfully shut down all the cockfighting locations we knew about in Kentucky last summer, local sheriffs’ offices allowed the operations to reopen.

Kentucky’s cockfights operate weekly out of large permanent structures and have expansive parking areas. These facilities have security checkpoints, stadium style seating, enclosed fighting pits, concession stands, rooms where animal fighting implements are sold, and even announcer booths. They host hundreds of attendees and some have purses of tens of thousands of dollars per event.

Last July, during the most active weekend of the year for cockfighting, HFA and SHARK ran ads in Kentucky’s biggest newspapers announcing that we would be patrolling the illegal fighting pits, and

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urging residents to contact the governor and state legislators to force the State Police to do its job. The following week, responding to information we provided, the State Police finally descended on an illegal cockfight in Laurel County, citing several people.

That was just the beginning.

Thanks to our work, federal agents are finally cracking down on cockfighters. In February, more than one hundred agents from the FBI and other agencies, in dozens of marked and unmarked police cars, raced to the scene of a well-attended cockfight in Whitesburg, Kentucky. They were assisted by agents in mobile command centers, in an armored vehicle, and in a helicopter. We had provided an enormous amount of information about Whitesburg and other Kentucky pits to federal authorities in advance of their raid.

In a separate action, a federal grand jury issued four indictments against 17 individuals for various offenses related to animal fighting. Some people were charged with conspiracy for sponsoring animals in an animal fighting venture, while others face penalties as alleged cockfighters.

According to one of the indictments, “More than one hundred individuals participated in and attended the animal fighting ventures.” Those indicted face up to five years in jail and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

And, as noted by local news media, “The indictments detail cockfighting activities in Pike, Clay, and Laurel counties, and *accuse several law enforcement officers of taking part.*”

If you have information about cockfighting occurring anywhere in the United States, please email HFA at hfa@hfa.org or call us at (415) 485-1495. Tips can be made anonymously. It is your support that makes this work possible. *Thank you!* ❖

Cockfighters Indicted for Assault

Last winter, with the backing of the Humane Farming Association, two SHARK investigators drove to an illegal cockfighting operation in Lawrence County, Ohio. On a public road, they were violently assaulted by two suspected cockfighters. SHARK President Steve Hindi was attacked twice, suffering multiple injuries including a broken rib and a gash to his head requiring six staples.

A fellow investigator was tailed by the assailants who rammed his car six times until he lost control and was run off the road, crashing into a deep ditch.

Both investigators were wearing hidden cameras which recorded these brutal attacks.



Local authorities showed no interest in enforcing the law and for months they refused to file charges. But the hidden camera footage proved to be too powerful to be ignored. Hindi and his fellow investigator subsequently testified in a Grand Jury hearing about the assault, and felony charges were filed against the two attackers.

Hindi and his fellow investigator also testified during the first defendant’s trial in a courtroom packed with cockfighters. The first assailant was convicted of multiple felonies for theft, assault, and for running the investigator off the road. We are relieved to report that the first assailant has now been sentenced to four to six years in jail. The second defendant is still awaiting trial.

These cases are sending shockwaves throughout the world of cockfighting. ❖

HFA Campaign Against Cruel and Wasteful USDA Program Prompts Congressional Action

Readers may recall that HFA has been working to expose and reform USDA's Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). For several years, we have been educating and lobbying members of Congress about LIP. This is a long and hard process, but our efforts are paying off.

Background: LIP is a federal hand-out that pays livestock producers for animals who die in extreme weather — including tropical storms, winter storms, hurricanes, floods, extreme heat, and extreme cold.

When animals die in harsh weather, despite the fact that the producer provided no protection from inclement weather, the producer is rewarded with a government check for the dead animals.

In 2013, Winter Storm Atlas struck western South Dakota and, in three days, over 70,000 cattle died. In 2015, Winter Storm Goliath claimed the lives of an estimated 40,000 dairy cows and calves in Texas and New Mexico. Most suffocated in the snow.

