



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

September 14, 2021

To: Grocery Stores, Retailers, and Food Distributors

Subject: Proposition 12 Initiative Requirements for Eggs, Veal, and Pork

On November 6, 2018, California voters approved Proposition (Prop 12) the *Farm Animal Confinement Initiative*. This law amended the California Health and Safety Code (HSC) to require that egg-laying hens, veal calves, and breeding pigs be housed in systems that meet specific standards for freedom of movement, enclosure design and minimum floorspace. The law also prohibits a business owner or operator from knowingly engaging in the sale within the state of shell eggs, liquid eggs, whole veal meat, or whole pork meat from animals housed in a manner that does not comply with HSC 25990-25994.

On January 1, 2022 the second deadline for Prop 12 will go into effect for egg-laying hens and breeding pigs. Beginning next year, shell eggs and liquid eggs sold in California must come from egg-laying hens that are raised according to the minimum standards outlined in the 2017 edition of the United Egg Producers' Animal Husbandry Guidelines for U.S. Egg-Laying Flocks: Guidelines for Cage-Free Housing. In addition, whole pork meat sold in California must come from breeding pigs, or the immediate offspring of breeding pigs, confined with a minimum of twenty-four square feet per pig.

As a grocery store, retailer, or food distributor, it is your responsibility to only source Prop 12 compliant shell eggs, liquid eggs, veal, and pork meat for commercial sale in California.

To learn more and to sign up for Prop 12 updates, visit the following website:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Prop12.html>

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cox MS, DVM  
Program Manager  
Animal Care Program



# ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM

HSC 25990-25994 (ALSO KNOWN AS PROPOSITION 12 INITIATIVE)



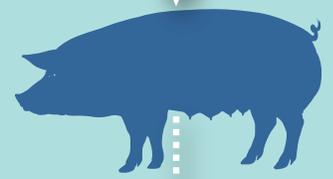
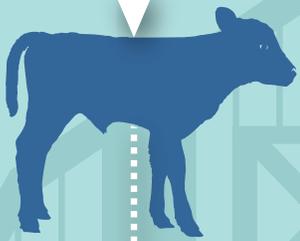
Commercial sale of all **Proposition 12** defined covered products must not be from covered animals **confined in a cruel manner\*** even when covered products originate from covered animals raised outside of California



\*Cruel manner is defined as confining animals in space smaller than described above or in a manner that prevents the animal from lying down, standing up, fully extending the animal's limbs, or turning around freely.

**JANUARY 1, 2020**

**JANUARY 1, 2022**



Egg-laying hens require a minimum of 144 square inches of floor space per hen.

Calves raised for veal require a minimum of 43 square feet of floor space per calf.

Egg-laying hens included require cage-free housing outlined in United Egg Producers 2017 Guidelines.

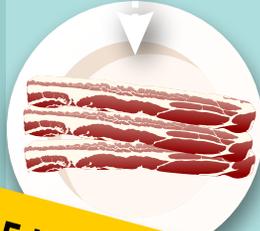
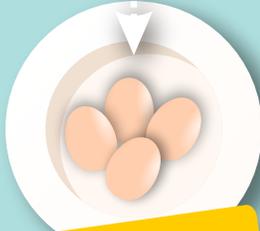
Breeding pigs require a minimum of 24 square feet of floor space per pig.

FOOD PRODUCTS INCLUDE

FOOD PRODUCTS INCLUDE

FOOD PRODUCTS INCLUDE

FOOD PRODUCTS INCLUDE



**SHELL EGGS  
LIQUID EGGS**

**WHOLE UNCOOKED VEAL  
UNCOOKED VEAL CUTS**

**SHELL EGGS  
LIQUID EGGS**

**WHOLE UNCOOKED PORK  
UNCOOKED PORK CUTS**



# ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM

HSC 25990-25994 (ALSO KNOWN AS PROPOSITION 12 INITIATIVE)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### FAQ's: Grocery Stores, Retailers and Food Distributors

#### **What egg products sold in California are included?**

- Shell eggs.
- Liquid eggs meaning eggs broken from the shell with yolks and whites in natural proportions, or separated, strained or mixed in different proportions, and containing no more than sugar, salt, water, seasoning, coloring, flavoring, preservatives, stabilizers and similar food additives.

#### **What veal and pork products sold in California are included?**

- Whole uncooked veal and pork meat.
- Any uncooked cuts of veal, including chop, ribs, riblet, loin, shank, leg, roast, brisket, steak, sirloin or cutlet that is composed entirely of veal meat except for seasoning, curing agents, coloring, flavoring or preservatives.
- Any uncooked cut of pork, including bacon, ham, chop, ribs, riblet, loin, shank, leg, roast, brisket, steak, sirloin, or cutlet, that is comprised entirely of pork meat, except for seasoning, curing agents, coloring, flavoring, preservatives, and similar meat additives.

#### **What about combination food products assembled outside of California and sold within the state containing eggs, veal, or pork on the ingredient list?**

- Sale of combination food products including pancake mixes, cake mixes, cookies, pizzas, cookie dough, ice cream, or similar processed or prepared food products containing eggs are not included.
- Sale of combination food products including soups, sandwiches, pizzas, hotdogs or similar processed or prepared foods containing veal or pork are not included.

#### **What type of documentation do I need to show that my business is compliant?**

- At this time, ask for written certification of compliance from your supplier of covered products for your records.
- HSC describes that it shall be a defense to any action to enforce the above requirements that a business owner relied in good faith upon a written certification by the supplier that the covered product was not derived from a covered animal who was confined in a cruel manner (HSC 25993.1).

#### **Will egg-laying hens, veal calves, and breeding pigs raised outside of California be held to the same standard as farmers raising those animals in California?**

- Yes. Sale of shell eggs, liquid eggs, veal, and pork meat in the state of California must be compliant regardless of source farm located inside or outside the state.

#### **What happens if I sell shell eggs, liquid eggs, veal, or pork meat that are not compliant?**

- The law states it is illegal to participate in a commercial sale of covered products sourced from covered animals, or immediate offspring in the case of breeding pigs, not confined in the minimum confinement standards as described in the law.



# ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM

HSC 25990-25994 (ALSO KNOWN AS PROPOSITION 12 INITIATIVE)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



- It is the responsibility of grocery stores, retailers and food distributors to have discussions with their suppliers and only purchase shell eggs, liquid eggs, veal, and pork meat from covered animals housed, or immediate offspring in the case of breeding pigs, in compliance with minimum confinement standards.
- Knowingly engaging in the sale within the state of shell eggs, liquid eggs, veal, or pork meat from animals confined in a cruel manner is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed 180 days, or both, as specified in Section 25993 of the Health and Safety Code (HSC) . In addition, a violation constitutes unfair competition as defined in Section 17200 of the Business and Professions Code.

### **Are there any exceptions for confining egg-laying hens, veal calves, and breeding pigs not according to the minimum standards described in HSC 25991?**

- There are exceptions to housing requirements for medical research, during examination, treatment, or testing for veterinary purposes, during transportation, during rodeo exhibitions, state or county fair exhibitions, 4-H programs, and slaughter.
- There is an exception for a breeding pig during the five-day period prior to the breeding pig's expected date of giving birth, and any day that the breeding pig is nursing piglets.

To learn more and to sign up for Prop 12 updates, scan or click the below QR code, or visit <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Prop12.html>

You can follow us on social media by scanning the below QR codes or by clicking on each individual QR code with your cursor. Email questions to: [AnimalCare@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:AnimalCare@cdfa.ca.gov)

