

## HFA CAMPAIGN UPDATE

- **HFA Spearheads Federal Bill to Protect Farm Animals**
- **Veal Boycott Campaign Success**
- **Rescued Animals at Suwanna Ranch...*and more!***



# You can change lives.

With a Humane Farming Association bequest, you can take pride and comfort in knowing that your gift will ensure the protection of animals for years to come. And because HFA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) charity, the tax savings will significantly reduce the tax burden to your heirs.

Your bequest can take the form of a cash gift, real estate, life insurance, retirement account, securities, and/or other property. Often the tax advantages are such that the gift has little impact on the estate that your heirs will receive.



**Plan now for the future.** For information on how to make a planned gift to the Humane Farming Association (HFA), please contact Jill Mountjoy at (415) 485-1495 / [hfa@hfa.org](mailto:hfa@hfa.org). To those of you who have already included the work of HFA in your will, *thank you for your loving remembrance of the animals.*

# HFA *Shuts Down* Illegal Slaughter Operation

Last year, HFA obtained information about an unlicensed and unregulated halal slaughter business in northern California that had been operating for three years.

Animals killed for halal meat are, unfortunately, exempt from the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act requirement that they be rendered unconscious prior to slaughter. They are, however, still subject to all other provisions regulating the handling and treatment of animals. The meat must also be examined by food inspectors immediately after slaughter.

Nevertheless, the operators of this illegal enterprise were slaughtering hundreds of goats, sheep, lambs, chickens, ducks, and cattle annually for sale to the public. The meat was advertised through Facebook posts and was offered for sale at retail grocery stores, four residential locations, and through delivery to customers.



*Animals crammed inside barren, ramshackle cages at illegal slaughter operation. **Thanks to your support, HFA has shut down this operation.***

HFA obtained graphic photographs of animals being slaughtered at the facility and also captured screenshots of the operators' Facebook pages advertising both cubed goat meat and slaughtered roosters for sale.

HFA sent an investigator to one of the retail stores selling the illegal meat to gather further evidence.

When asked for goat or lamb meat, the store clerk opened a refrigerator behind the counter and pulled out a large tub of cubed goat meat similar to that pictured on Facebook. The clerk confirmed that the meat came from our target and then placed the product in a plastic bag with no label, identifiers, or government seals.

HFA immediately turned over all evidence to a California-based special agent with the the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Inspector General (OIG). The USDA/OIG is the law enforcement arm of the Agriculture Department, and this agent had both the ability and the authority to investigate.

## Shutting Down Animal Sacrifice

HFA learned that this same facility was going to hold a large ritual animal sacrifice event that would involve the killing of up to 100 animals in just one day.

Since the USDA was all-too-typically dragging its feet, HFA attorneys quickly drafted a legal complaint for injunctive relief — seeking to obtain a temporary restraining order to stop the slaughter from taking place.

“Unless enjoined by this Court,” stated HFA’s complaint, “on [the given date] defendants will illegally slaughter as many as 100 animals in unsafe, cruel, and inhumane ways.”

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*HFA's actions shut down the illegal operation where hundreds of goats, sheep, lambs, chickens, ducks, and cattle were subjected to horrific abuse.*



HFA's complaint went on to state, "The defendants slaughter animals on the back of flat trailers and without regard for any sanitation or food safety rules."

We requested that the judge grant "injunctive relief prohibiting defendants from slaughtering animals without the required state

license; in violation of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act."

When the case went to court two days before the scheduled event, a substitute judge refused to issue a temporary restraining order. Had the judge allowed for oral arguments — which he did not — we would have maintained that even so-called religious activity of the kind HFA had documented is subject to regulation and must be licensed. After all, nobody is legally permitted to slaughter animals without a license and under such cruel and unsanitary conditions.

Despite the judge's flawed ruling, the net effect of our investigation and legal actions created an environment in which the defendants could no longer continue business as usual and had to cancel the slaughter event entirely.

A follow-up lawsuit HFA filed against the operators was settled early this year. They agreed to not slaughter or broker the sale of animals without the required state and/or federal registrations and licenses (HFA knew they were not equipped to obtain such permits) and to pay a portion of HFA's attorneys' fees.

Additionally, HFA turned over more of our evidence to investigators with USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, who now claim to have opened an investigation into the operators' sale of illegal and uninspected meat to the public.

We will be watching USDA closely and will keep HFA members apprised of the outcome of that investigation.