In 2018, 37,000 cattle perished during a long Montana winter. That same year, millions of chickens and turkeys and thousands of pigs drowned during hurricanes in the Southeast, and in 2021, 455,000 chickens were among hundreds of thousands of farm animals who perished in a Texas freeze.

In one five-year period, animal deaths included a staggering 277,471 livestock and 6,686,168 poultry. Since 2013, LIP has paid out more than \$350 million to producers.

Shockingly, LIP does not require producers to provide the animals in their care with even the most basic protections from extreme weather.



HFA's campaign against USDA's infamous Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) is now prompting change on the federal front. Your help is needed in calling for stronger protections for millions of farm animals.

For these reasons, HFA has been pressuring members of Congress to require that producers put in place disaster preparedness plans for their animals. Such plans would have to be submitted to USDA before harsh weather strikes and before compensation is made.

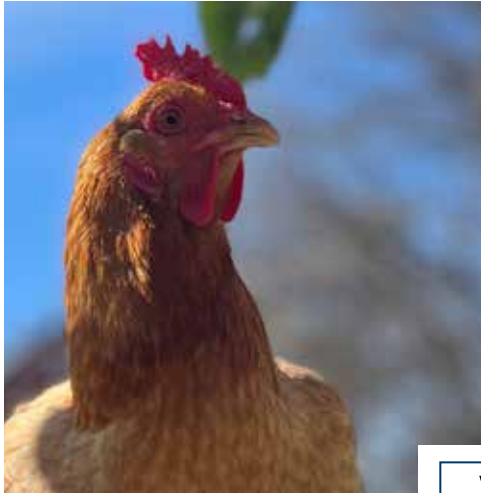
Congress is finally moving on the issue. Over the last few years, HFA has been successful in getting language inserted into the annual Agriculture spending bill which calls on USDA to assist livestock producers in developing emergency disaster plans. ***That's the first time Congress has ever addressed LIP reform.*** Unfortunately, that language was later changed to simply "encourage" rather than to require producers to develop disaster plans.

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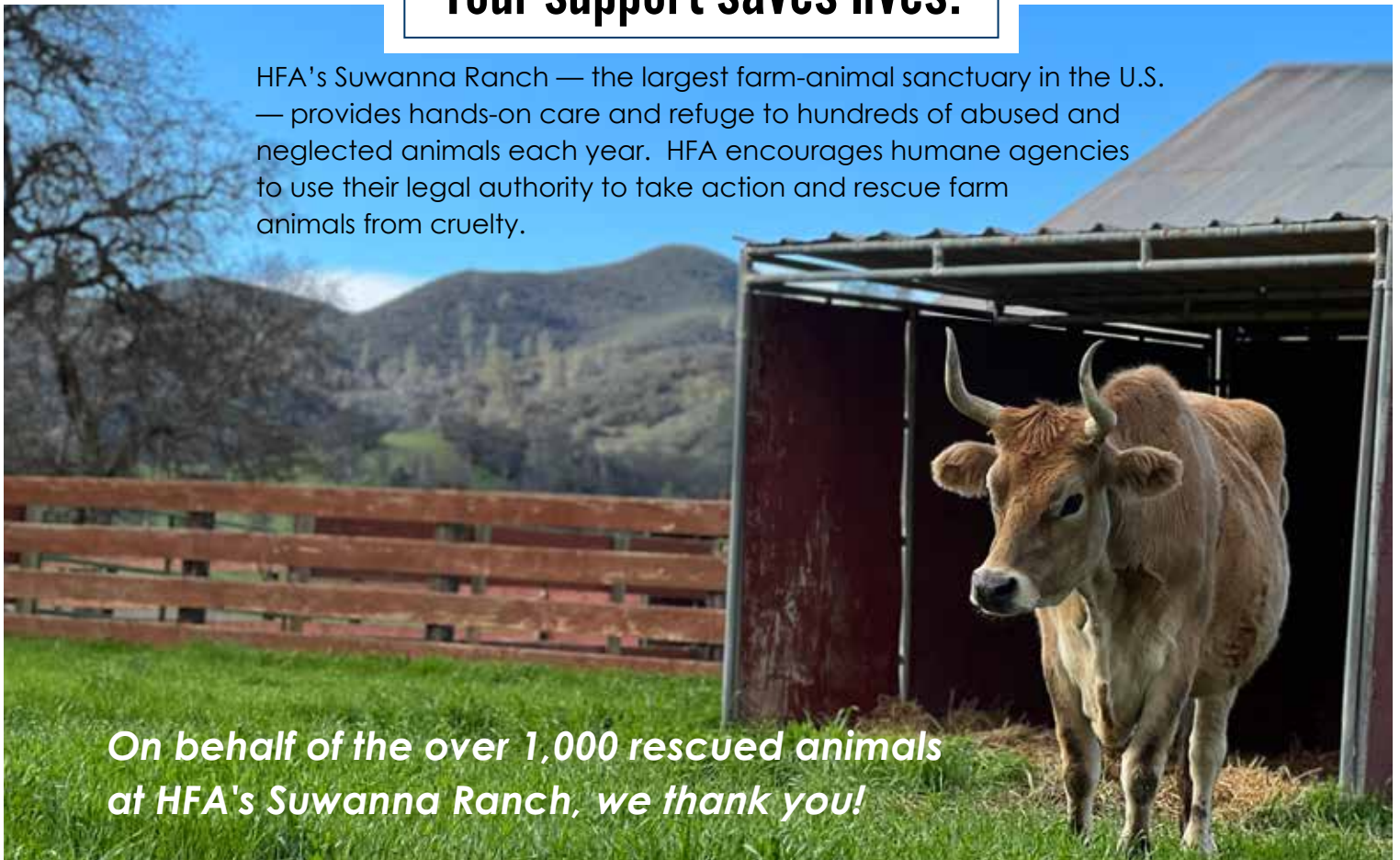
Compassion, Care, and Refuge — Saving Lives All Year Round
HFA's SUWANNA RANCH





