



Quit Stalling 2021:
**Are Companies Making Good
on Promises to End Sow Confinement?**



Introduction

In 2020, World Animal Protection released the first Quit Stalling report, investigating the status of the public-facing commitments by dozens of food companies to end the use of gestation crates for breeding pigs (sows) in their supply chains.

Quit Stalling 2021 builds on the previous report to shed greater light on the progress—or lack thereof—towards ending the cruel confinement of breeding pigs in our food system. Using publicly available information found on company websites, media statements, annual reports, and other materials, this report assess whether companies previously celebrated for making public commitments to end the use of gestation crates in their pork supplies are making good on their promises.

The 58 companies included in this year’s report have all made public statements in the past acknowledging that the use of gestation crates should be phased out and committing to influence their pork suppliers to end the practice. While several companies have made progress amidst challenges and remain publicly committed to sow welfare, most have failed to meaningfully update their customers and investors, and many have removed public-facing policy language altogether.

This report aims to hold these companies accountable to their animal welfare commitments and let them know that “humane-washing” will not be tolerated.

Summary

Even with the industry and US public enduring the devastation wrought by the COVID pandemic through the majority of 2020 and into 2021, several companies have made progress on their sow welfare goals.

- **Bon Appetit Management Company (BAMCO)** had an ambitious goal to be 100% gestation-crate-free for its nationwide pork supplies by 2021 to coincide with the timing of state laws in California and Massachusetts going into effect. BAMCO had previously worked with its supplier to drastically reduce the time sows spend in crates to seven days or less, using them just during the breeding phase. While significant challenges ultimately delayed full progress, BAMCO and its supplier have successfully ensured that its supplies for California and Massachusetts will be from sources that never use gestation crates at the end of this year, with a clear rollout plan for nationwide compliance [see ‘Bon Appetit Stands Firm on Sow Welfare’].
- **Burger King** set out one of the most comprehensive policies of any company and jumped up to the GREEN tier. Not only does the policy set clear timelines for eliminating the use of gestation crates for pregnant pigs in all of its markets, it also establishes a goal to eliminate the use of the crates during the breeding phase, addressing a key loophole in industry progress and commitments to date.
- **The Cheesecake Factory** continues to lead the industry in transparency and also made the GREEN tier this year. Its annual report acknowledges outright the challenges the company has faced in supplying truly gestation crate-free pork and accessing information in its own supply chain due to how suppliers are defining “crate-free”. Regardless of these challenges, the company continues to report progress with clear differentiation of pork supplies from fully crate free and group-housed or reduced-crate systems.



Summery Continued

- In a similar vein, several companies, including **Panera Bread**, **Dine Brands**, and **Marriott**, improved on their public reporting by providing distinct percentages of their pork supplies sourced from fully crate-free suppliers versus suppliers that use gestation crates for a period of time until confirmation of pregnancy and then transition sows to group housing. These partial confinement systems are often referred to as “group housing” or “reduced-crate” systems but are not truly gestation crate-free as consumers expect. This detailed reporting is vital for transparency and moving the needle forward on fully gestation crate-free pork supplies. [see “Humane-washing Crate-free” for more info on why this is important].
- **Johnsonville**, the largest sausage brand in the US, moved up to the ORANGE tier in this year’s report after posting information that clarifies the company’s commitment, including language establishing that the goal is to fully remove gestation crates from its supply chain by 2025.

Unfortunately, the majority of companies continue to rely on weak commitment language or have removed their commitments altogether. And a few have made their commitments weaker over time.

- **Jack in the Box** walked away from its original commitment that by 2022 all pork products sold in its restaurants would be required to come from systems in which pregnant sows are not housed in gestation crates. Instead, its current animal welfare policy statement stipulates only that group housing is preferable over gestation stalls and no longer includes any timeline, resulting in the company moving from YELLOW down to PINK.
- **Aramark** also moved down to the PINK tier as the company no longer maintains its original commitment and is satisfied making and reporting on progress towards a partial group housing commitment.
- **Sysco** also significantly weakened its commitment in its latest report. The company initially committed to “working with its suppliers to create a gestation crate-free supply system, for the good of all.” Unfortunately, the company’s latest responsibility report relies on much weaker language, stating a goal for suppliers to implement group housing for sows over time.
- Several other companies, including **McDonald’s** and **Noodles & Co.**, moved down to the PINK tier as a result of this year’s report putting a greater weight on the strength of a company’s commitment and ensuring that, in order to achieve the higher tiers, a company must have clear policy language committing to the full elimination of gestation crates from its pork supply chain with a timeframe for implementation [see “What is a Strong Commitment”].

Quit Stalling 2021 includes three new companies that issued policies or made statements about sourcing crate-free pork after the 2012 - 2015 timeframe used in the first report. These newly included companies are:

- **Starbucks**
- **Aldi**
- **Trader Joe’s**

California’s legal protections for pigs, which will go into effect on January 1, 2022, will prohibit the confinement of breeding pigs in gestation crates in the state and require that companies choosing to do business in California sell only pork meat from suppliers that do not use gestation crates. Despite attempts from industry to challenge the law and prevent its implementation, courts continue to uphold it.



Who's Missing?

Several large national and multinational food companies are notably not included in the Quit Stalling reports. This is because the report monitors and tracks companies that have publicly committed to address the use of gestation crates by their suppliers in the past, aiming to hold them accountable to promises made to customers and investors.

Companies that have never addressed the issue publicly are not assessed but should nevertheless still be held accountable to improving animal welfare in their supply chains. Their continued silence on this issue is unacceptable.

Notable companies absent from the conversation:

- Yum! Brands (KFC, Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, Habit Burger)
- H-E-B
- Publix
- Wegman's
- Domino's Pizza

The US pork industry has an opportunity and a mandate from consumers to build back better from the COVID pandemic. The close confinement of animals to maximize productivity and keep costs low, at the expense of animal welfare, worker wellbeing, the environment, and public health, will no longer be tolerated.

The companies included in this report have a strong role to play by continuing to affirm their commitments to source only pork from suppliers that never use gestation crates, collectively communicating that the industry cannot continue to drag its feet.

For next year's report, we hope that progress is the rule, not the exception.



Background

The flurry of corporate commitments announced between 2012 and 2015 gained press attention and praise from advocates and consumers. Many companies set goals to end the use of gestation crates by their existing pork suppliers or identify new suppliers that could provide gestation-crate-free pork, typically with target dates by which implementation would be complete. As a result, major pork producers in the US publicly committed to finding solutions and shifting their breeding operations to group sow housing.

But sadly, an estimated three out of four sows continue to spend significant portions of their lives confined to gestation crates with little space to move. Corporate commitments to better sourcing practices were meant to apply pressure to producers to change their practices. Sadly, it appears that many companies have not been taking their own commitments seriously and risk breaking past promises to you, their customers.

The public, the media, and advocates took these commitments seriously and saw in them the promise of positive movement towards building better farming systems and establishing higher welfare for pigs across the country. But these companies have not been holding themselves accountable, and we can no longer ignore the very real risk that it was all “humane-washing” to placate growing public concern for farmed animals.

