

THE FOOD INDUSTRY SCORECARD

An evaluation of food companies' progress making—and keeping—animal welfare promises



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

humanesociety.org/scorecard



Executive summary

Most of the largest U.S. food companies have publicly pledged to eliminate certain animal abuses from their supply chains. But as countless consumers have asked: are they keeping their promises?

For context, the vast majority of animals in our food system live in dismal conditions. Mother pigs are locked in gestation crates so small they can't turn around. Egg-laying hens are crammed into cages so tightly they can't even spread their wings. And chickens in the poultry industry are bred to grow so large, so fast they suffer from agonizing leg disorders.

It wasn't always this way. Throughout history, animals haven't been forced to endure such miserable lives. (And today, there are certainly farmers who don't use these abusive practices.) But as *agri-culture* developed into *agri-business*, the industry's relationship to animals became more severe.

"Forget the pig is an animal," urged *Hog Farm Management* in 1976. "Treat him just like a machine in a factory." Two years later, *National Hog Farmer* advised that, "The breeding sow should be thought of, and treated as, a valuable piece of machinery whose function is to pump out baby pigs like a sausage machine."

This callousness seems to persist even decades later. "So our animals can't turn around," [said](#) a National Pork Producers Council spokesperson. "I don't know who asked the sow if she wanted to turn around."

Here's the good news: that kind of radical view is out of step with traditional American values. Agribusiness may see animals as mere machines, but consumers don't.

- As the American Farm Bureau reports, nearly all consumers (95%) believe farm animals should be treated well.
- The Food Marketing Institute found that animal welfare is shoppers' second most important social issue.
- The food industry analytics firm Technomic concluded that for American restaurant patrons, concerns about animal cruelty outweigh those regarding the environment, fair trade, local sourcing and other issues.
- A 2019 Johns Hopkins study found that a majority of Americans want more oversight of factory farms.
- "In the case of animal welfare," says the World Bank, "failure to keep pace with changing consumer expectations and market opportunities could put companies and their investors at a competitive disadvantage."



Sows locked in gestation crates at Smithfield Foods.



Hens locked in battery cages at an Iowa egg factory.

For many years, the Humane Society of the United States has engaged major food companies on these issues—helping them better align what their customers want with what’s actually happening. As a result, most companies have now pledged to eliminate certain abusive practices from their supply chains. But are their commitments just words that earn positive press and customer goodwill? Or are companies actually *implementing* the reforms they’ve promised to make?

To audit companies’ progress making—and *keeping*—animal welfare promises, we developed the Food Industry Scorecard: a year-long audit conducted of roughly 100 major food companies

that asked a series of questions designed to gauge how they’re doing on the issues that matter most.

[The Scorecard survey](#) covered three pressing concerns: hens confined in cages, pigs confined in gestation crates and broiler chickens suffering in poultry production. It also included a question about plant-based options, since diversifying protein in the food industry reduces the demand for factory-farmed products.

This report is the result of that survey. It includes [a ranking of companies from best to worst](#) (based on their scores) and an overview of what each company surveyed is—and *is not*—doing.

ARE COMPANIES ADEQUATELY ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES?

Yes and no.

The Scorecard found that many companies are making laudable progress. As just a few examples: The food service company Sodexo reports that it's 61-70% of the way toward its goal of using only cage-free eggs, Costco publicly reports that 94% of its eggs are cage-free, and Unilever is 99% of the way toward a cage-free supply chain.

The Scorecard also found that many companies report no progress toward meeting their goals, have made only minimal progress, or simply did not keep their promises. For example, despite a 2012 promise to “rapidly eliminate” gestation crates, the restaurant chain Subway hasn't reported any progress made toward that goal and does not report using *any* amount of gestation crate-free pork.

We also discovered that some companies that previously made strong public commitments have quietly weakened them. For instance, Starbucks previously promised to switch to 100% cage-free eggs (earning it [news stories](#) in *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *TIME* and other publications) but then discreetly altered that pledge to apply just to *company-owned* locations, excluding the roughly 40% of its outlets that are licensed.

Other companies seem to have backtracked altogether. Marriott, for example, announced in 2013 that it would eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain within five years. However, on its Scorecard submission, the company reported that it now *does not* have such a policy.

CONCLUSION

The state of animal welfare in the U.S. food industry is mixed. Animals continue languishing in cruel conditions by the billions. At the same time, most major food companies have clear policies to meaningfully address the most pressing concerns—and many are fulfilling their pledges or making progress toward that end. Others are abandoning their promises, purposely weakening them, or just simply failing to keep them.

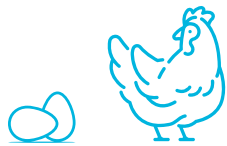
With this report, including the [ranking](#) contained herein, we provide the public with a view of which companies are performing well when it comes to these issues and which are not.

Note: Most information in this report is accurate as of January 1, 2020. For companies that did not complete the Scorecard survey themselves, the HSUS completed it using publicly available information.

Some notes on the nuances

As is the case with all social issues, there are nuances when it comes to animal welfare. The following is a brief discussion of the three most prevalent nuances throughout this report.

CAGE-FREE CAVEATS



Many grocery retailers have policies that may *look like* promises to switch to 100% cage-free eggs but actually fall short. For example, Walmart, Ahold and SuperValu (three of the largest retailers) state that keeping their promises is contingent on supply, affordability and customer demand.

That kind of caveat negates a pledge, as promising to eliminate a product *only if people stop buying it* is no promise at all. If a practice is so egregious that a retailer promises to eliminate it (like locking animals in cramped cages), then that retailer should not allow itself to fail simply because some consumers may still be buying the product.

This is especially true when products lack the point-of-sale information needed for people to make informed choices. For example, no eggs are labeled as coming from “hens confined in cages.” And, in fact, egg cartons often carry *deceptive* labels, with phrases like “all natural” and images of hens in pastures, even when the eggs were laid by hens locked in cages by the hundreds of thousands. Thus, consumers who may oppose cage confinement may continue unknowingly buying eggs from caged hens.

Moreover, since retailers first made their promises, new information indicates that they themselves can control supply, affordability and demand in a way that will allow them to keep their promises if they’re so inclined.

Regarding supply and demand: If retailers *demand* more cage-free eggs, vendors have said they will *supply* them.

- Cal-Maine Foods (the nation’s largest egg producer) **states**: “Major retailers, including our largest customers, have committed to exclusive offerings of cage-free eggs by specified future dates. We are working . . . to ensure a smooth transition in meeting their goals.”
- “We welcome the growing movement of major food companies switching exclusively to cage-free eggs,” **announced** the nation’s third-largest egg producer (Rembrandt Foods). “With a reasonable timeline, we can meet any demand, and we’re eager to move our clients into the cage-free future.”
- “Demand for cage-free eggs is growing, and Michael Foods will continue to invest in the production of cage-free eggs to meet that demand,” **stated** the nation’s largest liquid egg producer. “We are actively working with our customers and suppliers to transition to cage-free housing to anticipate demand.”

But what about “affordability” caveats? In 2019, *EggIndustry* magazine reported that on average, cage-free eggs cost about \$1.80 more per dozen than conventional eggs. This mark-up “defies logic,” the report said, “because the cost differential for producing cage-free eggs . . . ranges from [only] \$0.25 to \$0.35 per dozen.” So, it may only cost about 25 cents more to produce a dozen eggs using a cage-free system, but cage-free eggs are marked up a whopping 150% above that at retail. “If retailers were serious about converting . . . to cage free,” concluded *EggIndustry*, “wouldn’t they be bringing the retail price of cage-free eggs down?”

Clearly, egg producers are ready to supply any demand for cage-free eggs and retailers are currently selling cage-free eggs for much higher than is justified by the actual costs. Thus, for retailers to place supply, affordability and demand caveats on cage-free egg promises strikes us as disingenuous and unnecessary. Throughout this report, we call companies out for these caveats and urge them to remove that kind of language.

ELIMINATING VS. REDUCING GESTATION CRATES



Another nuance throughout this report pertains to the *reduction* (rather than *elimination*) of gestation crates. In discussing this, we’ll first note that the two types of housing mother pigs are:

- A. GESTATION CRATES**, in which pigs are confined in individual cages so tightly they can’t even turn around; and
- B. GROUP HOUSING**, in which gestation crates aren’t used and pigs are instead free to roam in group pens.

It used to be the case in the U.S. that a pig breeding facility had one system or the other (with the vast majority using gestation crates). Then, dozens of major food companies pledged to eliminate gestation crates from their supply chains. McDonald’s, for example, has issued several communications about “ending” gestation crates in its pork supply by 2022.

But instead of actually *ending* their use of gestation crates, some major U.S. pork producers have simply *reduced* their use of them. At Smithfield

Foods, for example, mother pigs are confined in gestation crates for up to 42 days at the onset of each pregnancy cycle. After that, they’re moved into group housing for 67 days. They’re then moved into another type of crate to give birth, after which they’re placed back into gestation crates and re-inseminated for the cycle to repeat. This means that for nearly 40% of each gestation cycle, Smithfield still locks sows in gestation crates. So, at best, the company has reduced its use of crates by 60%.

This is clearly a *reduction* but not *elimination* of gestation crates. (In the same way that, say, *reducing* fat in salad dressing would not make it *fat-free*.) That we know of, no major U.S. pork producers have fully eliminated their use of gestation crates.

Throughout this report, we call out companies (like McDonald’s) that, despite having firmly promised to *end* the use of gestation crates, may in fact allow their suppliers to confine mother pigs in these crates for weeks on end during each pregnancy cycle throughout their lives.

WHAT MAKES A COMMITMENT MEANINGFUL?



This report often describes companies as having or not having “meaningful” commitments. What we mean by a “meaningful” commitment is one that is:

- A. CLEAR AND FIRM** (i.e., by not having the types of caveats described above);
- B. TIME-BOUND** (i.e., by including a deadline for fulfilling it); and
- C. THOROUGH** (i.e., by addressing a problem in a way that the science shows will substantially fix it).

Many companies’ policies are, by this definition, meaningful. Other policies are close, but not quite there. For example, Nestlé (the world’s largest food company) has pledged to eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain. While clear, *firm and thorough*, the pledge is not time-bound (i.e., it lacks a deadline), and therefore is not considered meaningful.

Throughout this report, we highlight commitments that *are* meaningful and call out ones that are not.

Scorecard Ranking

Below, every company surveyed is ranked from best to worst. The lowest amount of points possible was -80 and the highest was 210. The percentage next to each company is its overall score, with tied companies listed alphabetically.

To see the detailed analysis of a company, click its name.



RANK	COMPANY	SCORE	GRADE
1	Whole Foods Market	95%	A+
2	Chipotle Mexican Grill	92.5%	A+
3	Bon Appétit Management Co.	78.1%	A+
4	Unilever (Ben & Jerry's, Hellmann's, Breyers, Sir Kensington's and other brands)	75.24%	A+
5	Southwest Foodservice Excellence	52.86%	A
6	Guckenheimer	51.9%	A
7	Noodles & Co.	50%	A
8	Epicurean Group	45.24%	A-
9	Papa John's	43.81%	A-
10	TGI Fridays	40.48%	A-
11	Campbell Soup Co.	37.62%	B+
11	Taco Bell	37.62%	B+
12	Disney Parks	35.71%	B+
12	Mondelēz	35.71%	B
13	KraftHeinz	31.43%	B
14	Dunkin' Brands	29.05%	B
15	Sodexo	27.14%	B-
16	Aramark	26.66%	B-

To see the detailed analysis of a company, click its name.



RANK	COMPANY	SCORE	GRADE
17	Darden Restaurants (Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Yard House, Capital Grille and more)	26.19%	B-
18	Denny's	25.24%	C+
18	Panera Bread	25.24%	C+
19	ConAgra Brands	21.9%	C+
20	The Fresh Market	21.43%	C
21	Target	20.95%	C
22	Kellogg's	20.48%	C
23	Metz Culinary Management	20%	C-
24	Burger King	13.81%	C-
25	General Mills	12.38%	C-
25	Subway Restaurants	12.38%	C-
26	Compass Group USA	9.05%	D+
27	Raley's	8.57%	D+
27	The Cheesecake Factory	8.57%	D+
28	Nestlé USA	2.38%	D
29	Save Mart	1.43%	D
30	Royal Caribbean International	0.95%	D
31	Kroger	0%	F
32	Hyatt Hotels	-0.48%	F
32	Sonic Drive-In	-0.48%	F
33	Jack in the Box	-3.33%	F
34	Sprouts Farmers Market	-3.81%	F
35	Spectra	-4.76%	F
36	AVI Foodsystems	-5.24%	F
37	Trader Joe's	-7.62%	F
38	McDonald's	-8.57%	F
39	Albertsons Companies Inc.	-10.95%	F

To see the detailed analysis of a company, click its name.



RANK	COMPANY	SCORE	GRADE
40	Costco	-11%	F
41	Elior	-12.38%	F
42	CKE Restaurants (Carl's Jr. and Hardee's)	-12.86%	F
43	Carnival Corporation	-12.88%	F
44	Starbucks	-14.29%	F
45	Marriott International Inc.	-15.24%	F
45	Publix	-15.24%	F
46	Delaware North	-17.14%	F
47	Meijer Inc.	-17.62%	F
47	Southeastern Grocers (Winn-Dixie and BI-LO)	-17.62%	F
48	Guest Services	-19.05%	F
49	Wendy's	-19.52%	F
50	Thomas Cuisine	-21.43%	F
51	Ingles Markets	-22.38%	F
52	SpartanNash	-22.86%	F
53	Giant Eagle	-23.38%	F
54	Weis Markets	-23.8%	F
55	Popeye's	-23.81%	F
56	BJ's Wholesale	-24.76%	F
57	Applebee's	-27.14%	F
57	Bloomin' Brands (Outback Steakhouse, Bonefish Grill, Carrabba's, Fleming's)	-27.14%	F
57	Bojangles'	-27.14%	F
57	Brinker International (Chili's & Maggiano's)	-27.14%	F
57	Hilton Worldwide	-27.14%	F

To see the detailed analysis of a company, click its name.



RANK	COMPANY	SCORE	GRADE
57	IHOP	-27.14%	F
57	Norwegian Cruise Lines	-27.14%	F
58	Tyson Foods	-27.62%	F
59	Walmart	-28.1%	F
60	Aldi	-28.57%	F
60	Cracker Barrel	-28.57%	F
60	Golden Corral	-28.57%	F
61	KFC	-31.9%	F
62	Little Caesars	-32.38%	F
63	Brookshire Grocery (Brookshire's, Super1Foods, Spring Market, FRESH)	-33.33%	F
63	Healthcare Services Group	-33.33%	F
63	HEB	-33.33%	F
63	Hy-Vee	-33.33%	F
63	Legends Hospitality	-33.33%	F
63	Wakefern Food Corp. (ShopRite, Price Rite, The Fresh Grocer)	-33.33%	F
64	Ahold Delhaize (Food Lion, Hannaford, Giant, Peapod, Stop & Shop)	-35.71%	F
64	Smart & Final	-35.71%	F
65	Pizza Hut	-36.67%	F
66	Arby's	-38.1%	F
66	Bob Evans Restaurants	-38.1%	F
66	Buffalo Wild Wings	-38.1%	F
66	Chick-fil-A	-38.1%	F
66	Domino's Pizza	-38.1%	F
66	SuperValu Inc.	-38.1%	F
66	Waffle House	-38.1%	F

Whole Foods Market



RANK:

#1

SCORE:

95%

GRADE:

A+

Whole Foods ranked as the best retailer by far, earning a near-perfect score.

Before any other major food company even adopted years-long timelines for phasing out cruel practices like battery cages and gestation crates, Whole Foods had fully eliminated these practices from its supply chain. The company also has the best poultry welfare program of any grocer and is responsible for the proliferation of plant-based proteins more than perhaps any other company in the country.

The Humane Society of the United States applauds Whole Foods for its animal welfare record.



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Chipotle Mexican Grill



RANK:

#2

SCORE:

92.5%

GRADE:

A+

Chipotle ranked as the best restaurant company by far.

Regarding eggs: Chipotle serves eggs at only one location, and 100% of them are cage-free.

Regarding pork: Chipotle is one of the few major companies to have fully eliminated the use of gestation crates from its supply chain—something that has been the case for many years.

