

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)



EU and US Farm Animal Welfare Legislation

The present briefing provides an overview of the differences between the farm animal legislation that has been adopted by the European Union and the laws passed at either a federal or state level in the United States. In most instances, no detail is provided on specific EU Member State legislation, but it is noted when Member States are permitted to implement stricter provisions than the minimum standards established by EU law.

EUROPEAN UNION

UNITED STATES

General (farm) animal welfare legislation

Council Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

- Applies to all animals (including fish, reptiles and amphibians) reared or kept for production of food, wool, skin or fur.
- States that animals should not be bred or fed in ways that may cause suffering.
- Animals must be looked after by sufficient number of staff with appropriate professional skills, knowledge and competence
- Animals must be inspected at least once a day.
 Injured or sick animals require immediate treatment and isolation if necessary.
- Establishes principle of freedom of movement. All animals, even when tethered, chained or confined, must have sufficient space to move without unnecessary suffering or injury.
- Sets down basic criteria for buildings, accommodation and living environment conditions. Animals must not be kept in permanent darkness or exposed constantly to artificial lighting.
- Establishes criteria for inspection of automatic or mechanical equipment, such as ventilation systems.
- Requires that animals be fed a wholesome and appropriate diet in sufficient quantities at regular intervals. All other substances prohibited unless for therapeutic or prophylactic reasons or zootechnical treatment
- Mutilations defers to national rules
- Stipulates that rearing methods causing suffering or injury are prohibited unless impact minimal, brief or expressly allowed by national authorities. No animal to be kept on a farm if harmful to its health and welfare.
- Establishes criteria for inspection, reporting

1966 Animal Welfare Act (AWA)

- The AWA is, in the primary federal law that seeks to regulate who may possess or sell certain animals and the living conditions under which the animals must be kept.
- AWA's definition of "animal" specifically excludes "farm animals, such as, but not limited to livestock or poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber." Therefore AWA provisions do not apply to farm animals.

U.S. State Animal Cruelty Laws

- All 50 states have laws against animal cruelty but many have agriculture exceptions, whereby they do not apply to farm animals or they exempt customary agriculture practices that effectively cover almost everything that occurs on a farm.
- In cases where the state animal cruelty laws do not have such exceptions, enforcement can be weak with respect to farm animals.

requirements and evaluation.

Pigs

Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs

- Legislation adopted in 2001. Fully entered into force on 1st January 2013.
- Applies to all categories of pigs kept for breeding, rearing and fattening.
- With exception of farrowing sows and boars, all animals must be kept in stable groups (except before and during week after weaning).
- Farmers must implement measures to fulfil basic needs and prevent aggression in group. This includes permanent access to sufficient enrichment materials to enable investigation and manipulation activities.
- Aggressive and injured animals to be kept away from group.
- Tethering of sows prohibited, and use of sow stalls (gestation crates) after first 4 weeks of pregnancy.
- Animals must be treated for external and internal parasites when necessary
- Sows and gilts may be isolated a week before farrowing with an unobstructed area for natural or assisted farrowing. Farrowing pens must have systems to protect piglets.
- Veterinarians or trained personnel are authorised to: reduce piglets' canine teeth, dock tails, castrate males and nose-ring pigs in outdoor systems.
- Both tail-docking and teeth cutting may not be done routinely, but restricted to when there is evidence of injury to sows' teats or other pigs' ears/tails. Other preventative measures to reduce biting behaviour must be taken first.
- Establishes feeding standards, including permanent access to water.
- Sets down standards on flooring according to weight of animal. Floors must not be slippery to prevent injury to animals
- Establishes noise and light intensity limits
- Establishes the inspection regime
- Member States may apply stricter provisions

There is no federal legislation with respect to pig welfare. However, nine U.S. states no longer allow or are phasing out the use of gestation crates.

