Food Company Policies on Gestation Crates

Below is a list of the 60+ major food companies with policies to eliminate gestation crates, followed by quotes from each regarding their policy.

Companies with Gestation Crate Elimination Policies				
McDonald's	DineEquity (IHOP & Applebee's)	Chipotle	Campbell Soup	Atlantic Premium
Wendy's	Costco	Sysco	Bon Appétit	Williams Sausage
Walmart	Ahold	Burger King	Subway	Denny's
Johnsonville Sausage	Smithfield (world's largest pork producer)	Kraft Foods (Oscar Mayer)	Quiznos	Harris Teeter
Au Bon Pain	Cracker Barrel	Compass Group	Einstein Noah Restaurant Group	Kmart
Roundy's	Hormel Foods (leading pork producer)	Target Corp.	Carnival Cruise Lines	TrustHouse
Dunkin' Brands	Maple Leaf (top Canadian pork producer)	Jack in the Box/Qdoba	Brinker (Chili's, Romano's, Maggiano's)	Whole Foods
Sonic Drive-In	Kroger	ConAgra Foods	Wienerschnitzel	Heinz
Arby's	Safeway	Carl's Jr./Hardee's	Hillshire Brands (Jimmy Dean, Ballpark)	Bruegger's Bagels
General Mills	Supervalu	The Cheesecake Factory	Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines	Baja Fresh
ARAMARK	Sodexo	Wolfgang Puck	Tim Hortons	Bob Evans Farms
TGI Friday's	Olymel (top Canadian pork producer)	Metz Culinary	Retail Council of Canada (Walmart, Safeway, Loblaw, Metro, Costco, Metro)	



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from U.S. supply chain

"We're asking Walmart U.S. and Sam's Club U.S. fresh and frozen meat, deli, dairy and egg 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, hen battery cages and veal crates)..." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from U.S. supply chain by 2022

"The goal of McDonald's ten-year plan, which was developed with input from its suppliers, pork producers and animal welfare experts, is to source all pork for its

U.S. business from producers that do not house pregnant sows in gestation stalls by the end of 2022." (Source)

"McDonald's believes gestation stalls are not a sustainable production system for the future. There are alternatives that we think are better for the welfare of sows. McDonald's wants to see the end of sow confinement in gestation stalls in our supply chain." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from U.S. and Canadian supply chains, and quarterly reports from suppliers.

2012 statement: "Wendy's is working with its U.S. and Canadian pork suppliers to eliminate the use of sow gestation stalls over time. [Wendy's] believes that confining sows in gestation stalls is not sustainable over the long term, and moving away from this practice is the right thing to do." (Source)

2014 statement: "As a part of this commitment, we now 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. Additionally, as a result of recent announcements by two suppliers who currently make up the majority of our raw materials (pork) business, we are confident we will continue to make progress towards our goal of eliminating the use of sow gestation stalls in our supply chain by the end of 2022. We maintain our commitment of achieving gestation stall-free sourcing, and welcome the ongoing and expanded cooperation from our suppliers." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from U.S. supply chain

"[BK] has pledged to...only purchase pork from suppliers that can demonstrate documented plans to end their use of gestation crates for breeding pigs." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Move to open housing by 2022.



"We have set the goal that our suppliers will have moved...to open housing by 2022." (Source)

POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain

"Kroger believes that a gestation crate-free environment is more humane and that the pork industry should work toward gestation crate-free housing

for pregnant sows. The Company is encouraging its suppliers to accelerate this already-occurring transition in the Kroger supply-chain." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain

2012 statement: "It is Safeway's goal to have a gestation stall-free supply chain. With that in mind, the company is formulating plans to determine how it can reach that goal." (Source)

2013 update: "Last year the company introduced its own line of Open Nature pork products that come exclusively from group housed sow sources. Within the last several months the company has converted its entire Eastern Division fresh pork supply to product sourced from systems that utilize group sow housing, with plans to add another operating division in early 2014. Safeway will continue to shift its pork business to suppliers that have publicly announced plans for moving away from gestation stalls to group housing systems, and will ask these suppliers to provide us such plans by the end of 2014." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"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. All of us at Costco take animal welfare seriously and consider humane animal handling a business imperative." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"The Oscar Mayer brand will work with its pork suppliers to transition from traditional gestation stall housing to pregnant sow housing alternatives by the end of 2022. The plan is to source all pork from suppliers who can provide pregnant sow housing that safely allows for greater movement for the animal, while ensuring their comfort. (Source)









