



Mr. Paul Shapiro
Director, Factory Farming Campaign
Humane Society United States
2100 L. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

February 20, 2007

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

Your letter, dated January 29, 2007, to Cargill Chairman and CEO Warren Staley has been passed to me to provide you a response.

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the use of gestation crates in pig production. You point out that Smithfield Foods recently announced that they had decided to phase out the use of these production systems, and will begin to implement that change.

In 2002 Cargill began an extensive examination of sow housing designs to better meet animal welfare needs. Beginning even before the end of that year, and continuing over the past four years, we have been transitioning to group sow housing. To date, Cargill has already converted over half of our company-owned and contract production farms. The transition from one kind of animal housing to another takes time because it involves contractual relationships and significant operational investment by producers.

Cargill has always had a strong commitment to animal welfare. Several years ago, we began working with noted animal welfare expert, Dr. John McGlone of Texas Tech University, to evaluate hog facility design and help develop the Cargill Swine Animal Welfare Program, which provides stockmanship training for producers. We also work within the pork industry on initiatives like the Swine Welfare Assurance Program, which uses third party and internal audits to monitor our progress.

We are an industry leader, with the conversion process well underway. As additional learning and innovation occurs in animal housing, we will continue to be leaders in evaluating and learning the applicability of new innovations to animal production systems.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dirk Jones", written over a white background.

Dirk Jones
President, Cargill Pork