Regarding chicken: Chipotle has a meaningful policy to reform animal welfare in its poultry supply by 2024, made in partnership with the Humane Society of the United States.

And Chipotle was one of the first major restaurant chains to offer plant-based protein when it added braised tofu sofritas to every location. In 2019, it also launched “Plant-Powered” Lifestyle Bowl options.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States applauds Chipotle for its animal welfare record. The only recommendation we have is to begin reporting progress made toward reaching its chicken welfare policy.



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Bon Appétit Management Company

BON APPÉTIT
MANAGEMENT COMPANY

RANK:

#3

SCORE:

78.1%

GRADE:

A+

Bon Appétit ranked as the best food service management company by far.

Bon Appétit Management Company was one of the first major food service management companies to adopt meaningful animal welfare policies. For example, since 2015, the company has used 100% cage-free eggs at all of its operations.

BAMCO also has [promised](#) to use 100% Global Animal Partnership-certified chicken by 2024, which represents one of the best policies on that issue of virtually any food company.

The company also has [programs](#) focused on serving more plant-based proteins.

On gestation crates, the company's record has been generally positive, though is somewhat mixed. In 2012, BAMCO [promised](#) to eliminate the use of gestation crates, stating it would require all of its pork to be produced "without gestation crate confinement systems" by 2015. But it didn't meet that pledge, and on its Scorecard, BAMCO reports that only 1–10% of its pork comes from supply chains that are without gestation crates.

That said, the rest of its pork comes from systems with reduced gestation crate usage. And in 2019, BAMCO [recommitted](#) to having a fully gestation crate-free supply chain by the end of 2021. So, while it's troubling that BAMCO's 2012 promise wasn't kept, it is promising that the company so dramatically reduced gestation crates in its supply chain and has now recommitted to having a fully gestation crate-free supply chain.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We applaud BAMCO for its leadership and encourage the company to: A) develop a set of tangible next steps for reaching a gestation crate-free supply chain, and B) develop a goal for tangibly increasing its plant-based options.



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Unilever



RANK:

#4

SCORE:

75.24%

GRADE:

A+

Unilever ranked as the best food manufacturer company by far.

Unilever's [goal](#) is to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by the end of 2020, and its Scorecard reports that the company is 99% of the way there. Unilever also has a [policy](#) to meaningfully reform its poultry supply.

And the company has one of the strongest records on plant-based foods of any major food company—including plant-based options for its Hellmann's, Ben & Jerry's, Breyers, Magnum, Sir Kensington's and Knorr brands (among others). Unilever is also strongly marketing these options and [communicating publicly](#) about the need to switch to a more plant-based diet.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The only recommendation we have for Unilever is to continue finding ways to be a leader on these issues, such as committing to move more in the direction of plant-based foods by reducing the overall amount of animal-based foods in its supply chain.



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Southwest Foodservice Excellence



RANK:

#5

SCORE:

52.86%

GRADE:

A

Southwest Foodservice Excellence's [website](#) reports that it will switch to 100% cage-free eggs by the end of the 2021/2022 school year. And on its Scorecard submission, the company discloses that 61–70% of its eggs are currently cage-free, which we applaud.

SFE also has a meaningful policy to reform its poultry supply chain and is eliminating gestation crates from its pork supply by the 2022/2023 school year. On that issue, SFE's Scorecard submission says that 11–20% of its pork currently comes from supply systems that never use gestation crates and 11–20% comes from systems with reduced gestation crate use.

Lastly, SFE has begun working in partnership with the Humane Society of the United States to develop plant-based recipes and a program to train its culinary staff in plant-based food preparation.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

SFE is making strides. The only recommendations we have for the company are to:

A) disclose tangible steps for how it will accomplish its gestation crate-free pork goal, especially since no major pork producers have fully eliminated gestation crates from their operations; and B) develop a program to tangibly increase its plant-based options.



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Guckenheimer



RANK:

#6

SCORE:

51.9%

GRADE:

A

Guckenheimer reports having already completed the switch to 100% cage-free eggs, for which we applaud the company.

As well, on its Scorecard submission, Guckenheimer reports that 91–99% of its pork comes from supply systems where sows are housed in groups rather than gestation crates for at least a majority of their lives, with the remaining pork coming from systems where gestation crates are never used.

This is also positive progress, though the company lacks a formal policy to fully eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain. (It also lacks a meaningful policy to reform its poultry supply chain.)

Regarding plant-based proteins, Guckenheimer has one of the clearest, strongest policies: “Consistent with our belief that the healthiest diets are primarily composed of plants, that a general shift from meat to plants is necessary for the health of our Earth, and less pressure to eat meat will create conditions for better animal welfare, we actively promote menuing and recipe development of a wide variety of plant-based proteins that replace meat,” says Guckenheimer’s [website](#). “These include mock meat, vegan cheese and other dairy products, eggless mayo, blended burgers and meatballs.” And on its Scorecard submission, the company details many actions taken in support of these principles.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States applauds Guckenheimer for having completed its cage-free egg transition, for having dramatically reduced gestation crates in its supply chain, and for shifting more toward plant-based proteins. We encourage the company to: A) create a policy that will fully eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain, including steps it will take to meet that goal; B) create a policy to meaningfully improve animal welfare in its poultry supply chain; and C) continue increasing its plant-based options.



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Noodles & Co.



RANK:

#7

SCORE:

50%

GRADE:

A

Noodles & Co.'s record is generally positive, although its statements have been contradictory at times.

On the positive side, Noodles & Co.'s website [reports](#) that it has switched to 100% cage-free eggs and has adopted a meaningful policy to reform the treatment of chickens in its poultry supply chain—both of which are laudable moves. The company also offers tofu as a plant-based protein on its menu nationwide.

Regarding gestation crates: A [2017 announcement](#) from Noodles & Co. plainly stated that the company “already has achieved 100 percent gestation crate-free pork.”

However, today, the company's statement is very different: It [reports](#) that Noodles & Co. merely requires sows to be housed in groups rather than crates for a “majority of each sow's pregnancy” and that the company will “continue to seek out suppliers who are *working to eliminate* the use of crates entirely.”

This clearly shows that while Noodles & Co. may have *reduced* the use of gestation crates in its supply chain, it has not achieved a *crate-free* supply chain, as it reported in 2017. It's also concerning that the company has so significantly weakened its commitment around this issue, such that it now permits suppliers to lock sows in gestation crates. (Click [here](#) for further discussion of this issue.)

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Noodles & Co. to: A) adopt a clear policy about fully eliminating gestation crates from its supply chain, and B) accurately report on progress made toward reaching a pork supply that is actually gestation crate-free.



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Epicurean Group



RANK:

#8

SCORE:

45.24%

GRADE:

A-

Epicurean Group is a leader on cage-free eggs and plant-based foods; in other areas, it has room for growth.

Epicurean Group reports on its Scorecard submission that 100% of its eggs are cage-free, for which we applaud the company. We also applaud Epicurean for its partnership with the Humane Society of the United States on serving more plant-based proteins. Epicurean even made plant-based foods the focus of its 2019 culinary operations guide and actively encourages its leadership to incorporate more plant-based entrées into its accounts.

Unfortunately, the company does not report having meaningful animal welfare policies with regard to pork or poultry.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States urges Epicurean to, at a minimum, commit to: A) eliminating gestation crates from its supply chain, B) meaningfully reforming its poultry supply chain, and C) developing more programs to tangibly increase its plant-based options.



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Papa John's



RANK:

#9

SCORE:

43.81%

GRADE:

A-

As detailed on its [animal welfare web page](#): In 2016, Papa John's switched to 100% cage-free eggs, and the company has a meaningful policy to reform its poultry supply.

Unfortunately, despite some verbiage about gestation crates, the company lacks a clear policy specifying that it will eliminate crates from its pork supply. It also appears to have not made any moves toward offering plant-based proteins.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage Papa John's to: A) adopt a clear policy for eliminating gestation crates from its pork supply, including tangible steps for reaching that goal; and B) begin offering plant-based proteins.



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TGI Fridays



RANK:

#10

SCORE:

40.48%

GRADE:

A-

TGI Fridays [reports](#) that 100% of its eggs are cage-free and that it has adopted a meaningful policy to improve animal welfare in its poultry supply—both of which are laudable steps.

TGI Fridays has also made strides toward serving more plant-based foods in its restaurants, such as by adding a plant-based burger to its menu and promoting the item nationally.

However, the company’s position on gestation crates is concerning. The company previously promised to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply. As its website [used to read](#): “TGI Fridays goal is to only purchase pork from suppliers that can demonstrate documented plans to end their use of gestation crates for breeding sows.”

However, that policy is absent from the company’s current [web page](#) on animal welfare, so it seems TGI Fridays may have abandoned that commitment.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States applauds TGI Fridays for having switched to 100% cage-free eggs already, although we are deeply concerned about its lack of commitment on gestation crates. We encourage it to re-issue its gestation crate commitment and report on progress made toward its previous promise of a gestation crate-free pork supply.



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Campbell Soup Company

Campbell's

RANK:

#11

SCORE:

37.62%

GRADE:

B+

Campbell Soup Company has a mostly positive record, though some of its reporting is concerning.

One area where Campbell shines is with regard to plant-based foods. The company has joined the Plant-Based Foods Association, its Pacific Foods brand offers a variety of plant-based products, and it has publicly opposed legislation seeking to limit the way plant-based foods can be labeled.

Campbell also has a policy to meaningfully reform its poultry supply chain.

Regarding pork: In 2012, Campbell [promised](#) to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply by 2022. And in October 2018, the company [reported](#) that 57% of its pork was crate-free. But on its Scorecard submission, the company reports that 0% of its pork is produced without the use of gestation crates. It's concerning that despite the company's crate-free deadline approaching (and it previously stating that most of its pork was crate-free), Campbell Soup Company appears to actually not be using any gestation crate-free pork. (Click [here](#) for further discussion of this.)

Regarding eggs: In 2016, Campbell [promised](#) to source 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. Then, in November 2018, the company [reported](#) that 26% of its eggs were cage-free. On its Scorecard, however, Campbell reports that today, 11–20% of its eggs are cage-free—representing a step backward from where it was in 2018, which is, of course, concerning.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Campbell Soup Company to: A) ensure it is reporting accurately on gestation crate-free pork, and B) report publicly on what tangible next steps it will take to ensure it keeps its promises regarding pork and eggs.



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Taco Bell



RANK:

#11

SCORE:

37.62%

GRADE:

B+

In some areas, Taco Bell is a leader; in other areas, it has room for growth.

For example, Taco Bell has used 100% cage-free eggs since 2016, making it a leader on that issue.

As its [website](#) notes: “When we committed to serving 100% whole cage-free eggs in all U.S. Taco Bell restaurants, we said we’d do it by the end of 2016. And we did, at record pace . . . Since then, we expanded our commitment to serve 100% cage-free egg ingredients across our entire menu in all U.S. and Canada restaurants, including limited time offerings, meaning our avocado ranch sauce, creamy jalapeno sauce, spicy ranch sauce, creamy chipotle sauce and even Cinnabon Delights are made using cage-free egg ingredients.”

And the company is also a leader when it comes to plant-based foods. Taco Bell was the first quick-serve restaurant chain certified by the American Vegetarian Association (AVA), in 2015, making both of its plant-based proteins AVA-certified vegan. And in 2019, Taco Bell rolled out the first-ever dedicated in-store vegetarian menu, which will make it even easier for guests to choose plant-based items.

Unfortunately, Taco Bell is underperforming on other issues and lacks any meaningful policies around the confinement of mother pigs in gestation crates or the welfare of chickens in its poultry supply chain.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We applaud Taco Bell for the steps it’s taken and encourage it to adopt meaningful policies around eliminating gestation crates from its pork supply and reforming its poultry supply chain.



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Disney Parks



RANK:

#12

SCORE:

35.71%

GRADE:

B+

In 2016, Disney [announced](#) that it had converted to 100% cage-free eggs. And in 2019, Disney [announced](#) a major new initiative to increase the prevalence of plant-based proteins served at its dining operations. These are both positive moves for which we applaud Disney.

Disney does not, however, have meaningful policies regarding animal welfare in its pork or poultry supply chains.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages the company to adopt meaningful animal welfare policies for its pork and poultry supply chains.



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Mondelēz International



RANK:

#12

SCORE:

35.71%

GRADE:

B

As Mondelēz is a snack food company, the only Scorecard issues that are truly relevant to it are cage-free eggs, legal compliance (around cage-free egg laws), and plant-based foods.

Regarding plant-based foods: Most Mondelēz products are naturally plant-based (or at least meat-free).

Regarding eggs: In 2016, Mondelēz [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2020 in the U.S. But on its Scorecard submission (which is U.S.-specific), Mondelēz reports using only 11–20% cage-free eggs, meaning it has not kept its promise and, in fact, is quite far off from keeping it. (Thus, the company did not earn points for that commitment.)

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages the company to immediately fulfill its pledge and switch to 100% cage-free eggs.



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KraftHeinz

KraftHeinz

RANK:

#13

SCORE:

31.43%

GRADE:

B

KraftHeinz's record is mostly positive, with the company making strides in several areas but lacking on the issue of gestation crate confinement of pigs.

In 2016, KraftHeinz [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs in North America by 2025. On its Scorecard submission, the company reports that today, 71–80% of its eggs are cage-free, representing substantial progress.

And in 2017, KraftHeinz [announced](#) a meaningful policy to reform its poultry supply chain.

KraftHeinz is also a leader when it comes to plant-based proteins—most notably through its BOCA brand and its Evolv venture capital initiative, which [is investing](#) in plant-based products.

These are all positive moves. However, KraftHeinz's history regarding gestation crates is more mixed—and nuanced.

In 2012, Kraft and Heinz were separate companies. That year, Kraft Foods Inc. [promised](#) to work with its pork suppliers to transition away from gestation crates by 2022, although it never stated it would actually eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain. However, the same year, Heinz separately [promised](#) it *would* eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply.

In 2015, Kraft Foods and Heinz merged into what is now one company: KraftHeinz. As a new entity, KraftHeinz has maintained a single policy about gestation crates, which is available [here](#). That policy is more like Kraft Foods' original policy, insofar as it does not explicitly say the company will eliminate gestation crates.

It's concerning that KraftHeinz lacks a clear policy to eliminate gestation crates. And the company's lack of progress even *reducing* gestation crates in its supply chain is troubling. On its Scorecard submission, KraftHeinz reports that 0% of its U.S. pork is currently gestation crate-free, and that only 11–20% even comes from supply systems with reduced gestation crate use.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States applauds KraftHeinz for much of its work—especially around cage-free eggs and plant-based proteins—but is greatly concerned about its lack of progress ending or even reducing the extreme confinement of mother pigs in gestation crates. At a minimum, we encourage the company to: A) develop a clear policy to eliminate gestation crates, B) stop buying pork from suppliers that haven't even reduced their use of gestation crates, C) develop and disclose plans to increase its percentage of gestation crate-free pork, and D) report on its progress each year until the goal is accomplished.



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Dunkin' Brands



RANK:

#14

SCORE:

29.05%

GRADE:

B

Dunkin' made its first animal welfare announcement in 2012, when the company [promised](#) to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain and convert 5% of its eggs to cage-free.

Then, in March 2015, Dunkin' [announced](#) 2022 as its deadline for eliminating gestation crates and said that it would begin mapping a path toward reaching a 100% cage-free egg supply. Later that year, in December, the company [promised](#) to complete its cage-free transition by 2025.

To date, the company seems to have made little to no progress keeping these promises. On its Scorecard submission, Dunkin' reports that only 1–10% of its eggs are cage-free, 0% of its pork comes from supply systems where gestation crates are not used, and only 21–30% of its pork comes from supply systems with reduced gestation crate confinement.

It's troubling that nearly a decade after promising to eliminate gestation crates, 0% of Dunkin's pork is crate-free and the vast majority doesn't even come from supply systems where the use of gestation crates has been *reduced*. This strikes us as a near-total failure.

We will note that Dunkin' *did* produce a progress update on its gestation crate policy. [Released](#) in December 2018, Dunkin' promised to “develop a strategy and implementation plan [for eliminating gestation crates] with all of our suppliers” by the end of 2019. However, there is no publicly available information indicating that promise was kept.