- Florida Florida Constitution, Article IX, Section 21: "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." (effective November 2008)
- Arizona Title 13, Section 2910.07: "[A] person shall not tether or confine any pig during pregnancy or any calf 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." (effective December 2012)
- Oregon Senate Bill 694: "A person commits the offense of restrictive confinement of a pregnant pig if the person confines a pregnant pig for more than 12 hours during any 24-hour period in a manner that prevents the pregnant pig from: a) Lying down and fully extending its limbs; or (b) Turning around freely." (effective January 1, 2012)
- Colorado Senate Bill 08-201, Article 50.5-102: "A gestating sow shall be kept in a manner that allows the sow to stand up, lie down, and turn around without touching the sides of its enclosure until no earlier than twelve days prior to the expected date of farrowing. At that time, a gestating sow may be kept in a farrowing unit." (effective January 2018)
- California Health and Safety Code Section 25990: "[A] person shall not tether or confine any covered animal, on a farm, for all or the majority of any day, in a manner that prevents such animal from: (a) Lying down, standing up, and fully extending his or her limbs; and (b) Turning around freely." (effective January 2015)
- Maine Title 7, Part 9, Chapter 739: "A person may not tether or confine a covered animal for all or the majority of a day in a manner that prevents the animal from: A. Lying down, standing up and fully extending the animal's limbs; and B. Turning around freely." (effective January 2011)
- Michigan Act 466 of 1988, Section 287.746:
 "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a farm owner or operator shall not tether or confine any covered animal on a farm for all or

- the majority of any day, in a manner that prevents such animal from doing any of the following: (a) Lying down, standing up, or fully extending its limbs. (b) Turning around freely." (effective October 2019)
- Ohio Ohio Administrative Code, Chapter 901, Section 12: "Gestation stalls can be used in all existing facilities until December 31, 2025; after which breeding/gestation stalls can only be used post weaning for a period of time that seeks to maximize embryonic welfare and allows for the confirmation of pregnancy" (effective December 2025)
- Rhode Island Title 4, Chapter 4-1.1: "[A] person is guilty of unlawful confinement of a sow or calf if the person is a farm owner or operator who knowingly tethers or confines any sow or calf in a manner that prevents such animal from turning around freely, lying down, standing up, or fully extending the animal's limbs." (effective June 2013)

Laying hens

Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens

- Bans the use of un-enriched battery cages. Fully entered into force on 1st January 2012.
- For alternative systems establishes permitted feeding and drinking systems giving space for each hen
- All alternative systems must have one nest space for every 7 hens, adequate perches (15cm per hen) and littered area (minimum 250 cm² per hen)
- Floors must support forward-facing claws of each foot
- Establishes special provisions for systems for free-range hens and access to outside runs.
- All enriched cages must ensure each hen has 750 cm², a nest, sufficient litter to peck and scratch, appropriate perches of at least 15 cm.
 Feeding troughs that can be used without restriction, appropriate drinking systems.
 Cages must be fitted with suitable clawshortening devices.
- Establishes also a minimum aisle width (90 cm) and space between cages & between floor and bottom tier (minimum 35 cm);
- Legislation does not apply to establishments with fewer than 350 laying hens or those rearing breeding animals
- Establishes system for traceability of eggs
- Establishes inspection regime
- Member States may apply stronger provisions

Four US states ban or restrict the use of battery cages:

- California Health And Safety Code Section 25990-25994: "a person shall not tether or confine any covered animal, on a farm, for all or the majority of any day, in a manner that prevents such animal from: (a) Lying down, standing up, and fully extending his or her limbs; and (b) Turning around freely" (effective January 2015)
- Michigan Act 466 of 1988, Section 287.746: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a farm owner or operator shall not tether or confine any covered animal on a farm for all or the majority of any day, in a manner that prevents such animal from doing any of the following: (a) Lying down, standing up, or fully extending its limbs. (b) Turning around freely." (effective October 2019)
- Oregon Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 632.840: "[E]nclosures constructed or otherwise acquired on or after January 1, 2012, meet, or be convertible into enclosures that meet, standards equivalent to the requirements for certification of enriched colony facility systems established in the American Humane Association's farm animal welfare certification program." (effective January 2012)
- Washington Title 69, Chapter 69.25, Section 69.25.107: "All commercial egg layer operations required under RCW 69.25.065 to meet the American humane association facility

system plan, or an equivalent to the plan, must also ensure that all hens in the operation are provided with: (a) No less than one hundred sixteen and three-tenths square inches of space per hen; and (b) Access to areas for nesting, scratching, and perching." (effective August 2012)

It is noted that <u>Ohio</u> has introduced a moratorium on the construction of new battery cage facilities.

