

# A Message From Our **Executive Director**



Dear Friends,

Another incredible quarter in the books! Even in the moments I felt discouraged by the many twists and turns of 2020, your unyielding passion and generosity never failed to fill me with tremendous hope for the future of our food system—a future that, together, we're making more compassionate for animals, people, and the planet.

These past few months have demonstrated the power of this community's collective voice: Despite the many challenges we're still facing in our daily lives, you have proved time and time again that the fight to end factory farming is not only persisting through these tough times, but gaining strength.

When we kicked off the quarter with huge news from soon-to-be-cage-free Colorado, I knew this was going to be a good one! That critical cage-free law in the Centennial State gave way to an eventful few months of activism, in which thousands upon thousands of you took action on behalf of the animals and workers facing hazardous conditions in slaughterhouses, as well as the billions of factory-farmed and wild-caught fish suffering in silence around the world. All the while, you were empowering us to meaningfully engage with government officials and food industry titans about animal welfare to ensure progress keeps coming.

As we head into the holiday season—our shared time to give thanks—I have never been more thankful for each and every one of you for standing with us, no matter what the world throws our way. Your compassion is what drives our work, and it's driving the sweeping change our food system needs. We could not be more appreciative of all you do to keep our momentum going.

For the animals,



Rachel Dreskin
US Executive Director,
Compassion in World Farming



Compassion investigated the five biggest fish certifications and discovered a shocking truth: Not one of them does enough to address fish welfare.

Hidden far from the public eye, fish raised on factory farms and caught in the wild experience unimaginable pain and misery. Conscious consumers around the world looking to purchase higher-welfare options often turn to third-party certifiers of fish and fish products, presuming their labels represent meaningful welfare improvements, in addition to the sustainability standards they are known for. Unfortunately, not one of the five major thirdparty certifications—Marine Stewardship Council, Friend of the Sea, Aquaculture Stewardship Council, Best Aquaculture Practice, and GLOBALG.A.P.—adequately addresses the welfare of animals within the fishing and aquaculture industries.

This is unacceptable—and most Americans agree.

Compassion has investigated the standards of these international labels and uncovered a shocking truth: Fish certified by these organizations suffer in far too many ways. That's why we rallied our supporters across the globe to demand better for billions of fish, and so far, over 70,000 of you have sent over 375,000 emails to the CEOs of these labels! We are so heartened to see the global Compassion community come together, raise your voices, and stand up for fish with the same passion and enthusiasm you bring to our campaigns on behalf of farmed animals on land. Thank you for your dedication, and stay tuned for more ways to help fish.

Learn more about fish labels and welfare, and take action to help fish suffering in silence here.

## FOOD BUSINESS

Building bridges to improve the lives of animals and shape the future of food

### A new gold standard for organic

The movement to make our food system more regenerative just took a huge leap forward: The Regenerative Organic Alliance (ROA), a group of experts in farming, ranching, soil health, animal welfare, and fair trade—of which Compassion is proud to be a founding member—just launched the Regenerative Organic Certified™ (ROC™) certification standard for food, fiber, and personal care products! Beyond the baseline USDA Organic certification, ROC adds more advanced criteria to ensure soil health. animal welfare, and social fairness, making it the highest standard for organic agriculture in the world. By choosing an ROC product, consumers know that their purchase supports farm workers, soil health, and pasture-based animal welfare. Learn more and get a list of available certified products here.

## Leading the discussion on critical new welfare research

In September, the Food Business team held a webinar to address the summary findings of Global Animal Partnership's [G.A.P] much-anticipated chicken breed study at the University of Guelph. The webinar provided an overview of the methodology and the results from the preliminary report—and importantly, reinforced that industry-standard breeds, which have been bred to prioritize rapid growth, had poorer welfare outcomes than slower-growing breeds.







## DEMANDING PANDEMIC PROTECTIONS FOR ANIMALS AND WORKERS

In the past two years, the USDA has accelerated the slaughter of pigs and chickens to reckless speeds, which often leads to rougher handling of animals, increased use of painful electric prodding—and even worse, more animals scalded in hot water while still fully conscious.

