

# State Animal Welfare Compliance Assessment

## 2026 Cage-Free Retailer Accountability Report

*Cage-free eggs are the law in seven U.S. states. Nearly every major retailer pledged to complete this transition a decade ago. This report reveals who honored those commitments and who didn't.*

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**7**

STATES WITH  
CAGE-FREE LAWS

**75M+**

CONSUMERS  
PROTECTED

**23**

RETAILERS  
EVALUATED

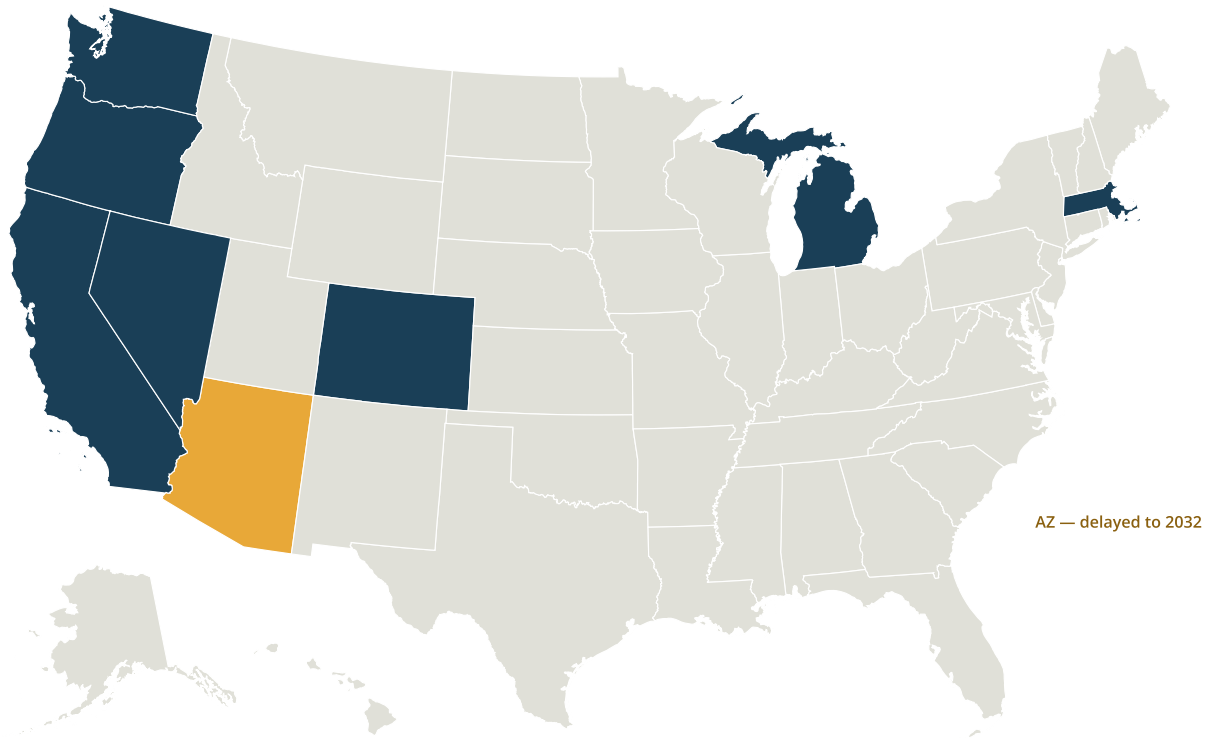
**130M+**

HENS IN THE U.S.  
NOW CAGE-FREE

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## Where the law applies

■ Active cage-free law   ■ Approved — implementation delayed to 2032 (AZ)   ■ No active law



**The divide has never been clearer.**

Industry giants meanwhile continue to lag, and some have actively retreated. **Walmart**, the largest retailer in the United States, has reached just 27.7% cage-free nationally — an abysmal figure for 2026 with no published path to completion. **ALDI** has scrubbed its commitment from its website entirely, and **Albertsons** has abandoned its original pledge with no published plan to reach 100%. Most tellingly, **Kroger** has replaced its

prior path to 100% with a new ceiling of 70% by 2030, leaving tens of millions of hens in battery cages indefinitely.