One state bans the sale of eggs from battery cage facilities:

California – Assembly Bill No. 1437: "It is the intent of the Legislature to protect California consumers from the deleterious, health, safety, and welfare effects of the sale and consumption of eggs derived from egg-laying hens that are exposed to significant stress and may result in increased exposure to disease pathogens including salmonella. 25996. Commencing January 1, 2015, a shelled egg may not be sold or contracted for sale for human consumption in California if it is the product of an egg-laying hen that was confined on a farm or place that is not in compliance with animal care standards set forth in Chapter 13.8 legislation passed in 2010." (effective January 2015)

Chickens kept for meat production

Council Directive 2007/43/EC laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production

- All chickens must have adequate access to a litter tray, drinking channel and food,
- Buildings must have adequate lighting and ventilation, and must be inspected twice daily.
- Seriously injured chickens or those in poor health must be immediately treated or culled.
- Non-therapeutic surgical procedures prohibited, but beak trimming and castration permitted in certain cases.
- Establishes requirements for detailed recordkeeping, including mortality.
- Competent authorities must follow-up and take appropriate action if post-mortem inspections indicate poor welfare on farm.
- Legislation does not apply to holdings with fewer than 500 chickens or those housing only

There is no US legislation with regard to the welfare of chickens kept for meat production.

- breeding stock
- Sets maximum stocking densities (not exceeding 33 kg/m²) to avoid overcrowding.
 High density (max. 42 kg/m²) permitted if additional criteria are met.
- All holdings must be equipped with ventilation, heating and cooling systems.
- Staff must receive training on stocking densities, animal physiology, handling chickens and providing emergency care, plus preventative biosecurity.

Calves kept for veal production

<u>Council Directive 2008/119/EC laying down</u> <u>minimum standards for the protection of calves</u>

- Legislation bans the use of veal crates.
- Construction on pens must allow calves to lie down, rest, stand up and groom itself without difficulty
- Individual pens prohibited from 8 weeks of age, except in the event of illness.
- Before 8 weeks, individual pens must be constructed to allow visual and tactile contact between animals
- Stipulates space requirements for group pens relative to the weight of animals
- Calves must not be tethered (aside from bottle feeding for no longer than an hour) or muzzled
- Establishes flooring and bedding requirements.
- Calves must receive colostrum within 6 hours of birth and veterinary treatment given without delay in event of injury or illness
- Calves must be fed at least 2 times a day at same time as rest of group
- Diet must contain sufficient iron and be adapted to animal's age, weight, behaviour and psychological needs. Access to fresh water for all calves over 2 weeks old.
- Animals must be inspected at least 2 times a day and mechanical equipment once a day.
 Requirements also for back-up and alarm systems for artificial ventilation systems.
- Calves must be kept in conditions with natural or artificial light equivalent to period of natural light.
- Does not apply to calves kept with cow for suckling, or holdings with fewer than 6 calves.
- Establishes inspection requirements
- Imported calves from non-EU countries must be raised under equivalent conditions.
- Member States may apply stricter provisions.

Eight US states ban the use of veal crates:

- Arizona Title 13, Section 2910.07: "[A] person shall not tether or confine any pig during pregnancy or any calf 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." (effective December 2012)
- Colorado Senate Bill 08-201, Article 35-50.5-102: "A calf raised for veal shall be kept in a manner that allows the calf to stand up, lie down, and turn around without touching the sides of its enclosure." (effective January 2012)
- California Health and Safety Code Section 25990: "[A] person shall not tether or confine any covered animal, on a farm, for all or the majority of any day, in a manner that prevents such animal from: (a) Lying down, standing up, and fully extending his or her limbs; and (b) Turning around freely." (effective January 2015)
- Kentucky Kentucky Administrative Regulation, 302 KAR 21:030: "After December 31, 2017, veal calves shall be raised in group pens." (effective December 2017)
- Maine Title 7, Part 9, Chapter 739: "A person may not tether or confine a covered animal for all or the majority of a day in a manner that prevents the animal from: A. Lying down, standing up and fully extending the animal's limbs; and B. Turning around freely." (effective January 2011)
- Michigan Act 466 of 1988, Section 287.746: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a farm owner or operator shall not tether or confine any covered animal on a farm for all or the majority of any day, in a manner that prevents such animal from doing any of the following: (a) Lying down, standing up, or fully extending its limbs. (b) Turning around freely." (effective October 2019)
- Ohio Ohio Administrative Code, Chapter 901, Section 12-2: "(3) After December 31, 2017,

