

California voters off base again

Dear editor:

I couldn't let this information from a food industry report go by without sharing it with you and your readers. It involves California.

Voters there passed Proposition 2 on Nov. 4. It deals with how animals must be raised. If this goes into effect as passed by voters, farm animals in California must then be raised in a way that allows them to lay down, stand up, turn around — all without

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touching another animal in the stall or pen they're in.

Basically, they're talking raising animals in a free-range environment.

So in all of their infinite wisdom, Californians are basically going to kill their egg industry, drive out companies, and lose a ton of money and a lot of jobs.

Trying to gather eggs from free-range chickens is not so easy. Plus, there's greater risk of salmonella contamination and problems with Avian flu, since livestock producers can't control the environment as well.

Real geniuses, those voters! Why were they allowed to vote on food industry practices in the first place?

And the most ironic part of all is that these industries will likely go to states without these laws. Then suppliers will have to bring eggs into California from

other states and countries, mainly Mexico, where it doesn't matter how the animal that produced the egg was penned.

Allison Bechman,
Athens, Ga.

Editor's note: Allison is a 2008 Purdue University graduate in food science now pursuing a graduate degree in food safety at the University of Georgia. She is editor Tom J. Bechman's daughter.



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