All companies included in this analysis have been commended by the public for some level of commitment to ending gestation crates in their pork supply chains. The commitments vary in strength, but they have all been viewed as indicators of positive movement towards identifying and implementing solutions. This report intends to ensure the companies that failed to meet promised deadlines and all companies with approaching deadlines are held to account by advocacy groups like World Animal Protection and, more importantly, you, their customers.



Bon Appétit Stands Firm on Sow Welfare Despite Unprecedented Challenges

In 2019, Bon Appétit Management Company—an on-site food service provider serving private colleges and corporate headquarters— notified its pork supplier, Clemens Food Group, that it would require full elimination of gestation crates for its contracted pork nationwide by the end of 2021. Maisie Ganzler, Chief Strategy and Brand Officer at Bon Appétit knew there would be challenges in shifting the supply so that sows are never kept in a gestation crate, but she felt confident that pork suppliers nationwide would be making changes to comply with new laws in California and Massachusetts. She made it clear that if Clemens Food Group was not willing to fully eliminate gestation crates, the company would find a supplier that was.

But Ganzler could not anticipate the global pandemic, the intractable attitude of major pork suppliers regarding new state laws and customer expectations, or historically high feed prices, all of which complicated Bon Appétit's ability to move forward on their timeline. When COVID-19 hit, a large portion of Bon Appétit's business shut down with reopening plans in constant flux. Trying to determine how much pork Bon Appétit would need in the future was basically a guessing game. Asking pork producers to make substantial infrastructure changes for a partner who couldn't guarantee future purchase was an enormous risk. Meanwhile, other pork producers were ignoring the impending state laws entirely despite courts continuously upholding them.

Ganzler remained determined to make this change for sow welfare. To comply, Clemens decided to convert a portion of its conventional pork to a totally open-housed breeding and gestation model. This new conventional pork supply would also need to align with another of Bon Appétit's sustainable sourcing policies: animals must be raised without the use of any antimicrobials except when necessary to treat sick animals and verified by a veterinarian. Fortunately, Clemens assured Ganzler that it would.

Ganzler notes that having an engaged pork supplier willing to make changes is a best-case scenario. And Clemens put in the work, working over two years to find a solution grounded in science that prioritized the wellbeing of the sows and their handlers. "Clemens did extensive testing of different housing configurations to discover sows' preferences and brought in world-renowned animal welfare experts to analyze the results," Ganzler says. "Converting an operation isn't as easy as 'read the law and do what it says.' It takes a tremendous amount of work."

While the various twists and turns of 2020 eliminated the possibility of a nationwide rollout by end of 2021, it led to a positive result. Now an even larger portion of Clemens' pork supply will be bred and gestated in an open pen environment. Bon Appétit will have compliant product for its California and Massachusetts accounts by January 1, 2022, and a four-phase roll out plan will bring the same standards nationwide beginning with states with the largest spend and stocking capacity. Ganzler hopes to complete this roll out by the end of 2022.

"While the pandemic forced us to shift our timeline, I think Bon Appétit and Clemens collectively raised the floor, not just the high bar, for animal welfare," says Ganzler. "I'm glad that, together, we didn't back down on our commitment to the pigs."



What is a strong commitment?

While this report aims to document the status of all commitments past and present, it is essential to note what factors contribute to a robust, meaningful corporate policy to eliminate the use of gestation crates for breeding sows in company supply chains.

A meaningful commitment:

- 1) applies to 100% of the company's pork meat purchases;
- 2) clearly states that all suppliers will be required to fully eliminate use of gestation crates under the policy;
- 3) has a clear timeframe for full implementation; and
- 4) the company has established structures for suppliers to be audited regularly and penalized for non-compliance.



Humane-washing Crate-Free

For this year's Quit Stalling report, distinguishing the strength of a company's commitment to sow welfare and ending the use of gestation crates is a high priority. This is because many companies are currently relying on terminology and language that could lead customers to believe they are working towards ending the use of gestation crates entirely, when in reality this may not be the case.

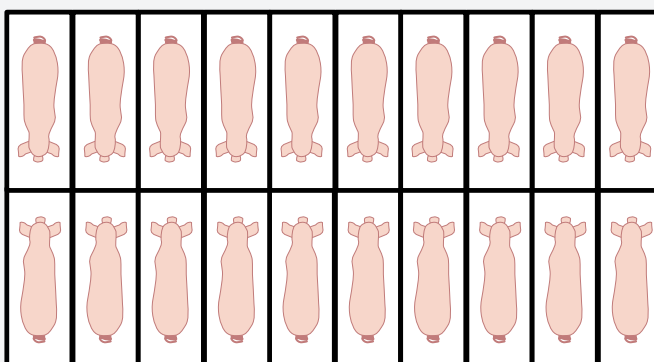
Relying solely on terms such as "group housing" or "open housing" or qualifying commitments as applying only to "pregnant pigs" or "pigs during pregnancy" can all refer to systems that confine sows in traditional gestation crates for part of the time and as long as seven continuous weeks. This hardly meets consumer expectations of gestation-crate-free pork.

In conventional systems, when a pig is used for breeding, she is put into a gestation crate where she is artificially inseminated. She is confined to this same tiny stall and monitored by workers to confirm her pregnancy and remains in this crate for the roughly 114 days until she is moved to a different crate to give birth.

Industry Standard: Isolation, Confinement

A commitment only to "open" or "group" housing for pregnant sows means they could still live in a system like this for as many as 6-7 weeks until confirmed pregnant.

Image credit: Greenfield Meat Company



Policies that only require suppliers to utilize group housing systems or only apply to housing for pregnant pigs can actually mean that pigs used for breeding are still confined to gestation crates for artificial insemination and up until they are confirmed to be pregnant, at which time they are moved to a group pen with other pregnant sows. This period can be as long as seven weeks of confinement.

That is why we ask companies to clearly state in their policies that the goal is the full elimination of gestation crates from their supply chain. The Cheesecake Factory perhaps [says it best](#), acknowledging that "A challenge we continue to encounter is that there is not a commonly applied definition of gestation crate free or group housed in the industry or amongst our peers. We continue to see producers and peer companies define 30-60+ days of sow confinement as 'gestation crate free' or as 'group sow housing'."

In fully gestation-crate-free systems, sows may still be separated and individually housed for artificial insemination and a short period of time following to monitor her health and better ensure a viable pregnancy. But, this individual housing cannot be a traditional gestation crate and must provide each sow with sufficient space to turn around and lie down comfortably without touching the sides of her enclosure and have enrichment such as bedding.

Commitment Status Tiers

For this second annual ranking, World Animal Protection has given greater weight to the strength of a company's commitment and whether it is publicly reporting on progress towards fulfilling a meaningful commitment (for a full breakdown of each company's original announcement and current status, see Appendix A).

As with last year's report, transparency and continuing to affirm the company's goals to the public will remain a significant factor in the final ranking but progress towards weaker commitments, such as those requiring only that sows are "group housed" for at least part of their pregnancies, will not be weighted as significantly as last year.

As such, we have identified six broad categories into which the 58 companies generally fall. These categories are:

- Gold Tier – 2 companies
 - Green Tier – 4 companies
 - Yellow Tier – 2 companies
 - Orange Tier – 11 companies
 - Pink Tier – 24 companies
 - Red Tier – 15 companies
-
- TOTAL – 58 companies**

Gold Tier – Company has fully implemented its meaningful public commitment.