- tethering may only be used in accordance with (E) of this rule, and an individual pen must permit a calf's movement as described in paragraph (C)(1) of this rule and in addition the calf must be able to turn around; and; (4) After December 31, 2017, veal calves must be housed in group pens by 10 weeks of age." (effective December 2017)
- Rhode Island Title 4, Chapter 4-1.1: "[A] person is guilty of unlawful confinement of a sow or calf if the person is a farm owner or operator who knowingly tethers or confines any sow or calf in a manner that prevents such animal from turning around freely, lying down, standing up, or fully extending the animal's limbs." (effective June 2013)

Cattle

No species-specific EU legislation for dairy or beef cattle. Provisions of Council Directive 98/58/EC apply.

 The permissibility of mutilations, such as tail docking, is determined by national Member States legislation. Four U.S. states ban tail docking of cattle

- California Penal Code Section 594-625: "Any person who cuts the solid part of the tail of any horse or cattle in the operation known as "docking," or in any other operation performed for the purpose of shortening the tail of any horse or cattle, within the State of California, or procures the same to be done, or imports or brings into this state any docked horse, or horses, or drives, works, uses, races, or deals in any unregistered docked horse, or horses, within the State of California except as provided in Section 597r, is guilty of a misdemeanour." (effective January 2010)
- Ohio Ohio Administrative Code, Chapter 901, Section 12: "Effective January 1, 2018, tail docking can only be performed: (a) By a licensed veterinarian; and, (b) If the procedure is determined to be medically necessary." (effective January 2018)
- Rhode Island Title 4, Section 4-1-6.1: "Any person who intentionally cuts or alters the bone, tissues, muscles or tendons of the tail of any bovine or otherwise operates upon it in any manner for the purpose or with the effect of docking, setting, or otherwise altering the natural carriage of the tail, or who knowingly permits the same to be done upon the premises of which he or she is the owner, lessee, proprietor or user, or who assists in or is voluntarily present at such cutting or alteration, is guilty of a misdemeanour, punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500), or both." (effective June 2012)
- New Jersey Title 2, Chapter 8, Subchapter 2: "Tail docking of cattle is permitted only upon

determination by a veterinarian for individual animals." (effective July 2005)

Ducks and geese

No species-specific EU legislation to protect ducks and geese. Provisions of Council Directive 98/58/EC apply.

- Force-feeding for foie gras production is in contravention of this legislation that stipulates that animals should not be caused unnecessary suffering and injury, but should also be kept with respect to their physiological and ethological needs
- Foie gras production is banned explicitly or is deemed to violate national anti-cruelty laws in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Sweden and UK.

One US state bans the force feeding of birds for the production of foie gras

California – Health and Safety Code Section 25982: "A product may not be sold in California if it is the result of force feeding a bird for the purpose of enlarging the bird's liver beyond normal size." (effective July 2012)

Animals kept for fur production

No species-specific EU legislation concerning the protection of animals kept for the purposes of fur production. However, the provisions of both Council Directive 98/58/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 apply to fur animals.

- The United Kingdom and Austria have banned fur farming. Croatia, the Netherlands and Slovenia have adopted legislation banning and phasing-out fur farming.
- Fox and chinchilla farming were banned in the Netherlands in the 1990s and Denmark banned fox farming with a phase-out in 2009.

One US state bans the electrocution of fur-bearing animals.

