



## *Understanding the Basics of* **Farm Animal Handling & Confinement Laws** Legislative & Regulatory Actions by State

### Arizona

**11.7.06** – Arizona voters [passed](#) Proposition 204 relating to cruel and inhumane confinement of animals (codified at Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 13-2910.07 to 13-2910.08). Proposition 204 prohibits the confinement of sows or calves raised for veal “on a farm, for all or the majority of any day, in a manner that prevents such animal from: 1. Lying down and fully extending his or her limbs; or 2. Turning around freely.” One who violates this regulation will be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**4.5.22** – The State of Arizona, Governor’s Regulatory Review Council, [approved](#) an Arizona Department of Agriculture regulation amending [R3-2-901-909](#), which phases in cage-free eggs according to the following sequence: (1) from October 1, 2022, until December 31, 2024, all egg-laying hens in the state and all eggs sold in the state must come from laying hens raised according to the United Egg Producer (UEP) Animal Husbandry Guidelines and must be housed in a cage with at least one square foot of usable floor space per laying hen; (2) from January 1, 2025, forward, all laying hens in the state must be housed in a cage-free manner, and all eggs sold in the state must come from hens housed in a cage-free manner.

### California

**6.22.18** – The California Secretary of State, Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. [announced](#) the eligibility of a farm animal confinement initiative to be added to the November 6, 2018, ballot. The initiative, Prevention of Cruelty to Farm Animals Act, aimed to phase out “extreme methods” of farm animal confinement to decrease the risk of foodborne illness. The initiative establishes minimum space requirements for veal calves, breeding pigs, and egg-laying hens. To qualify for the ballot, the initiative acquired over 402,468 valid signatures.

**11.6.18** – California voters [passed](#) Proposition 12 (Cal. Health & Safety Code §§ 25990 to 25994) which establishes minimum space requirements farmers must provide for confined egg-laying hens, breeding pigs, and calves raised for veal. Additionally, under Proposition 12, no California business is permitted to sell eggs, pork, or veal that comes from animals confined in ways not meeting the new requirements. Previously, in 2008, California [passed](#) Proposition 2 which mandated that confined egg-laying hens, breeding pigs, and calves raised for veal must be able to “turn around freely, lie down, stand up, and fully extend their limbs.” Proposition 2 became effective on January 1, 2015. Proposition 12 now places confinement restrictions based on a minimum number of square feet and on sales.

### Colorado

**7.1.20** – Colorado Governor Jared Polis [signed into law](#) HB20-1343, known as “Egg-Laying Hen Confinement Standards.” The new law requires that, by January 1, 2023, chickens and other commercially producing egg-laying fowl enclosures must be no smaller than “one square foot of usable floor space per egg-laying hen” and, by January 1, 2025, must be in a statutorily defined “cage-free housing system.” The legislation provides several exceptions, including farms with fewer than 3,000 egg-laying hens. All eggs sold in-state must be from compliant sources regardless of where produced.

**1.1.23** – The Colorado statute formerly known as [HB20-1343](#), titled “Concerning Confinement Standards for Egg-laying Hens Whose Eggs are Sold” became effective.

### Florida



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**11.5.02** – Florida voters adopted Amendment 10—also known as the Florida Animal Cruelty Amendment—prohibiting the use of gestation crates for pregnant sows ([Fl. Const. Art. 10 § 21](#)). The Amendment reads, “[it] shall be unlawful for any person to confine a pig during pregnancy in an enclosure, or to tether a pig during pregnancy, on a farm in such a way that she is prevented from turning around freely.”

#### Massachusetts

**11.8.16** – Massachusetts voters [passed](#) Question 3, the Massachusetts Size Requirements for Farm Animal Containment—also known as Chapter 333, an Act to Prevent Cruelty to Farm Animals. The law makes it unlawful to sell within the state of Massachusetts a shell egg, whole veal meat and whole pork meat that come from an animal “confined in a cruel manner.” The law describes the terms “confined in a cruel manner” as “confined so as to prevent a covered animal from lying down, standing up, fully extending the animal’s limbs, or turning around freely.” The law was set to become effective on January 1, 2022.

**12.22.21** – Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker [signed into law](#) S.2603, which amends [2016 Mass. Acts Ch. 333](#), titled “An Act to Prevent Cruelty to Farm Animals.” Section 6 of the bill revises the existing statutes—which became effective January 1, 2022, and established cage-free egg and animal confinement standards—to delay the implementation of the confinement standards for pork products until August 15, 2022. The bill also adds a definition of “cage-free housing system” and establishes that an egg-laying hen is “confined in a cruel manner” if the bird is kept in a structure other than a cage-free system with less than one square foot of floor space in a multi-tiered housing system, or less than one and a half square foot of space in a single-level housing system. The bill further aligns Massachusetts law with California’s Proposition 12, which also became effective January 1, 2022.