The company previously committed publicly to source only pork from suppliers that have eliminated gestation crates by a target date, and reports that 100% of pork purchases comply with this sourcing policy.

2 Companies



Green Tier – Company is reporting progress towards a meaningful public commitment.

The company previously committed publicly to source only pork from suppliers that have eliminated gestation crates by a target date and has reported some recent progress towards fully implementing this sourcing policy.

4 Companies



Commitment Status Tiers

Yellow Tier – Company has reported towards a meaningful public commitment and is reporting that no recent progress on crate-free pork sourcing or backwards progress has been made.

The company previously committed publicly to source only pork from suppliers that have eliminated gestation crates by a target date and regularly affirms its policy in public reports, but has not made progress recently or its percentage of pork purchases that comply with its policy has declined due to sourcing challenges.

2 Companies



Orange Tier – Company has a meaningful commitment but has not recently reported on progress toward 100% crate-free pork supply.

The company previously committed publicly to source only pork from suppliers that have eliminated gestation crates by a target date but either: has never to date reported on progress towards 100% crate-free pork, has not reported an update in recent years, or is reporting only on percentage of pork from suppliers that have shifted to partial group housing with some continued use of gestation crates.

11 Companies



Commitment Status Tiers

Pink Tier – Company has weak or vague language regarding sow housing practices in its pork supply.

The company has a public statement regarding sow housing in its supply chain that does not meet a meaningful standard, such as: requiring only partial “group housing” by suppliers, failing to set a deadline for full implementation, or not clearly stating that full elimination of crates is the goal [See breakout box – Humane-washing Crate-Free].

24 Companies



Red Tier – No language regarding sow housing requirements for the company’s pork suppliers can be found in recent public-facing materials.

15 Companies



Leaders and Laggards

Given the varying degrees of progress within the industry and how widely current commitments range toward the ultimate goal of never confining pregnant pigs in crate, it is important to highlight a few leaders that appear to be taking crate-free seriously and several laggards that are holding the industry back. World Animal Protection shares an “Oink of Approval” or a “Squeal of Concern” to the following companies:

Oink of Approval – Burger King

Restaurant Brands International—parent company of Burger King—updated its [sow housing policy](#) in early 2021, providing a level of depth and specificity unequaled by its peers. The company is committed not only to ending the use of gestation crates for sows during pregnancy but clearly outlines a commitment to eliminating use of the crates during the breeding and conception phase. Many existing commitments of Burger King’s peers refer only to housing sows in groups during pregnancy or once pregnancy is confirmed [see “Humane-washing Crate-free”], meaning that for as long as seven weeks a sow may be confined to a traditional gestation crate for insemination up until her pregnancy is “confirmed” by the producer. By establishing that non-pregnant sows should never be confined to gestation crates and setting a timeline for some markets, Burger King has shown significant leadership on sow welfare.

Squeal of Concern – Aramark

In 2012, Aramark—one of the largest institutional food service providers in the US—[committed to](#) eliminate all pork from animals bred using gestation crates in Aramark’s US supply chain by 2017. Just ahead of its deadline in March 2016, the company [changed its commitment](#). While struggling to achieve 100% sourcing of gestation-crate-free pork is understandable given the glacial progress by producers to comply, that is no reason for Aramark to weaken its policy. Since 2016, the company has endeavored to purchase only group-housed pork by the end of 2022, acknowledging that “group-housed” means confining sows to gestation crates for up to 50% of the time. This is hardly the crate-free ambition the company was once taking leadership on. As the company continues to build its supply of group-housed pork, it must also set a clear timeframe for achieving its larger goal of a supply chain completely free of gestation crates in order to keep the industry moving in the right direction.

Oink of Approval – Dine Brands

Dine Brands—parent company of iconic chains Applebee’s and IHOP—provided [a progress update](#) in September 2020 that included clear differentiation in sourcing of gestation-crate-free and group-housed pork. According to the update, 23% of the company’s pork supply is gestation-crate-free and additional 17% of the supply utilizes group housing. This level of distinction is vital in annual progress reports in preventing humane-washing and misleading claims of gestation crate-free supply chains [see “humane-washing crate-free”]. While Dine Brands’ current materials do not affirm a truly meaningful commitment, which must include a clear requirement for full elimination of gestation crates with a timeline for achieving implementation for 100% of its pork supply, this level of reporting deserves our praise.

Squeal of Concern – Jack-in-the-Box

In stark contrast to Burger King, Jack-in-the-Box—which ranked in the “Yellow” tier in last year’s report—recently significantly [weakened its commitment](#) to sow welfare. It no longer establishes a clear commitment to fully eliminate gestation crates with a timeline (previously 2022), but rather puts forward a general belief that group housing is preferable and that the company is discussing with pork suppliers a feasible timeframe for ensuring pregnant sows are cared for in group housing instead of gestation crates. Jack-in-the-Box made a promise to its customers. Missing deadlines happens, and other companies take the opportunity to communicate their challenges to their customers, assert whatever progress has been made, and affirm their commitment to past promises. But Jack-in-the-Box unfortunately chose instead to walk back its policy and walk away from sow welfare and its customers.



Investors—Financial Risks and Opportunities

Continuing to source pork from supply chains that utilize traditional gestation crates poses significant risk to a company's investors.

Failing to affirm meaningful commitments and make progress towards gestation-crate-free pork supplies is a reputational risk for companies. A [2020 survey by World Animal Protection](#) showed that 75% of people who regularly buy pork agree that retailers that sell pork products have a responsibility to ensure gestation crates are not used by their pork suppliers and 73% would be more likely to buy pork from companies committed to ending the confinement of sows than from one that is not. Further, among respondents who purchase pork at least two to three times per month, 71% would be willing to pay more for pork from a company committed to eliminating gestation crates, five percentage points higher than the survey average. Companies that do not make meaningful progress risk losing customers.

As do companies that fail to update their customers and investors on their progress. A [June 2020 survey](#) of U.S. shoppers by the Food Industry Association and Label Insights determined that 81% believe transparency is important or extremely important. This demonstrates that annually reporting on progress amidst challenges in the supply chain can benefit a business, even if that progress is small or stalled.

There is also significant regulatory risk from inaction by companies. State laws set to go into effect in California and Massachusetts in 2022 will impact significant markets for many companies included in this report. Failing to comply with state requirements to produce, source, and sell only gestation-crate-free pork face substantial material risk. If the case of cage-free egg laws is any indication, additional states will likely follow in the coming years with many states considering bills banning gestation crates this year. Investors should require companies to convert existing barns to open housing and for all new builds to be open housing as crate-based barns will soon become stranded assets.



Labels That Mean Crate-free



[Certified Humane](#) pork standards require that “Individual stalls or crates that prevent pigs from turning around (except for hospital pens) and tethers for pigs are prohibited.”



At all levels of the [Global Animal Partnership](#) label for pork (five different steps available), “farrowing crates and gestation stalls are prohibited.”



The [Animal Welfare Approved](#) label owned by A Greener World means that “Close confinement in cages, crates or by tethering is prohibited,” for certified pork producers.

Conclusion

And here is where you come in.