New York – New York Consolidated Laws, Article 26, 353-C: "no person shall intentionally kill, or stun to facilitate the killing of, a fur-bearing animal by means of an electrical current. For the purpose of this section, "fur-bearing animal" means arctic fox, red fox, silver fox, chinchilla, mink, pine marten, muskrat, and those fur-bearing animals included within the provisions of section 11-1907 of the environmental conservation law." (effective 2008)

Slaughter

Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing

- Lays down rules for the killing of animals kept for production of food, wool, skin, fur, etc., as well as killing in emergencies and for the control of contagious disease.
- Introduces standard operating procedures for welfare of animals at slaughter. Operators must ensure animals spared as much pain, distress and suffering as possible.
- Requires evaluation of stunning methods used and monitoring to ensure animals do not regain consciousness before slaughter.
- Requires manufacturers of restraining and slaughter equipment to supply operators with information on species application and optimal use thereof.

Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA)

- Passed in 1958, HMSA requires that livestock must be slaughtered in a humane manner to prevent needless suffering and also addresses research methods on humane methods of slaughter and the non-applicability of the requirement for stunning to religious or ritual slaughter.
- HMSA is lacking in terms of enforcement and penalties for violators.
- HMSA applies only to federally-inspected slaughterhouses and has been interpreted by the USDA not to apply to poultry, which account for approximately 95 percent of all land animals raised for food in the United States.
- The <u>Poultry Products Inspections Act</u> does

- Requires appointment of an animal welfare officer in each slaughterhouse to ensure compliance with provisions of Regulation.
- Personnel dealing with live animals must have certificate of competence regarding knowledge of animal welfare.
- Member States are required to institute a system of scientific support to provide technical assistance. etc.
- Emergency plans for the control of contagious disease should give logistic procedures for slaughter to ensure full regard paid to animal welfare in event of depopulation measures.
- Establishes a list of stunning methods authorised for each species and the rules relating to their application. Includes derogations on slaughter without stunning for religious slaughter.

apply to poultry. The USDA claims that the requirements of this Federal legislation helps to ensure that birds are treated humanely.

In addition to the HMSA, <u>21 US states</u> also have their own humane slaughter laws. These differ with respect to the slaughter methods allowed, penalties and the species of animal covered by the legislation. Most require stunning before slaughter, but include an exemption for religious/ritual slaughter.

Transport

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations

- Legislation regulates the commercial transport of live vertebrate animals
- Extends responsibility for animal welfare to all parties involved in process of transport, including operations before and after.
- Requires training and certification of competence for drivers and attendants, including a training course and exam on animal welfare.
- Transporters must have authorisation from competent authority for all journeys over 65km
- For journeys longer than 8 hours, documentation including contingency plans must be provided and proof of a satellite navigation system
- Transporters must have journeys for longdistance cross-border transports over 8 hours.
- Checks must be conducted by competent authorities at key stage of journey, including exit points and border posts. Authorities must verify documentation and an official veterinarian check the fitness of animals to continue journey.
- Stricter rules for both animals and vehicles apply to transports over 8 hours. This relates primarily to temperature controls, ventilation and water supply.
- Transport of very young animals over 100km prohibited, as well as females in last stages of gestation and during first week after birth.
- Requirement for individual stalls for horses during long journeys.
- Different journey times (between 9 and 24

Twenty-Eight Hour Law of 1873 1994 Amendment to the Twenty-Eight Hour Law

- This US Federal law addresses the transportation of animals, including those raised for food or in food production, across state lines. The statute provides that animals cannot be transported by "rail carrier, express carrier or common carrier" (except by air or water) for more than 28 consecutive hours without being unloaded for five hours for rest, water and food.
- The law was amended in 1994 to include transportation by express or common carriers involving confinement in a "vehicle or vessel." The term "vehicle" has been interpreted to apply to trucks.
- The law applies only within U.S. territory, and therefore does not cover trips longer than 28 hours to or from Mexico and Canada.

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World Animal Protection

Brussels

Emily Rees *EU Trade Specialist*<u>EmilyRees@worldanimalprotection.org</u>

Washington, D.C

Amanda Mayhew
International Trade & Public Policy Manager
amandamayhew@worldanimalprotection.us.org

Humane Society International

Brussels

Dr. Joanna Swabe *EU Director* jswabe@hsi.org

Washington, D.C

Masha Kalinina
International Trade Policy Specialist
mkalinina@hsi.org