On a more positive note, the company does have an additional animal welfare policy: that it will utilize 100% GAP-certified chicken processed using controlled atmosphere stunning by 2024. This policy, [announced](#) in 2017, is laudable. And regarding plant-based proteins: Dunkin's addition of almond milk to all locations represents progress, as does the company having [launched](#) a plant-based sausage in 2019.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States applauds Dunkin' for its plant-based focus, though has great concerns about Dunkin's failure to keep its animal welfare promises. We encourage Dunkin' to, at a minimum: A) develop and disclose a transition plan for reaching 100% cage-free eggs, and B) develop and disclose a tangible plan for going from 0% to 100% gestation crate-free by 2022, per the company's policy.



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Sodexo



RANK:

#15

SCORE:

27.14%

GRADE:

B-

In many ways, Sodexo is a leader—especially in bringing innovative plant-based proteins to its guests, and in terms of implementing its cage-free egg pledge. It does have room to improve, especially around the issue of gestation crates.

In 2012, Sodexo [promised](#) that by 2014, it would switch 100% of its shell eggs to cage-free. Then, in 2015, Sodexo [expanded](#) upon that commitment to promise that *all eggs* used in the U.S. would be 100% cage-free by the end of 2020.

On its Scorecard submission, Sodexo reports that 61–70% of its eggs in the U.S. are cage-free, marking significant progress toward its goal.

Sodexo was one of the first companies to adopt a meaningful policy to reform its poultry supply chain. And it has the most robust program around increasing plant-based foods of any food service company. That program, designed and executed in partnership with the Humane Society of the United States, is an industry-leading initiative that will result in Sodexo's accounts dramatically increasing their plant-based options. We applaud Sodexo for these moves.

The area where Sodexo could improve is around gestation crates in its pork supply.

In 2012, Sodexo [promised](#) to “phase out” gestation crates from its pork supply by 2022. The company was clear in its intention to fully eliminate gestation crates, saying—for example— it was asking suppliers for their plans to “remove gestation stalls from the production process.” The announcement also says: “Sodexo has initiated a review process in its North American operations whereby it is asking all of its primary pork suppliers for their plans to not only

eliminate gestation stalls from the farms that they own and operate, but their contracted pork operations as well.”

Since then, Sodexo quietly amended its policy. Its 2019 animal welfare [report](#) indicates that Sodexo will now allow gestation crates for any “legally authorized period.” Of course, since gestation crates can legally be used for *any* duration of time in most states, Sodexo's new language means it no longer has a commitment to eliminate them.

Here's where things get even more nuanced. On its Scorecard submission, Sodexo reports that 0% of its U.S. pork is gestation crate-free (which is troubling, considering that it's been nearly a decade since Sodexo announced its goal of eliminating gestation crates). And Sodexo's 2019 report says that “26% of pork bought in the U.S. was from sows in open sow housing.” While one might read that as meaning that 26% of the company's pork is gestation crate-free, what it actually means is that 26% of the company's pork purchased in the U.S. comes from systems where sows spend *some* part of their lives in group housing, even if they still spend much of their lives in gestation crates. (Click [here](#) for further discussion.)

MOVING FORWARD . . .

On so many issues, Sodexo is a leader. Its cage-free egg progress is especially laudable, as are its efforts to serve more plant-based foods. With regard to gestation crates, we urge the company to: A) recommit to fully eliminating gestation crates from its pork supply, as it did in 2012; and B) develop and disclose a series of next steps it will take toward keeping its promise of a gestation crate-free supply chain.



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Aramark



RANK:

#16

SCORE:

26.66%

GRADE:

B-

Aramark’s record is mixed, with the company taking some positive steps but failing to meet its commitments.

Aramark was one of the first major companies to address the issue of confining egg-laying hens in cages. In 2013, Aramark [promised](#) to switch to 100% shell eggs by the end of 2014; and in 2015, it [promised](#) to switch all of its eggs to 100% cage-free by 2020 “or sooner, if supplies become available.”

But today, Aramark reports on its Scorecard submission that only 32% of its eggs are cage-free. It’s concerning that in spite of its 2020 deadline having arrived, the majority of Aramark’s eggs still come from hens confined in cages. (Thus, the company did not earn points for this commitment.) And it’s worth noting that in terms of Aramark’s “if supplies become available” comment, the largest egg producers have indicated they are able to supply any demand for cage-free eggs. For example, Rembrandt Foods (the third-largest producer) [said](#) in 2015 that, “With a reasonable timeline, *we can meet any demand.*” And yet Aramark still fell short of keeping its promise.

Aramark’s record on gestation crates is similar.

In 2012, Aramark [promised](#) to “eliminate all pork from animals bred using gestation crates in Aramark’s U.S. supply chain by 2017.” It then [reiterated](#) that pledge in 2015.

But Aramark did not keep its promise—and it changed its gestation crate deadline to 2022. While it’s positive that Aramark remains committed to the complete elimination (rather than reduction) of gestation crates—through its [pledge](#) to use pork from systems where animals are “100%

group-housed”—the Humane Society of the United States is deeply concerned that the new 2022 commitment also will not be met, as Aramark reports on its scorecard that only 1–10% of its pork comes from supply systems where gestation crates are never used. (Click [here](#) for further discussion of reduced-crate vs. crate-free housing.)

All that said, Aramark has made some positive progress in terms of serving more plant-based meals at its operations. Though it lacks the same level of commitment as other food service companies, it has certainly made strides toward increasing the amount of plant-based protein it serves.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

In sum, the Humane Society of the United States applauds Aramark for being one of the first major companies to address animal welfare in a meaningful way, although we are greatly concerned about its unkept promises. At a minimum, we encourage Aramark to: A) develop and disclose a set of specific next steps that it will take to reach its cage-free egg and gestation crate-free pork pledges, and B) develop a program to further increase its plant-based options.



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Darden



RANK:

#17

SCORE:

26.19%

GRADE:

B-

Darden's record is mixed.

In 2019, Darden [disclosed](#) that 100% of its eggs are now cage-free. We applaud Darden for this move.

We also applaud Darden for its work serving more plant-based proteins, with its Yard House concept offering an entire menu of plant-based chicken, burgers and more.

Regarding gestation crates: The company has [promised](#) "to source only crate-free pork by 2025." However, Darden does not disclose any progress made toward keeping this promise. While it does vaguely assert that a majority of its pork suppliers "have made a commitment to" (*some kind of*) "housing improvements," what is absent is a meaningful disclosure about Darden's progress keeping its specific promise to eliminate gestation crates. This is important, as even suppliers which have made "housing improvements" may still be confining mother pigs in gestation crates (see discussion of this [here](#)).

Although Darden does have some language regarding broiler chicken welfare on its website, the Humane Society of the United States considers it to be so vague as to be meaningless.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

While we applaud Darden for its work converting to cage-free eggs and serving more plant-based foods, we encourage the company to, at a minimum: A) report what percentage of its pork is gestation crate-free along with specific next steps it will take to meet its commitment, B) adopt a broiler chicken welfare policy that meaningfully addresses the most serious concerns related to its poultry supply, and C) expand its plant-based offerings throughout all its restaurants.



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Denny's



RANK:

#18

SCORE:

25.24%

GRADE:

C+

In 2016, Denny's [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2026. But on its Scorecard submission, Denny's reports having only converted 1–10% of its eggs to cage-free so far.

Denny's also has a [policy](#) to meaningfully reform its poultry supply (although it reports no steps taken toward meeting that goal). And in 2019, the company [announced](#) the addition of a new plant-based burger to its menu.

Regarding gestation crates, Denny's movement has been up and down.

In 2012, Denny's [promised](#) to fully eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain. "Working to *eliminate* gestation crates is best for our company," it said.

But later, Denny's quietly changed its commitment to expressly allow the use of gestation crates. As its [website used to read](#): "Since 2012, we have been committed to sourcing our pork from suppliers that practice the *limited use* of gestation crates for the housing of sows."

Then, in 2019, Denny's changed its language yet again. Now, its [policy](#) simply says: "Since 2012, our goal has been to source our pork from suppliers that do not use gestation crates for the housing of sows."

The problem with this new language is twofold: First, it is not a meaningful policy, insofar as it lacks a deadline and also does not state the company will *only* purchase gestation crate-free pork.

Moreover, its wording may imply to customers that Denny's has been gestation crate-free since 2012 when, in fact, that is not the case. On its Scorecard submission, Denny's reports that 21–30% of its pork comes from supply systems where gestation crate usage is limited. It also reports that 21–30% of its pork is fully gestation crate-free, though that does not sit comfortably, as no major pork producers have [fully eliminated](#) gestation crates. (And regardless, the company is clearly not using entirely gestation crate-free pork.)

The Humane Society of the United States is concerned that Denny's is not further along in its commitment to source only cage-free eggs, with nearly all of its eggs still coming from caged hens. We're also concerned that Denny's lacks a meaningful commitment to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply and is not further along on that issue, despite having been "working to eliminate gestation crates" for nearly a decade.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, we encourage Denny's to: A) disclose a path for fully implementing its cage-free egg promise, and B) re-issue a meaningful policy to eliminate gestation crates, including a timeline and tangible steps it will take to reach that goal.



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Panera Bread



RANK:

#18

SCORE:

25.24%

GRADE:

C+

Panera's record is complicated: The company is a leader on plant-based foods and is making *some* progress on animal welfare, while often going backward and issuing misleading statements.

CAGE-FREE EGGS:

In December 2014, Panera Bread released an animal welfare [report](#) saying 18% of its eggs were cage-free. And in December 2015, Panera [announced](#) that number had risen to 21% and pledged to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2020.

Then in 2016, Panera [disclosed](#) that cage-free eggs had dropped to only 16% and extended its goal for reaching 100% by half a decade, to 2025.

Two years later, the percentage had dropped again: [This](#) 2018 Panera infographic reported that only 14% of its eggs were cage-free. And in 2019, on its Scorecard submission, Panera reported using only 11–20% cage-free eggs.

It's greatly concerning that Panera didn't keep its promise to be fully cage-free by 2020, that it extended its deadline to 2025, and that its percentage of cage-free eggs is lower now than it was five years ago.

GESTATION CRATES:

The company's history on gestation crates is also marked by many ups and downs—as well as misleading language.

First, we'll review Panera's percentages.

Panera's 2015 animal welfare [announcement](#) said unequivocally that it had already accomplished “100% gestation crate-free” for its “entire pork supply.”

The following year, that percentage dropped. In December 2016, Panera [disclosed](#) that “93% of our total pork supply” (across all types of pork) “was gestation crate free.” Two years later, that number had dropped again. In [this](#) 2018 infographic, Panera reported 89% of its pork came from systems with “no gestation crates.” In 2019, that number [rose slightly](#), to 92%; but that's still less than the company's 2015 percentage.

This backward movement is concerning. What's also concerning is the misleading language Panera has used in discussing its progress and commitment around this issue. Through the years, Panera's communications have always been about gestation *crate-free* pork. If a system is “free” of gestation crates, that of course means gestation crates are never used—in the same way that if a product is “fat-free” there can be no amount of fat in it. Panera has even gone as far as [describing](#) its pork supply as “100% gestation crate-free” and [saying](#) “no gestation crates” were used.

Despite all this, on its Scorecard submission, Panera reported that, actually, *only 45% of its pork* comes from supply systems where no gestation crates are used. The remaining pork, Panera reports, comes from systems where mother pigs are kept in systems using a combination of gestation crates and group housing.

To be clear: this means that Panera is reporting publicly in an untruthful way—stating publicly (as recently as June 2019) that 89% of its pork is “crate-free” when in fact that percentage is only 45%.

Panera Bread (CONTINUED)

Moreover, Panera specifies in a comment on its Scorecard that its goal is now actually to be gestation crate-free only *after sows are confirmed pregnant*—meaning that Panera now seems to accept the practice of locking animals in gestation crates for many weeks at the onset of each pregnancy cycle. This too directly contradicts the company’s public statements, as using gestation crates for weeks at a time (every time an animal is impregnated) does not, by any reasonable definition, amount to being “crate-free” or “100% gestation crate-free” or “no crates” being used. (Click [here](#) for further discussion of this topic.)

On a positive note, it’s laudable that all of Panera’s pork comes from pigs with at least *some* access to group housing. However, its backwards movement and misleading language is of great concern.

OTHER ISSUES:

Regarding broiler chickens: Panera’s Scorecard submission states that it does have a broiler welfare policy aligned with [this one](#). While the language is similar, Panera’s [policy](#) falls short of alignment. For example, it just states Panera hopes changes are accomplished “across the restaurant industry,” rather than pledging to make them *for its own supply chain*.

And regarding plant-based proteins: Panera is a leader, having recently [announced](#) plans to make half its menu vegetarian for environmental reasons—which is a precedent-setting move that no other major restaurant chain has taken.

CONCLUSION:

The Humane Society of the United States applauds Panera for its commitment to serving more plant-based food and for making some progress on animal welfare issues. At the same time, we have many concerns. Panera has repeatedly moved backwards in terms of percentages of cage-free eggs and changed the goalposts on its cage-free commitment from 2020 to 2025. It also has repeatedly issued misleading statements about its purchasing of “crate-free” pork and now seems to lack a meaningful commitment to fully eliminate gestation crates, noting on its Scorecard that it actually allows for sows to be confined in these cruel cages.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

In light of all this, we encourage Panera to: A) develop a year-over-year phase-in plan for accomplishing its cage-free egg goal, since it didn’t meet its first deadline and still uses such a low percentage of cage-free eggs; B) begin reporting accurately on its gestation crate-free pork percentages (and fix past statements that were incorrect); C) make a meaningful commitment to actually *eliminate* gestation crates and share tangible steps it will take to achieve that goal; and D) amend its broiler chicken welfare policy to meaningfully address the issue.



Conagra Brands



RANK:

#19

SCORE:

21.9%

GRADE:

C+

Conagra's record is mixed.

Regarding pork: In 2012, Conagra [announced](#) support for eliminating gestation crates. “We are asking our pork suppliers to present actionable plans by 2017” for “the *elimination* of gestation stalls,” the company stated.

However, on its 2019 Scorecard submission, Conagra reported that 0% of its pork is gestation crate-free. And it's unclear whether Conagra's suppliers ever submitted the “actionable plans” for eliminating crates that Conagra asked them to submit by 2017. In fact, this seems unlikely, since as far as we know, no major U.S. pork suppliers *have* such plans.

Regarding eggs: In 2016, Conagra [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. But on its Scorecard submission, the company reports that only 1–10% of its eggs are currently cage-free.

On a positive note, in 2019, Conagra [promised](#) meaningful animal welfare reforms for its poultry supply chain. And regarding plant-based foods, Conagra has made substantial strides—such as acquiring the Gardein and Earth Balance brands, launching new Healthy Choice options with plant-based proteins, releasing Reddi-wip topping in almond and coconut milk, and more.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Conagra to: A) disclose what happened with its 2012 request for pork suppliers to present actionable plans for eliminating gestation crates, B) develop and disclose a series of next steps for eliminating gestation crates, and C) develop and disclose a transition plan for keeping its cage-free egg promise.



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The Fresh Market



RANK:

#20

SCORE:

21.43%

GRADE:

C

The Fresh Market is a leader when it comes to cage-free eggs, although it's underperforming elsewhere.

The Fresh Market has had but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: In 2016, the company [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2020. It seems the company has kept that promise, for which we applaud it.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages The Fresh Market to meaningfully address other important issues, such as gestation crates for pigs and the suffering of broiler chickens.



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Target



RANK:

#21

SCORE:

20.95%

GRADE:

C

Target's record is mixed, though it is generally underperforming.

In 2016, Target unequivocally [promised](#) (via social media) that it would complete a “national transition to 100% cage-free shell eggs by 2025.” However, the company’s [animal welfare policy](#) includes the caveat that the transition is contingent on “available supply.” Additionally, Target lacks any cage-free commitment for liquid eggs. Thus, Target does not qualify for having an actual cage-free commitment. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).)

That said, on its Scorecard submission, Target reports that 31–40% of its shell eggs are cage-free, which is quite high, and that it is actively eliminating SKUs of eggs from caged hens. Unfortunately, it does not report taking other steps in service of its goal, such as converting its private brand eggs to cage-free, adding egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, limiting any egg promotions to cage-free options, or bringing down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs.

