

COLORADO AGRICULTURE IS UNDER ATTACK

**LET'S "PAUSE" NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE**



# What is PAUSE?

- **P**rotect
- **A**nimals
- from
- **U**nnecessary
- **S**uffering
- &
- **E**xploitation

PAUSE is a Proposed  
Initiative for the  
2022 Ballot

Colorado Agriculture  
**NEEDS** Your Support

On Wednesday, March 17, 2021 the State Title Setting Board approved the following title for Initiative #16:

“Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning expanding prohibitions against cruelty to animals, and, in connection therewith, expanding the definition of “livestock” to include fish; expanding the definition of “sexual act with an animal” to include intrusion or penetration into an animal’s anus or genitals with an object or part of a person’s body and allowing an exception only for care to improve the animal’s health and eliminating the existing exception for animal husbandry practices; defining the “natural lifespan” for certain species of livestock and providing that slaughtering those animals is not animal cruelty if done according to acceptable animal husbandry practices after the animal has lived 1/4 of the natural lifespan; removing several exceptions to the animal cruelty statutes, including exceptions for animal husbandry; and providing that, in case of a conflict, the cruelty to animals statutes supersede statutes concerning animal care?”

## “Livestock” Definition in Colorado

The Colorado Statute includes both the meat processing laws and humane slaughter provisions for livestock defined as **cattle, calves, sheep, swine, horses, mules, goats**, and **any other animal which may be used in and for the preparation of meat or meat processing.**

Under this initiative the definition would include fish.

### OUR STANCE:

There is not a need to specify “fish” as livestock as the statute clearly indicates any other animal which may be used in and for the preparation of meat or meat processing.

Expanding the Definition of "Sexual Acts"  
with an animal to include intrusion or  
penetration into an animal's anus or genitals  
with an object or a person's body

Eliminating the existing exception for animal  
husbandry practices

Removing Several Exceptions to the Animal  
Cruelty Statutes, Including Exceptions for  
Animal Husbandry

# What is Husbandry?

The CARE, CULTIVATION,  
and BREEDING of Crops  
and Animals



As of March 23, 2021 Colorado, law states:

A person commits cruelty to animals if he or she knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence engages in a sexual act with an animal.

Class 1 Misdemeanor under C.R.S.A. s 18-9-202 - Cruelty to Animals; Aggravated Cruelty to Animals; Cruelty to a Service Animal

- Court shall order an evaluation to be conducted prior to sentencing
- Person ordered to have evaluation shall pay all costs involved
- Person may be required to court ordered treatment such as anger management treatment or any other treatment deemed appropriate by the court

This initiative would expand this definition to include humane practices that are accepted in the industry such as:

- Artificial Insemination
- Pregnancy Checking
- Semen Collection
- Fertility Testing
- DNA Testing

This initiative would also expand these practices to:

- Dogs, Cats and Other Household Pets



## Our Stance:

Should this initiative reach the 2022 ballot and receive a majority vote the *basic care techniques used by responsible ranchers and farmers would then be considered a sexual act with an animal.*

The practices that this initiative wants to define as sexual acts with an animal would mean *less quality care as approved by the American Veterinary Medicine Association, USDA and Colorado Cattlemen's Association as well as other associations* that work towards offering animals a higher quality life.

Most consumers do not realize that *more cattle*, specifically cattle used for meat processing, are raised in their natural environment *than ever before*.

On average cattle raised for meat production eat 70% organic feed during their lifespan

Ranchers have worked hard to:

- Reduce their Carbon Footprint
- Ensure Sustainable Ranching Techniques



This initiative will not only affect cattle for meat processing, the *husbandry practices by responsible dairy producers* would also be considered a *sexual act* with an animal





Spaying and Neutering  
your animal could be  
considered a sexual act  
with an animal should this  
reach the ballot and pass  
with a majority in 2022

The average ranch size in Colorado is 817 acres - these ranches offer more roaming space and less crowding which already improves the animal's quality of life.