You can help protect pigs. Let the companies you buy from know that eliminating the cruel confinement of pregnant pigs is important to you and your continued loyalty:

- Tell orange tier companies to provide a meaningful progress update to the public, including the percentage of pork currently sourced from fully gestation-crate-free suppliers;
- Tell pink tier companies to update their policy language to a meaningful commitment to fully eliminate the use of gestation crates for sows in their supply chain by a clear deadline of 2028 or sooner;
- Tell red tier companies to issue a public statement recommitting to sow welfare and reestablishing a pork sourcing policy that fully eliminates the use of gestation crates for sows in their supply chain by a clear deadline of 2028 or sooner.
- Make a commitment to buy your pork only from green and yellow tier companies that have made good on their statements to the public or that carry the labels identified in this report. Stand firm on sow welfare.



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Chipotle	N/A	N/A	Met	"In 2020, we purchased 11,837,641 pounds of pork. We do not allow our pork suppliers to use breeding or gestation crates. All of our pork comes from sows raised outdoors or in deeply bedded barns. In 2020, 100% of our pork came from suppliers meeting our animal welfare standards, meaning they do not use sow stalls during gestation and farrowing, or routine tail docking or teeth clipping." ¹
Whole Foods	2003	N/A	Met	"We've prohibited the use of both gestation and farrowing crates by all of our pork suppliers since 2003...Third party inspectors verify that no crates or stalls (gestation or farrowing) are used to manage or raise pigs." ²

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Bon Apétit Management Company	2012 ¹⁷	"As part of the new policy, Bon Apétit is: Requiring that all pork it serves - currently 3 million pounds annually - be produced without gestation crate confinement system, using higher-welfare group housing systems instead...All of these important reforms will be phased in by 2015."	Commitment language specifies full elimination of gestation crates with clear timeline, recent progress not reported.	"Our contracted pork producer puts sows in group housing, instead of confining them to inhumane gestation crates, for most of their pregnancies. In 2019, we notified our supplier that we require full elimination of the use of gestation crates by the end of 2021." The producer does "confine sows five to seven days just before and after insemination." ¹⁸ 2020 ESG report: "We continue to work towards our goal of sourcing gestation crate-free pork for our Luxury and Full Service hotels in the U.S. and Europe, but we face limited availability in our supply chain and inconsistent legal limits on how long sows are held in gestation crates. We continue to work with our pork suppliers to transition towards group-housed pork and gestation crate-free pork in these countries, and in additional markets as supply becomes available." ¹⁹
Burger King	2012 ³	"Burger King has announced its pledge to phase out sow stalls...from its suppliers by 2017."	Current commitment language, updated in 2021, specifies that full elimination of gestation crates is required, with timelines for full elimination in some markets, and updating on progress towards compliance.	"Our brands are committed to eliminating the use of gestation crates for housing pregnant sows in our supply chain globally. We have achieved compliance in our European and African markets and will follow in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand by 2022, covering 95% of our global pork volumes. The remaining 5% will be compliant in Latin America by 2025, Russia & CIS by 2030 and in Asia Pacific by 2035 or sooner. We're also working towards eliminating the use of gestation crates for non-pregnant sows in our supply chain, starting by committing to achieve this in our European markets by 2030 or sooner." ⁴



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
The Cheesecake Factory	2012 ⁵	"We are currently working...to eliminate gestation crates from our pork supply chain by a 2022 target date."	Current commitment language specifies full elimination of crates is the goal, meaningful recent progress made with clear differentiation of crate-free and reduced crate supply.	<p>"Several of our Sustainable Sourcing goals matured during 2020, including...eliminating pig gestation crates...While we did not achieve our goal to eliminate pig gestation crates due to sourcing challenges from the pandemic, the inclusion of new supply volume from North Italia, as well as continued slow adoption of gestation crate alternatives by industry, we continue to make progress towards this goal."</p> <p>"<1% of our supply is raised without the use of gestation crates at all.</p> <p>30% of our supply is raised in gestation crates for < 28 days.</p> <p>5% of our supply is raised in gestation crates for < 45 days."</p> <p>"A challenge we continue to encounter is that there is not a commonly applied definition of gestation crate free or group housed in the industry or amongst our peers. We continue to see producers and peer companies define 30-60+ days of sow confinement as 'gestation crate free' or as 'group sow housing'."⁸</p>
Panera Bread	2015 ⁹	"Panera will be transitioning to use 100 percent gestation crate-free pigs for their pork products...by the end of 2015."	Current language for vendors does not allow for use of gestation crates, recent progress has been made on fully crate-free supply and differentiates reduced crate supply.	<p>"In 2019, 41% of our pork came from farms where crates are never used. Another 45% of our pork was sourced from farms where pigs are moved to group housing within 7 to 10 days of confirmed pregnancy, which is much faster than the 130-day industry standard and even faster than the 30 days used by farmers employing group housing."¹⁰</p> <p>"Our core beliefs regarding the treatment of animals...Freedom to express normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind. Animals are provided sufficient space in an environment that promotes natural behaviors. Facilities work to reduce the use of close confinement housing structures to help move toward the long-term goal of eliminating them. Animals receive appropriate enrichments to promote natural behaviors."¹¹</p>



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Hilton Hotels	2015 ¹²	"All pork products must be purchased from suppliers that house breeding pigs in groups rather than gestation crates by December 31, 2018."	Meaningful commitment is public. Has reported progress in several markets, but progress is unclear.	<p>"We were unable to meet our 2018 commitment to source gestation crate-free pork for our Luxury and Full Service hotels in 19 countries (the U.S. and Europe), due to limited availability in our supply chain and inconsistent legal limits on how long sows are held in gestation crates...We have extended our deadline to 2022, in line with many other hotels and restaurant groups. We will also allow the use of group-housed pork until gestation crate-free pork becomes available. In Europe, we already source gestation crate-free bacon and sausage in the UK and Netherlands. We are working to transition fresh and processed pork in the UK, Netherlands, and Germany to gestation crate-free sources by 2021...We accept pork from Dutch sows spending up to 4 days in crate as crate free."¹³</p> <p>2020 ESG report: "We continue to work towards our goal of sourcing gestation crate-free pork for our Luxury and Full Service hotels in the U.S. and Europe, but we face limited availability in our supply chain and inconsistent legal limits on how long sows are held in gestation crates. We continue to work with our pork suppliers to transition towards group-housed pork and gestation crate-free pork in these countries, and in additional markets as supply becomes available."¹⁴</p>
Campbell's	2012 ¹⁵	"Campbell's Soup has also committed to sourcing crate-free pork, with a completion goal by 2022, though they are 'working toward progress' by 2017."	Reporting progress, trending backward.	<p>"Source 100% gestation crate-free pork by the end of 2022."</p> <p>16% implementation. Scope is global. Acquisition of Snyder's-Lance and Pacific Foods reduced percentage, but both companies are subject to Campbells commitment. In FY2020 progress decreased due to higher demand during COVID-19;</p> <p>"In 2012, we made a commitment to eliminate gestation crates from our pork supply chain. With our suppliers' engagement, we intend to reach that goal no later than 2022. We have made progress on this commitment as some providers have begun to transition to group housing. In fiscal year 2019, we integrated the new acquisitions of Snyder's-Lance and Pacific Foods into this commitment...we are using the Ohio Livestock Care Standards to define our commitment. While we remain committed to ultimately eliminating the use of gestation crates and are partnering with suppliers to limit the amount of time spent by pigs in crates, there may be occasions when keeping pigs out of group housing may be beneficial for the well-being of all pigs."¹⁶</p>