Regarding its pork supply: In 2012, Target [promised](#) to eliminate gestation crates by 2022. The goal is currently stated in Target’s [animal welfare policy](#) as well, with the company promising to “only partner with suppliers who *do not use* sow gestation crates by 2022.”

With that goal only two years away, it is unclear if Target has taken any steps toward meeting it. On its Scorecard submission, the company does not report *any* percentage of gestation crate-free pork (or even any percentage of pork

from supply systems with *reduced* gestation crate usage). And since there are no major U.S. pork producers who do not use gestation crates, it does not sit comfortably that Target is on track to keep its promise.

Regarding plant-based proteins, Target is performing rather well: The company has significantly expanded its assortment of plant-based items in its dairy and meat departments; it recently introduced a wellness icon to help guests identify plant-based items; it has introduced new brands and increased its SKU count for plant-based items significantly in recent years; and (according to its Scorecard submission) it has plans for further expansion in the coming years, including significant expansion on its private label plant-based offerings.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

While the Humane Society of the United States applauds Target for its work increasing its cage-free egg percentage, we encourage the company to: A) strengthen its cage-free egg commitment by removing the availability caveat and adding liquid eggs; B) take tangible steps in service of selling 100% cage-free eggs, such as those listed above; C) disclose what progress it has made toward eliminating gestation crates from its pork supply; and D) disclose what next steps it will take in service of its gestation crate-free goal.



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Kellogg's



RANK:

#22

SCORE:

20.48%

GRADE:

C

Kellogg's is a leader when it comes to plant-based proteins, though its animal welfare record is mixed.

In 2015, Kellogg's [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs and eliminate gestation crates by 2025.

On its Scorecard submission, Kellogg's reports that only 1–10% of its eggs are currently cage-free. This is especially troubling since, as outlined in the company's 2015 pledge, it has been working to reduce its use of eggs from caged hens since 2007. Given that fact—and that Kellogg's is already halfway through its 10-year timeline—it's deeply concerning that nearly all of the company's eggs still come from hens locked in cages.

Similarly, on gestation crates, Kellogg's does not report any percentage of pork in its supply chain as coming from systems where gestation crates have been eliminated or even reduced. (It does report that one of its suppliers is making progress, though fails to report what percentage of its pork comes from that supplier.)

The one area where Kellogg's seems to be doing well is with regard to plant-based proteins, with a vast percentage of its food products already being plant-based and a commitment to transitioning its Morningstar Farms brand to be 100% plant-based by 2021.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Kellogg's to, at a minimum: A) announce detailed plans for keeping its cage-free egg and gestation crate-free pork promises, and B) disclose what percentage of its pork is currently gestation crate-free today.



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Metz Culinary Management



RANK:

#23

SCORE:

20%

GRADE:

C-

Metz's [position](#) on cage-free eggs is that it already uses only cage-free shell eggs and is transitioning to 100% cage-free eggs (for all egg products) by the end of 2021 or sooner. And on its Scorecard submission, the company reports that 41–50% of its eggs are currently cage-free.

The company also has a meaningful [policy](#) to reform its poultry supply chain by 2024.

Metz's work on gestation crates is less clear.

In 2012, Metz [announced](#) that it would fully eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain by 2017. The company did not keep that promise and has since changed its deadline to 2020. As its website now reads: "Metz Culinary Management is working with our pork suppliers to eliminate gestation crates by end of 2020."

On its Scorecard, Metz reports that 41–50% of its pork comes from supply systems where sows are at least housed in groups rather than crates for a majority of their lives, with the remaining 41–50% coming from sows who are never confined in gestation crates. (Click [here](#) for further discussion of this.)

This reporting does not sit comfortably, as we at the Humane Society of the United States are unaware of any major U.S. pork provider that has fully eliminated its use of gestation crates.

Regarding its work around plant-based proteins: Metz's Scorecard submission touts a joint partnership with the Humane Society of the United States to serve more plant-based foods; however, the company did not earn points for that, as it backed out of the initiative before the program ever launched.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

In sum, we applaud Metz for having switched roughly half its egg supply to cage-free and encourage the company to: A) develop and disclose a plan for keeping its promise to have a 100% cage-free egg supply by the end of 2021, B) ensure it is reporting accurately with regard to its progress eliminating gestation crates by the end of 2020, and C) develop a program to tangibly increase its plant-based options.



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Burger King



RANK:

#24

SCORE:

13.81%

GRADE:

C-

In 2007, years before most major food companies were addressing these issues, Burger King [pledged](#) to switch 2% of its eggs to cage-free and 10% of its pork to gestation crate-free.

Then, in 2012, Burger King made a [major national announcement](#) promising that, by 2017, it would switch to 100% cage-free eggs. (The announcement also pledged to fully eliminate gestation crates, although it lacked a timeline for doing so.)

Burger King did not keep its cage-free egg promise. So, in 2017, its parent company (RBI) [promised](#) that its new goal was to switch to cage-free eggs by 2025. At the same time, it added a deadline of 2022 to its goal for eliminating gestation crates.

Additionally, RBI has [promised](#) to meaningfully reform how chickens in its poultry supply are raised and slaughtered.

However, neither Burger King nor RBI have provided any disclosures regarding what progress (if any) has been made toward meeting these animal welfare commitments. We wonder whether the company is on track to meet them, especially since Burger King did not keep its previous promise to be using 100% cage-free eggs by 2017, and since its deadline for eliminating gestation crates is approaching without any major U.S. pork producers being gestation crate-free. (Click [here](#) for further discussion of this.)

Regarding plant-based proteins: In 2019, Burger King introduced the Impossible Burger nationwide, and has done extensive national advertising around that product, for which we applaud the company.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage Burger King to disclose: A) what percentage, if any, of its eggs are cage-free; B) what percentage of its pork, if any, is gestation crate-free; and C) tangible next steps for accomplishing its three animal welfare promises outlined above.



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General Mills



RANK:

#25

SCORE:

12.38%

GRADE:

C-

General Mills' record is mixed, with the company performing well on some issues but not on others.

In 2015, General Mills [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. On its Scorecard submission, the company reports that today, 31–40% of its eggs are cage-free. This is laudable progress.

And in 2017, General Mills [announced](#) a meaningful policy to reform its poultry supply by 2024.

Regarding plant-based proteins, the company is, in many ways, a leader. Many General Mills brands (e.g., Annie's) include ample plant-based options and through its brand elevator, 301 Inc., General Mills is investing in plant-based meat and dairy companies.

Regarding gestation crates: While General Mills has no policy to eliminate them, in 2013 it [promised](#) to favor pork suppliers that provide actionable plans by 2017 to end their use of gestation crates. And today, General Mills' website [still includes](#) this language.

However, the company reports on its Scorecard submission that 0% of its pork comes from suppliers that have ended their use of gestation crates *or even reduced it*. This is especially concerning, as there are several major pork producers that have dramatically reduced their use of gestation crates (and thus, given General Mills' preference, we wonder why it does not seem to be purchasing pork, at least, from those suppliers).

It is clear that despite having addressed this issue for nearly a decade, General Mill's "preference" has not resulted in any tangible progress away from gestation crate confinement in its pork supply chain.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We applaud the company for the progress it has made around cage-free eggs and, at a minimum, encourage General Mills to: A) develop and disclose a path toward keeping its cage-free egg promise, and B) announce a policy to eliminate gestation crates that includes a timeline as well as tangible actions the company will take to reach that goal.



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Subway Restaurants



RANK:

#25

SCORE:

12.38%

GRADE:

C-

Subway has several meaningful animal welfare policies—though its progress implementing them has been slow and unclear.

It was a decade ago that Subway first promised to switch to 100% cage-free eggs. In [this letter](#), Subway promised that roughly 4% of its eggs would be cage-free by 2011, and that the company would “eventually *only* use cage-free eggs.”

Then, in 2015, Subway [promised](#) to complete its cage-free transition by 2025 (giving it a 15-year-long window from the time it originally made its pledge to go cage-free).

Subway [reports](#) that as of November 2018, only 11% of its eggs in North America were cage-free. It’s concerning that, a decade after making its original promise, 89% of its eggs still come from hens locked in cages.

As well, Subway [promised](#), in 2012 that it would eliminate gestation crates from its global pork supply. “We support the *elimination* of crate-style housing for gestation sows,” Subway stated. “While the United Kingdom has eliminated them, the Subway brand’s goal is to work with suppliers to *rapidly eliminate* the use of individual gestation stalls elsewhere.”

Today, Subway [reports](#) that it expects to reach that goal for its U.S. pork supply by 2022. This does not sit comfortably though, as no major U.S. pork suppliers have eliminated gestation crates or, as far as we know, *even have plans to*. (Click [here](#) for further discussion.) Subway also has not reported any progress made toward reaching its goal and does not report using *any* percentage of gestation crate-free pork. All this despite its 2012 pledge to “rapidly eliminate” gestation crates from its supply chain.

Subway also has pledged to implement meaningful animal

welfare reforms for its poultry supply by 2024. Yet, similarly, it discloses neither progress made nor steps taken toward that goal.

Lastly, regarding plant-based proteins: It’s positive that in 2019, Subway tested plant-based meatballs at some locations, although it’s concerning that it does not have a fully plant-based protein entrée on its menu nationwide.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

In sum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Subway to: A) increase its cage-free egg percentage in service of keeping its promise and disclose its next steps on that issue, B) disclose what progress has been made toward eliminating gestation crates and its next steps on that issue, and C) add a plant-based protein to its menu nationwide.



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Compass Group USA



RANK:

#26

SCORE:

9.05%

GRADE:

D+

Compass has a long history when it comes to animal welfare and at times, it has been a leader. It was one of the first major companies to move toward cage-free eggs and, in the past, was a pioneer regarding plant-based proteins. Overall, the company's progress is mixed, with Compass continually not keeping its promises.

In 2007, Compass Group USA [promised](#) to convert 100% of its *shell eggs* to cage-free within 90 days. Then, in 2015, Compass [promised](#) to also transition 100% of its *liquid eggs* in the U.S. to cage-free by 2019. Finally, in 2016, Compass [promised](#) to convert to 100% cage-free eggs *globally* by 2025, while reiterating its pledge to complete the U.S. conversion by 2019.

However, Compass didn't keep its promise. On its Scorecard submission, Compass reports that only 31–40% of its eggs in the U.S. are cage-free. This is especially troubling, as the cage-free conversion was supposed to have been completed in the U.S. by 2019. (Note: Since its promise was not kept, Compass did not earn points for having a cage-free policy.)

Compass' record on gestation crates is also concerning.

In 2012, Compass [promised](#) to eliminate gestation crates by 2017. But then in 2017, Compass [quietly altered that promise](#) so as to expressly *allow* sows to be locked in gestation crates (as long as it isn't for a majority of their pregnancies). And even that weaker commitment wasn't met: On its Scorecard submission, Compass reports that only 51–60% of its pork even comes from systems where sows are housed in groups for a majority of their pregnancies.

Worse yet, in November 2019, Compass [again quietly altered its policy](#)—this time, to remove any type of meaningful commitment on the issue whatsoever.

In other words: Compass didn't keep its original promise to eliminate gestation crates by 2017, weakened that commitment to allow for some gestation crate confinement, didn't even meet that weakened commitment, and now lacks *any* meaningful pledge on this important issue.

While we applaud Compass for its previous plant-based protein work and for having been, in the past, an animal welfare leader, we have deep concerns about the company.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We urge Compass to: A) immediately fulfill its commitment to use 100% cage-free eggs in the U.S.; B) re-issue its promise to eliminate gestation crates; C) develop and disclose next steps on that issue, including specifics as to how it will reach its goal; and D) develop a program to tangibly increase its plant-based options.



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Raley's

Raley's

RANK:

#27

SCORE:

8.57%

GRADE:

D+

Raley's lacks meaningful policies regarding the most pressing animal welfare concerns.

The company has stated a goal of switching to cage-free eggs by 2020, though since it is “based on availability,” it does not qualify as an actual cage-free policy. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).)

Moreover, on its Scorecard submission, Raley's reports that only 31–40% of its eggs are cage-free, which is especially concerning for two reasons: first, because the company's 2020 goal has arrived and it's still so far off from 100% cage-free; and second, because the law in California (where Raley's primarily operates) will *require* the company to only sell cage-free eggs by the end of 2021.

On a positive note, Raley's private brand eggs have been 100% cage-free since 2016, and the company reports that it is actively eliminating SKUs of eggs from caged hens, for which we applaud the company.

But the company does not disclose other steps it could be taking to meet the goal of a cage-free supply chain. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. Raley's does not report taking any of these steps.

Regarding gestation crates, Raley's [policy](#) says simply that it will “source pork free from gestation stalls by the end of 2021.” Notably, that language does not specify that Raley's will *only* source gestation crate-free pork by 2021—which is an important omission. And since California law *requires* Raley's to sell only gestation crate-free whole pork products by the end of 2021 anyway, Raley's “commitment” on this issue (to source *some* gestation crate-free pork) is legally required. As for the rest of its pork products (e.g., non-whole pork and pork sold at its locations outside of California), Raley's does not appear to have any policy of eliminating gestation crates.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, we encourage Raley's to: A) strengthen its cage-free egg commitment by removing the “availability” caveat; B) take steps to reach its cage-free egg goal, like those listed above; and C) strengthen its gestation crate policy to apply to *all pork* the company sells and include tangible steps the company will take to implement it.



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The Cheesecake Factory



RANK:

#27

SCORE:

8.57%

GRADE:

D+

The Cheesecake Factory has [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs for all restaurant operations by 2020 and all bakery items by 2025. Its [July 2019 Animal Welfare Update](#) states that at that time, 41% of its shell eggs (and 19% of all eggs) were cage-free and that the company is on track to keep its promise.

Similarly, The Cheesecake Factory's animal welfare [commitment](#) promises to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain by 2020. And its July 2019 Animal Welfare Update reports that 16% of its pork is gestation crate-free, with 38% coming from systems using reduced gestation crate confinement; presumably, the remaining 46% comes from systems where sows are perpetually confined in gestation crates. That update is also clear that the company's definition of gestation "crate-free" means no gestation crates are ever used, which is positive.

It's laudable that The Cheesecake Factory discloses its progress and understands this issue in such great detail; still, it's concerning that the company has fallen so short of its promise to eliminate gestation crates by 2020. (And because Cheesecake Factory didn't meet its promise to be 100% gestation crate-free by 2020, it did not earn points for that pledge.)

Regarding broiler chickens, The Cheesecake Factory lacks what we would consider to be a meaningful policy on the issue, and thus did not earn any points in this section of the Scorecard. However, it is worth noting two things. First, the company's broiler commitment is quite close to one that we would consider meaningful and would need but a few adjustments to have earned points. And, in its July 2019 Animal Welfare Update, The Cheesecake Factory discloses—in greater detail than perhaps any other major food company—specific progress it has made toward improving its poultry supply chain, for which we applaud the company.

And finally, regarding plant-based proteins, The Cheesecake Factory has made several positive moves—such as adding the Impossible Burger to its menu.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

Overall, the Humane Society of the United States applauds The Cheesecake Factory for the steps it has taken and its impressive disclosures around animal welfare. Moving forward, we encourage the company to: A) establish a tangible plan for keeping its promise of a gestation crate-free pork supply chain and, B) strengthen its broiler welfare commitment to better align with the language [here](#).



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Nestlé USA



RANK:

#28

SCORE:

2.38%

GRADE:

D

One area where Nestlé shines is with regard to plant-based proteins. In 2017 Nestlé acquired Sweet Earth, which produces plant-based prepared meals, and it continues adding other plant-based options, including: dairy-free Coffee Mate Natural Bliss and Häagen-Dazs products; plant-based Lean Cuisine products; and more. Nestlé has even joined the Plant-Based Foods Association and lobbied against legislation seeking to limit the way plant-based foods are labeled. For all this, we applaud the company.

Nestlé also has some promising animal welfare commitments, though its progress implementing them has been mixed.

In 2014, Nestlé made a [widely publicized](#) announcement about a sweeping new animal welfare policy, available [here](#). This included a promise to eliminate gestation crates and switch to 100% cage-free eggs.

Referring to the “Five Freedoms” of animal welfare (which include freedoms precluded by gestation crates and hen cages), Nestlé wrote: “We will . . . *eliminate practices* which contravene the Five Freedoms” and “initially focus upon” several such practices, including gestation crates for pigs and cages for egg-laying hens.

