

# Oregon's Leading Agriculture Groups Ask Oregon AG for More Accurate Initiative Petition 13 Ballot Title

*IP-13 Criminalizes Good Animal Husbandry, Turns Farmers and Teachers Into Felons*

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Twelve leading Oregon agriculture groups have petitioned the Oregon Attorney General's office to clarify the sweeping devastating effects (IP) 13 would have on all Oregonians. The measure would criminalize good animal husbandry practices, hunting and fishing, animal breeding of both pets and livestock, and even home rodent control. It also would create a new felony category for teachers, advisors, or parents who show children how to care for animals. "Everyone from horse trainers to pet groomers to dairy farmers to anyone who kills a rat in their own home would become criminals under this measure," said Oregon Farm Bureau Public Policy Vice President Mary Anne Cooper. "Even farmers protecting their fields and crops from rodents would be made criminals. I have never seen an initiative that would have such an immediate and devastating impact on more Oregon families than IP13."

Oregon Dairy Farmers Association executive director Tami Kerr said, "Animal abuse is already criminally illegal in Oregon. This initiative isn't about protecting animals, it's about criminalizing family farming activities. Preventative herd health practices shouldn't be criminalized. Breeding practices that are safer for animals shouldn't be criminalized." Oregon Cattlemen's Association executive director Tammy Dennee added, "This measure makes it impossible to protect your pets or calves or sheep from aggressive predators legally. It undermines food safety by outlawing rodent control in our food supply chain, literally all the way from ranch or farm to your table. IP 13 also cripples the local food system and would force Oregonians to rely on out-of-state or overseas suppliers."

The proponent of the measure has until July 8, 2022 to gather more than 112,000 valid signatures to get the measure on the November 2022 ballot. Said Farm Bureau's Cooper, "The best advice I can offer is don't sign the petition. Don't hurt farm and ranch families. Don't waste the voters' time or money on a measure that makes criminals of Oregonians with pets, horses, or livestock, Oregonians who treasure local food, Oregonians who value food safety, Oregonians in the animal care community, Oregonians who offer veterinary education, and parents, teachers, and advisors who teach kids good animal husbandry."

Oregonians interested in joining the fight against IP 13 can visit [www.oregoniansforanimalcare.org](http://www.oregoniansforanimalcare.org).

Under Oregon law, the attorney general is responsible for crafting a ballot title, summary, and "results of yes vote" and "results of a no vote" language that would appear in the November 2022 voter's pamphlet. A public comment period is part of the process of finalizing these official descriptions of the initiative. The coalition's comment submission is attached.

Oregon Farm Bureau  
NW Chicken Council  
Food Northwest  
Oregon Horse Council

Oregon Cattlemen's Association  
Oregon Sheepgrowers Association  
Livestock Marketing Association  
West Coast Seafood Processors Assn.

Oregon Dairy Farmers Association  
Oregonians for Food and Shelter  
Fur Commission USA  
Friends of Family Farmers