

Vote YES on Prop 12!

The Prevention of Cruelty to Farm Animals Act

The Humane Society of the United States and its partners are excited to pursue a 2018 California ballot initiative to upgrade Proposition 2 and the state's other farm animal protection laws. The goal? Explicitly forbidding the sale of veal, pork, and eggs that come from animals confined in cages, regardless of where those cages are located.



THE BACKGROUND

In 2008, California voters overwhelmingly approved Prop 2 in a landslide 63.5 to 36.5 percent vote, establishing that hens, pigs and calves statewide must be able to stand, lie, turn around and stretch their limbs, with an effective date of 2015. Two years later, in 2010, the California legislature enacted AB 1437 to apply Prop 2's standards to eggs sold statewide, regardless of where they're produced. While the law faced legal attacks from politicians acting on behalf of agribusiness interests in Midwest states, California prevailed in a series of state and federal challenges to AB 1437, with the U.S. Supreme Court declining to hear the latest appeal. Despite the progress, we have more to do.

WHY WE MUST UPGRADE PROP 2

Though Prop 2 prohibits veal and gestation crates in California, most of the pork *sold* statewide still comes from factory farms that confine sows these cruel cages and it's also still legal to *sell* veal from calves confined in cages. As well, though Prop 2's opponents agreed during the 2008 campaign that the law would mean a shift to cage-free production, many California egg producers have simply kept their cage systems— merely rigging them a bit and reducing stocking densities to give birds more space. They got a major assist from the California Department of Food and Agriculture in their subversion of Prop 2's standards when the agency adopted a rule that seemed to suggest the hens could be legally confined in cages with the lower stocking densities. For the animals' sake, we cannot let this stand.

HOW WE WILL UPGRADE PROP 2

In California, only voters can amend a law enacted by ballot initiative—so to upgrade Prop 2, voters have to do it. Such an upgrade will produce dramatically better outcomes for millions of animals, establishing a bright-line legal standard that cage confinement is forbidden. To do that, this measure will build on existing law. By forbidding the sale of pork and veal from confinement operations, this measure would hasten the pork and veal industries' conversions from gestation and veal crates to group housing. It would also establish that eggs produced and sold in California must come from *cage-free* birds, requiring that *within one year* of enactment, eggs sold statewide would have to come from birds given one square foot of space each, which is generally understood to mean cage-free. It would also require that by the end of 2021, an even stricter standard apply—one explicitly stipulating that all birds must live in cage-free systems compliant with third-party-audited cage-free standards.

FACTS ABOUT THE BALLOT MEASURE

1. Most pork sold in California today comes from factory farms using gestation crates. The measure will ban the sale of pork from facilities that use these cruel crates, while setting the highest legal space requirements for pregnant pigs in the U.S.
2. It's still legal to sell veal from crated calves in California. The measure will ban the sale of veal from facilities that use these cruel crates, while setting the highest legal space requirements for "veal calves" in the U.S.
3. Liquid eggs (1/3 of all egg production) aren't covered under current California law. This will cover them, protecting millions more birds.
4. Prop 2 says that animals must be able to turn around and spread their wings. This measure will retain that protection while explicitly abolishing cage confinement, setting strong spatial standards, and requiring enrichments such as perches, nesting boxes, and more.
5. This will add enforcement mechanisms to current CA law to allow increased ability to bring cases against violators.

This 2018 California ballot initiative explicitly establishes that eggs produced and sold in California come from cage-free birds. The birds will be able to walk throughout barns, dust bathe, perch, spread their wings, and lay their eggs in nest boxes, all vital behaviors they're prevented from doing when confined in cages. While cage-free does not guarantee "cruelty-free," cage-free hens generally have significantly better lives than those confined inside battery cages.

POLLING AND HISTORY INDICATE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THE UPGRADE

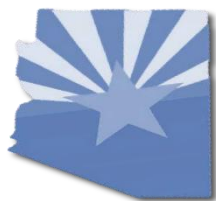
Recent Lake Research polling conducted for HSUS among likely November 2018 California voters found that we enjoy more than a 50% margin of support for this measure. This is consistent with the trend of other farm animal ballot initiatives that we have lead. We've won four of four statewide ballot measures to protect farm animals, with each measure more complex and far-reaching than the previous—and winning by greater margins each time:

2002



FLORIDA VOTERS BAN GESTATION CRATES.

2006



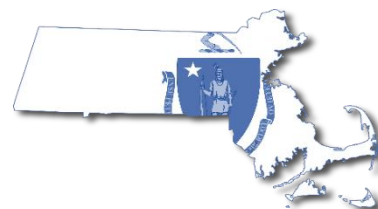
ARIZONA VOTERS BAN VEAL & GESTATION CRATES.

2008



CALIFORNIA VOTERS APPROVE PROP 2.

2016



MASS. VOTERS BAN VEAL AND GESTATION CRATES + BATTERY CAGES & THE SALE OF PRODUCTS

ENDORSEMENTS FOR YES ON 12

Yes on Prop 12 is bolstered by the support of an array of organizations including over 500 California veterinarians, hundreds of family farmers, and animal shelters across the state. Prop 12 is also endorsed by The Humane Society of the United States, ASPCA, The Sierra Club California, and Center for Biological Diversity, The Center for Food Safety Extensive, and labor groups including The United Farm Workers, The National Women's Farming Association, and the Black Farmers Association.

CONCLUSION

Prop 2 paved the way toward a brighter future for America's farm animals, showing industry that consumers don't support locking animals in cages. It established a set of rules in our country's largest state, with nearly 40 million, people that set in motion a series of major corporate reforms and other successes. And its provisions withstood legal challenges from opponents. But agribusiness has also subverted it in some ways, and it still lacks provisions relating to the sale of pork and veal in California. This upgrade will help us close out the era of cage confinement. The Prevent Cruelty California coalition submitted over 660,000 signatures of California voters to officially qualify for the November 2018 ballot as Prop 12.

To learn more about the campaign and get involved visit www.Yeson12CA.com