It's your support that makes our work possible. *Thank you!* ❖

# HFA Legislation Introduced in Congress to Protect Farm Animals from Weather Disasters

The Humane Farming Association is pleased to announce that, at our request, Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN) has just introduced H.R. 243, the “Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for Farm Animals Act,” in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Readers may recall that HFA has been working to expose and reform USDA’s Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). For the last few years, we have been actively lobbying members of Congress. It has been a long and arduous process, but HFA’s efforts are finally paying off with the introduction of federal legislation.

**Background:** LIP is a federal hand-out that pays livestock producers for animals who die in extreme weather — including tropical storms, hurricanes, floods, blizzards, extreme heat, and extreme cold.

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*Currently, the USDA does not require producers to provide animals with even the most basic protections from extreme weather.*

*But now — HFA’s tireless campaigning and your support have paid off. With the introduction of this federal bill, we are one step closer to ending this cruelty.*

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When animals die in harsh weather, despite the fact that the producer provided *no protection from inclement weather*, he or she is rewarded with a government check for the dead animals.

In 2013, Winter Storm Atlas struck western South Dakota and, in three days, over 70,000 cattle died. In 2015, Winter Storm Goliath claimed the lives of an estimated 40,000 dairy cows and calves in Texas and New Mexico. Most suffocated in the snow.

In 2018, 37,000 cattle perished during a long Montana winter. That same year, millions of chickens and turkeys and thousands of pigs drowned during hurricanes in the Southeast. In 2021, 455,000 chickens were

among hundreds of thousands of farm animals who perished in a Texas freeze.

In one five-year period, animal deaths included a staggering 277,471 livestock and 6,686,168 poultry. Since 2008, LIP has paid out more than *a half billion dollars* to producers for deceased animals.

In recent years, HFA has been pressuring members of Congress to require that producers put in place disaster preparedness plans for their animals. HFA was successful in getting language inserted into the annual Agriculture spending bill which called on USDA to assist livestock producers in developing emergency disaster plans. Unfortunately, the final language in the spending bill was weakened to only “*encourage*” rather than require producers to develop disaster plans.

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Compassion, Care, and Refuge — Saving Lives All Year Round  
HFA's SUWANNA RANCH







**Your support saves lives!**



HFA's Suwanna Ranch — the nation's largest farm-animal sanctuary — provides hands-on care and refuge to hundreds of abused animals each year. On behalf of the over 1,100 rescued animals at HFA's Suwanna Ranch, we thank you!



# RESCUED!



*HFA's Suwanna Ranch provides over 7,000 acres of protected habitat for animals seized in cruelty cases. Simultaneously, HFA's overall campaign affects legislative and systemic change for farm animals. **Your support saves lives!***

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Last year, we worked with representatives on a letter to the House Appropriations Committee urging committee members to make disaster plans a requirement for LIP compensation. An amazing fifty-one members of Congress went on record stating that reimbursing producers for dead animals without ever requiring that they provide safeguards from the elements “presents a clear disincentive for producers to take the necessary steps to ... provide their animals with necessary protections.”

Now, in a bold and unprecedented action, Congressman Cohen has, at our request, stepped up to the plate and introduced H.R. 243, the “Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for Farm Animals Act.”

HFA's new legislation would require farmers and ranchers who file claims for dead animals to have disaster preparedness plans developed, in place, and on record long before a weather disaster occurs and before they ever receive compensation under LIP.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please contact your U.S. Representative and ask him/her to cosponsor H.R. 243, introduced by Representative Steve Cohen (D-TN), the “Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for Farm Animals Act.”

Explain that, in addition to essentially rewarding producers for bad behavior, as currently administered, LIP also represents misuse of taxpayer dollars and government waste at its most flagrant.

Passage of this commonsense and fiscally responsible legislation would help protect millions of animals, while also saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

For contact information for your legislator, go to: [www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member](http://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member) or call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

Or, if you prefer, you can visit HFA's website at [www.HFA.org](http://www.HFA.org) to send a message to your legislator.

Thank you.



# HFA *Stops* Multiple Illegal Cockfights Throughout the Nation

We are very happy to report that HFA and our project partner SHARK are making tremendous gains in the battle against cockfighting. Our most recent successes come on the heels of our prompting the massive raid conducted by more than one hundred FBI and other agents at a Whitesburg, Kentucky cockfight pit. In a separate action at around the same time, a grand jury in Kentucky issued indictments against 17 individuals for animal cruelty tied to cockfighting.

