

BUILDING A MORE
HUMANE
FOOD SYSTEM

— THROUGH THE —

2023 FARM BILL



ASPCA
WE ARE THEIR VOICE®



The Farm Bill is one of the best opportunities to leverage federal legislation to improve the lives of the **almost 10 billion animals raised for food** in the United States each year.

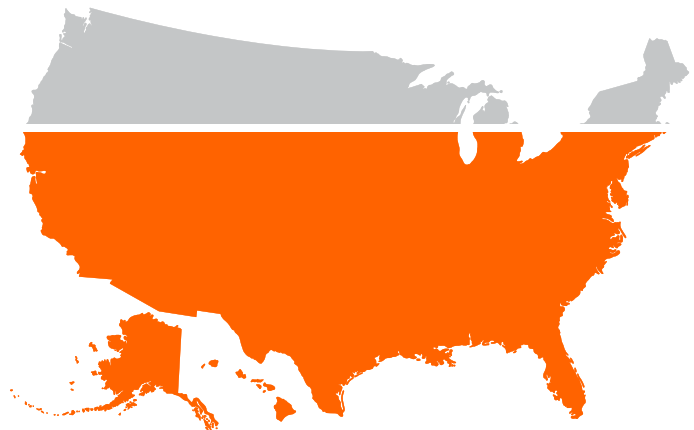




Renewed every five years and allocating hundreds of billions of dollars to the agriculture industry, the Farm Bill has the power to shape what farming looks like in this country.

Unfortunately, industrial agriculture interests have used their outsized influence to ensure that Farm Bill programs maintain the status quo—prioritizing record profits for multinational agribusinesses instead of supporting critical efforts to build a more humane and sustainable food system. It doesn't have to be this way—it's time to pass a Farm Bill that reflects Americans' concerns and compassion for animals and the environment. The vast majority (89%) of people are concerned about industrial animal agriculture and want to support farmers raising animals in more humane systems.[1] Public dollars should not support a cruel, polluting factory farm system that harms animals, the environment, workers, farmers, and rural communities alike.

We urge Congress to pass a Farm Bill that instead holds industrial animal agriculture companies accountable, invests in the transition to and growth of higher-welfare farming, and creates a more transparent marketplace where consumers can recognize and purchase food that aligns with their values.



[1] https://www.asPCA.org/sites/default/files/impact_on_public_attitudes_toward_industrial_animal_agriculture-final-111120.pdf



1. INCREASE CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY & ADDRESS FOOD SYSTEM CONSOLIDATION

A handful of industrial animal agriculture corporations control the vast majority of livestock and poultry production in this country and have enormous profits to show for it. However, those profits come at the expense of animal welfare, the environment, workers, farmers, and rural communities, all of which are harmed by the factory farm model. The 2023 Farm Bill must hold corporations accountable for their actions and demand better for animals and people, including:

- Requiring corporate integrators to register their operations, submit disaster mitigation plans, and **pay to cover the costs of preparing for and responding to disaster events**
- Creating **new animal welfare standards for the transport of livestock and poultry**, including reducing the amount of time animals can be transported without rest
- **Strengthening the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA)** by removing the poultry exemption and creating new protections for downed pigs at slaughter
- **Restricting the use of the cruelest methods of depopulation**, including ventilation shutdown, and requiring mandatory reporting of all depopulation carried out by major industrial operators
- **Ending the use of dangerous slaughter programs**, including extreme line-speeds and self-inspections
- Creating transparency and allowing producers to participate in checkoff programs on a **voluntary, rather than mandatory, basis**

Banner images: [@aspca, Instagram 2022 Earth Day Post](#)



2. END GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN THE FACTORY FARM MODEL



85% of farmers and their families support a complete ban on new industrial animal agriculture facilities.[2]

For decades, the Farm Bill has been used as a tool to prop up the harmful factory farm system, providing billions of dollars in subsidies and funding that directly benefits industrial agriculture at the expense of animals, farmers, workers, and the environment. The 2023 Farm Bill must begin the critical work of shifting federal dollars toward a more humane, fair, and resilient food system, including:

- Placing a **moratorium** on new and expanding large, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs)
- Creating a **mandatory disaster planning and registration program** for high-risk CAFOs
- **Prohibiting any federal funding for reimbursement payments** to producers using cruel depopulation methods
- **Prohibiting climate-smart or conservation programs** such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program from using federal funding to support factory farm gas or CAFOs

[2] https://www.asPCA.org/sites/default/files/impact_on_public_attitudes_toward_industrial_animal_agriculture-final-111120.pdf



3. INVEST IN FARMERS BUILDING A MORE HUMANE SYSTEM



74% think the government should be supporting farmers transitioning to more humane practices,[3]

yet only a fraction of total spending is made available for higher-welfare and transitioning farmers. The support provided to

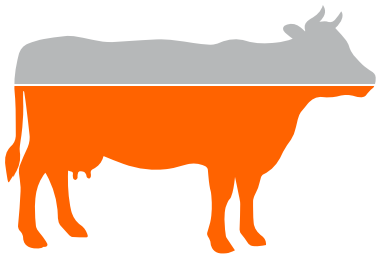
industrial farming by the government and federal agencies is a huge part of how this model has become so prolific in our agricultural landscape. The 2023 Farm Bill should place that same level of investment in higher-welfare, more resilient farming methods, including:

- Providing funding for farmers looking to **transition out of CAFOs** to higher-welfare systems
- Providing funding for farmers looking to **expand the capacity of existing higher-welfare and welfare-certified farms**
- **Increasing funding for local and regional food infrastructure**, including the Local Agriculture Market Program and Rural Development
- Providing funding to **help plants adopt more humane slaughter technology**, including Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS), and employ more federal inspectors to increase the effectiveness of Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA) enforcement

[3] https://www.asPCA.org/sites/default/files/impact_on_public_attitudes_toward_industrial_animal_agriculture-final-111120.pdf



4. ENSURE STRONG GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT OF INDUSTRIAL ANIMAL AGRICULTURE



Consumers want common sense label regulations and

75% think the government should be enforcing clear definitions for food labels related to animal welfare.[4]

Much of the reason that industrial animal agriculture can carry on its inhumane, harmful system is because of how hard it works to keep the public in the dark about what is actually happening on factory farms. If consumers truly knew what practices they were supporting, fewer of them would choose to purchase factory-farmed products. However, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) currently allows misleading labels to hide factory farmed products in plain sight behind wholly unregulated, deceptive terms like “natural” and “humanely raised.” The 2023 Farm Bill should increase transparency around animal agriculture and food labels, including:

- Requiring FSIS to use meaningful third-party certification to **verify the use of holistic animal welfare and raising claims** like “humanely raised” and “naturally raised”
- Requiring FSIS to **publish the documentation submitted by companies/producers** to support the use of animal welfare and raising claims on their meat and poultry products, providing the opportunity for consumers to be fully informed when making purchasing decisions



[4] https://www.asPCA.org/sites/default/files/impact_on_public_attitudes_toward_industrial_animal_agriculture-final-111120.pdf



RELEVANT LEGISLATION

S.5138 (Sen. Booker — D-NJ):

Industrial Agriculture Accountability Act

H.R. 4421 (Rep. Khanna — D-CA-17) / S. 2332 (Sen. Booker — D-NJ):

The Farm System Reform Act

H.R. 9552 (Rep. Jayapal — D-WA-07):

Transparency in Depopulation Act

S.2861 (Sen. Lee — R-UT) / H.R. 4291 (Rep. Titus — D-NV-1):

Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act of 2021

S.2860 (Sen. Lee — R-UT):

Voluntary Checkoff Program Participation Act