California's Proposition 12 passed with **63%** of the vote in 2018. Massachusetts approved similar standards by **78%**. These are broad public mandates, now backed by law with real penalties.

#### CALIFORNIA

**\$1,000**

Per sale. Up to 180 days imprisonment.

Source: CA Prop 12 enforcement provisions

#### MASSACHUSETTS

**\$1,000**

Per non-compliant sale.

Source: MA Question 3 enforcement regulations

#### COLORADO

**Civil**

Effective January 1, 2025. Enforcement via state AG.

Source: CO cage-free standards (Prop 12-aligned)

#### MICHIGAN

**Civil**

Effective January 1, 2025. PA 316 enforcement.

Source: MI PA 316 (2019)

The issue is not feasibility. **Sprouts, Whole Foods, CVS, and Walgreens have all completed the transition nationally.** Costco reached 97.1% before being set back by avian flu supply disruptions, and is on a clear trajectory back. The infrastructure exists. The supply is available. What separates the leaders from the laggards is not operational reality; it is corporate will.

Each battery cage confines 5–7 hens in a space smaller than a standard sheet of paper. An estimated **160 million laying hens** in the U.S. still spend their lives in cages.

Source: USDA NASS



*Representative image of cage systems. Farm Transparency Project.*

#### BACKGROUND

## Why Cage-Free Matters

Conventional battery cages confine hens in spaces so restrictive they cannot spread their wings, walk, or engage in nearly any natural behavior. Hens spend their entire lives in these cages before being slaughtered. The scientific evidence against this system is overwhelming.

Veterinarians, animal welfare scientists, and public health experts have repeatedly documented the harms of cage confinement: severe feather loss, bone weakness from immobility, chronic frustration, psychological distress, and elevated rates of disease. Major veterinary and animal welfare organizations have acknowledged the clear advantages of cage-free systems, which allow hens to move freely, perch, nest, and dust-bathe.

Beyond animal welfare, cage-free sourcing is now a legal requirement in a growing number of jurisdictions. California's Proposition 12, passed by **63%** of voters in 2018, prohibits the sale of eggs from caged hens. Massachusetts voters approved similar standards by an even larger margin, **78%**, in 2016. Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Nevada, and Michigan have followed with their own laws. Arizona approved cage-free regulations in 2022, with full implementation currently delayed to January 1, 2032.

The European Union banned conventional battery cages in 2012. The U.S. cage-free flock has grown nearly fivefold since 2012, now approaching 50% of all laying hens. While progress varies by region, the direction of the transition is clear and accelerating.

The penalties for non-compliance are real. In California, each non-compliant sale can result in fines up to \$1,000 or up to 180 days imprisonment. In Massachusetts, violations carry fines of \$1,000 per sale. Beyond statutory penalties, businesses may face unfair competition claims, injunctive relief, and operational disruption if state attorneys general pursue enforcement.

Public opinion overwhelmingly supports cage-free sourcing. Repeated polling shows that large majorities of Americans across political and demographic lines oppose the extreme confinement of hens in cages. When given a choice, consumers prefer cage-free products. When given a vote, they pass laws to mandate them.

The transition to cage-free is not theoretical. It is happening. The only question is whether companies will lead this transition with integrity, or be dragged into compliance, market by market, only when legally forced.

SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

How this assessment works.

