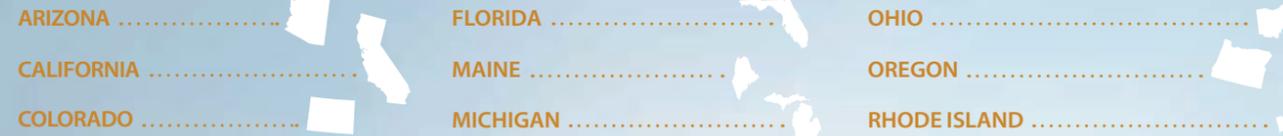


## STATES THAT HAVE PASSED CRATE BANS



**“HSUS won’t go away; in fact it has gained strength. It has the formula down and will replicate its strategies within the pork sector as well as across the agriculture sector.”**  
 — PORK MAGAZINE EDITORIAL, NOV. 7, 2012

**60%**  
 OF SOWS CAN'T FIT INTO CONVENTIONAL GESTATION STALLS WITHOUT BEING COMPRESSED AGAINST THE SIDES.<sup>1</sup>

# CHANGING LIVES CRATE BY CRATE

The shift came fast. In 2012, one company after another pledged to stop using pork from farms that lock breeding sows in gestation crates—so small the animals cannot turn around. In December, Paul Shapiro, HSUS vice president for farm animal protection, looked back, happily astonished. “Few would have predicted such a change in such a short amount of time.” For decades, factory farms crated most pregnant sows. Frustrated pigs gnawed their mouths bloody on metal bars. Sows went lame for lack of exercise. Then The HSUS began winning statewide crate

bans, prodding companies to change, and conducting undercover investigations, including those released in 2012 of Tyson supplier Wyoming Premium Farms and of Oklahoma operations owned by two of the largest U.S. producers. Now the industry is poised to adopt systems that let sows move freely and socialize. Retail prices will rise little if at all. The debate is over, says *Meatingplace* magazine: “HSUS won the argument.”

## CRATES VERSUS GROUP HOUSING

### GESTATION CRATE

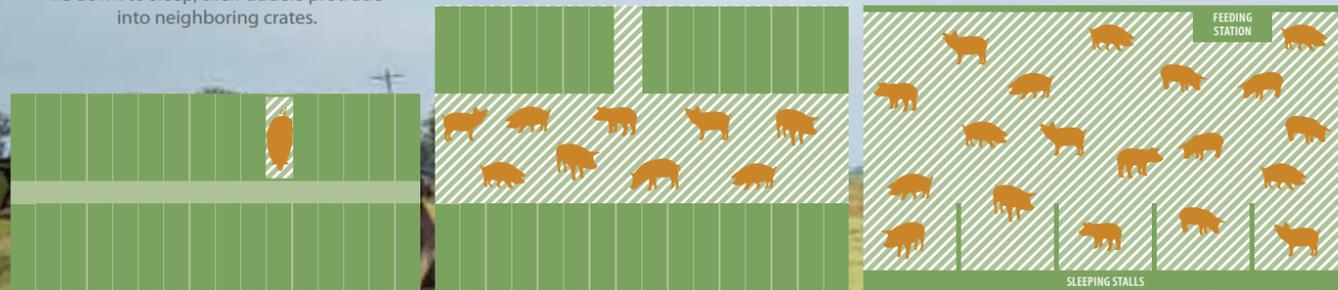
For virtually their entire lives, breeding sows live in crates averaging about 7 feet long by 2 feet wide. They're so tight, when pigs lie down to sleep, their udders protrude into neighboring crates.

### FREE STALL ACCESS

Sows use stalls to feed, rest, or avoid other pigs but can open the doors to walk in small common areas.

### ELECTRONIC SOW FEEDING

Pigs live in a group pen without crates. They eat by passing through a feeding station, where a computer reads their ear tags and dispenses food.



**Pigs on pasture:** Sows at Thompson Farms in Georgia lead natural, unconfined lives, roaming fields and rooting for food. Such systems represent the high end of gestation crate alternatives, with most producers switching to indoor housing that still allows more space and freedom.

SOURCES: 1: “THE PHYSICAL SIZE OF GESTATING SOWS,” *JOURNAL OF ANIMAL SCIENCE*, 2004. 2: “U.S. RESIDENT SUPPORT FOR GESTATION CRATE BANS,” *MSU PORK QUARTERLY*, 2008.

**“How would you like to spend the rest of your life in a space as small as a bus seat?”**

That was the question posed by HSUS messages on city buses in Des Moines, capital of the largest pork-producing state, and Washington, D.C., in 2012. The ads covered buses in images of sows confined in gestation crates, challenging the National Pork Producers Council’s support of this extreme confinement.

**69% OF RESPONDENTS IN A NATIONAL SURVEY SUPPORT OUTLAWING GESTATION CRATES<sup>2</sup>**



**“You’d have to have rocks in your head to build a new sow barn with gestating sow stalls.”**

—THE WESTERN PRODUCER, JUNE 1, 2012

## HOW WE’RE REMAKING THE MARKETPLACE

Before 2012, a handful of companies had pledged to switch from gestation-crate pork. When The HSUS stepped up its efforts last year, 40 announced they would phase out crates from their supply chains.



## COMPANIES THAT ARE SWITCHING



### Smithfield

The world’s largest pork producer and processor and rival Hormel have committed to phasing out crates from company-owned farms by 2017. More than half of Cargill’s facilities are already crate-free.

### SAFEMAY

In 2012, the company and four others among the six biggest grocery stores (all but Wal-Mart) announced they would make the change.

### McDonald’s

One of the country’s top pork buyers, the fast food chain purchases meat from a quarter of all pigs raised in the U.S.