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Johnsonville	2013 ²⁰	2025	Commitment specifies full removal of gestation crates with clear timeline, no update on progress.	<p>"As part of our active pursuit of enhanced handling practices, we will be working with our pork suppliers to transition from traditional gestation stall housing, to alternative pregnant sow housing, by 2025. Johnsonville does not raise sows; however, we plan to move toward working with suppliers who can provide housing alternatives that allow for greater movement of the animal, while ensuring their comfort and the safety of their caretakers."²¹</p> <p>"In 2013, Johnsonville publicly committed to remove gestation-stalls from its supply chain by 2025. More recently, Johnsonville told its suppliers that by 2022 we would provide gestation-stall free products to any customer who asks for them."²²</p>
Darden (Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Longhorn Steakhouse, Yard House)	2016 ²³	"The company...has committed to work toward a goal of having all of its pork products come from crate-free farms by the end of 2025."	Commitment specifies elimination of gestation crates completely. Progress towards this goal is unreported.	"Since 2016, Darden has committed to work with pork suppliers to limit the use of gestation crates for housing pregnant sows, with a goal to source only gestation-crate free pork by 2025. The majority of our suppliers today have made a commitment to housing improvements." ²⁴
Ahold Delhaize	2014 ²⁵	"Ahold USA is encouraging pork suppliers to start using open housing for pregnant sows by 2022." ²⁶	Commitment updated in 2020, specifies full elimination of gestation crates. Progress unknown, but update was one year ago.	<p>"We introduced new animal welfare policies in the U.S. in 2020."²⁷</p> <p>Ahold Delhaize USA companies "are asking pork suppliers to transition to group housing and eliminate the use of gestation stalls by 2025 or sooner."²⁸</p>
Wendy's	2012 ²⁹	"In an update on its website, Wendy's said it hopes to end the use of gestation crates in its supply chain by the end of 2022."	Current commitment language affirms goal of full elimination of gestation crates by clear deadline. Progress reported is a general statement of being on track to source only pork from group housing environments.	<p>"Since 2007, Wendy's has given preferential buying to those suppliers who adopt an ongoing plan to phase out single sow gestation stalls...As part of this commitment, we require every raw material and finished product supplier to submit quarterly progress reports that reflect the percentage of stall-free pork supplied to Wendy's...we are confident we will continue to make progress toward our goal of eliminating the use of sow gestation stalls in our supply chain by the end of 2022."³⁰</p> <p>"We are also on track to source 100 percent of our pork supply from group housing environments by the end of 2022."³¹</p> <p>"Wendy's is proud to be on track toward our commitment to eliminate the use of sow gestation stalls in our North American supply chain by the end of 2022. In lieu of gestation stalls, our suppliers will adopt group housing."³²</p>



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Metz Culinary Management	2012 ³³	"Metz Culinary Management is working with our pork suppliers to eliminate gestation crates by 2017." ³⁴	Commitment to require full elimination of gestation crates by clear deadline. Progress towards full elimination provided is vague/unclear.	"Metz Culinary Management is working with our pork suppliers to eliminate gestation crates by 2022. We have notified our suppliers that we require full elimination of gestational crates by this time frame and have encouraged them to continue research on more humane farrowing environments. Metz Culinary Management has already partnered with some suppliers who raise their animals without growth hormones, antibiotics, and provide crate free/free to roam environments." ³⁵
Target	2012 ³⁶	"Target is committed to working with our vendors on the elimination of sow gestation crates by 2022."	Current commitment language is meaningful, no update on progress.	"We will: only partner with suppliers who do not use sow gestation crates by 2022." ³⁷ "We continue working to eliminate gestation crates from our pork supply chain." ³⁸
Dunkin'	2015 ³⁹	"Dunkin' Donuts is also announcing that it will reach its pledge to eliminate gestation crate pork from its supply chain by 2022."	Commitment specifies eliminating crates with clear timeline, progress has not been reported.	"We have committed to eliminating gestation crates from our U.S. pork supply chain by 2022 and to making positive progress, we published our first report on our progress in December 2018 and will publish our next progress report by December 31, 2020." ⁴⁰
Kroger	2018 ⁴¹	2025	Commitment language specifies full elimination of gestation crates with timeline, reporting is on reduced crate progress and not crate-free.	"We have also made commitments to source 100% cage-free eggs and to transition to a 100% gestation-crate-free pork supply chain, both by 2025." ⁴² "Responsible sourcing: Source 100% of fresh pork from suppliers and farms that have transitioned away from gestation crates (% of supply chain not using gestation crates for at least part of pregnancy) 2018: 38% 2019: 43% 2020: 51% ⁴³ 2019 and 2018 (restated) data points reflect the percentage of Kroger's fresh pork supply chain that has moved sows away from gestation crates for at least part of pregnancy." ⁴⁴



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Sonic	2012 ⁴⁵	"Sonic plans to eliminate the crates from its pork supply by 2022"	Meaningful public commitment, no recent progress reported, past reporting is on group housing not crate-free.	"SONIC is actively working to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain, and intends to reach that goal no later than 2022...As of March 2017, 52 percent of sows raised for SONIC lived in group housing." ⁴⁶
ConAgra	2012 ⁴⁷	"As part of our long-standing commitment to the humane treatment and handling of animals, ConAgra Foods supports the elimination of gestation stall housing for sows. We are asking our pork suppliers to present actionable plans by 2017 that address both the elimination of gestation stalls and creation of traceability systems within the pork supply chain. We recognize that implementing a phase-out may be a long-term process, and could take up to 10 years."	Original commitment is to elimination of gestation stalls. Recent update indicates progress, unclear whether reporting is on crate-free or partial group housed supply chains.	"Based on supplier public commitments, by 2022, we expect that 90-95% of our current supply base for pork will come from supply chains where sows are housed in groups rather than stalls." ⁴⁸
Kraft Heinz	2012 ⁴⁹	"Our goal is to source all pork globally from suppliers who can provide pregnant sow housing that safely allows for greater movement for the animals while ensuring their comfort. In North America, we have been working with our suppliers and, starting in 2017, will give preference to suppliers that are able to help us achieve our goal of being 100% free of traditional gestation stall housing by 2025." ⁵⁰	Current commitment language specifies that no use of gestation crates is the goal. Recent progress reported, but not clear as to whether alternative gestation systems are fully gestation-crate-free.	"Goal: Source 100% of Global Pork Supply Free of Traditional Gestation Stall Housing. Deadline 2025. In 2019, we sourced 16 percent of our global and 100 percent of our European pork supply from sows housed in alternative gestation systems." ⁵¹



