

Support the Farm System Reform Act (H.R. 6718 / S. 3221)

Phase Out CAFOs and Transition to More Humane Farming Systems

The Farm System Reform Act was introduced in the 116th Congress in the House by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) and in the Senate by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ).

What will the Farm System Reform Act do?

The Farm System Reform Act will create a more humane food system by moving away from destructive concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and towards higher-welfare-certified farms and alternative crop production. Specifically, the legislation will place an immediate moratorium on the construction and expansion of existing large CAFOs and require all large CAFOs to cease operating by 2040. Importantly, the Farm System Reform Act will provide voluntary debt relief and financial transition assistance for producers moving away from CAFO factory farming practices towards more humane systems. It will also address industry consolidation, which can hamper farmers' ability to improve animal welfare, ensure communities located near factory farms are able to hold them legally accountable for negative environmental and public health impacts caused by the intense confinement of animals, and clarify country of origin labelling for beef, pork, and dairy products, providing more transparency to consumers.

Why is the Farm System Reform Act Necessary?

CAFOs produce the vast majority of meat, eggs, and dairy consumed in the United States. Almost 10 billion animals are raised on factory farms every year in this country, crowded together in intensive, cruel confinement that denies them the ability to carry out even the most basic natural behaviors such as perching and rooting. Not only are factory farms inhumane systems for animals, but they also have wide-reaching negative effects on farm workers, rural communities, public health, and the environment. Of the most imminent concern is the role factory farming plays in increasing the risk of future pandemics like COVID-19. There is clear evidence that zoonotic disease transmission is facilitated by intensive livestock

productions, and that the risks increase with the size of farms and stocking density of animals. By placing efficiency and profits above the well-being of animals, workers, and communities, factory farming has become one of the most dangerous industries in this country.

The COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity to build a more resilient and humane food system for animals, farm workers, and farmers. A [2020 survey commissioned by the ASPCA](#) found that 74% of U.S. consumers think that government policy should support farmers who transition to more humane practices. The Farm System Reform Act will provide the means to direct federal funding toward supporting higher welfare farming.

Who Supports the Farm System Reform Act?

The Farm System Reform Act is supported by a nationwide coalition of animal welfare, public health, sustainable and local agriculture, and environmental organizations. This coalition recognizes the critical need to overhaul the fundamental structure of our food system.

