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***** PRESS STATEMENT*****

Aldi USA Updates Its Animal Welfare Policy *A Small Step Forward for Mother Pigs, but Work Still Needs to Be Done*

October 8, 2019, Huntley, IL – In response to our [Change.org petition](#) urging Aldi to eliminate gestation crates from its supply chain, today Aldi updated its [online animal welfare policy](#) to say that “*We expect our suppliers to pursue the elimination of crates for pregnant sows in favor of group housing.*” The petition was started in June, 2019, and now has over 321,000 supporters.

We appreciate that Aldi has acknowledged the problem and has incorporated this important expectation into its animal welfare policy. However, this gesture does not go far enough to address the cruelty towards mother pigs that Aldi continues to tolerate in its pork supply chain for several reasons:

- There is no binding timeline for eliminating gestation crates, which means producers can continue to confine mother pigs indefinitely, without consequence.
- Letting suppliers know that you “expect” them to “pursue” a change is a suggestion, not an actual mandate that suppliers are required to eliminate these cruel practices if they wish to continue doing business with Aldi.
- It is not clear how Aldi intends to communicate this policy update to its suppliers aside from updating its website. Hopefully, Aldi will take further steps to ensure its current suppliers learn of this change in policy.

Gestation crates remain one of the worst forms of entrenched animal abuse in industrialized food operations. We continue to urge Aldi to strengthen this announcement by turning its recommendation into a firm commitment by Aldi suppliers to eliminate the use of gestation crates for pregnant pigs within a specific timeline.

About Crate Free Illinois

Crate Free Illinois is an Illinois-based, not-for-profit animal welfare organization. Formed in 2015, Crate Free Illinois’ mission is to educate consumers about the treatment of farmed animals in Concentrated Feeding Operations (CAFOs); work to eliminate extreme confinement practices in the food supply chain; and advocate for legislative change to ban gestation crates, battery cages and veal crates. Learn more at <http://www.CrateFreeIL.org> or follow at [facebook.com/Cratefreeillinois](https://www.facebook.com/Cratefreeillinois) [@CrateFreeIllinois](https://twitter.com/CrateFreeIllinois) [@CrateFreeIL](https://www.instagram.com/CrateFreeIL)

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