The top commodities in Colorado are:

1. Beef
2. Dairy
3. Peaches
4. Lamb

3 out of 4 of our state's top commodities would be affected which could cost our state up to \$49 billion

# Allowing an Exception Only for Care to Improve the Animal's Health and Eliminating the Existing Exception for Animal Husbandry Practices

This initiative says it will allow for an exception for care to improve the animal's health *but immediately eliminates the existing exceptions that are current industry approved husbandry practices* such as:

- Artificial Insemination
- Pregnancy Checking
- Semen Collection
- Fertility Testing
- DNA Testing

The ranches and farms we work with love their animals and practice safe and humane husbandry practices because

THEIR LIVES DEPEND UPON IT

Should this initiative reach the ballot and pass with a majority vote in 2022, YOU CAN SAY GOODBYE TO LOCAL BEEF, LAMB, MILK, ETC.



## Our Stance:

These approved husbandry practices already exist to improve the animal's health.

- Artificial Insemination means less possible injury to the animal.
- Pregnancy Checking ensures calves/babies are healthy and in a position that will not hurt the animal during delivery
- Semen Collection means less work for the bull and leads to safer and more humane ways to impregnate the female
- Fertility testing works to ensure animals who are unable to carry an offspring are not put through the process of artificial insemination or natural sexual relations
- DNA testing works to ensure stronger and healthier animals are used in the food chain



Defining the “Natural Lifespan” for Certain Species of Livestock and Providing that Slaughtering those animals is not animal cruelty if done according to acceptable animal husbandry practices ***after the animal has lived 1/4 of the natural lifespan***

This initiative would specify the following lifespans:

- Cattle = 20 years
- Chicken = 8 years
- Turkey = 10 years
- Ducks = 6 years
- Pigs = 15 years
- Sheep/Lamb = 15 years
- Rabbit = 6 years

Meaning, you could not slaughter until the animal has lived at least:

- Cattle = 5 years
- Chicken = 2 years
- Turkey = 2.5 years
- Ducks = 1.5 years
- Pigs = 3.75 years
- Sheep/Lamb = 3.75 years
- Rabbit = 1.5 years



## Our Stance:

It is wonderful that people want animals to live longer, healthier lives but livestock is NOT raised for enjoyment - the sole purpose of livestock is for food.

Increasing livestock's lifespan increases the cost of feed for the animal which means an increase in the cost to the processor which means an even larger increase to the consumer.

This initiative could reduce the beef supply in Colorado by 60% which means less locally sourced products for consumers.

This initiative would increase the time on feed in poultry 11 times which means local chicken would cost at minimum 35% more to retail suppliers and could triple the cost to consumers

The other huge issue with increasing the lifespan is the potential affects to human health. ***Currently it is illegal to slaughter cattle over 30 months for human consumption.***

The OTM (Over Thirty Month) Rule was designed to help *prevent possibility* of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) (*mad cow's disease*) or BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) which are progressive neurological disorders in cattle.

Because CJD/BSE are neurological disorders, the spine/backbone cannot be utilized or cut in to. *This means all middle meat (T-bones, bone-in ribeyes, etc.) are eliminated.*

Colorado currently exports over \$5 Billion annually in beef to Japan and other foreign countries. Because of the OTM Rule, foreign countries WILL NOT accept animals slaughtered out of concern for their citizen's health.

# Other Factors to Consider

- 4-H Could Cease to Exist if this initiative makes it to the ballot and passes in 2022.
  - 4-H members cannot afford the additional years of care and feed for animals before slaughter
  - Instead of getting an animal each year or every other year, a large majority of 4-H families could only get ONE animal for their entire time in the program due to increased costs.
- Hunting
  - Although not addressed, removing the evidence of sex of the animal could be considered sexual abuse because a knife is inserted in the genitals

The Legislative Council is a nonpartisan service for Colorado's Legislature. They have found the following with this initiative:

- Increase revenue from fines
- Increase in criminal offenses
- Additional staffing needs at Department of Agriculture to assist in investigations of animal cruelty and sexual abuse - expected cost = \$200,000 per year
- Local law enforcement would also have increased workload to investigate crimes of animal cruelty and sexual abuse
  - Increased court and jail costs
  - Increase personnel costs
- Increase costs for meat producers
- Increase costs for meat suppliers / stores
- Increase the price of meat paid by consumers
- Eliminate smaller mom and pop shops due to increased costs
- More strain on the land
  - More grain/feed needed to be produced
  - More animals on land
    - More stress on animals who currently have larger spaces to roam

We Are Asking Our  
Customers to NOT Sign  
Any Initiatives or  
Petitions Regarding  
PAUSE