Your support saves lives!

HFA's Suwanna Ranch — the largest farm-animal sanctuary in the U.S. — provides hands-on care and refuge to hundreds of abused and neglected animals each year. HFA encourages humane agencies to use their legal authority to take action and rescue farm animals from cruelty.



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



RESCUED!

*HFA's Suwanna Ranch provides over 6,000 acres of protected habitat for animals seized in cruelty cases. Simultaneously, HFA's overall campaign affects legislative and systemic change for farm animals. **Your support saves lives!***

HFA is now asking Congress to include language that would strengthen the request by *requiring* that all producers receiving LIP compensation have detailed disaster plans in place.

To do this we have been working with legislators to secure stronger language through the annual Agriculture spending bill as well as through the regular legislative process. Following the death of our original legislative champion, Representative Alcee Hastings (D-FL), Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA) has taken up the mantle of this cause.

Last year, we worked with Rep. Khanna and several of his colleagues on a letter thanking House Appropriations Committee members for addressing disaster plans and calling on committee members to make such disaster plans a requirement.

Congress is now writing next year's spending bill to fund the federal government for Fiscal Year 2023. We are again working with Rep. Khanna on a letter to House Appropriations Committee members calling for stronger language requiring the development of disaster plans.

We hope to secure even more signatories to this letter, again showing strong, growing, and bipartisan support for HFA's efforts. Our success would help save the lives of millions of animals as well as save millions of taxpayer dollars.

It is your support and activism that makes this work possible. *Thank you!* ❖

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please contact your federal legislators today. Ask them to support HFA's efforts to reform the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

Explain that livestock producers should not be compensated under LIP unless they have done everything possible to protect their animals from adverse weather.

Mention that, in addition to rewarding producers for bad behavior, LIP represents misuse of taxpayer dollars and government waste at its most flagrant.

For contact information for your federal legislators, go to www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member or call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

Thank you.

HFA Lawsuit to Combat Cockfighting

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.

HFA and the Illinois-based Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK) have now filed a lawsuit in Monterey County, California, against two individuals who, our suit alleges, are keeping gamecocks for cockfighting purposes. County officials have failed to enforce a county ordinance enacted to curb cockfighting.