Then, in 2015, Nestlé USA [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2020. And in 2017, Nestlé USA [promised](#) to ensure meaningful reforms in its poultry supply by 2024.

However, on its Scorecard submission, Nestlé reported only using 1-10% cage-free eggs in the U.S.—a low percentage, given the company should be 100% cage-free by now. (And

since Nestlé did not meet its commitment to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2020, it didn’t earn points for that pledge.)

Nestlé also reported on its Scorecard submission that 0% of its pork in the U.S. comes from suppliers that have ended, or even reduced, their use of gestation crates. (And its worth noting that Nestle did not earn points for its gestation crate language, as the pledge lacks an implementation timeline.)

MOVING FORWARD . . .

In sum, Nestlé seems to be doing great when it comes to plant-based products and has some good animal welfare policies, though it is lacking when it comes to implementing those policies. We encourage the company to: A) develop and disclose a tangible plan for keeping its cage-free egg promise in the United States, B) report on its progress eliminating gestation crates, and C) develop and disclose tangible next steps for meeting its commitment on that issue.



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Save Mart

The
SAVE MART
COMPANIES

RANK:

#29

SCORE:

1.43%

GRADE:

D

Save Mart's record is mixed, though it's generally underperforming.

Save Mart has but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: a [promise](#) to only sell cage-free eggs by 2022. And on its Scorecard submission, the company reports that 51–60% of its eggs are currently cage-free. This represents laudable progress, though it's worth noting that nearly all Save Mart locations are in California, where cage-free is required by law as of the end of 2021.

The company does not disclose other steps it could be taking to keep its cage-free promise. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could switch its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Save Mart does not report taking any of these steps.

Save Mart does appear to have taken some steps regarding plant-based proteins. In 2018, The Save Mart Companies launched the “Fall in Love with Plant-Based” campaign with the Plant-Based Foods Association at all 70 Lucky and Lucky California stores. The campaign aimed to help shoppers discover and enjoy a variety of delicious plant-based foods. Stores featured in-store education and promotion for 16 Plant-Based Foods Association member brands sold in-stores, including advertising stands located throughout the store to highlight plant-based food options, register screen ads and

breakroom TV content to further educate store team members about plant-based foods. In addition, educational booklets with coupons were made available at stores, and the campaign was further promoted on social media and through radio advertisements.

Though the company did earn some points for this program, the “Fall in Love with Plant-Based” campaign only ran from October to December of 2018, so the points were limited.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Save Mart to: A) take further steps to reach its cage-free egg goal across *all stores*, such as those listed above; and B) adopt a policy to eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain, including deliverables regarding how it'll meet that goal.



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Royal Caribbean International



ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISES LTD.

RANK:

#30

SCORE:

0.95%

GRADE:

D

Royal Caribbean is underperforming.

In 2012, Royal Caribbean [promised](#) to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain by 2022. And in 2015, the company [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2022.

However, Royal Caribbean has disclosed neither progress made, nor steps taken toward keeping these promises. This is especially troubling, as no major U.S. pork producers have eliminated their use of gestation crates (some have *reduced* but not *eliminated* them), so it does not sit comfortably that Royal Caribbean is on track to accomplish that goal.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United is concerned about all this and encourages Royal Caribbean to: A) report on its progress made toward keeping these promises, and B) disclose what specific steps it will take to accomplish both goals by 2022.



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Kroger



RANK:

#31

SCORE:

0%

GRADE:

F

In 2016, Kroger [promised](#) to only sell cage-free eggs by 2025. And the company's [2019 Sustainability Report](#) reiterates this promise.

Kroger is roughly one-quarter of the way toward its goal, reporting that in 2018, cage-free eggs made up 23.4% of its total egg volume—for which we applaud the company.

The company doesn't, however, disclose what steps it will take to reach its cage-free goal. For example, Kroger could convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Kroger does not report taking any of these steps.

Kroger's work around gestation crates is more nuanced.

One thing that *is* clear is that Kroger has always maintained that gestation crates should be fully eliminated.

"Kroger believes that a *gestation crate-free* environment is more humane and that the pork industry should work toward *gestation crate-free* housing for pregnant sows," read a 2012 Kroger [press release](#).

Then, in 2018, Kroger promised to only procure fresh pork from suppliers who have eliminated gestation crates. The company described this commitment in its [2019 Sustainability Report](#) under the headline, "*Gestation crate-free* sow environments." The report says: "For several years, we have been committed to moving our pork suppliers away from the use of gestation crates for sows to open housing environments." The report also placed a timeline on Kroger's

promise. "In 2018, we made a commitment to source 100% of fresh pork from suppliers who have transitioned all their self-operated and contracted farms *away from gestation crates by 2025*," it reads.

Here's where things get confusing: That same report says that, "To date, nearly half of Kroger's fresh pork supply chain has transitioned away from gestation crates."

This claim does not sit comfortably with us, as there are no major U.S. pork producers with gestation crate-free supply systems (some major producers have *reduced* their use of crates, [but none have crate-free systems](#)). What Kroger may be reporting is the percentage of its fresh pork that comes from supply systems with *reduced* gestation crate usage—which of course would not comply with the company's goal (as stated many times) of a *gestation crate-free* supply chain. Moreover, on its Scorecard submission, Kroger does not report *any* percentage of gestation crate-free pork or even reduced-crate pork, noting merely that it is "assessing" its progress (despite its prior claims to have transitioned nearly half its fresh pork away from gestation crates).

MOVING FORWARD . . .

Regarding gestation crates, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Kroger to: A) ensure it is reporting accurately on its goal of a *gestation crate-free* supply chain, and B) develop and disclose a set of next steps for reaching its goal. Regarding cage-free eggs, we encourage Kroger to take actions that will move it closer to its goal, such as those listed above.



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Hyatt Hotels

HYATT®

RANK:

#32

SCORE:

-0.48%

GRADE:

F

Hyatt has made strides toward a cage-free egg supply but lacks meaningful policies or progress on other issues.

Hyatt has [promised](#) to use 100% cage-free eggs in the U.S. by 2022 at all company-managed and franchised locations. On its [website](#), the company reports that currently, 90% of the eggs used at its managed locations are cage-free and on its Scorecard, it reports that 81–90% of eggs at all locations are cage-free.

Unfortunately, Hyatt does not have meaningful animal welfare policies addressing any of the other most pressing supply chain concerns. While it does have *some language* regarding gestation crates, it lacks a policy to eliminate them (and on its Scorecard, Hyatt reports that virtually none of its pork is gestation crate-free). Similarly, while Hyatt’s website includes some language regarding broiler chickens, it lacks a policy to meaningfully reform its poultry supply chain.

Regarding plant-based proteins, Hyatt Regency and Hyatt Place hotels in the U.S. have introduced a plant-based burger to their menus.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We applaud Hyatt for its work shifting to cage-free eggs. At a minimum, we encourage the company to: A) disclose its overall percentage of cage-free eggs across all locations, B) adopt meaningful animal welfare policies regarding gestation crates and its poultry supply chain, and C) add more plant-based options.



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Sonic Drive-In



RANK:

#32

SCORE:

-0.48%

GRADE:

F

Sonic has several meaningful animal welfare policies—though its progress implementing them is unclear.

On its [website](#), Sonic promises that it will: A) eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply by 2022, B) meaningfully reform the treatment of chickens in its poultry supply by 2024, and C) switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025.

The company does note that as of 2017, 52% of sows in its pork supply chain “lived in group housing.” However, because even pork suppliers using group housing are still confining sows in gestation crates for lengthy parts of each pregnancy cycle, to report that 52% of sows “lived in group housing” does not equate to 52% of the supply chain being gestation *crate-free*. And Sonic makes no disclosure about its progress reaching a *crate-free* supply chain. (Click [here](#) for further discussion of this.)

Similarly, Sonic has disclosed neither progress made nor steps taken toward keeping its other animal welfare promises. And unlike its competitors, Sonic lacks a plant-based entrée option.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Sonic to: A) accurately report on its progress *eliminating* gestation crates from its supply chain, B) report on its progress keeping its other promises, and C) add a plant-based entrée option to its menu.



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Jack in the Box



RANK:

#33

SCORE:

-3.33%

GRADE:

F

Jack in the Box's record is mixed.

In 2015, Jack in the Box [made two promises](#): 1) to switch a majority of its eggs to cage-free by 2020, and 2) to reach a 100% cage-free supply chain by 2025.

On its Scorecard, the company reports keeping the first promise, with 51–60% of its eggs now cage-free. We applaud Jack in the Box for this progress.

The company also has a [policy](#) to meaningfully reform its poultry supply chain, which we also applaud.

On the issue of gestation crates, Jack in the Box's record is extremely concerning.

In 2012, the company [promised](#) to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply by 2022—a promise it [reiterated](#) five years later, in 2017. Yet on its Scorecard submission, Jack in the Box does not report currently buying any percentage of pork from supply systems in which gestation crates have been either eliminated or even reduced. Moreover, the company now seems to have done away with any meaningful commitment to eliminate gestation crates: Its July 2019 animal welfare [update](#) lacks its original promise and simply says it is “discussing” the issue with its pork suppliers.

And unlike many of its competitors, Jack in the Box fails to offer a plant-based entrée on its menu.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States applauds Jack in the Box for its cage-free egg progress. At a minimum, we encourage the company to: A) develop a new timeline for eliminating gestation crates from its pork supply chain, with deliverables; B) begin reporting publicly what percentage of its pork is gestation crate-free; and C) offer a plant-based entrée.



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Sprouts Farmers Market



RANK:

#34

SCORE:

-3.81%

GRADE:

F

In 2016, Sprouts Farmers Market [promised](#) to sell 100% cage-free eggs by 2022. Unfortunately, because that goal is contingent upon “supply, quality, affordability and customer demand” it does not qualify as an actual cage-free commitment. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).)

That said, Sprouts has made tremendous strides toward meeting its goal anyway. On its Scorecard submission, Sprouts reports that 91–99% of its eggs are cage-free and 100% of its private brand eggs are cage-free. On its [website](#), the company further discloses that, specifically, 92% of its shell eggs and 77% of its liquid eggs are cage-free.

Additionally, Sprouts has actively promoted plant-based eating. For example, it hosted a three-day retreat in 2018 for 10 influencers with a focus on plant-based products and trends. The group included registered dietitians and bloggers based in key regions from coast to coast. The retreat educated and enabled participants to act as third-party spokespeople for Sprouts for plant-based focused in-store events, media segments, social media activations and recipe creation.

Unfortunately, Sprouts lacks meaningful policies to eliminate gestation crates or reform its poultry supply.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States applauds Sprouts for its tremendous progress toward a cage-free egg supply and for its focus on plant-based foods. We encourage the company to: A) strengthen its cage-free egg language by removing the “supply, quality, affordability and customer demand” caveat; B) complete its transition to 100% cage-free eggs; and C) adopt meaningful policies related to pigs and chickens.



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Spectra



RANK:

#35

SCORE:

-4.76%

GRADE:

F

In some areas, Spectra is a leader; in other areas, it has room for growth.

Regarding plant-based proteins, Spectra is making substantial strides. It has partnered with Impossible Foods and was the first sports and entertainment food service company to launch that product. Additionally, the company [hosted](#) a Plant-Strong Innovation Workshop in conjunction with the Humane Society of the United States, where division leaders were trained in plant-based food preparation.

On animal welfare issues, the company's record is more mixed.

Spectra [committed](#) to meaningfully reforming its poultry supply by 2024, which is good. And in 2015, Spectra [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2019.

It appears the company has not kept its cage-free promise though, and there seems to be confusion over exactly how far off it is. On its Scorecard submission, Spectra reports using only 1–10% cage-free eggs in the U.S. But on its website, Spectra states that as of July 2019, 33% shell eggs and 23% of liquid eggs used in the U.S. by Spectra are cage-free.

Regardless which percentage is accurate, it is concerning that Spectra did not keep its promise (and thus, did not earn points for that commitment).

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States applauds Spectra for its work around plant-based proteins. We encourage the company to: A) disclose a plan—including deliverables—for accomplishing its cage-free egg goal, and B) develop a program to tangibly increase its plant-based options.



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AVI Foodsystems



AVI FOODSYSTEMS INC.
America's Food Service Leader

RANK:

#36

SCORE:

-5.24%

GRADE:

F

AVI is underperforming.

AVI has but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: a [promise](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by the end of 2020. However, the company reports no progress made or steps taken toward keeping that promise, and there is no evidence the policy is being implemented.

AVI does not have meaningful policies on other pressing issues.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, we encourage AVI to disclose its progress and steps it may be taking to reach a 100% cage-free supply chain and develop a program to tangibly increase its plant-based options.



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Trader Joe's

TRADER JOE'S

RANK:

#37

SCORE:

-7.62%

GRADE:

F

Trader Joe's has just one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: In 2016, the company [promised](#) to sell only cage-free eggs by 2025. At that time, Trader Joe's reported that 62% of all its eggs were cage-free, for which we applaud the company. It's also laudable that since 2005, all Trader Joe's private brand eggs have been 100% cage-free.

That said, the company does not disclose other steps it could be taking to meet its goal of a cage-free supply chain. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Trader Joe's does not report taking any of these steps.

Regarding gestation crates: Trader Joe's lacks any kind of meaningful policy around this issue. In 2018, it did issue [this statement](#) on the topic, indicating it has some gestation crate-free pork in its supply chain. But the statement lacks any kind of meaningful commitment to eliminate gestation crates.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Trader Joe's to: A) provide an updated disclosure regarding its progress keeping its cage-free egg promise; B) take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above; C) disclose the percentage of gestation crate-free pork in its supply chain; and D) commit to eliminating gestation crates from its supply chain, along with specific steps it will take to reach that goal.



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McDonald's



RANK:

#38

SCORE:

-8.57%

GRADE:

F

Despite some strides, McDonald's is underperforming.

In 2015, McDonald's [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. Today, McDonald's [reports](#) that 33% of its egg supply is cage-free. This is laudable progress.

Additionally, McDonald's has a [commitment](#) to switch to controlled-atmosphere slaughter for chickens in its poultry supply chain by 2024, which is also a positive step.

However, on other animal welfare issues, the company is dramatically underperforming.

First, other than the above-mentioned slaughter commitment, McDonald's lacks any other policies to meaningfully reform animal welfare in its poultry supply chain. (While McDonald's writes much about the welfare of broiler chickens, its language lacks the specifics needed for the Humane Society of the United States to consider it meaningful. This is why the HSUS created the website [UnhappyMeals.com](#).)

Also troubling is McDonald's record on the issue of gestation crate confinement. In February 2012, McDonald's [promised](#) to eliminate pig gestation crates from its pork supply chain. "McDonald's wants to see *the end of* sow confinement in gestation stalls in our supply chain," said the company. A few months later, McDonald's [again confirmed](#) its goal of "ending" gestation crate use, stating that objective would be accomplished by 2022. It additionally promised that "as an interim step," by 2017, McDonald's would source pork "only from producers who share its commitment to phase out gestation stalls."

However, no major U.S. pork producers *have* disclosed plans to eliminate gestation crates from their operations. While some, like Smithfield Foods, have dramatically *reduced* their use of gestation crates, [they continue confining sows](#) in

these crates for several weeks during the early stages of each pregnancy cycle—seemingly with no plans to end that practice.

Therefore, it seems impossible for McDonald's to have met its interim commitment of only sourcing pork from producers that share its goal (which, as stated, is "ending," not *reducing*, gestation crate confinement)—since no major pork producers seem to share that goal.

McDonald's states that, "As of 2018, approximately 35% of our global pork volumes are sourced from producers *who do not use gestation crates*." But this statistic is *global*, whereas McDonald's promise to eliminate gestation crates pertains just to its U.S. supply chain. And it's unclear if that percentage is from producers who truly do not use gestation crates at all, or who have simply reduced their use of gestation crates.

Overall, the Humane Society of the United States is encouraged by the progress McDonald's has made in switching to cage-free eggs but is deeply concerned about its lack of meaningful policies around poultry procurement, as well as its lack of progress keeping its promise around gestation crates and its lack of a plant-based entrée option.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, we encourage McDonald's to: A) strengthen its chicken welfare policies, B) accurately report on its progress meeting its goal of *ending* gestation crates by 2022 in its U.S. pork supply chain, C) disclose future steps it will take to meet that goal, and D) add a plant-based entrée option.