These faster speeds also unnecessarily risk the health and safety of workers in slaughterhouses, who already experience one of the highest rates of occupational illness in the country. In recent months, as COVID-19 outbreaks ripped through and shut down slaughterhouses, line speeds and worker safety have once again taken center stage—particularly in the face of a CDC report showing Black, Latinx, and Asian workers represent an astounding 87% of COVID-19 cases in slaughterhouses. It's time for Congress to act—that's why we asked you to contact your representatives to demand they support The Safe Line Speeds in COVID-19 Act, which would prohibit the dangerously fast line speeds putting so many at risk. Thousands of you have answered the call on behalf of animals and workers! Thank you for taking action, and stay tuned for updates.

Learn more about the campaign here.

## Progress: Colorado goes cage-free!

We kicked off this quarter with some huge news: Colorado became the latest state to go cage-free! On July 1, HB20-1343 was signed into law, banning the use of cages on Colorado farms, setting standards for cage-free confinement, and requiring that all eggs sold in the state (whether sourced from Colorado or not) come from cage-free farms by 2023. This new law makes Colorado the 7th state to ban battery cages and the 6th state to ban the sale of eggs from caged hens, and will benefit both the 5.5 million hens in Colorado and millions more in other states that provide eggs to CO consumers. Compassion USA would like to thank the Colorado activists and animal protection organizations who spearheaded the effort to pass this critical legislation!

## Compassion celebrates Latinx Heritage Month

September 15 marked the start of Latinx Heritage Month, a nationwide celebration



of the cultures and contributions of Latinx. Hispanic, and Latino-identified communities across the globe. Compassion was excited and proud to join the festivities, highlighting the extensive culinary influence of Latinx communities on plant-based cuisine, breaking down how we can help build a food system that treats Latinx workers with respect, sharing mouth-watering recipes on social media, and showcasing Latinx activists and creators bringing compassionate cultural cooking to our tables, our YouTube feeds, and our Instagram grids, all while decolonizing our view on Latinx cuisine. Important information to take with us to our gardens, our local markets, and our kitchens all year round!

Changing how we eat plants can make a big difference in bringing exploitive industrial practices to an end. When we raise our voices—with our choices and our wallets—we can do more to protect the Latinx farmworkers that feed our families and our neighbors.

**READ THE FULL ARTICLE** 



News from around the Compassion-sphere

## MEET THE LATEST MEMBERS OF TEAM COMPASSION



### **Eve-Marie Kuntzman, Director of Development**

Eve-Marie brings over ten years of nonprofit experience to Compassion. Previously, she led the philanthropic strategy and team of a global NGO working to better the lives of farmed animals and co-founded a consultancy providing financial guidance to nonprofits and philanthropists. Eve-Marie holds a B.A. in Sociology and a Master's in Business Administration and Marketing, and is passionate about mission alignment and creating meaningful philanthropic partnerships that make the world a more kind and compassionate place, for both animals and humans alike.



### Samantha Vega, Public Engagement Coordinator

Samantha assists with Compassion USA's public campaigns and communications, with an emphasis on our Eat Plants. For a Change, campaign. Through storytelling and content coordination, Samantha helps consumers make educated decisions from farm, to cart, to table—always prioritizing animal welfare and the environment. Her previous positions on Capitol Hill and in nonprofit administration allow her to bring a strategic eye to the public engagement team. Samantha holds a B.A. in Political Science and is a pet foster parent with her local Humane Rescue Alliance in Washington, D.C.



### **Courtney Franklin, Philanthropy and Partnerships Manager**

In her new role at Compassion, Courtney engages passionate individuals and institutions as partners to further our mission to end factory farming. Courtney holds a M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Management with a concentration in International Food Security, and a B.S. in Business. She brings experience in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, including 12 years of fundraising experience across multiple industries. In her personal time, Courtney can be found "palling around" with her best friend and canine fur baby, Bernice.



### Mandy Pleshaw, Individual Giving Manager

Mandy is excited to join the Compassion USA team as Individual Giving Manager and will be working directly with our loyal donors who are devoted to ending factory farming with us. With over six years of digital fundraising experience and 16 years working at animal welfare nonprofits, she has devoted her career to making a difference for animals worldwide. Because factory farming is the leading cause of animal suffering on the planet, Mandy is dedicated to supporting Compassion's mission and grateful to work directly with those making a difference for the animals who need us most.