

Support S.1921: Help End the Unnecessary and Cruel Confinement of Farm Animals

In a democracy, laws are supposed to reflect the will of the people. But despite nearly universal public support for laws to grant farm animals enough space to move, millions of farm animals are forced to spend almost their entire lives packed into cages so small they can't even turn around. Now is the time for New Jersey to join the eight states that have enacted legislation outlawing these inhumane confinement systems.

Renowned animal scientist Dr. Temple Grandin states, "Gestation crates are a real problem. Basically you're asking a sow to live in an airline seat. . . . We've got to treat animals right, and gestation stalls have got to go."

Due to the duration and severity of their confinement, pigs in gestation crates suffer among the worst abuse in all of industrial agribusiness. For several years, they are confined to crates that nearly immobilize them, enduring a cycle of repeated impregnation. These individual cages are approximately 2 feet wide and 7 feet long—so small the animals *can't even turn around* or take more than a step forward or backward.



Because they can't move, they suffer muscle and bone weakness that often leads to lameness. Because these inquisitive animals are denied any mental stimulation, many become neurotic, engaging in repetitive coping behaviors, such as constantly biting the bars in front of them.

THERE ARE BETTER ALTERNATIVES

It's difficult to imagine an existence worse than lifelong confinement in a space so small you can't even turn around. One alternative to gestation crates is "group housing," which allows animals to move around and socialize.

Iowa State University conducted a two-and-a-half year economic comparison of gestation crates and group housing and found that "reproductive performance can be maintained or enhanced in well-managed group housing systems...without increasing labor." Overall, the study concluded that "group housing...resulted in a weaned pig cost that was 11 percent less than the cost of a weaned pig from the individual stall confinement system."

CORPORATE AND LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS

Gestation crates are so cruel that eight U.S. states and the European Union have passed legislation to outlaw them.

Smithfield Foods, the nation's largest pig producer, and Hormel Foods, maker of SPAM, have already announced that they will end the confinement of sows in gestation crates in their company-owned facilities. Additionally, McDonald's, Wendy's, Burger King, and Safeway recently announced that they want to end gestation crate use in their supply chains.

S.1921 simply codifies the sentiment of the vast majority of New Jersey citizens that ***confining an animal in a crate so small she can't even turn around is inhumane and shouldn't be legal.***