#### Michigan

**10.12.09** – Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm [signed into law](#) HB 5127, adding section 46 to the Michigan’s Animal Industry Act which, among other things, prohibits egg-laying hens from farms with greater than 3,000 egg-laying hens from being confined for the majority of any day without the ability to “fully spreading both wings without touching other hens on the side of an enclosure and having access to at least one square foot of usable space per hen.” The law was to become effective in 2020.

**12.21.18** – Michigan Governor Rick Snyder [vetoed](#) SB 660, which would have attached animal confinement restrictions to the sale of shell eggs. Under the proposed law, a business would have been prohibited from knowingly selling shell eggs produced from hens not housed in compliance with Michigan’s Animal Industry Act (AIA). Accordingly, AIA prohibits the confinement of veal calves, gestating sow, and egg-laying hens “in a way that prevents them from lying down, standing up, fully extending their limbs, or turning around freely.”

**11.21.19** – Michigan Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist, acting in place of Governor Gretchen Whitmer, [signed into law](#) HB 0174—now known as Act 132—extending from 2020 to 2025 the effective date of the Michigan’s so-called “cage-free egg” law. All eggs produced, sold, or imported into Michigan must be produced under compliant conditions by the effective date. Michigan ranks in the top ten nationally in shell egg production.

#### Nevada

**6.4.21** – Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak [signed into law](#) AB399, which prohibits after July 1, 2022, the sale and production of eggs from birds confined in an enclosure with “less than 1 square foot of usable floor space per egg-



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laying hen.” After January 1, 2024, the legislation requires egg-laying hens to be kept in a “cage-free housing system.” The law does not apply to producers with 3,000 or fewer egg-laying hens. Nevada joins eight other states with similar “cage-free egg” laws and regulations.

#### Oregon

**6.28.07** – Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski [signed into law](#) SB 694, implementing a six-year phase-out of the use of gestation crates for breeding pigs ([ORS 600.150](#)).

**8.9.19** – Oregon Governor Kate Brown [signed into law](#) SB 1019, requiring that, by 2024, commercial operations with egg-laying hen flocks greater than 3,000 must house the flocks in “cage-free housing systems.” Under the legislation, the egg-laying hens must have the ability to roam and have access to “scratch areas, perches, nest boxes and dust bathing areas.” Additionally, the legislation states that individuals are not permitted to buy, sell, transport in intrastate commerce, or receive eggs that are not produced in compliance with Oregon’s egg-laying hen housing requirements.

#### Rhode Island

**6.19.12** – Rhode Island Governor [signed into law](#) SB 2191, which prohibits the confinement of animals “in a manner that prevents such animal from turning around freely, lying down, standing up, or fully extending the animal’s limbs.”

**7.10.18** – Rhode Island [adopted](#) HB 7456 without the governor’s signature. The law modified the definition of what constitutes unlawful confinement of any covered animal and became effective on July 1, 2026.

#### Utah

**3.17.21** – Utah Governor Spencer Cox [signed into law](#) SB 147, titled “Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens.” The new law mandates that, beginning January 1, 2025, all egg-laying hens must be kept in either a cage-free housing system or in an enclosure with 1.0-1.5 square feet of usable floor space, as required by the [United Egg Producers’ Animal Husbandry Guidelines for U.S. Egg-Laying Flocks: Guidelines for Cage-Free Housing, 2017 Edition](#). The law exempts farms with less than 3,000 egg-laying hens and provides exceptions during veterinary care, transportation, fair exhibition, slaughters, and temporary animal husbandry of egg-laying hens, and for hens used in medical research. The legislation authorizes the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) to impose a \$100 fine for each written notice of violation and to issue a temporary restraining order or permanent injunction against producers who fail to resolve violations.

#### Washington

**5.7.19** – Washington Governor Jay Inslee [signed into law](#) HB 2049 mandating that, by the end of 2023, eggs produced and/or sold in the state must come from cage-free hens. According to the legislation, by January 1, 2024, egg-laying hens may only be housed in “cage-free housing systems.” Such systems must permit an egg-laying hen the ability to roam unrestricted (except for external walls) and be provided “enrichments” such as scratching areas, perches, nesting boxes, and dust bathing areas. Additionally, eggs will not be permitted to be bought, sold, or transported in Washington unless the eggs are produced in compliance with the state’s cage-free standards.