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Sodexo	2012 ⁵²	"The company will ask pork suppliers to plan to remove gestation stalls from the production process by 2022." ⁵³	Commitment to full elimination of gestation crates not tied to timeline, reporting differentiates reduced crate and crate-free supply progress.	<p>"For the year ending May 31, 2020, 24% of our pork came from traceable reduced crate supply chains, and a small amount from completely crate-free operations. While there is a lack of widespread industry movement toward reduced-crate and fully crate-free practices, we realize that we need to completely revise our plan of action with an understanding that we may not achieve our 2022 timeline.</p> <p>We remain committed to moving to crate-free pork operations and have taken immediate action to source at least 20% of crate-free pork by 2023. We will also develop a comprehensive plan for a 100% crate-free pork goal, including a glide path for the next three years that we expect to share in Q2 of 2021."⁵⁴</p>
Costco	2012 ⁵⁵	"We want all of the hogs throughout our pork supply chain to be housed in groups...and expect that this transition should be accomplished no later than 2022."	Current commitment language does not specify full elimination of gestation crates is the goal, the meaning of "open pen gestation housing" is unclear.	<p>Policy: "We want all of the hogs throughout our pork supply chain to be housed in groups with access to safety zones and expect that this transition should be accomplished no later than 2022."⁵⁶</p> <p>"We have been working diligently with our suppliers and based upon their capacities, our progress will be made in phases: Phase 1: The goal is that 100% of our pork sold in our fresh departments and also our Kirkland Signature™ branded pork primal cuts, bacon and ham sold in the U.S., Mexico, Australia, France, Iceland, Spain and the UK be from open pen gestation housing (OPG) on or before December 21, 2022. As of FY2020, approximately 80% of Costco's U.S. fresh department's pork supplies have completed this process, although COVID-19 has impacted some of our suppliers' progress. Phase 2: We intended to expand to other regions where we do business and to other pork products."⁵⁷</p>
Noodle's & Co.	2012 ⁵⁸	"Implemented in 2012 our pork program includes the mandatory use of group housing for the majority of each sows' pregnancy."	Weak commitment, reporting on group housing progress, no timeline for full elimination of crates.	<p>"Pigs: 100% of our pork comes from sows raised in group housing systems.</p> <p>We continue to seek out suppliers who are working to eliminate the use of crates entirely. In 2015 we transitioned bacon that meets the same requirements."⁵⁹</p>



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Compass Group	2012 ⁶⁰	"Compass Group, the world's largest food and support services company, will eliminate all pork that comes from animals bred using gestation crates in its US supply chain by 2017."	Commitment to eliminate gestation crates no longer tied to timeline, progress and current language emphasizes group-housed/reduced crate supply chains.	"In 2012, Compass Group USA announced it would 'eliminate all pork that comes from animals bred using gestation crates in its U.S. supply chain by 2017.' Our ability to purchase pork from gestation crate-free environments has been limited due to existing supply chain constraints. While we did not meet that target, currently, 10% of our pork comes from supply chains where gestation crates have been reduced by allowing breeding pigs to spend most of their lives in groups. Moving forward, by the end of 2020, 100% of our contracted bacon will come from higher welfare group-housed pork. After the transition, group-housed pork purchases will represent 30% of our total pork volume. We view this as progress in the right direction. We are continuing to influence our suppliers and develop a plan of action to reduce pork raised using gestation crates." ⁶¹ 2020 ESG report, Supply Chain Management & Food Sourcing disclosure and metrics: "pork that was produced without the use of gestation crates...Compass Group does not currently disclose this information." ⁶²
McDonald's	2012 ⁶³	"McDonald's USA said Thursday that by 2022 it will only buy pork from farmers and other sources that do not use gestation stalls for housing their pregnant sows."	Current commitment language applies only during confirmed pregnancy, no recent update on progress.	"In the U.S., we're working with pork suppliers to phase out the use of gestation stalls (small, enclosed pens) for housing pregnant sows by 2022." ⁶⁴
Kellogg	2015 ⁶⁵	"Kellogg Company announced today its plans to build on its commitment to animal welfare by...eliminating gestation stalls from its pork supply chain by 2025."	Current commitment language is vague, refers specifically to ending gestation crate use for pregnant sows only.	"We are committed to working with our pork suppliers to phase out the practice of housing pregnant sows in gestation stalls by the end of 2025. We understand that the development of alternative housing methods takes time, and we are committed to having productive conversations with our suppliers to establish the appropriate path forward." ⁶⁶
Raley's	Unknown	2021	Current commitment language does not clearly set requirement for full elimination of gestation crates for 100% of company's pork.	"Raley's is committed to working with our suppliers to source pork free from gestation stalls by the end of 2021." ⁶⁷



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Aramark	2012 ⁶⁸	Aramark “plans to eliminate all pork from animals bred using gestation crates in ARAMARK’s U.S. supply chain by 2017.” ⁶⁹	Progress made towards commitment, commitment is not meaningful.	<p>“In 2012, Aramark committed that by 2017, it would eliminate all pork from animals bred using gestation crates by working with our suppliers, industry, and animal welfare organizations to address confinement issues and expand supply availability of gestation crate-free pork. Like many companies, we learned a lot during this process including the significant capital investments and longer time horizons required by farmers to make such changes.”</p> <p>Aramark in March 2016 adjusted its public commitment to purchase 100% group-housed pork by the end of 2022.</p> <p>...we have made strides in sourcing group-housed pork and moving in the direction of a gestation crate-free pork supply. As of December 2020, 54% of pork purchased by Aramark is group-housed. Pending no significant supply chain disruptions, we are on a pathway to transitioning 100% of our contract pork to group-housed by the end of 2022.</p> <p>To be clear, group-housed operations still use crates about 30% and up to 50% of the time. Aramark remains opposed to reliance on confinement systems and will continue to work with our suppliers to source gestation crate-free pork where possible. Aramark’s goal is still for our supply chain to be completely free of gestation crates.”⁷⁰</p>
Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines	2014 ⁷¹	“In recent years the cruise company has undertaken significant efforts to provide sustainably sourced food for guests including sourcing pork from gestation crate free suppliers. As a result the company also is committing to source only gestation crate free pork by 2022.”	Current commitment language does not clearly apply to 100% of its pork supply.	We are “working towards sourcing...pork from gestation crate-free producers by 2022.” ⁷²
Brinker International (Chili’s, Macaroni Grill, Maggiano’s)	2012 ⁷³	“Brinker International, owner of the Chili’s restaurant chain, has announced that it will work toward eliminating controversial gestation crates...from its pork supply chain.”	Current commitment language does not specify full elimination of crates, refers only to group housing systems.	“We’re working with our suppliers to implement group housing systems for all of our pork products by the end of 2025.” ⁷⁴