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Albertsons Companies



RANK:

#39

SCORE:

-10.95%

GRADE:

F

Albertsons lacks any commitments that meaningfully address the most pressing concerns.

In 2016, Albertsons [announced](#) that it would switch to 100% cage-free shell eggs by 2025. Then, in 2017, the company [added](#) liquid eggs to that commitment. Though laudable goals, they do not qualify as actual cage-free commitments, as they are contingent upon “available supply.” (See a discussion of such policy caveats [here](#).)

That said, on its Scorecard submission, Albertsons reports that 21–30% of its eggs are currently cage-free, which is relatively high, and that it is actively eliminating SKUs of eggs from caged hens. The company does not seem to be taking other steps toward meeting its goal, such as converting all private brand eggs to cage-free sooner than the rest of its eggs, limiting all egg promotions to cage-free options, adding egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, and bringing down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between conventional and cage-free eggs.

Regarding gestation crates, Albertsons has no policy to eliminate them from its pork supply. In 2012, Safeway [announced](#) it would eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply, but that was before Safeway was owned by Albertsons. There is no evidence Albertsons maintained the policy after acquiring Safeway. And in fact, on its Scorecard submission, Albertsons does not report using any percentage of gestation crate-free pork (or even pork from systems with reduced gestation crate usage).

One area where Albertsons is performing well is around

plant-based foods: Among other steps the company has taken, in 2019, Albertsons [announced](#) the addition of many new private label plant-based foods.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

In sum, the Humane Society of the United States applauds Albertsons for its work increasing its cage-free egg percentage and adding more plant-based proteins. At a minimum, we encourage the company to: A) strengthen its cage-free egg commitment by eliminating its “available supply” caveat; B) take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above; and C) adopt a policy to eliminate gestation crates, including steps it will take to reach that goal.



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Costco



RANK:

#40

SCORE:

-11%

GRADE:

F

Costco's record is mixed, with the company making major strides toward a cage-free egg supply but lacking in other areas.

Costco is one of the few major grocers to report on its progress switching to cage-free eggs, and the numbers are very promising: The company's [website](#) reports that as of September 2018, 94% of all shell eggs it sold were cage-free and 100% of its private brand liquid eggs are cage-free. This is laudable progress.

However, Costco now lacks a commitment to reach 100% cage-free eggs—something that it previously had promised. In December 2015, the company [stated](#) that “Costco is committed to going cage-free for its egg procurement” and that, “we are working with our suppliers toward a *complete* and sustainable transition to a cage-free supply chain.” That language is now absent from its website—meaning that while its percentage of cage-free eggs in 2018 was promising, Costco no longer appears to be dedicated to reaching a 100% cage-free supply chain. That’s a major step backward.

Regarding gestation crates: Costco previously sent a [letter](#) to its pork suppliers indicating it wants a full transition away from gestation crates by 2022. And the letter even specifies that if pregnant sows are confined individually at any point, they must be able to at least *turn around*—which is a clear attempt to address the fact that some pork producers using group housing are also still confining sows in gestation crates. Costco sending that letter was a positive step.

And on its website, Costco [says](#) that 80% of its pork suppliers have completed “this transition.” But for several reasons, the company did not earn points for this disclosure.

First, the statement that 80% of Costco's suppliers have completed the transition it describes does not sit comfortably. The transition Costco specifies is to either eliminate crates or at least afford sows *the ability to turn around in crates* when confined early on in their pregnancy cycles. To our knowledge, no major U.S. pork producers use such systems. (Click [here](#) for further discussion of this.)

Secondly, the Scorecard asks for the percentage of *pork* from crate-free and reduced-crate systems, but Costco's 80% figure relates to the *number of suppliers* Costco buys from, not the *volume of pork* it buys.

It may be the case that Costco actually is buying pork from gestation crate-free or reduced-crate systems, but because of the above reasons, the company was not awarded points for that part of the Scorecard.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage Costco to: A) accurately report its gestation crate progress, B) reissue its promise to sell 100% cage-free eggs, and C) disclose updated statistics regarding its cage-free egg percentages.



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Elior



RANK:

#41

SCORE:

-12.38%

GRADE:

F

Elior has [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025 and meaningfully reform its poultry supply by 2024. However, it reports no progress made or steps taken toward keeping these promises.

As well, Elior lacks any policy to eliminate gestation crates. This is especially troubling, as the company's animal welfare policy says it "requires" its suppliers to be committed to the "Five Freedoms" of animal welfare—which include freedom from discomfort, freedom to express normal behavior, and freedom from distress (none of which are possible in gestation crate systems). Therefore, this requirement cannot possibly have been met if the company is allowing gestation crates in its supply chain.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Elior to: A) report on progress made toward keeping its egg and poultry promises, B) institute a meaningful gestation crate policy, and C) and develop a program to tangibly increase its plant-based options.



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CKE Restaurants



RANK:

#42

SCORE:

-12.86%

GRADE:

F

While CKE has many animal welfare [policies](#), for the most part, they fall short of meaningfully addressing the most pressing concerns.

For example, the company's [policy](#) around pork procurement falls short of a commitment to eliminate gestation crates; instead, it focuses on a transition to group housing for sows (which is an important difference, as even many group housing systems [still use gestation crates](#)). And even though this commitment is weak, the company has reported neither progress made nor steps taken toward implementing it.

CKE's most meaningful policy is a [promise](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. However, the company discloses neither progress made nor steps taken toward keeping that promise.

One area where CKE is doing well is with regard to plant-based proteins, having added, tested and nationally promoted several options.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages CKE to: A) strengthen its policy around gestation crates, B) report its progress on that issue, C) report its progress keeping its cage-free promise, and D) disclose its plans for reaching a 100% cage-free egg supply.



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Carnival Corporation



RANK:

#43

SCORE:

-12.88%

GRADE:

F

Carnival has [pledged](#) to switch to 100% GAP-certified chicken by 2024 and has [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025.

While these are both positive steps, the company reports neither progress made nor even steps taken toward keeping its promises.

In 2012, Carnival [promised](#) to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain by 2022. However, that pledge is now absent from its animal welfare [web page](#), indicating Carnival may have abandoned it altogether.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Carnival to: A) reissue a policy to eliminate gestation crates, along with deliverables; and B) disclose what progress it's made toward keeping its cage-free egg promise, including specific next steps it will take.



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Starbucks



RANK:

#44

SCORE:

-14.29%

GRADE:

F

Starbucks has made positive strides on cage-free eggs and plant-based foods but is underperforming in several ways.

In December 2014, Starbucks [promised](#) that it would be “phasing out gestation crates for pigs and cages for chickens.” Then, in October 2015, Starbucks strengthened that commitment: In [this](#) update, Starbucks promised to accomplish its cage-free conversion by 2020. (Though it did not set a deadline for eliminating gestation crates, it did reiterate its goal of a gestation crate-free pork supply chain.)

However, Starbucks then discreetly altered its [animal welfare policy](#) to specify that its cage-free pledge now only applies to *company-owned* locations—which excludes the roughly 40% of its locations that are licensed. Thus, Starbucks no longer qualifies as having an actual cage-free commitment. This is of great concern.

Also concerning is the fact that on its Scorecard submission, Starbucks does not report any percentage of cage-free eggs. Though on its [website](#), it does disclose this: “As of October 2018, 100 percent of shell and liquid eggs in North America company-operated stores are cage-free . . . and have reached 15 percent cage-free egg ingredients in North America.”

That’s certainly promising, though as it’s limited to *company-owned* locations, there is no way of knowing what Starbucks’ overall cage-free percentage is.

And regarding gestation crates: Despite the fact that Starbucks’ [website](#) still says its goal is a “gestation crate-free” supply chain, on its Scorecard submission, the company does not report any percentage of gestation crate-free pork used.

We wonder what steps—if any—the company took toward keeping its promise on that issue.

When it comes to other issues, Starbucks does have a meaningful policy to reform its poultry supply chain and has had a positive influence on the proliferation of plant-based foods (namely through its dairy-free milk options). It also offers a protein-rich bowl with lentils, though it lacks plant-based options for its wraps, sandwiches, protein boxes and other food categories.

In sum, we applaud Starbucks for using 100% cage-free shell and liquid eggs at its company-owned stores. But we’re concerned that the company weakened its commitment to allow eggs from hens locked in cages at its other locations, and that the company does not report any progress toward eliminating gestation crates.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Starbucks to, at a minimum: A) recommit to its original pledge of switching to 100% cage-free eggs at *all* locations; B) make that switch immediately, since the company’s deadline has already arrived; C) set a deadline for keeping its promise of a gestation crate-free supply chain; D) disclose steps it has taken—and will take—toward reaching that goal; and E) add more plant-based proteins to its menu.



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Marriott International Inc.



RANK:

#45

SCORE:

-15.24%

GRADE:

F

Marriott's record is mixed, with the company making *some* progress but repeatedly failing to keep its promises.

In January 2013, Marriott [promised](#) to use 100% cage-free eggs by 2015. But it didn't keep that promise. And in December 2018 (almost six years after making its original commitment and three years after the commitment was supposed to have been met), Marriott extended its goal of a cage-free supply chain by nearly another decade. "Marriott International is committed to sourcing 100% of our eggs (shell, liquid, and egg products) from cage-free sources . . . by the end of 2025," the company [said](#).

It's also important to note that in 2016, before being acquired by Marriott, Starwood Hotels [independently](#) pledged to use 100% cage-free eggs by 2020.

Despite these promises, on its Scorecard submission, Marriott reported that only 51–60% of its eggs are cage-free. Ordinarily, we would view this as a high percentage, though since Marriott was supposed to be at 100% cage-free eggs five years ago (and Starwood is supposed to be 100% cage-free by now), it's quite low.

Marriott's history on gestation crates is even more concerning.

In January 2013, Marriott [announced](#) that it would eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain by 2018. "We are directing our pork suppliers to *discontinue the use of gestation confinement crates in their production processes* for any Marriott International pork specification by 2018," the company wrote.

However, on its Scorecard submission, the company reports *not* having any policy to eliminate gestation crates. It seems that instead of eliminating gestation crates, the company just eliminated its policy. Further, Marriott reports that 0% of its pork is gestation crate-free, with only 1–10% even coming from reduced-crate systems.

On this issue, it seems to us that Marriott made a promise in 2013 that it never took any meaningful steps toward and has since backtracked on entirely.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

In sum, the Humane Society of the United States is greatly concerned with Marriott's animal welfare record. At a minimum, we encourage the company to: A) switch immediately to 100% cage-free eggs, since it's already five years past when the company originally promised to have completed that transition; and B) reissue its policy to eliminate gestation crates, with a new deadline and tangible next steps for reaching that goal.



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Publix

Publix®

RANK:

#45

SCORE:

-15.24%

GRADE:

F

Publix has but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: In 2016, the company promised to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2026—and it has made strides toward that end.

As reported on Publix's [website](#): “Since making our announcement in 2016, we have increased the number of cage free egg options by 27%. Now, over 56% of our total shell egg offerings are cage free. In 2017 we furthered our efforts by lowering the price point of some cage free options . . . [and] we’ve partnered with some of our cage free egg suppliers to offer discounts throughout 2018 in our weekly ad.”

We applaud Publix for this progress and for having such robust disclosure on this issue, though we are concerned about its lack of other meaningful animal welfare policies.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, we encourage Publix to take further steps toward its cage-free goal—such as by ensuring 100% of its private brand eggs are cage-free, eliminating SKUs of eggs from caged hens, adding egg aisle signage flagging which eggs are from caged hens, limiting all promotions around egg products to cage-free varieties, and bringing down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs.



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Delaware North



**Delaware
North**SM

RANK:

#46

SCORE:

-17.14%

GRADE:

F

Delaware North's record is mixed.

In 2016, Delaware North [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2020. But on its website, Delaware North [reports](#) that 76% of its shell eggs and 23% of its liquid eggs are cage-free. This means that roughly one-quarter of its shell eggs and *three-quarters* of its liquid eggs still come from hens confined in cages, despite the company's promise to have a cage-free egg supply by 2020. (Because it did not keep its promise to reach 100% cage-free eggs by 2020, the company did not earn points for that commitment.)

Delaware North has [policies](#) to meaningfully reform its poultry supply chain and eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain. But it reports neither progress made nor steps taken toward those goals.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Delaware North to:

A) immediately switch to 100% cage-free eggs, B) develop and disclose what next steps it will take toward reaching its pork and poultry commitments, and C) develop a program to tangibly increase its plant-based options.



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Meijer Inc.



RANK:

#47

SCORE:

-17.62%

GRADE:

F

Meijer has but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: In 2016, Meijer [promised](#) to only sell cage-free eggs by 2025. Today, in-store signage [indicates](#) that all Meijer brand eggs are now cage-free, which is laudable.

However, the company discloses neither progress made nor other steps it may be taking toward keeping its broader cage-free egg promise. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could also actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, disclose the overall percentage of its eggs that are currently cage-free, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. Meijer does not report taking any of these steps.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States applauds Meijer for changing its private brand eggs to cage-free, although we are concerned with Meijer's overall level of commitment to this issue. At a minimum, we encourage Meijer to: A) disclose progress made toward keeping its 100% cage-free egg promise and, B) take more tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above.



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Southeastern Grocers



RANK:

#47

SCORE:

-17.62%

GRADE:

F

Southeastern Grocers has but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: In 2016, the company [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. But because the commitment is contingent on availability, it does not qualify as an actual cage-free conversion policy. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).) And on its Scorecard submission, Southeastern reports that only 11–20% of its eggs are currently cage-free.

That said, the company *did* convert 100% of its private brand eggs to cage-free in 2017, for which we applaud it. But any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could also take steps such as actively eliminating SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limiting all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, adding egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, and bringing down the cost differential between conventional and cage-free eggs. Southeastern does not report taking any of these steps.

Regarding gestation crates: While Southeastern has no policy prohibiting gestation crates, in 2008, Winn-Dixie (when it was a separate company) [did promise](#) to give buying preference to pork suppliers that eliminate gestation crates and convert 5% of its pork to gestation crate-free over each of the following three years. However, on its Scorecard submission, Southeastern reports that 0% of its pork is gestation crate-free and 0% even comes from supply systems with reduced gestation crate usage.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Southeastern Grocers to: A) strengthen its cage-free promise by removing the availability caveat, B) develop and disclose a plan for reaching its 100% cage-free egg goal, including tangible steps like those listed above, and C) adopt a policy to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply, including deliverables demonstrating how it'll reach that goal.



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Guest Services



RANK:

#48

SCORE:

-19.05%

GRADE:

F

Guest Services made just one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: In April 2015, the company [promised](#) that by June 30 of that same year, it would switch to 100% cage-free eggs.

However, there is no evidence the company kept its promise or that the policy still remains. If the promise was not kept and/or no longer remains, that would be of great concern. It also appears the company has no animal welfare policy on any issue at all, nor efforts to increase its plant-based protein usage.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Guest Services to: A) confirm publicly whether it is using 100% cage-free eggs, or announce a new cage-free egg pledge if the original one is not being met; and B) develop a program to tangibly increase its plant-based options.



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Wendy's



RANK:

#49

SCORE:

-19.52%

GRADE:

F

In 2016, Wendy's [promised](#) to “transition to 100 percent cage-free eggs in its U.S. and Canadian locations by 2020,” stating that the pledge applied to its roughly 300 restaurants serving breakfast.

In its [2019 corporate responsibility report](#), Wendy's stated: “We're on track to achieve that goal for those restaurants—and now that we've announced plans to launch breakfast nationwide in 2020, we are working with our suppliers and our Animal Welfare Council to evaluate next steps and to further research housing enrichments.”

While it is positive that Wendy's is on track to reach its original goal, the company now seems to lack a systemwide cage-free policy, simply stating that it is evaluating “next steps.” Thus, the company did not earn points for having a cage-free policy.

Regarding gestation crates: both Wendy's progress and the intent of its policy are unclear. One thing that is clear is that the company has been addressing this issue for many years.