This assessment examines major retail chains with physical store locations in one or more of the seven states with cage-free egg sales laws currently in effect.

|                                                          |                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>CALIFORNIA</p> <p>Proposition 12 — effective 2022</p> | <p>MASSACHUSETTS</p> <p>Question 3 — effective 2022</p>                              |
| <p>OREGON</p> <p>HB 2912 — effective 2024</p>            | <p>WASHINGTON</p> <p>SB 6147 — effective 2024</p>                                    |
| <p>NEVADA</p> <p>SB 399 — effective 2024</p>             | <p>COLORADO</p> <p>Prop 12-aligned — effective January 2025</p>                      |
| <p>MICHIGAN</p> <p>PA 316 — effective January 2025</p>   | <p>ARIZONA</p> <p>Approved 2022 — full implementation delayed to January 1, 2032</p> |

The report evaluates 23 major retailers across grocery chains, big-box retailers, pharmacy and convenience stores, and discount retailers. Our assessment is based exclusively on publicly available information: published corporate animal welfare policies and sustainability reports, public statements and press releases, investor disclosures, and responses to stakeholder inquiries.

**This assessment evaluates not just legal compliance in cage-free law states, but overall performance and consistency.** Companies may be in technical compliance with state laws while maintaining inconsistent standards across their supply chains. This report holds retailers accountable for the commitments they made, not just the minimum legal requirements they must meet.

Where both volume and revenue figures are available, we use **volume figures (dozens of eggs)** as the more accurate measure — volume reflects actual eggs sourced, while revenue percentages are skewed by the price premium on cage-free products and overstate true sourcing progress. In cases where only a revenue figure is publicly available, we note this. For reference, Kroger's 2024 cage-free figure is 43.3% by volume and 55.9% by revenue.

ICAW conducted outreach to company leadership in the months preceding publication. Some companies responded with updated information; others did not. Companies that did not respond are assessed based on publicly available information alone.



*Representative image of cage systems. Farm Transparency Project.*

## CRITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY

### Companies That Broke Their Commitments

These companies made explicit public commitments to reach 100% cage-free egg sourcing. Instead of honoring those pledges, they withdrew them, delayed by years, or quietly erased them from their websites. This is not a supply chain challenge. It is a choice.

#### COMMITMENT REMOVED, NO RESPONSE

##### **Albertsons Companies**

Made a public 100% cage-free commitment by 2025. It is now 2026, and Albertsons' original commitment is nowhere to be found. Its 2025 Recipe for Change Report states that 75% of liquid and shell eggs were cage-free in 2024 — though it is unclear whether this is a volume or revenue figure — but the company has published no roadmap, no milestones, and no timeline to reach 100%. Despite repeated outreach to company leadership and the Board of Directors, Albertsons has not provided a substantive response. The retailer operates heavily in California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada, all active cage-free law states. **Albertsons is further along than Ahold Delhaize was when Ahold made its full commitment. There is no credible excuse for the absence of a plan.**



COMMITMENT WITHDRAWN, NO NEW GOAL

### ALDI US

The retailer committed in 2016 to a 100% cage-free U.S. supply chain by 2025. ALDI's 2024 Sustainability Report formally announced it will not meet this commitment, citing supply constraints and infrastructure challenges. **No revised timeline has been published.** No accountability mechanism is in place. ALDI operates in states where cage-free sales are legally required, meeting legal minimums while having formally abandoned its broader public commitment.

RETREATED FROM 100%

### Kroger

Kroger did not merely fall short of its cage-free commitment, it changed the goal itself. The company has replaced its prior trajectory toward 100% cage-free with a new target of just **70% by 2030**, leaving nearly one-third of the hens in its egg supply in battery cages with no published timeline to eliminate them. At 43.3% cage-free by volume nationally, Kroger is further along than Ahold Delhaize was when Ahold committed to a full 100% roadmap. A path to 70% is not progress. It is a ceiling, and an explicit choice to leave tens of millions of hens in battery cages with no plan to ever free them.

## INDUSTRY BENCHMARK

### The Ahold Delhaize Standard: What a Real Commitment Looks Like

Ahold Delhaize, which operates **Stop & Shop, Food Lion, Giant, Hannaford, and Giant Food** across more than 2,000 U.S. locations, has published a comprehensive, fully accountable cage-free roadmap. This is now the floor. Every lagging retailer will be measured against it.

