



2023 INDUSTRIAL ANIMAL AGRICULTURE OPINION SURVEY

In March 2023, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) designed and commissioned a national web-based survey of 1,000 American adults, fielded by Ipsos. This survey was intended to gauge public opinions about industrial animal agriculture and support for public policy interventions.

Survey results demonstrate that the majority of Americans, and in particular those Americans whose livelihoods depend on animal agriculture, are concerned about industrial animal agriculture's impact on animal welfare, environment, public health and/or farmers' wellbeing. The majority of respondents were also supportive of government intervention to improve animal welfare, regulate industrial animal agriculture, or help transition farmers to more humane practices. Conversely, most respondents did not support government reimbursement of corporations if they used inhumane practices, specifically for depopulating animals.

79%

of respondents are somewhat or very concerned about the negative impacts of industrial animal agriculture on animal welfare, second only to their concern about its impact on public and community health.

74%

of respondents report strongly to somewhat supporting a ban on new industrial animal agriculture facilities, or CAFOs. This represents a 20 percent increase since the last time we asked this question in 2020.

89%

strongly to somewhat favor CAFO farmers transitioning to more humane systems of agriculture, such as raising livestock on pasture or growing vegetables, and there is almost equal support for the government funding these transitions (82%).

86%

favor or strongly favor adding chickens and turkeys to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.

38%

There is low support for government reimbursement of animal losses during disasters, and that support drops to just 38% if inhumane methods are used to depopulate animals.



FURTHER ANALYSIS

From what you know, how concerned or not concerned are you about the impact of CAFOs on the following areas:

	Public Health	Community Health	Animal Welfare	Farmer Visibility	Worker Safety	Environment
Concerned	81%	80%	79%	79%	78%	76%
Not Concerned	19%	20%	21%	21%	22%	24%



- More than three-fourths of respondents are concerned about the impact of CAFOs on every issue, with public health and community health as top concerns followed closely by concerns about animal welfare, farmers' viability and workers' safety.
- Women are more likely to report having a concern about the impact of CAFOs on animal welfare than respondents who are men or another gender (85% versus 73%).
- While Democrats are more likely to be concerned about the impact of CAFOs on animal welfare than individuals affiliated with other political parties, more than three-quarters of Republicans (77%) are concerned about the impact of CAFOs on the welfare of farm animals.
- 87% of respondents (n=873) reported that they are somewhat or very concerned about the impact of CAFOs on animal welfare OR the environment.
- Concern about different issues related to CAFOs was consistently higher among those whose income depends on animal agriculture than the general public.



From what you know, how much would you say you favor or oppose a moratorium or ban on the creation of new large CAFOs?

74% report strongly to somewhat supporting a ban on CAFOs.

- Respondents who raise animals for food or sell animal products are much more likely to support a ban on CAFOs (83%) than respondents who are not connected to animal agriculture.
- While Democrats are more likely to favor a ban on CAFOs (83%) than individuals affiliated with other political parties, more than two-thirds of Republicans (64%) also support CAFO bans.
- When [asked this question in 2020](#), 47% were in favor, 26% opposed and the remainder unsure. This represents a significant uptick in support for a ban on CAFOs over the last 3 years.

How much would you say you favor or oppose a law that increases protections for chickens and turkeys by removing the current exemption and adding them to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act?

86% favor or strongly favor increasing the protection for chickens and turkeys by removing the current exemption and adding them to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, and 14% report opposing or strongly opposing.

Respondents that are women or Democrats are slightly more supportive (90 and 93%) of including all animals raised for food in the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act than respondents who are not women or not Democrats. However, the support for doing so is over 82 regardless of political party, gender, age, race or geographic location.



From what you know, how much would you say you favor or oppose...

	CAFO farmers transitioning to more humane systems of agriculture, such as raising livestock on pasture or growing vegetables?	the government offering CAFO farmers money to help cover the cost of transitioning to more humane systems of agriculture?	the government reimbursing large corporations for lost profits due to farm animal deaths during disasters, disease or extreme weather?	the government reimbursing large corporations for lost profits due to farm animal deaths when inhumane methods were used for the mass-killing of these animals?
Favor	88%	82%	55%	38%
Oppose	22%	18%	45%	62%



88% somewhat to strongly favor CAFO farmers transitioning to more humane systems of agriculture, and 82% somewhat to strongly favor the government offering CAFO farmers money to help cover the costs of those transitions.

- While Democrats are more likely to favor providing funding for CAFO transitions (90%), more than three-quarters of Republicans (78%) support funding CAFO transitions. Support for these transitions is high across geography, race, gender and age.
- Americans are divided on whether companies should be reimbursed for animal deaths during disasters (54% supportive) and the support drops significantly to just 38% if the animals were killed using inhumane methods.
- Republicans are especially unsupportive of government reimbursement of animal losses when inhumane methods are used (35 vs 43% support).



Industrial animal farmers often work under a contract with a larger company. They do not own the animals they are raising.

Instead, the farmers are paid to raise the animals supplied to them by the company on the property the farmer owns. To purchase the property and equipment to raise the animals, the farmers often take on large amounts of debt, which makes it challenging for the farmer to get out of the contract.

Before today, were you aware of this agreement?

73%

Result: The vast majority of people (73%) are unaware of the typical structure of animal agriculture – that farmers are under company contracts, not independent.

