



Date: November 7, 2013

Mr. Josh Balk
The Humane Society of the United States
Director of Corporate Policy, Farm Animal Protection

Dear Josh:

As a top ten food retailer in the United States, Ahold USA aims to offer our customers an abundance of affordable, healthy choices in our stores, while conducting ourselves as a responsible retailer through our practices and supplier relationships.

Animal welfare is an important component of our ambition to source responsibly. Our intention is to work with suppliers who share our company's values and who take a progressive approach to animal welfare. We give purchasing preference to suppliers who are committed to sound, science-based animal care practices and continuous improvement of the well-being of food animals.

As you know, over the past several months, we have conducted a review of the issue of gestation crates versus open pen housing for pregnant sows. We have met with relevant stakeholders, including pork suppliers, industry colleagues, and members of academia to gather information and discuss the safety and well-being of sows. I was also pleased to meet with you in person in August to learn more about this issue and receive your periodic updates as well.

Many of our pork suppliers have announced plans to move increasingly towards a less restrictive environment for pregnant sows. We support and encourage their progress towards open housing, with the option of the limited use of gestation crates only during appropriate times to keep sows and their piglets healthy and safe. We have set the goal that our suppliers will have moved from the daily use of gestation crates to open housing by 2022. We understand that the timeframe will vary from farm to farm but we are hoping that within the next several years, we will be able to consistently and chain-wide offer our customers the choice of pork from animals raised in a primarily crate free environment.

Today, we are communicating with our suppliers so that they know of our position on this important issue. Each year, we will be asking our pork suppliers to inform us of what action they are taking, such as budgeting for open pens as part of their building renovations, to move closer to this goal.

We will continue to monitor the issue annually and will evaluate what additional steps need to be taken. We feel good about being part of the movement to encourage suppliers to move in this direction thereby ensuring an adequate supply of affordable pork products from less restrictive housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jihad Rizkallah', written over a horizontal line.

Jihad Rizkallah, LEED AP
VP Responsible Retailing

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