After sustained pressure from animal welfare organizations, Ahold committed to **100% cage-free sourcing by 2032**, backed by two-year benchmark milestones, annual public progress reporting, and in-store cage-free signage across its entire store network. The milestones are published. The reporting is annual. The signage is in-store. There is no ambiguity about what delivery looks like.

The significance of this commitment is not just what Ahold agreed to. It is what it eliminates as an excuse for every other major retailer still stalling. Ahold operates at comparable or greater scale than Albertsons, Kroger, and ALDI. It sources eggs for thousands of stores across multiple states. If Ahold can publish a credible 100% roadmap with annual milestones and in-store accountability measures, **there is no operational or logistical argument that any of these companies cannot do the same.**

**What Ahold committed to:** 100% cage-free by 2032 · Published two-year benchmark milestones  
· Annual public progress reporting · In-store cage-free signage across 2,000+ locations ·  
Transparent SKU-level sourcing disclosures

This is the standard. Albertsons, Kroger, ALDI, and Walmart now have a direct peer benchmark against which their continued silence and inaction will be measured.

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#### COMPANY RATINGS

## Where every major retailer stands.

Retailers are grouped into tiers based on publicly available information about cage-free sourcing progress, transparency, and consistency. A company may appear legally compliant in individual states while earning a poor overall rating for its national performance and broken commitments. These are accountability assessments, not legal determinations. Click any company name for more detail.



## TIER 1

## National Leaders

100% cage-free across all U.S. operations, applied consistently nationwide, not just where legally required.

## Natural Grocers

100% Free-Range+

Natural Grocers has gone above and beyond cage-free standards for years, sourcing 100% free-range or better eggs across all of its store locations. The company applies this standard consistently and nationally, exceeding what other retailers in this tier have committed to. We commend Natural Grocers for its industry-leading commitment to animal welfare and transparent sourcing practices.

100% free-range or better

Complete ✓

## Amazon

100%

Amazon has completed the transition to 100% cage-free egg sourcing across its U.S. retail operations. Applied consistently nationwide, this demonstrates that cage-free sourcing at scale is operationally achievable. We commend Amazon for its leadership and consistency.

100% cage-free

Complete ✓

## Whole Foods Market

100%

Whole Foods Market sources 100% cage-free eggs across all U.S. store locations. The company has maintained this standard consistently and applies it nationally, not just in cage-free law states. Whole Foods' completion of this transition at scale is a direct demonstration that 100% cage-free sourcing is operationally achievable for major retailers. We commend Whole Foods for its leadership and consistency.

100% cage-free

Complete ✓

## Sprouts Farmers Market

100%

Sprouts Farmers Market has completed the transition to 100% cage-free egg sourcing across its store network. The company has demonstrated transparency and consistency in its approach, applying cage-free standards nationally and fulfilling its public commitment on schedule. We commend Sprouts for its leadership on this issue.

100% cage-free

Complete ✓

## CVS Pharmacy

100%

CVS Pharmacy has completed the transition to 100% cage-free egg sourcing across its U.S. retail operations. As a national pharmacy chain operating in all cage-free law states and beyond, CVS has demonstrated that consistent cage-free sourcing is achievable across diverse retail formats. We commend CVS for fulfilling its commitment.

100% cage-free

Complete ✓

## Walgreens

100%

Walgreens has completed the transition to 100% cage-free egg sourcing across its U.S. retail operations. Its success directly refutes the claim that compliance is economically or logistically prohibitive for large-footprint retailers. We commend Walgreens for fulfilling its commitment.