Background. It began in 2019, when, using aerial drones, HFA and SHARK successfully documented that illegal rooster-keeping operations existed throughout Monterey County. We provided this evidence to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury, which reports on the operations of local government agencies. Confirming our own finding, the Grand Jury reported that there were an estimated 1,000 illegal gamebird operations throughout the county.

The Grand Jury also confirmed that, while the county's ordinance requires individuals with five or more roosters to obtain a permit, there was not a single



HFA is committed to stopping all forms of cruelty to farm animals.

current permit in effect. Echoing HFA's 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, and the potential spread of Virulent Newcastle Disease.”

Our investigative team provided the addresses of numerous gamecock facilities to county officials, but they refused to enforce the law. Thus, acting on our own evidence of widespread illegal gamecock operations, we filed suit against the county in 2020.

As a result of our lawsuit, county officials agreed to hire more animal control officers, establish a Task Force, and train law enforcement officers about cockfighting investigations and prosecutions. In addition, the county committed to investigating all addresses of illegal operations we provided. Unfortunately, the county is now issuing permits to — instead of prosecuting — individuals raising roosters for cockfighting purposes.

In response, HFA and SHARK filed suit against two Monterey County rooster-keepers. Our suit alleges that the county issued a permit to the defendants authorizing the breeding and keeping of fighting birds on their two properties. According to the defendants' permit applications, they intend to raise up to 500 roosters of the specific breeds used for cockfighting purposes.

Monterey County officials should be shutting down, not issuing permits to, these cruel operations. Facilities that raise roosters for cockfighting violate both the letter and the spirit of the law which was enacted specifically to crack down on cockfighting.

We will keep members apprised as our lawsuit progresses. It is your support that makes this work possible. **Thank you!** ❖

HFA's National Veal Boycott

Compassionate Activism Is Winning

We are pleased to report that HFA's signature campaign — the National Veal Boycott — continues to have a major impact on veal production in the U.S.

When HFA began the National Veal Boycott, veal production was the most rapidly expanding segment of the meat industry. But after the first three years of unrelenting activism by HFA, including full-page exposés in national publications, veal production plummeted to 2.5 million calves from a previous high of 3.4 million.

Progressing further, HFA launched what would become legendary undercover investigations and direct attacks on the veal industry's drug-based methods of operation.

HFA was successful in sharply curtailing the use of the veal industry's most cherished growth hormone, *clenbuterol*. And the extensive national publicity about this toxic and illegal drug served to repulse a large segment of the general public.

The numbers shown on the graph tell the real story of HFA's unparalleled success in preventing the suffering of millions of animals. Today, thanks to your activism and support, veal production numbers have now dropped to *an all-time low*.

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!***

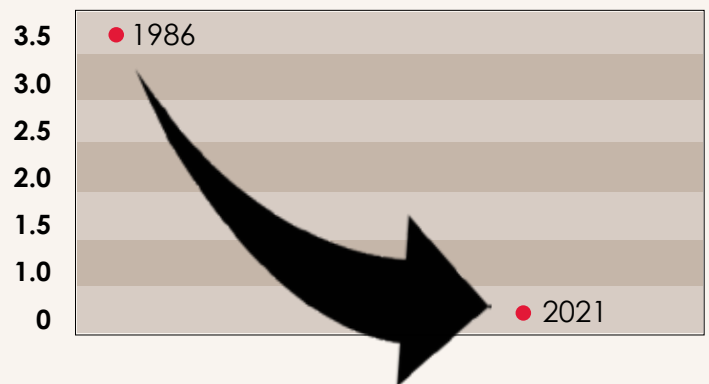
Your support will help HFA make even further progress in the months ahead. ❖

From his first day to his last, the life of a "milk-fed" veal calf is one of stress and disease.



HFA has vowed to end this cruelty.

Veal Production Hits Record Low!



Due to HFA's years of unrelenting, hard-hitting media campaigns, veal production has plummeted from a high of 3.4 million calves to the current level of well under 400,000.