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Sysco	2012	"Sysco is committed to working with its suppliers to create a gestation crate-free supply system, for the good of all." ⁷⁵	Current language no longer clearly states that the goal is to fully eliminate gestation crates by all suppliers, no timeline for implementation.	"Humane Housing. Suppliers should provide animals with housing systems that provide appropriate space and encourage meaningful enrichments that allow for natural behavior and ensure healthy biological functioning of the animal." ⁷⁶ "Sysco works with our pork suppliers to ensure that group housing of sows, which provides greater freedom of movement and the opportunity for social interaction, is implemented over time. Sysco suppliers are actively working to adopt group housing systems, and all supplier-owned farms in the U.S. have implemented this change. However, most pork comes from a large number of contract and independent farms which may not have the resources to change housing systems as quickly." ⁷⁷
Denny's	2012 ⁷⁸	"Denny's announced it will move to end the use of pork sourced from producers who use gestation crates to confine pregnant sows."	Current commitment language implies full elimination of gestation crates is the goal, but is not tied to a clear timeline.	"Since 2012, our goal has been to source our pork from suppliers that do not use gestation crates for the housing of sows." ⁷⁹
Albertsons (Safeway)	2012 ⁸⁰	"It is Safeway's goal to have a gestation stall-free supply chain."	Commitment language does not require full elimination of gestation crates, does not provide a timeline.	"Simply put, we want to run really great stores where customers love to shop and can find the products they want, and part of that philosophy includes increasing the quantity of pork we source from vendors that have made commitments to transitioning to group-housing systems for their breeding sows. As our company has grown, we have also expanded the availability and quantity of our Open Nature® pork products, which come exclusively from group-housed sow sources." ⁸¹
Subway	2012 ⁸²	"We support the elimination of crate style housing for gestation sows and have had this eliminated from our pork suppliers in the UK. Also, our pork suppliers in the US have begun to transition to a more humane process including the elimination of gestation crates and anticipate having this process completed within the next ten years."	Current commitment language does not specify full elimination of gestation crates, no update on progress.	"We aspire to have a pork supply chain that is considerate of animal welfare concerns related to gestation and farrowing crates." ⁸³
CKE Restaurants (Carl's Jr., Hardee's)	2012 ⁸⁴	"Carl's Jr. and Hardee's parent CKE Restaurants Inc. is...promising to free its pork supply system of cramped gestation crates by 2022...over the next decade [it] will completely stop its practice of cramming pregnant pigs into tiny cages."	Current commitment language refers only to group housing, does not specify full elimination of gestation crates. No progress update provided.	"We have committed to group sow housing for pregnant sows by 2022." ⁸⁵



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *Continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
General Mills	2012 ⁸⁶	“General Mills supports the development of pregnant sow housing alternatives. Though we recognize that the development and implementation of alternative systems may be a long-term process that could take up to 10 years, we will favor suppliers who provide actionable plans by 2017 to create traceability and to end their use of gestation crates with the U.S. pork supply chain.” ⁸⁷	Current commitment language relies on vague reference to sow housing alternatives, does not set clear timeline for full elimination of gestation crates.	<p>“General Mills supports the development of pregnant sow housing alternatives. Though we recognize that the development and implementation of alternative systems may be a long-term process, we will favor pork suppliers who provide actionable plans to create traceability and end their use of gestation crates within the U.S. pork supply chain.”⁸⁸</p> <p>“General Mills supports the humane treatment of pigs in our supply chain. This includes the development and implementation of pregnant sow housing alternatives, which we recognize will take the industry time to achieve. In the meantime, we will favor suppliers that provide plans to create traceability and to end use of gestation crates within the U.S. pork supply chain.”⁸⁹</p>
Papa John’s	2013 ⁹⁰	“We support the industry move away from traditional gestation crates and are encouraging our suppliers to explore alternative pregnant sow housing options. Our goal is to have significant movement to alternative housing by 2022, and we will seek suppliers who adopt a plant to implement this practice.”	Current commitment language is unclear whether goal is full elimination of gestation crates for sows at any time. Deadline is for “significant movement”, not full implementation.	“We remain committed to improving animal welfare throughout our supply chain, including: By 2022, achieve significant movement away from traditional gestation crates and increased use of alternative pregnant sow housing.” ⁹¹
Nestle	2014 ⁹²	“Nestle has announced a major pledge to improve the welfare of the farm animals in its supply chain...The new program will eliminate standard practices from Nestle’s supply chain that are controversial, including: Confinement of sows in gestation crates.”	Current commitment specifies full elimination of gestation crates, no set timeline for implementation, reporting on progress toward reduced crate supply.	<p>“Among the specific practices we have committed to eliminating are: gestation crates; tail docking; and surgical castration.”</p> <p>“It is mandatory that: Confinement and permanent tethering systems such as cages, crates or tie stalls shall be progressively phased out in favour of groups/free housing in pens, barns, free access stalls or free range.”</p> <p>“Our estimate is that globally, around 56% of our pork volume now comes from open sow housing systems (4 weeks after service). This is slightly lower than last year due to an increase in our volume sourced in North America – a region where sow stalls are still used by suppliers.”⁹⁵</p>
Dine Brands (IHOP, Applebee’s)	2013 ⁹⁶	“We are pleased to announce that DineEquity expects all of our vendors to phase out the practice known as ‘pig gestation crating.’ By 2020, Applebee’s and IHOP will only serve pork products that are produced without the use of gestation crates.”	Current commitment language refers only to group housing. Progress reporting differentiates percent crate-free and percent partial group housing.	“We are committed to sourcing pork for our domestic restaurants across both brands where U.S. suppliers use group housing systems. We continue to survey our suppliers, and suppliers will be asked to provide annual progress on their efforts to comply with our plans as requested so that we may evaluate where each supplier is with regard to reaching our goals. As of September 2020, 23% of our pork supply is gestation crate free, with 40% of our total pork supply utilizing group housing.” ⁹⁷



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *Continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Starbucks	2014 ⁹⁸	"Our current areas of focus include: Phasing out gestation crates for pigs"	Current language specifies full elimination of gestation crates, no set timeline or meaningful progress update.	"In 2014, Starbucks announced our goal to phase out gestation crates for pigs from our supply chain. In North America, approximately 25 percent of pork products sold at Starbucks stores come from systems where the amount of time pigs spend in gestation crates has been reduced. Starbucks will continue to work with our pork suppliers and support industry wide solutions in support of our goal to eliminate the use of gestation crates from our supply chain. In 2021, Starbucks will publicly share a plan with additional steps and a revised timeline for accomplishing our goal." ⁹⁹
Marriott	2013 ¹⁰⁰	"The company will: Require all of its pork suppliers to discontinue the use of gestation crates for Marriott's supply chain by 2018."	Commitment language is inclusive of both gestation crate-free and partial group-housed systems. Progress reported does not differentiate.	"8.4% of pork purchased by hotels in the U.S., Canada, and CALA was classified as either gestation crate-free or group-housed. Our procurement teams are working to identify more pork products and vendors who supply gestation crate-free and group-housed pork in order for us to meet our 2025 goals...In 2020, we engaged our top U.S. and Canadian pork supplier that accounts for over 60% of our pork spend and asked them to complete a 3rd-party ESG scorecard. We will continue to work with this, and the other suppliers we have identified, to grow their supply of gestation crate-free and group-housed pork." ¹⁰¹
Aldi	2019 ¹⁰²	"The chain says it expects its suppliers to pursue the elimination of gestation crates in favor of group housing."	Commitment language does not require full elimination of gestation crates, applies only to pregnant sows, and no timeline set.	"We expect our suppliers to pursue the elimination of crates for pregnant sows in favor of group housing." ¹⁰³
Jack in the Box	2012 ¹⁰⁴	"In 2012, we informed our pork suppliers that, by 2022, all pork products sold in our system restaurants must come from supply systems in which pregnant sows are cared for in group housing environment instead of gestation stalls." ¹⁰⁵	Commitment weakened, sets preference for group housing, does not require full elimination of gestation crates, no timeline.	"We believe group housing is a preferable housing system for sows. Accordingly, we are discussing with our pork suppliers a feasible timeframe in which all pork products sold in our restaurants are from supply systems in which pregnant sows are cared for in a group housing environment instead of gestation stalls." ¹⁰⁶
Walmart	2015 ¹⁰⁷	We are asking our suppliers to "Find and implement solutions to address animal welfare concerns including, but not limited to...Housing systems that lack sufficient space, enrichment or socialization (for example, sow gestation crates)."	Commitment language does not specifically require full elimination of gestation crates, nor set a timeline.	We are asking our suppliers to "Find and implement solutions to address animal welfare concerns including, but not limited to...Housing systems that lack sufficient space, enrichment or socialization (for example, sow gestation crates)." ¹⁰⁸ "Some topics from those listed by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) among various industries that we believe are relevant to our company...may be discussed generally in our ESG Report but Walmart does not currently track or report progress on the corresponding SASB metrics [including]...Management of Environmental & Social Impacts in the Supply Chain: Percentage of revenue from...(2) pork produced without the use of gestation crates." ¹⁰⁹