100% cage-free

Complete ✓

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Rite Aid</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 100%       |
| <p>Rite Aid has completed the transition to 100% cage-free egg sourcing across its U.S. retail operations. We commend Rite Aid for fulfilling its commitment and applying consistent standards nationwide.</p>                                                                                                                                       |            |
| 100% cage-free                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Complete ✓ |
| <b>Raley's</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 100%       |
| <p>Raley's has achieved 100% cage-free egg sourcing across its store network. The company's completed transition stands in stark contrast to its subsidiary Bashas', which continues to lag. Raley's is recognized as a leader for fulfilling its commitment and demonstrating what full transparency and follow-through looks like in practice.</p> |            |
| 100% cage-free                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Complete ✓ |
| <b>Save Mart Companies</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 100%       |
| <p>Save Mart has publicly confirmed on its sustainability page that all eggs sold across its store banners, including Save Mart, Lucky, and FoodMaxx, are 100% cage-free and in compliance with state laws. This is a clear, public, nationwide disclosure. We commend Save Mart for completing the transition and making it easy to verify.</p>     |            |
| 100% cage-free                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Complete ✓ |

## TIER 2

## Making Progress

Significant measurable advancement with credible data, or a published accountable roadmap to 100%. Transition not yet complete, but demonstrating transparency and forward commitment.

## Costco Wholesale

84.7% (FY25)

Costco deserves special recognition in this tier. As one of the largest retailers in the United States, Costco had achieved 97.1% cage-free sourcing in FY24 and has demonstrated sustained, serious commitment to this transition. Its FY25 figure of 84.7% reflects a documented setback caused by High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), which severely disrupted cage-free supply chains across the industry. According to Costco's own 2025 Sustainability Report, the company was forced to partially resort to conventional or colony eggs to keep products in stock. This is a supply disruption, not a retreat. Costco's trajectory, transparency, and scale of commitment put it in a fundamentally different category from the other retailers in this tier. We expect Costco to return to near-100% levels as HPAI impacts subside, and we commend the company for its transparency in disclosing this data publicly.

84.7% cage-free

15% remaining

## Ahold Delhaize

31% (Jan 2026) — 100% Roadmap

Ahold Delhaize, which operates Stop & Shop (Massachusetts), Food Lion, Giant, Hannaford, and Giant Food across more than 2,000 U.S. locations, reported 31% cage-free unit sales as of January 2026, up from 29% for full year 2025 — and has published a fully accountable 100% cage-free roadmap backed by two-year benchmark milestones, annual public progress reporting, and in-store cage-free signage across its entire store network. The transition is underway; the work is not yet complete. Ahold is recognized here for publishing a credible, verifiable commitment, not for having finished the job. We will track its delivery against published milestones in every future SAWCA report, and expect full compliance with each benchmark. This commitment sets a new standard for accountability that every lagging retailer, including Albertsons, ALDI, Walmart, and Kroger, now has no excuse not to match.

31% cage-free unit sales (Jan 2026)

100% roadmap published · 2032 target

## Sam's Club

65.0%

Sam's Club has reached 65.0% cage-free egg sourcing nationally, a figure that significantly outperforms its parent company Walmart (27.7%). While Sam's Club has not yet completed the transition, its progress is substantially better than the broader Walmart corporate family. We encourage Sam's Club to accelerate its timeline and publish a credible path to 100%.

65.0% cage-free

35% remaining

## Target

50%+ — 100% Roadmap by 2030

Target originally committed to 100% cage-free by 2025 but fell short due to avian flu supply disruptions and market volatility. In 2026, Target published a detailed 100% cage-free roadmap with annual milestones through 2030, in-store signage across all locations, online cage-free badges, and SKU-level transition commitments. Target currently sources over 50% of eggs by unit volume from cage-free sources, with 600+ stores already operating a fully cage-free egg assortment. 100% of liquid eggs are sourced cage-free. Target has committed to supporting WIC cage-free access and has already helped expand it in Minnesota and New York. We recognize Target for publishing a credible, detailed roadmap and will track delivery against each published milestone in future SAWCA reports.