Then, just weeks ago, responding to our investigation, Tennessee Sheriff Billy Breeding raided an in-progress cockfighting event in Union County, citing 98 individuals with crimes related to cockfighting. Juveniles were in attendance and more cockfights had been scheduled to take place throughout that day. Neighbors said cockfight events had been taking place there for decades.

Over the past three years, we've provided authorities with undercover videos, the schedules of upcoming fights, names and photos of pit managers, and drone footage of cockfight venues. The biggest obstacle HFA has faced in our battle to eliminate cockfighting has been local law enforcement's



*HFA's investigation results in raid at this Tennessee cockfight. Multiple individuals were charged.*

refusal to do its job. That's why we commend Sheriff Breeding for taking his law enforcement oath and the cockfighting issue so seriously.

In a separate case, we obtained video footage of the wife of a known game-fowl breeder unloading a huge shipment of roosters in transport boxes from her van at the Coalgate, Oklahoma post office. Her husband is known to breed roosters for cockfighting purposes at their sprawling operation in Coal County.

It is illegal to ship birds and other animals used for fighting purposes through the U.S. Postal Service. Despite this, postal authorities have consistently turned a blind eye to this practice, enabling roosters to be shipped to and from post offices across the United States. HFA and SHARK are now working to compel the U.S. Postal Service to stop aiding and abetting these crimes. This would bring the trafficking of fighting birds to a standstill both domestically and internationally.

Finally, we want to let you know about *your* success.

Aware that a cockfight was scheduled to take place at the "Hawk's Nest" pit in Pike County, Kentucky, HFA posted details on social media and asked people to contact the Kentucky State Police. Both local and state law enforcement officials have long known about this pit, but they have refused to take action to shut it down. But your emails and phone calls to the Kentucky State Police enabled us to accomplish our goal. Corruption on the part of law enforcement is still rampant, but, once the cockfighters saw that HFA members were pressuring local authorities to take action — the cockfighters had little choice other than to *cancel* the scheduled cockfight.

Thanks to all HFA supporters for this victory! ❖



# HFA's National Veal Boycott

## Compassionate Activism Is Winning

We are pleased to report that HFA's signature campaign — the National Veal Boycott — continues to have a major impact on veal production in the U.S.

When HFA began the National Veal Boycott, veal production was the most rapidly expanding segment of the meat industry. But after the first three years of unrelenting activism by HFA, including full-page exposés in national publications, veal production plummeted to 2.5 million calves from a previous high of 3.4 million.

Progressing further, HFA launched what would become legendary undercover investigations and direct attacks on the veal industry's drug-based methods of operation.

HFA was successful in sharply curtailing the use of the veal industry's most cherished growth hormone, *clenbuterol*. And the extensive national publicity about this toxic and illegal drug served to repulse a large segment of the general public.

The numbers shown on the graph tell the real story of HFA's unparalleled success in preventing the suffering of millions of animals. Today, thanks to your activism and support, veal production numbers have now dropped to *an all-time low*.

As we continue our battle, we are encouraged by the fact that, this year alone, *more than three million baby calves will be spared* the horror and agony of veal production. ***But we can't let up now!***

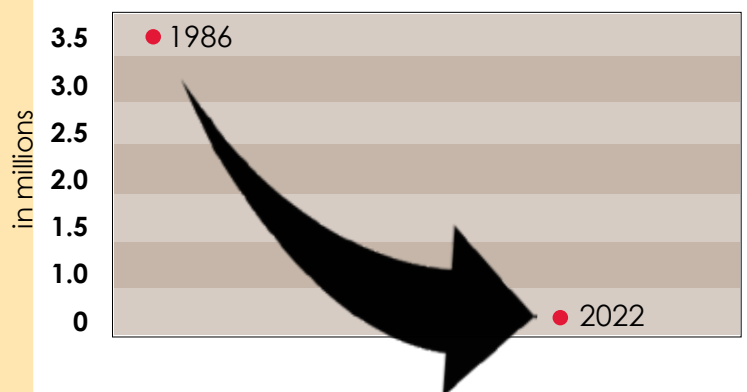
Your support will help HFA make even further progress in the months ahead. ❖

**From his first day to his last, the life of a "milk-fed" veal calf is one of stress and disease.**



**HFA has vowed to end this cruelty.**

### Veal Production Hits Record Low!



Due to HFA's years of unrelenting, hard-hitting media campaigns, veal production has plummeted from a high of 3.4 million calves to a new low of 362,000 calves.