

# Food activists are ruining Costco

By **Bethany Mandel**

June 17, 2016 | 8:31pm

Recently while shopping at Costco, I ducked into the dairy section to buy some eggs. My son has allergies to gluten, dairy and soy, and our egg consumption is astronomical since it is a safe form of protein for him to eat. Last week I bought five dozen, and six days later, there were four eggs left in our fridge. Not four dozen. Four.

The allure of Costco is twofold for our family: I can buy the bulk sizes of items we go through quickly, like cereal, meat and eggs, which get expensive when shopping at our local supermarket; and we can graze on the free samples while we shop.

On my most recent shopping trip, however, that detour into the dairy section to buy eggs gave me the same sticker shock I'm used to feeling in my local grocery store.

I usually buy two Styrofoam containers of eggs with 36 eggs each, which lasts our family almost two weeks. But those containers were gone.

The closest thing I could find to our usual 36-egg container for less than \$4 was a cardboard flat of five dozen — 60 eggs — for almost \$10.

Not only was the container far less safe for transport and storage (there's a thin plastic top that sits gently on top to protect the eggs in cardboard), but the eggs were also a good deal more expensive. I'm used to spending around \$8 for 72 eggs, but this trip I spent almost \$10 for 60. What was the difference?

These magical eggs (which tasted exactly the same) were deemed “cage-free” by Costco.

Being a Costco and savings-blog devotee, I had recently seen several posts on Facebook about the fact that other shoppers had noticed the disappearance of regular eggs from Costco's shelves.

Alas, after a little more research, I learned that the phenomenon wasn't due to a nationwide but temporary shortage of regular eggs, but instead it was due to a decision made at the corporate level to transition to all cage-free eggs this year.

Had I known that food activists were spending its time petitioning Costco to change their egg-procurement to cage-free, I might have done a little petitioning of my own. Alas, being a busy mother of two children under the age of three, I spend my time shopping and cooking for my family instead of contacting stores about my social-justice project of the week.

This isn't to say that buying cage-free eggs isn't perhaps a worthwhile endeavor, or that cage-free methods aren't less cruel for hens than traditional egg-harvesting methods. I've considered buying cage-free numerous times, though unfortunately my need to feed my family affordably has made the cost-prohibitive nature of cage-free not a viable option.

In countless ways, large and small, the anti-science and pro-feelings food-justice lobby has denied families like mine the ability to choose what we put on our dinner plates. Fat is taken out of our yogurts by fiat, the salt warriors are out to change the formulas of our favorite foods, food dyes were removed from my favorite iconic childhood dinner, the Food and Drug Administration sets the menu for our kids' lunches every day.

Despite the fact that many of the scientific beliefs about food are later overturned, we still let the same scientists and now, unfortunately, untrained activists make decisions that affect not only our diets, but also our bottom lines.

Cage-free eggs might make the people at Costco's corporate headquarters feel as though they've made a move in the right direction for food justice. Regular moms like me, however, feel as though a choice has been yanked away.

Despite the fact that cage-free eggs have been available for as long as I've been a Costco member, I never purchased them, nor am I alone. Because so many shoppers were making the wrong decision, the decision was made easier by removing the "incorrect" option.

Fortunately, despite the actions of social-justice warriors petitioning Costco and the individuals within the corporate offices bending to their will, we still live in a capitalist society. I have a new love in my life, and she's called Aldi. Aldi is a magical place where management understands that feeding families on a budget is more important than feeling good about our food.

I'd prefer that pragmatism — and spending less than \$1 on a dozen eggs — than warm fuzzies and free samples any day.

Bethany Mandel, a stay-at-home mom, is a senior contributor to The Federalist.

**From [acculturated.com](http://acculturated.com)**

Link to article:

<http://nyp.st/1tANeeK>