## Published milestones (cage-free unit sales):

End of 2026: 57–61% · 2027: 62–70% · 2028: 71–84% · 2029: 85–90% · 2030: 100%

50%+ cage-free by unit volume (current)

100% roadmap published · 2030 target

## TIER 3

**Insufficient Progress**

*Minimal progress, no credible path to 100%, or insufficient public disclosure to assess performance.*

**7-Eleven**

27%

7-Eleven committed to sourcing 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. As of the most recent available data, 7-Eleven has reached approximately 27% cage-free nationally, far short of its public commitment. No revised timeline or updated plan has been published. We urge 7-Eleven to publish a credible roadmap to completing the transition.

27% cage-free

73% remaining

**Meijer**

Insufficient Disclosure

Meijer has stated that "the majority" of eggs it sells are cage-free, but has not published a specific percentage, a nationwide sourcing breakdown, or a timeline to reach 100%. "The majority" is not a figure stakeholders can track or hold a company accountable against. Meijer operates in Michigan, where cage-free egg sales are legally required, but its broader five-state footprint remains unaccounted for in public reporting. We call on Meijer to publish a specific, verifiable cage-free percentage and a credible roadmap to 100%.

No specific data published

**Bashas'**

2030 Goal — No Plan Published

Bashas' has announced a new commitment to reach 100% cage-free by 2030, after failing to meet its original 2025 target. However, the company has not disclosed its current cage-free sourcing percentage, published no SKU reduction plan, no in-aisle signage commitment, and no annual milestones. Without a current baseline, a published roadmap, or any accountability mechanism, this commitment cannot be assessed as credible. Its parent company Raley's has achieved 100% and published a clear confirmation — making the gap between parent and subsidiary even harder to justify. We call on Bashas' to publish its current sourcing data and a detailed, verifiable path to meeting its 2030 goal.

No public data

**Trader Joe's**

No Public Disclosure

Trader Joe's has not published public information about its cage-free sourcing status. Because this assessment is based exclusively on publicly available information, Trader Joe's cannot be recognized as a national leader regardless of what it may have communicated privately. We strongly encourage Trader Joe's to publish a clear, public commitment so that consumers and stakeholders can independently verify its practices.

No public data

**Smart & Final**

No Public Disclosure

Smart & Final committed to transitioning to 100% cage-free eggs in 2016 but has published no public updates in nearly a decade. The company operates in California and other cage-free law states. The absence of any reporting, combined with the removal of its commitment from public materials, makes it impossible to assess Smart & Final's current sourcing practices. ICAW strongly encourages the company to publish updated, verifiable data.