POLICY OVERVIEW: Suppliers must have plans to completely eliminate all gestation crates by 2017

"In light of the growing concerns regarding the use of gestation crates for sow housing, we have initiated a company review of this practice. Specifically, we

have engaged our pork suppliers to better understand their plans for transitioning away from the use of gestation crates. We recognize this change cannot occur overnight, and are asking our suppliers to present us with plans for potential alternatives to gestation crates within the next five years, by 2017." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"We're committed to the humane treatment of animals, and believe they should be raised in clean, safe environments free from cruelty, abuse or neglect. We recently announced that we're partnering closely with our pork product vendors to eliminate the use of sow gestation crates by 2022." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: To only purchase from suppliers with plans to eliminate gestation crates from their operations

"[Our] goal is to only purchase pork from suppliers that can demonstrate documented plans to end their use of gestation crates for breeding sows." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: To only purchase gestation crate-free pork by 2025

"Consistent with the livestock care standards adopted in our home state of Ohio, 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...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." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2017 – 2022.

"Our customers have made it clear that they want better treatment for pigs, and we agree. 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." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2017

"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." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its U.S. supply chain by 2017

"ARAMARK, a world leader in professional services, today announced it plans to eliminate all pork from animals bred using gestation crates in ARAMARK's U.S. supply chain by 2017." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"Today we are taking a big step forward in meeting client needs, consumer interests, and improving animal welfare by asking all of our pork suppliers for clear plans to remove gestation stalls from the production process by 2022." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain

"Therefore, Sysco is committed to working with its suppliers to create a gestation crate-free supply system..." (Source)

Smithfield

POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its company-owned farms by 2017

2007 statement: "Smithfield Foods, Inc. announced today that it is beginning the process of phasing out individual gestation stalls at all of its company-owned sow farms and replacing them with pens—or group housing—over the next 10 years. Smithfield also will work with its contract growers regarding system conversion." (Source)

2014 statement: "The company...is asking contract sow growers to convert by 2022 with a sliding scale of incentives to accelerate that timetable. Growers who commit to convert to group housing will receive contract extensions upon completion of the conversion... The announcement supports the company's industry-leading effort that began in 2007 when it was the first major pork supplier to commit to transitioning to group housing systems on company-owned farms." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its company-owned farms by 2017

"All Hormel Foods-owned farms will be 100 percent group sow housing before 2018." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Reached goal of 50% gestation crate-free for company-owned facilities

"Cargill also made the commitment more than two years ago to widely adopt group housing for gestating sows." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its company-owned farms by 2017

"Maple Leaf Foods Inc. today announced that it endorses the direction of the U.S. industry in phasing out the use of sow gestation stalls in favour of group housing, and will follow this initiative at all Company-owned hog production operations within the next 10 years." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its U.S. supply chain

"Dunkin' Donuts Announces...Commitment to Eliminate Gestation Crates from its Supply Chain" (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"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." (Source









POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"The Hillshire Brands Company today announced it is actively engaged in advancing continuous, fact-based discussions with its suppliers and the industry in general, on alternatives to traditional gestational housing and intend to have this solution in place by the end of 2022." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain

"Denny's takes its role as a responsible corporate citizen seriously, which is why we have adopted a strong position on animal welfare....Working to eliminate gestation crates is best for our company, our guests, and our continued work to improve animal welfare." (Source)







Applebee's POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by

"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." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain

"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 and are actively collaborating with our suppliers to implement solutions that align with our company's commitment to animal welfare." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"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 10 years." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"Campbell is developing plans to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain. With our supplier's engagement, we intend to reach that goal no later than 2022, although we are working toward progress by 2017, the timeframe some providers have set to be transitioned to group housing. Campbell will continue to favor suppliers that raise hogs in a gestation crate-free environment in addition to suppliers that can provide audit and tracking reports for sourcing crate-free pork." (Source)







POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its U.S. supply chain

"Brinker acknowledges there are various ways to achieve our animal welfare beliefs...including phasing out gestation stalls. We are working with our pork suppliers to do this, which will take time to implement. In the short term, we will do our part by committing to a goal of dramatically reducing our supply of pork products that come from processors who use gestation crating in sows. Recognizing that systems aren't currently in place to guarantee verification of all farming conditions, over the next 5-7 years Brinker's goal is to ensure a substantial majority of our pork products are sourced from vendors who have committed to eliminating gestation stalls from farms they operate." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"We have evaluated scientific literature...and have consulted with our suppliers and animal-welfare experts on this issue. In 2012, we informed our pork suppliers of our goal to source all pork from supply systems in which pregnant sows are cared for in a group housing environment instead of gestation stalls. We have begun discussing with our suppliers how they will complete such a transition by the end of 2022." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"CKE Restaurants, Inc. supports the humane treatment of animals, having requested its pork suppliers to develop practical and sustainable **alternatives to the use of gestation stalls** and to transition to a group housing environment for sows. CKE will strive to completely transition its pork supplies to only utilize animals raised in group housing situations by 2022." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"Sonic is actively working to eliminate gestation crates from its pork supply chain, and intends to reach that goal no later than 2022, although is working toward 2017, the timeframe several large pork producers have set to be fully-transitioned to group housing. Sonic will continue to favor suppliers that raise hogs in a gestation crate-free environment in addition to suppliers that can provide audit and tracking reports for sourcing crate-free pork." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Calls on Canadian pork industry to eliminate gestation crates completely.

"Tim Hortons today called upon the pork industry and our suppliers to eliminate gestation stalls for sows and to develop clear plans and timelines by the end of [2012] to phase out these housing systems." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Evolution away from gestation crates for its global supply chain

"We're seeing an evolution in Americans' awareness and attitudes regarding meat produced with higher animal welfare in mind. We recognize that gestation crates may not be the best method to meet higher animal welfare goals and are committed to evolving to sustainable alternatives." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

2012 statement: "We have already taken steps to engage our pork suppliers to gain an understanding of their plans for transitioning away from the use of gestation crates and their timeline for doing so. We are currently working with them to develop plans to eliminate gestation crates from our pork supply chain by a 2022 target date." (Source)

2014 statement: "We are pleased to report that one of our suppliers is currently gestation crate free and at least two others have made commitments to do so at their company-owned operations by 2017. We are in the process of discussing with those vendors who do have the ability to source from supplies that meet our commitment how we may accomplish our goal...[and] as a next step, we plan to work with our pork suppliers to ensure they have commitments and plans in place to end gestation crate use in the entire supply chain servicing us by or before 2022, and we will annually review their progress." (Source)









POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its U.S. supply chain

"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 pork suppliers that provide actionable plans by 2017 to create traceability and end their use of gestation crates within the U.S. pork supply chain." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2018

According to its new policies, the Bethesda, Md.-based company will require all of its pork suppliers to discontinue the use of gestation crates for Marriott's supply chain by 2018...Marriott International cares deeply about animal welfare and environmental sustainability, which is why we're so committed to seeing an end to gestation crates for pigs and battery cages for hens." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2017

The company announced its commitment to eliminate from its U.S. supply chain pork from animals bred using gestation crates. Specifically, the company says that pork it uses will become 100% gestation crate-free also by 2017. (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"Williams Sausage Company takes the welfare of animals very seriously, and we support the elimination of gestation stall housing for sows. We are asking our suppliers to present their plans by 2017 that address the elimination of gestation stalls, with an understanding that a phase-out may be a long-term process and could take up to ten years." (Source)







POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2017

"We were pleased to find that the majority of our suppliers are already working toward eliminating gestation crates from their systems, and we are committed to working with our supplier partners to eliminate them from our supply chain by the end of 2017." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

2012 statement: "Royal Caribbean is committed to keeping the treatment of animals in consideration when supplying our fleet with food. Royal Caribbean supports the pork industry's work to **eliminate gestation crates** from operation by 2022, and our company has set that date as our target for having a gestation crate-free pork supply chain." (Source)

2014 statement: "By the end of the year, Royal Caribbean will request an update from its current pork suppliers regarding the plans and progress of their respective pork producers in meeting the pork industry goal of moving away from gestation crates in their operations by 2022, in order to determine which producers share Royal Caribbean's objective of moving to a gestation crate free pork supply." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain

"Metz Culinary Management, a provider of dining management services named one of the Top 20 Management Companies in the U.S. by Food Management Magazine, is working with its pork suppliers to eliminate gestation crates by 2017... or sooner if products become readily available." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain by 2022

"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." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its supply chain by 2022

"Bruegger's Bagels cares deeply about creating a more humane and sustainable world. To that end, 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." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its supply chain by 2017

"Atlantic Premium takes animal welfare seriously, and wholeheartedly endorses the transition from gestation crates to group housing for pigs, which is the direction many of our pork suppliers are already moving in. Like many of our customer partners and others in the food industry, we too are putting in place plans to have a gestation crate-free supply chain by 2017, which is the date by which many leading pork producers will be gestation crate-free." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its supply chain by 2022