In 2007, Wendy's [announced](#) that it would give buying preference to suppliers that eliminate gestation crates. Then, in 2012, the company stated unequivocally that it would fully eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain. As its website [read](#) at the time: “Wendy's is working with its U.S. and Canadian Pork Suppliers to *eliminate* the use of sow gestation stalls over time. We believe that confining pigs in gestation stalls is not sustainable over the long-term, and moving away from this practice is the right thing to do.”

In 2014, Wendy's then announced that it would accomplish its gestation crate-free pork goal by 2022. And today, [Wendy's website still says](#), “We maintain our commitment to achieving *gestation stall-free* sourcing” and that the company is, “confident we will continue to make progress toward our

goal of *eliminating* the use of sow gestation stalls in our supply chain by the end of 2022.”

However, what makes things unclear is that Wendy's [2019 corporate responsibility report](#) includes this claim: “We are also on track to source 100 percent of our pork supply from *group housing environments* by the end of 2022.”

Until that report, Wendy's has always been clear that its goal is “eliminating” gestation crates. But that report indicates the goal may now be “group housing.” That's an important distinction, as suppliers using group housing may still confine sows in gestation crates. (See discussion [here](#).) As well, it does not sit comfortably that Wendy's could be on track to actually eliminate gestation crates by 2022, as no major U.S. pork producers have fully eliminated gestation crates—further indicating the company may have shifted its goal.

So, while Wendy's website says one thing, its corporate responsibility report says another.

Regarding other issues: Wendy's lacks a meaningful policy to reform its poultry supply and, unlike competitors, does not offer a plant-based entrée.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Wendy's to: A) announce a timeline for achieving 100% cage-free eggs across all locations, B) clarify that its policy is still to fully eliminate gestation crates, C) disclose progress made toward that end and specific next steps it will take, D) adopt a meaningful policy to reform its poultry supply, and E) add a plant-based entrée to its menu.



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Thomas Cuisine



RANK:

#50

SCORE:

-21.43%

GRADE:

F

Thomas Cuisine seems to have but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: to reform the way chickens are treated in its poultry supply, as detailed [here](#). But it does not disclose any steps taken toward that goal.

And although its website also mentions cage-free eggs, it does not seem to have an actual policy to switch to 100% cage-free eggs.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages the company to: A) adopt a policy to switch to 100% cage-free eggs, including specific steps it will take to reach that goal; and B) and develop a program to tangibly increase its plant-based options.



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Ingles Markets

ingles

RANK:

#51

SCORE:

-22.38%

GRADE:

F

Ingles has just one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: a [promise](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. But the company has disclosed neither progress made nor steps taken toward reaching that goal.

For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, disclose the overall percentage of its eggs that are currently cage-free, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Ingles does not report taking any of these steps.

Ingles also lacks any kind of meaningful policies around eliminating gestation crates for pigs or improving the treatment of chickens in its poultry supply.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Ingles to: A) disclose progress made toward keeping its cage-free egg promise; and B) take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above.



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SpartanNash



RANK:

#52

SCORE:

-22.86%

GRADE:

F

SpartanNash has only one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: In 2016, the company [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. But because the commitment is contingent “on available supply, affordability and customer demand,” it does not qualify as an actual cage-free conversion pledge. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).) And on its Scorecard submission, the company reports that only 11–20% of its eggs are currently cage-free.

Any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could take steps like converting its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminating SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limiting all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, adding egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, and bringing down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between conventional and cage-free eggs. But SpartanNash does not report taking any of these steps.

Regarding gestation crates, SpartanNash’s reporting on its Scorecard is unclear. The company reports that it does *not* have a policy to eliminate gestation crates, but also marked the box indicating it will eliminate gestation crates by the end of 2022. These answers are contradictory. And on the company’s [animal welfare website](#), there is no mention of the issue whatsoever. As well, SpartanNash reports on the Scorecard that 61–70% of its pork is produced without *any* use of gestation crates and that 61–70% is produced with a limited use of gestation crates. As these percentages add up to over 100%, they cannot possibly both be true (and since no major

U.S. pork producers have fully eliminated gestation crates, the first percentage does not sit comfortably). Click [here](#) for further discussion of this issue. For all these reasons, the company did not earn any points in the gestation crate section of the Scorecard.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages SpartanNash to: A) remove the “supply, affordability and customer demand” caveat from its cage-free pledge; B) develop and disclose a plan for reaching its 100% cage-free egg goal, including tangible steps like those listed above; and C) develop an actual policy to eliminate gestation crates, along with deliverables and accurate reporting about where it currently is on that issue.



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Giant Eagle



RANK:

#53

SCORE:

-23.38%

GRADE:

F

Giant Eagle has but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: In 2016, the company [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. But the company has disclosed neither progress made nor steps taken toward keeping that promise.

For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, disclose the overall percentage of its eggs that are currently cage-free, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Giant Eagle does not report taking any of these steps.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Giant Eagle to: A) disclose what progress (if any) it's made toward keeping its cage-free egg promise, and B) take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above.



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Weis Markets



RANK:

#54

SCORE:

-23.8%

GRADE:

F

Weis Markets has just one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: In 2016, the company [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2026.

However, Weis does not disclose any steps it may be taking to meet the goal of a cage-free egg supply chain. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, disclose the overall percentage of its eggs that are currently cage-free, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Weis does not report taking any of these steps.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, we encourage Weis to: A) disclose what progress (if any) it's made toward keeping its cage-free egg promise, and B) take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above.



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Popeye's



RANK:

#55

SCORE:

-23.81%

GRADE:

F

Popeye's has only one meaningful animal welfare policy addressing any of the most pressing concerns: a [commitment](#) (made via its parent company, RBI) to improve the treatment of chickens in its poultry supply chain.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Popeye's to, at a minimum: A) disclose progress made toward implementing its chicken welfare policy, and B) add a plant-based entrée to its menu.



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BJ's Wholesale



RANK:

#56

SCORE:

-24.76%

GRADE:

F

BJ's is underperforming.

BJ's has but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: In 2016, BJ's [promised](#) to switch 100% of its shell eggs and 100% of its liquid eggs to cage-free by 2022 and 2025, respectively.

But the company does not disclose any steps it has taken or could be taking to keep that promise. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, disclose the overall percentage of its eggs that are currently cage-free, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But BJ's does not report taking any of these steps.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages BJ's to, at a minimum, report on its progress keeping its cage-free egg promise and take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above.



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Applebee's



RANK:

#57

SCORE:

-27.14%

GRADE:

F

Applebee's has only one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: a [promise](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. However, Applebee's reports neither progress made nor steps taken toward keeping its promise.

In 2013, Dine Brands (the parent company of Applebee's) [promised](#) to eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain. "By 2020, Applebee's . . . will only serve pork products that are produced without the use of gestation crates," the company pledged.

But there is no evidence that promise was kept; in fact, the policy itself no longer appears on Dine Brands' animal welfare [website](#).

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Applebee's to disclose: A) its progress made toward meeting its cage-free egg goal and, B) progress made toward Dine Brands' previously stated goal of eliminating gestation crates by 2020.



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Bloomin' Brands



RANK:

#57

SCORE:

-27.14%

GRADE:

F

Bloomin' Brands has but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: a [policy](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. But the company has reported neither progress made nor steps taken toward keeping its promise.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Bloomin' to disclose progress made toward meeting its cage-free goal and the steps it will take to reach a 100% cage-free egg supply chain.



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Bojangles' Inc.



RANK:

#57

SCORE:

-27.14%

GRADE:

F

Bojangles' has just one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: a [policy](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. But the company has reported neither progress made nor steps taken toward keeping that promise.

And unlike its competitors, Bojangles' lacks a plant-based entrée.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Bojangles', at a minimum: A) to disclose its progress meeting its cage-free egg pledge and the steps it will take to reach a 100% cage-free egg supply chain, and B) to add a plant-based entrée.



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Brinker International



RANK:

#57

SCORE:

-27.14%

GRADE:

F

Brinker International is underperforming.

Brinker has but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: a [policy](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. But the company has reported neither progress made nor steps taken toward keeping that promise.

Regarding gestation crates: Brinker's original policy, [announced](#) in 2012, promised that it was committed to "phasing out" gestation crates and was working with suppliers to do that. Today, the policy simply [says](#) that Brinker is working to "implement group housing systems" for its pork. This is an important distinction, as many group housing systems also use gestation crates (for the first several weeks of each pig's pregnancy cycles). So, to change the commitment from "phasing out" gestation crates to "implementing group housing" indicates the company has purposely backtracked on its original goal of a gestation crate-free supply chain. This is of great concern. (Click [here](#) for further discussion of this.)

Brinker also lacks a meaningful policy to reform its poultry supply and is underperforming when it comes to serving more plant-based proteins.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

In sum, the Humane Society of the United States is concerned that the company may not be taking steps to keep its cage-free egg promise and seems to have backtracked on its gestation crate policy. At a minimum, we encourage Brinker to: A) disclose its progress made toward reaching its cage-free egg goal and next steps it will take to keep its promise, and B) recommit to fully eliminating gestation crates, along with disclosing any progress made toward its gestation crate commitment and specific next steps it will take on that issue.



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Hilton Worldwide

Hilton

RANK:

#57

SCORE:

-27.14%

GRADE:

F

In 2015, Hilton [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by the end of 2017 and 100% gestation crate-free pork by the end of 2018.

Then, in May 2019, Hilton made a [public disclosure](#) about its progress. That disclosure was problematic in several ways though. First, it seemed to extend the company's goal of reaching a 100% cage-free egg supply chain by nearly a decade (to 2025), which is concerning. Additionally, Hilton reported that 70% of its eggs in the U.S. and U.K. were cage-free.

However: This is concerning because Hilton was supposed to be using 100% cage-free eggs by 2017. Also, it was unclear whether 70% of Hilton's eggs in the U.S. and 70% of its eggs in the U.K. were cage-free, or if the 70% figure was an average across the two regions.

Then, in July 2019 Hilton made [another public disclosure](#) about its cage-free egg progress. However, that disclosure was also unclear. First, it noted that 92% of Hilton's egg "spend" in the U.S. was for cage-free eggs in 2018. But it wasn't clear whether the word "spend" referred to the percentage of *money spent* on eggs that went toward cage-free varieties or the percentage of *actual eggs* that were cage-free. As well, the statement specified that the 92% figure was for eggs "sourced through Hilton Supply Management," though it is unclear whether that represented all eggs in Hilton's system, or just a portion of them.

For these reasons, Hilton did not earn points for the section of the Scorecard related to the percentage of cage-free eggs used.

Additionally, regarding Hilton's commitment to achieve a gestation crate-free supply chain by 2018: neither its May nor July 2019 disclosures even mention that issue. And it does not sit comfortably that Hilton could have kept its promise, as no major U.S. pork providers have fully eliminated gestation crates from their operations. (Click [here](#) for further discussion of this.) And Hilton has not disclosed what steps the company ever took toward keeping this promise, or even if the policy still exists. For these reasons, Hilton did not earn points for having a gestation crate-free pork commitment.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Hilton to: A) immediately switch to 100% cage-free eggs in the U.S., B) reconfirm its goal of a gestation crate-free supply chain, and C) report on progress made and steps taken toward reaching that goal.



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IHOP



RANK:

#57

SCORE:

-27.14%

GRADE:

F

IHOP is underperforming.

Although IHOP [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025, the company has reported neither progress made nor steps taken toward keeping its promise.

And in 2013, IHOP's parent company (Dine Brands) [promised](#) to eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain. "By 2020 . . . IHOP will only serve pork products that are produced without the use of gestation crates," the company pledged. This is reiterated on IHOP's current animal welfare [website](#), which says: "We have committed to a pork supply that does not use gestation crates by 2020."

However, there is no evidence that promise was kept, and IHOP has disclosed neither progress made nor steps taken toward reaching the goal. And it's worth noting that no major U.S. pork suppliers have fully eliminated gestation crates from their operations, so it does not sit comfortably that IHOP could have possibly kept this promise. (Click [here](#) for further discussion.) Yet it still appears on the company's website.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages IHOP to disclose its progress implementing its cage-free egg and gestation crate-free pork commitments.



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Norwegian Cruise Lines



RANK:

#57

SCORE:

-27.14%

GRADE:

F

Norwegian Cruise Lines is underperforming.

In 2016, Norwegian Cruise Lines [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025.

And in 2018, the company [announced](#) a commitment to source 100% of its chicken from operations certified by Global Animal Partnership and utilizing a controlled-atmosphere slaughter system.

However, to date, NCL has provided no disclosure regarding progress made or steps taken toward reaching either goal. It also lacks a gestation crate elimination policy.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages NCL to, at a minimum: A) disclose progress made toward keeping its promises and next steps it will take, and B) adopt a policy to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain.



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Tyson Foods



RANK:

#58

SCORE:

-27.62%

GRADE:

F

Tyson lacks any commitments that meaningfully address even the most serious animal cruelty concerns in the production/procurement of eggs, pork or poultry—which is especially troubling, as Tyson is a major pork and poultry processor. While the company has produced voluminous language indicating otherwise, its animal welfare record is among the worst of any company.

The one area where Tyson is making some progress is around plant-based proteins—and even that’s mixed.

Tyson was an early investor in Beyond Meat. And in 2019, Tyson [announced](#) the launch of its Raised & Rooted product line. That line [includes](#) a “blended” burger made with pea protein *and* beef. It [also includes](#) a nugget product that, while described by Tyson as “plant-based,” actually contains eggs (which are, of course, not plant-based).

MOVING FORWARD . . .

While the Humane Society of the United States applauds Tyson for exploring plant-based proteins, we encourage the company to develop products that are fully plant-based. And we encourage Tyson to adopt policies and practices to meaningfully address the most pressing animal welfare concerns—such as the cage confinement of laying hens, gestation crate confinement of pigs and suffering of broiler chickens.



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Walmart



RANK:

#59

SCORE:

-28.1%

GRADE:

F

Walmart has no commitments that meaningfully address any of the most pressing concerns.

In 2016, Walmart [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. But because the promise is contingent on supply, affordability and demand, it doesn't qualify as an actual pledge to only sell cage-free eggs. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).)

Walmart also [reports](#) that 14% of eggs at Walmart and 18% at Sam's Club are currently cage-free. Even though Walmart lacks a firm pledge to switch to 100% cage-free eggs, given that it's the company's stated goal, these percentages seem low.

Further, Walmart doesn't disclose any steps it may be taking to meet its stated goal of a cage-free supply chain. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, and reduce the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Walmart does not report taking any of these steps.

In fact, Walmart may even be moving backward on the issue in some ways: In 2009, 100% of Walmart's private brand eggs were cage-free, but that [appears](#) to no longer be the case.

It seems as though Walmart set a goal of a cage-free supply chain but hasn't taken substantive steps toward it.

Regarding gestation crates: Walmart [acknowledges](#) that gestation crate confinement is not a "sufficient" housing system and did ask suppliers to implement solutions to gestation crates, but it never adopted an actual policy to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain. Further, we find no evidence that the company's request was ever met, and Walmart does not disclose what percentage of its pork (if any) is produced without gestation crates. Nor does Walmart disclose any other steps ever taken toward getting pigs out of gestation crates in its supply chain. Based on the company's publicly available language, it appears that the company acknowledges gestation crates are insufficient, made a request of suppliers which was not met and has not taken further steps since then.

In sum, the Humane Society of the United States is concerned with Walmart's level of commitment to animal welfare and what seems like a lack of action taken toward meeting its goals.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage Walmart to: A) strengthen its language around cage-free eggs by removing the affordability and demand caveat; B) take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above; C) adopt a meaningful policy to eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain; and D) develop a tangible plan to implement that policy.



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Aldi



RANK:

#60

SCORE:

-28.57%

GRADE:

F

While Aldi has made some strides regarding plant-based proteins—such as with its Earth Grown line of affordable plant-based products—the company lacks meaningful policies addressing any of the most pressing animal welfare concerns.

In 2016, Aldi [promised](#) to only sell cage-free eggs by 2025. Although at that time, that promise was unequivocal, Aldi has since weakened the language: Its [2019 animal welfare report](#) now says the commitment is dependent on supply and demand—which means the company no longer has an actual cage-free pledge. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).)

And since 2016, the company has reported neither progress made nor steps taken toward keeping its promise. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, disclose the overall percentage of its eggs that are currently cage-free, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Aldi does not report taking any of these steps.

