



For immediate release

100 Canadian Restaurants Call for an End to Pregnant Sow Confinement

TORONTO, ONTARIO (July 22, 2013) – 100 Canadian restaurants from across the country, all of which buy and sell pork products, have joined the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals in urging the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) to eliminate the cage confinement of pregnant sows.

NFACC released a draft Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs on June 1st this year. While the NFACC Code laudably calls for an elimination of the lifelong confinement in gestation crates, it still allows producers to use them for the first 35 days each pregnancy cycle. These crates are small metal cages that are slightly larger than the pigs' own bodies and prevent them from even turning around.

In response, 100 Canadian restaurants signed onto the following statement:

We are thankful for NFACC's work to improve animal welfare. For your final standards, we are requesting that NFACC eliminate the days producers are permitted to confine pregnant breeding pigs inside a cage so small they're unable even to turn around. Confining a pig in a cage barely larger than her body for up to 35 days every pregnancy is out of step with how consumers feel farm animals ought to be treated. As stakeholders within the Canadian food industry, we care deeply about animal welfare and are thankful for your consideration of our request.

"In calling on NFACC to eliminate, rather than reduce, gestation crate use throughout the pork industry, these Canadian restaurants are reflecting their customers' values when it comes to extreme confinement within the pork industry," said Stephanie Brown, a spokesperson for the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals. "A recent poll found that 84 percent of Canadians support a complete elimination of caging pregnant sows."

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About the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals

The Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals (CCFA) is dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals raised for food in Canada through public education, legislative change, and consumer choice. CCFA supporters are animal protection organization across Canada representing more than 120,000 Canadians.

For further info, visit www.humanefood.ca or info@humanefood.ca