



PROMOTING CONSCIENTIOUS FOOD CHOICES,
REDUCING FARM ANIMAL SUFFERING, AND
ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.

FARMFORWARD

Whatever issues may divide Americans this November, everyone can agree that farmed animals should be treated with kindness. When surveyed, 95 percent of Americans say that how farmed animals are treated is important to them, 76 percent say that animal welfare is more important to them than low meat prices, and nearly two-thirds advocate "passing strict laws concerning the treatment of farm animals." Still, today's factory farm practices have eliminated even basic protection for animals.¹

We may disagree about the details of what laws should protect animals in industrial agriculture, but we can all agree, at minimum, that a fundamental requirement of good animal welfare is the elemental ability to move one's body—simply to turn around or stretch a wing. Most people are shocked to learn that the vast majority of farm animals in the United States today are denied this modest consideration and are confined to tiny cages or crates for some or all of their lives.

The California Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act, listed on the November ballot as Proposition 2, requires a phase out of the most intensive forms of farmed animal confinement. With the passage of this initiative, calves raised for veal, egg-laying hens, and breeding pigs would be given enough room to turn around and extend their limbs. These changes should be made even if they increased the cost of meat production. As it turns out, though, the changes legislated by Proposition 2 cost very little. For example research has shown that it costs producers less than one additional penny per egg not to confine laying hens in battery cages. Proposition 2 is simply the least we can do.

There are many urgent issues that demand our attention in November's election. For those of us in California, the treatment of farmed animals should be one of them. We strongly support Proposition 2 and urge others to do the same.

Signed,

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¹ The first two statistics are from a 2007 survey conducted by Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University and the latter statistic is from a 2008 Gallup Poll.