Aldi's 2019 animal welfare report also includes a line about gestation crates—but it simply states, “We expect our suppliers to pursue the elimination of crates for pregnant sows in favor of group housing.” As this language is non-committal and lacks a deadline, it does not qualify as a meaningful policy.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States is greatly concerned that Aldi weakened its original cage-free commitment, has not disclosed progress made toward the goal, and is not adequately addressing the issue of gestation crate confinement. We encourage Aldi to, at a minimum: A) reinstitute its original cage-free pledge (which didn't include the supply and demand caveat); B) disclose what progress it's made and steps it's taken since 2016 toward meeting that commitment; C) take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above; and D) adopt an actual policy to eliminate gestation crates that includes deliverables detailing how it will meet that objective.



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Cracker Barrel



RANK:

#60

SCORE:

-28.57%

GRADE:

F

Cracker Barrel is underperforming and seems to have backtracked on several pledges.

In 2016, Cracker Barrel [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2026. Today, the company's animal welfare [statement](#) specifies that Cracker Barrel is converting its "Grade A egg supply" to cage-free, though it is unclear whether this represents all eggs the company uses. Cracker Barrel has disclosed neither progress made nor steps taken toward keeping its promise.

In 2012, Cracker Barrel [promised](#) to eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain. "Cracker Barrel hopes that all of our pork suppliers will share in our vision for a gestation crate-free future, and we're excited to work with them to achieve this goal," the company wrote.

In 2013, the HSUS added a shareholder proposal applauding that pledge to Cracker Barrel's proxy statement for its annual meeting. Cracker Barrel's board of directors endorsed that proposal and [shareholders overwhelmingly voted](#) in favor of it.

However, the company's current [animal welfare policy](#) lacks any kind of gestation crate commitment; there is no evidence the promise was ever kept or even still exists. This is especially troubling considering that Cracker Barrel's shareholders had overwhelmingly applauded the company for its gestation crate elimination policy.

Lastly, unlike its competitors, Cracker Barrel lacks a plant-based entrée.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Cracker Barrel to: A) clarify that its cage-free egg policy still applies to *all* eggs, B) reissue its gestation crate promise, C) disclose progress made toward both those goals and future steps it will take to achieve them, and D) add a plant-based entrée to its menu.



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Golden Corral



RANK:

#60

SCORE:

-28.57%

GRADE:

F

Golden Corral has but one commitment that meaningfully addresses any of the most pressing concerns: In 2016, the company [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2026. But it has disclosed neither progress made nor steps taken toward keeping its promise.

It lacks any policy to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply or meaningfully improve the treatment of chickens in its poultry supply. And unlike its competitors, Golden Corral also lacks a plant-based entrée.

All things considered, Golden Corral is insufficiently addressing the issues that matter most.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, the Humane Society of the United States encourages Golden Corral to: A) disclose progress made toward its cage-free egg goal and steps the company will take to reach a 100% cage-free egg supply chain, and B) add a plant-based entrée to its menu.



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KFC



RANK:

#61

SCORE:

-31.9%

GRADE:

F

KFC has no commitments that meaningfully address the most pressing animal welfare concerns—and to our knowledge, it never has.

The company did earn a minor amount of points for testing plant-based chicken at one location in Georgia.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage KFC to adopt meaningful policies regarding its pork, egg and chicken supply chains and to make plant-based protein a permanent fixture on its menu.



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Little Caesars



RANK:

#62

SCORE:

-32.38%

GRADE:

F

Little Caesars has no meaningful policies on any of the most pressing animal welfare concerns—and to our knowledge, it never has.

The company did earn a minor amount of points for testing plant-based sausage in 2019.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage the company to adopt meaningful policies regarding its pork, egg and chicken supply chains and to make plant-based protein a permanent fixture on its menu.



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Brookshire Grocery



RANK:

#63

SCORE:

-33.33%

GRADE:

F

Brookshire is dramatically underperforming.

Brookshire has no commitments that meaningfully address any of the most pressing concerns.

While Brookshire does have some [language](#) on cage-free eggs, that language does not include any commitment to switch to 100% cage-free eggs. And though the statement indicates the company is generally favorable toward cage-free eggs, Brookshire has disclosed no steps taken to move in that direction.

For example, Brookshire could convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, disclose the overall percentage of its eggs that are currently cage-free, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Brookshire does not report taking any of these steps.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States is concerned that Brookshire lacks any meaningful animal welfare commitments. At a minimum, we encourage Brookshire to adopt a clear policy of switching to 100% cage-free eggs and take tangible steps in service of reaching that goal, such as those listed above.



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Healthcare Services Group



RANK:

#63

SCORE:

-33.33%

GRADE:

F

Healthcare Services Group has no commitments that meaningfully address any of the most pressing concerns—and to our knowledge, it never has.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage HSG to adopt meaningful policies regarding its pork, egg and chicken supply chains and add more plant-based proteins to its menus.



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HEB



RANK:

#63

SCORE:

-33.33%

GRADE:

F

HEB has no commitments that meaningfully address the most pressing concerns.

While HEB does have some [language](#) about shifting to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025, it stipulates that the commitment is based on supply, affordability and demand. Therefore, it does not qualify as an actual policy to only sell cage-free eggs. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).)

HEB does not disclose any steps it may be taking to meet the goal of a cage-free supply chain. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, disclose the overall percentage of its eggs that are currently cage-free, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. HEB does not report taking any of these steps.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, we encourage HEB to disclose progress made toward reaching its 100% cage-free egg goal and take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above.



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Hy-Vee



RANK:

#63

SCORE:

-33.33%

GRADE:

F

Hy-Vee’s only [statement](#) that even addresses any of the most pressing concerns is about cage-free eggs—but it’s unclear, at best.

In one part, the statement indicates Hy-Vee is switching to cage-free eggs: “We will continue to work with our valued suppliers to develop a sustainable and affordable 100% cage-free egg supply” and will have “a solution in place by the end of 2022.”

But in another part, the statement indicates Hy-Vee will *not* switch to 100% cage-free eggs: “While we’ve already had plans to implement only cage-free eggs in our menu offerings at our Hy-Vee Market Grille restaurants by August 2016, we will *not* . . . remove all egg options from our stores.”

So, it is unclear what the policy is.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages Hy-Vee to, at a minimum:

A) adopt a clear pledge to switch to 100% cage-free eggs, and B) disclose what percentage of its eggs currently come from hens not confined in cages.



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Legends Hospitality



LEGENDS

RANK:

#63

SCORE:

-33.33%

GRADE:

F

That we know of, Legends has no meaningful animal welfare policies. While other animal protection organizations report that Legends had a policy to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2017, no evidence of such a policy exists on the company's website.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage Legends to, at a minimum, A) clarify its cage-free egg position publicly (and if it doesn't have a policy, to adopt one); and B) create a meaningful initiative to serve more plant-based proteins.



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Wakefern Food Corp.



RANK:

#63

SCORE:

-33.33%

GRADE:

F

Wakefern has no commitments that meaningfully address any of the most pressing concerns.

While Wakefern does have some [language](#) about shifting to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025, it stipulates that the commitment is based on “available supply.” Therefore, it does not qualify as an actual policy to only sell cage-free eggs. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).)

Additionally, the company does not disclose any steps it is taking to meet the goal of a cage-free supply chain. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, disclose the overall percentage of its eggs that are currently cage-free, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Wakefern does not report taking any of these steps.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

At a minimum, we encourage Wakefern to: A) strengthen its cage-free language by removing its “available supply” caveat; B) disclose progress made toward reaching its 100% cage-free egg goal; and C) take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above.



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Ahold Delhaize



RANK:

#64

SCORE:

-35.71%

GRADE:

F

Ahold Delhaize lacks any commitments that meaningfully address the most pressing concerns.

While the company does have some [language](#) about shifting to cage-free eggs, it stipulates that the goal is based on supply, affordability and demand. Therefore, it does not qualify as an actual commitment to only sell cage-free eggs. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).)

Additionally, the company does not disclose any steps it could take to meet the goal of a cage-free supply chain. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could immediately convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, disclose the overall percentage of its eggs that are currently cage-free, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Ahold Delhaize does not report taking any of these steps.

Regarding pork procurement: Before Ahold and Delhaize merged, each made announcements regarding gestation crates. In 2013, Ahold [announced](#) that it would work with its pork suppliers to transition away from gestation crate confinement. And separately, in 2014, Delhaize made a [similar announcement](#).

Today, Ahold Delhaize does not appear to have a commitment on this issue, as no mention of it appears on the company's animal welfare [website](#).

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States is concerned with Ahold Delhaize's level of commitment to animal welfare. At a minimum, we encourage the company to A) strengthen its cage-free egg commitment by eliminating its caveats about supply and demand; B) disclose progress made toward reaching that goal; C) take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above; and D) pledge to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply and share the steps it will take to reach that goal.



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Smart & Final

Smart & Final.

RANK:

#64

SCORE:

-35.71%

GRADE:

F

Smart & Final lacks any commitments that meaningfully address the most pressing concerns.

While Smart & Final does have some [language](#) sharing its goal of shifting to cage-free eggs, it stipulates that the transition is “subject to availability.” Therefore, it does not qualify as an actual policy to only sell cage-free eggs. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).)

The company has disclosed neither progress made nor steps taken toward reaching its goal of a cage-free supply chain. For example, any grocery company looking to sell only cage-free eggs could convert its private brand eggs to 100% cage-free, actively eliminate SKUs of eggs from caged hens, limit all egg promotions to cage-free SKUs, add egg aisle signage flagging eggs from caged hens, disclose the overall percentage of its eggs that are currently cage-free, and bring down the (unnecessarily high) cost differential between cage-free and conventional eggs. But Smart & Final does not report taking any of these steps.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages the company to: A) strengthen its cage-free pledge by removing its availability caveat; B) disclose progress made toward its cage-free egg goal; and C) take tangible steps in service of reaching a cage-free supply chain, such as those listed above.



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Pizza Hut



RANK:

#65

SCORE:

-36.67%

GRADE:

F

Pizza Hut has no commitments that meaningfully address any of the most pressing concerns—and to our knowledge, it never has.

The company did earn a small number of points for testing plant-based sausage at one location in Arizona.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage the company to adopt meaningful policies regarding its pork, egg and chicken supply chains and to make plant-based protein a permanent fixture on its menu.



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Arby's



RANK:

#66

SCORE:

-38.10%

GRADE:

F

Arby's is dramatically underperforming.

In its [2016 CSR report](#), Arby's promised to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2020. But there is no evidence that promise was kept or still exists. (Thus, Arby's did not earn points for the pledge.)

Similarly, in 2012, Arby's promised to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain. As its website [used to read](#), the company pledged to only work with pork suppliers with policies to eliminate gestation crates. However, there is no evidence Arby's ever met its commitment. And because no major U.S. pork suppliers *have* policies to eliminate gestation crates, it does not sit comfortably that Arby's could have kept its promise. (Click [here](#) for further discussion of this.)

And, unlike its competitors, Arby's lacks a plant-based entrée.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

In short, the Humane Society of the United States is concerned that Arby's may have not kept either of these animal welfare promises. In fact, we wonder if any steps were taken toward meeting them. We encourage the company: A) to disclose progress made toward its animal welfare goals and next steps it will take on those issues, and B) to add a plant-based entrée to its menu.



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Bob Evans Restaurants



RANK:

#66

SCORE:

-38.1%

GRADE:

F

Bob Evans Restaurants is dramatically underperforming.

It's important to note that in 2017, Bob Evans Farms, Inc. split into two separate companies: Bob Evans Restaurants (the restaurant chain) and Bob Evans Farms LLC (the food manufacturer). This analysis relates only to the restaurant company.

Prior to the 2017 split, Bob Evans, Inc. had some meaningful animal welfare policies. For example, in 2013, it [promised](#) to eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain by 2025. And in 2016, it [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025.

There is no evidence that Bob Evans Restaurants is keeping either promise or that it even maintained the policies after the company split.

And, unlike its competitors, Bob Evans lacks a plant-based entrée.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage the company: A) to reissue the above commitments along with steps it will take to implement them, and B) to add a plant-based entrée to its menu.



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Buffalo Wild Wings



RANK:

#66

SCORE:

-38.10%

GRADE:

F

Buffalo Wild Wings has no commitments that meaningfully address any of the most pressing concerns—and to our knowledge, it never has.

The company did earn a minor amount of points on its Scorecard for offering a plant-based burger.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage the company to adopt meaningful policies regarding its pork, egg and chicken supply chains.



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Chick-fil-A



RANK:

#66

SCORE:

-38.10%

GRADE:

F

Chick-fil-A is dramatically underperforming.

In 2016, Chick-fil-A [promised](#) to switch to 100% cage-free eggs by the end of 2026. But the company's [current](#) animal welfare language does not include that commitment, and we were unable to confirm that it still exists (thus, Chick-fil-A did not earn points for the pledge).

This is the only meaningful commitment addressing any of the most pressing animal welfare concerns that Chick-fil-A has ever had, and it is concerning that the company reports no progress made toward meeting it, and that the policy does not appear in its current animal welfare language.

And, unlike its competitors, Chick-fil-A lacks a plant-based entrée.

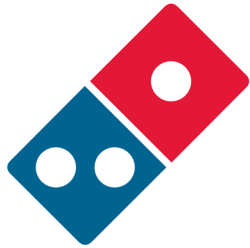
MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage the company to: A) confirm that its cage-free egg pledge still exists and disclose specific steps it will take to keep that promise; B) enact a meaningful broiler chicken animal welfare policy, especially since poultry is its primary menu item; and C) add a plant-based entrée to its menu.



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Domino's Pizza



RANK:

#66

SCORE:

-38.10%

GRADE:

F

Domino's has no commitments that meaningfully address any of the most pressing concerns—and to our knowledge, it never has.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage the company to adopt meaningful policies regarding its pork, egg and chicken supply chains and add plant-based proteins to its menu.



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SuperValu Inc.

SUPERVALU[®]

RANK:

#66

SCORE:

-38.10%

GRADE:

F

Mostly, SuperValu's record is unclear.

It's important to note first that since 2018, SuperValu has been owned by UNFI.

In 2016 (before being acquired by UNFI), SuperValu [promised](#) to convert to 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. However, that commitment is contingent on supply, affordability and demand—therefore, it does not qualify as a meaningful policy to switch to cage-free eggs. (See a discussion of such caveats [here](#).)

In 2012, SuperValu [announced](#) it would work with suppliers on the issue of gestation crates. “We . . . are asking our suppliers to present us with plans for potential alternatives to gestation crates within the next five years, by 2017.” In 2014, it provided an update to say it was asking suppliers for updated progress reports on the issue.

Even though SuperValu has since been acquired by UNFI, the same language about these animal welfare policies still appears on SuperValu's [website](#) and is now described as UNFI pledges.

So, on the one hand, it seems that even after UNFI acquired SuperValu, it maintained the company's animal welfare policies—which is positive. However, there are some troubling nuances.

Despite SuperValu's animal welfare policies now being described as UNFI policies on *SuperValu's* website, on UNFI's [website](#), the company states the following: “With the recent SuperValu acquisition, we are in the process of evaluating our goals on animal welfare. We look forward to sharing the details of our new animal welfare commitments in early 2020.”

So, it is unclear which animal welfare policies remain in place and which do not, as SuperValu's website says one thing and UNFI's says another.

Additionally, neither SuperValu nor UNFI provide any updates on the company's progress eliminating gestation crates or eggs from caged hens. And the update UNFI says is forthcoming in early 2020 was not published at the time this report was written.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

The Humane Society of the United States encourages SuperValu/UNFI to clarify what its animal welfare policies are (and aren't) and to provide specific updates regarding what progress (if any) has been made on cage-free eggs and gestation crate-free pork. We also encourage the company to adopt a firm cage-free egg commitment (that doesn't include supply, affordability and demand caveats) and adopt a firm policy of eliminating gestation crates—with action steps it'll take to reach those goals.



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Waffle House

W A F F L E
H O U S E

RANK:

#66

SCORE:

-38.10%

GRADE:

F

Waffle House has no commitments that meaningfully address any of the most pressing concerns—and to our knowledge, it never has.

And unlike its competitors, Waffle House also does not offer a plant-based entrée.

MOVING FORWARD . . .

We encourage the company to: A) adopt meaningful policies regarding its pork, egg and chicken supply chains; and B) add a plant-based entrée to its menu.



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