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *Continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
UNFI	2012 ¹¹⁰	"In 2012 SuperValu made a commitment to eliminate the cages from its supply chain."	Since acquisition of SuperValu by UNFI, no new information provided on gestation crate commitments.	"We are now in the process of evaluating our future goals on animal welfare and look forward to sharing the details of our new animal welfare commitments in 2020." ¹¹¹
TGI Fridays	2013 ¹¹²	"We are committed to taking the following steps...Pork: TGI Fridays goal is to only purchase pork from suppliers that can demonstrate documented plans to end their use of gestation crates for breeding sows."	Commitment language absent from current company resources.	No reference to gestation crates or breeding sows in present animal welfare responsibility statement, general reference to a goal of "by 2024 is to ensure that our suppliers utilize sustainable and humane methods of raising, housing, and processing meat." ¹¹³
Bob Evans	2013 ¹¹⁴	"By 2025, we will require all suppliers to source animals from housing systems that provide the animals with ample opportunity for movement and comfort and ensure the safety of the workers who care for them. We believe this is best achieved by transitioning from conventional gestation stall housing to systems that provide greater freedom of movement and individual care and safety."	Commitment language absent from current company resources.	No reference to gestation crates or breeding sows in present animal well-being statement. ¹¹⁵
Quiznos	2013 ¹¹⁶	"Quiznos...will work closely with its suppliers to eliminate controversial pig 'gestation crates' from its supply chain between 2017 and 2022...Quiznos is proud to have been one of the first companies to incorporate gestation crate-free pork into our supply chain, five years ago...It should come as no surprise to the pork industry or our customers that Quiznos is doing the right thing by now working to ensure an entirely gestation crate-free pork supply."	Commitment language absent from current company resources.	No reference to gestation crates or breeding sows in present responsibility statement. ¹¹⁷
Hillshire (Jimmy Dean, Ball Park, Hillshire Farm, State Fair, and Sara Lee frozen bakery brand products, announced today a plan to begin sourcing pork from producers not using gestation crates. The company plans to complete the transition by 2022."	2012 ¹¹⁸	"Hillshire Brands, parent company of Jimmy Dean, Ball Park, Hillshire Farm, State Fair, and Sara Lee frozen bakery brand products, announced today a plan to begin sourcing pork from producers not using gestation crates. The company plans to complete the transition by 2022."	Commitment language absent from parent company, Tyson Foods, public materials.	Hillshire Farm was purchased by Tyson Foods in 2014. Tyson does not have a policy to eliminate crates. ¹¹⁹



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown Continued

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Arby's	2012 ¹²⁰	"Arby's is committed to only working with suppliers who have policies in place to work towards the elimination of gestation crates on sow farms. We believe there are more humane and sustainable alternatives to gestation crates."	Commitment language absent from current company resources.	No reference to gestation crates or breeding sows in current available sustainability materials. ¹²¹
Cracker Barrel	2012 ¹²²	"we recognize that gestation crates may not be the best method to meet" those levels of welfare...We are committed to evolving sustainable alternatives."	Commitment language absent from current company resources.	No reference to gestation crates or breeding sows in current "Food With Care" animal welfare statement. ¹²³
Einstein Noah Bagels	2012 ¹²⁴	"We were pleased to find that the majority of our suppliers are already working toward eliminating gestation crates from their systems. We are committed to working with our supplier partners to eliminate them from our supply chain by the end of 2017."	Commitment language absent from company materials. Deadline passed.	No reference to gestation crates or breeding sows in publicly available information. ¹²⁵
Carnival Cruise Lines	2012 ¹²⁶	"Carnival Corporation & plc supports the pork industry's movement away from gestation crates and will work to ensure that our own pork supply is free of these cages by 2022."	Commitment language absent from company materials.	No reference to gestation crates or breeding sows in animal welfare sections of sustainability report. ¹²⁷
Bruegger's Bagels	2012 ¹²⁸	"We're proud to announce that we're working with our pork suppliers to eliminate gestation crates within our supply chain, and we recognize it could take up until 2022 to achieve this goal."	Commitment language absent from company materials.	No publicly available statement on animal welfare, gestation crates, or breeding sows could be found.
Wienerschnitzel	2012 ¹²⁹	"We support the efforts of pork suppliers to ultimately eliminate the use of gestation crates. Moving forward, we will be requesting from our pork suppliers their plans to phase out the use of gestation crates from their supply chains by 2022."	Commitment language absent from current company materials.	No publicly available statement on animal welfare, gestation crates, or breeding sows could be found.



Appendix A: Food Company Crate-Free Commitments Breakdown *Continued*

Company	Year Commitment Was Announced	Commitment Deadline	Status	Public-facing Statement
Elior North America (formerly TrustHouse Services)¹²⁰	2012 ¹³¹	"TrustHouse [now Elior North America] is working with its suppliers to phase-out gestation crates within the company's supply chain by 2017...'Eliminating gestation crates within our supply chain is the right thing to do for the animals, family farmers, our company and our clients."	Commitment language absent from current company materials.	No reference to gestation crates or breeding sows in animal welfare position paper or social responsibility page. ¹³²
Baja Fresh (Kahala Brands)	2012 ¹³³	Full press coverage no longer available	Commitment language absent from current brand or parent company materials.	No publicly available information could be found.
Wolfgang Puck	2007 ¹³⁴	"Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck announced his companies and dining venues will only use eggs from cage-free hens, and all-natural or organic crate-free pork and veal."	Commitment language absent from current company materials.	No publicly available information could be found.
Trader Joe's	2018 ¹³⁵	"Trader Joe's published a list of 10 pork products that come from 'crate-free' suppliers. The list also includes 11 other pork products the company says it will obtain from crate-free suppliers in the future...The phase-in process continues through 2022...Trader Joe's said it will 'continue to evaluate the opportunities that exist with our pork offerings,' and that it will update its list of crate-free pork products."	Commitment language absent from current company materials.	No publicly available information could be found. ¹³⁶





Endnotes

- 1 <https://www.chipotle.com/about-us/sustainability>
- 2 <https://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/tips-and-ideas/archive/no-gestation-crates-our-pigs>
- 3 <https://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Article/2012/04/26/Burger-King-pledges-to-phase-out-sow-stalls>
- 4 <https://www.rbi.com/sustainability/responsible-sourcing/animal-welfares/>
- 5 <https://www.globalanimal.org/2012/10/18/the-cheesecake-factory-goes-crate-free/>
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