"The move toward a gestation crate-free environment is consistent with Wienerschnitzel's commitment to provide the highest-quality food, and 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." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its supply chain

"Harris Teeter knows that there are better, more humane, and more sustainable ways to breed pigs than by using gestation crates. It is Harris Teeter's goal to have a gestation crate-free pork supply, and the company is committed to working with its suppliers...to accomplish that goal within a reasonable timeframe." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its supply chain by 2017

"As part of its new initiative, TrustHouse is working with its suppliers to phase-out gestation crates within the company's supply chain by 2017. TrustHouse is also calling on the entire pork industry to set a timeline on eliminating gestation crates." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain

"We believe that a gestation crate-free environment is more humane and we support and appreciate the efforts of pork suppliers to reduce and eliminate the use of gestation crates. While this is a lengthy process, we support the industry for taking steps to make this much needed change and we anticipate and know this will take time." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain

"[Heinz] is currently working with its pork suppliers to understand and document their plans to reduce or end the use of crates. This information will be used to inform the company's choice of suppliers now and in the future, in an effort to increase the company's use of pork from crate-free sources and, over time, eliminate gestation crates from our supply chain." (Source)









POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its global supply chain

"We believe moving to group housing systems for sows is more humane and sustainable than crate confinement. Shifting away from gestation crate pork is in line with the commitment of Baja Fresh, La Salsa Mexican Grill and Canyon's Burgers to provide the highest quality, freshest food."



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its supply chain by 2015

"As part of the new policy, Bon Appétit is...Requiring that all pork it serves — currently 3 million pounds annually — be produced without gestation crate confinement systems, using higher-welfare group housing systems instead...by 2015."

"We've been asking the industry to do the right thing, but we can't wait anymore. We have to send the message that these practices are unacceptable. If the supply doesn't catch up by our deadline, we'll do what we have to — even if that means cutting back on bacon." (Source)

WOLFGANGPUCK

POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its supply immediately (announced in 2007)

"Wolfgang Puck will not serve pork from producers who confine breeding sows in gestation crates. These cruel devices restrict animals from even turning around or performing many of their other behaviors for nearly their entire lives." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its supply immediately (as of 2002)

"There are ranchers whose pigs are raised outside or in deeply bedded pens [non-gestation crates], are never given antibiotics and are fed a vegetarian diet. It's the way animals were raised 50 years ago before huge factory farms changed the industry...We call this style of ranching naturally raised, and since 2001, we have sourced 100% of our pork from producers who follow these guidelines." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates from its supply immediately (as of 2003)

"At Whole Foods Market, we've prohibited the use of both gestation and farrowing crates by all of our pork suppliers since 2003. While it's good to see more companies finally jumping on the bandwagon, it can't happen soon enough, in our opinion! Gestation crates or sow stalls confine sows throughout their pregnancy (almost 4 months)." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates by 2022.

"Olymel believes that a ban on the use of gestation crates is inevitable in the medium and long term. Canada, along with the US, must follow suit."

"Numerous world renowned experts are in favor of a ban on gestation crates in order to allow sows to better express natural behaviours; benefit from greater freedom of movement, better socialization and a higher level of welfare."

"Our company believes that the entire pork production sector will have to respond positively to the demands of an increasing number of domestic and international clients who favour pork products originating from facilities which do not use crates to house pregnant sows."

"2022 represents a realistic target for having 100% of pigs slaughtered in its Quebec and Red Deer, Alberta establishments come from pigs born in loose housing. Olymel strongly believes that Canadian producers need this period of transition and adjustment in order to implement the practice of raising sows in loose housing. However, we will spare no effort to achieve these goals more quickly, and to that end we will actively partner with producers and with our customers."



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates by 2025.

"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." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Complete elimination of all gestation crates.

"We stand committed to the highest standards of animal well-being and, in the coming months, we will begin working with our partners to eliminate gestation crate housing from our supply chain." (Source)



POLICY OVERVIEW: Significant movement away from gestation crates by 2022.

"We have consulted with our suppliers, and evaluated scientific and industry literature on this issue. 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 plan to implement this practice." (Source)



Retail Council of Canada

POLICY OVERVIEW: Support a shift to gestation crate alternatives.

"RCC grocery members support the Canadian Pork Council's process to update its Codes of Practice and will work towards sourcing fresh pork products from sows raised in alternative housing practices [to gestation crates] as defined in the updated Codes by the end of 2022." (Source)