No public data

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Stater Bros.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | No Public Disclosure |
| <p>Stater Bros. operates exclusively in California, where cage-free egg sales have been legally required since 2022. Despite this mandate, Stater Bros. has published no public reporting on its cage-free sourcing practices. Given that its entire store footprint is in a cage-free law state, the absence of any public disclosure is particularly notable. ICAW encourages Stater Bros. to confirm compliance publicly and disclose its sourcing practices.</p> |                      |
| <p>No public data</p> <div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                      |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <div>TIER 4</div> <div>Failing</div> <div>No credible path to 100%. Commitments broken, withdrawn, or capped short of full elimination of battery cage eggs.</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                          |
| <b>Walmart</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 27.7%                    |
| <p>Walmart, the largest retailer in the United States, has reached just 27.7% cage-free egg sourcing nationally, an abysmal figure for 2026. While Walmart appears to comply with state laws where required, its overall performance demonstrates a complete lack of leadership or consistency. For a company of Walmart's scale and purchasing power, a national cage-free percentage in the high twenties a decade after making this commitment is not a supply chain limitation. It is a choice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                      |                          |
| <div> <div>27.7% cage-free</div> <div>No path to 100%</div> </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                          |
| <b>Kroger</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No Path to 100%          |
| <p>Kroger is publishing annual progress data and has reached 43.3% cage-free by volume nationally, which is further along than Ahold Delhaize was when Ahold published its full 100% roadmap. The reporting is not the problem. The problem is what Kroger is reporting toward: a self-imposed ceiling of 70% by 2030, with no commitment to ever eliminating the remaining battery cage eggs. That is not a transition in progress. It is a transition that has been officially stopped short. We call on Kroger to replace the 70% target with a full 100% roadmap, backed by annual SKU reduction milestones and in-aisle signage consistent with the standard set by Ahold Delhaize.</p> |                          |
| <div> <div>43.3% cage-free (by volume)</div> <div>Ceiling set at 70%. No path to 100%.</div> </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                          |
| <b>Albertsons Companies</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 75% — Commitment Removed |
| <p>Albertsons made a public commitment to source 100% cage-free eggs by 2025. It is now 2026, and that original commitment is nowhere to be found. Albertsons' 2025 Recipe for Change Report states that 75% of liquid and shell eggs were cage-free in 2024 — though it is unclear whether this is a volume or revenue figure. Despite this progress, the company has published no roadmap, no milestones, and no timeline to reach 100%. Despite repeated outreach to company leadership and the Board of Directors, Albertsons has not provided a substantive response. The retailer operates heavily in California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada, all active cage-free law states.</p> |                          |
| <div> <div>75% reported (metric unconfirmed) — commitment removed from website</div> <div></div> </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                          |
| <b>ALDI US</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Withdrawn                |
| <p>The retailer committed in 2016 to a 100% cage-free U.S. supply chain by 2025. Its 2024 Sustainability Report formally announced it will not meet this commitment, citing supply constraints and infrastructure challenges. No revised timeline has been published, and no accountability mechanism is in place. ALDI operates in states where cage-free sales are legally required, meeting legal minimums while having formally abandoned its broader public commitment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                          |
| <p>No public data</p> <div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                          |



*Representative image of cage systems. Farm Transparency Project.*

## Have you seen caged eggs sold in your state?

California, Massachusetts, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Colorado, and Michigan require cage-free eggs by law. If you've seen conventional caged eggs sold at any retailer in these states, on store shelves, in refrigerator cases, or in any retail format, we want to know.

Email a Tip

[tips@i-caw.org](mailto:tips@i-caw.org)

### THE PATH FORWARD

## What We're Calling For

Four expectations for every major retailer operating in cage-free law states. These are the minimum standards of transparency, consistency, and accountability that consumers, investors, and regulators should expect.

01

### Establish a concrete roadmap to 100%

Publish a full roadmap to 100% cage-free sourcing with specific annual SKU reduction milestones, not vague targets. Back it with supplier agreements, capital plans, and regular public progress reporting. Deploy in-aisle cage-free signage across store networks so consumers can see the commitment at the shelf.

02

### Confirm state-by-state compliance publicly

Clearly disclose whether eggs sold in California, Massachusetts, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Colorado, and Michigan meet the legal cage-free standard. Ambiguity serves no one.



## 03

### **Apply cage-free standards nationwide**

Selling cage-free where the law requires it while selling caged eggs everywhere else is not a sourcing policy. It is the bare minimum, applied selectively. Retailers that operate cage-free in California but not in Ohio are choosing inconsistency.

## 04

### **Publish current, transparent data**

Disclose the current percentage of cage-free eggs sold by volume, how that figure has changed year over year, and where gaps remain. Internal reports that are not publicly available do not count.

## CONCLUSION

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### ABOUT ICAW

## **About this assessment.**

The State Animal Welfare Compliance Assessment (SAWCA) is published by the International Council for Animal Welfare (ICAW). This 2026 report evaluates 23 major U.S. retailers operating in states with active cage-free egg laws.

Our assessment is based entirely on publicly available information: corporate animal welfare policies, sustainability reports, public statements, investor disclosures, and direct stakeholder outreach. Where information is incomplete or contradictory, we note it explicitly. This report does not make legal determinations; it holds retailers accountable for the commitments they made.

ICAW conducted extensive outreach to company leadership and board members in the months preceding publication to ensure the accuracy of this assessment.

