

## Farm Animal Welfare Policy

Food Lion is a passionate supporter of the well-being and welfare of farm animals. We are continuously refining our approach and seeking to improve sustainability and transparency within our supply chain. Food Lion looks to partner with suppliers who are committed to sound, science-based animal care practices and the elimination of animal cruelty, abuse and neglect.

### Scope and Annual Public Reporting

Our policy covers Food Lion's ambitions for stronger animal welfare standards as they relate to products derived from whole or single ingredient Cattle products (**Beef and Dairy**), whole Pork products (**Sows and Commercial Hogs**), whole or single ingredient Poultry products (**Meat Chickens, Laying Hens, & Turkey**) and other whole or single-ingredient products derived from farm animals.

At this time, our policy does not include combination food products (including soups, sandwiches, pizzas, hot dogs, or similar processed or prepared food products). While these products are not included in our policy, we believe that focusing on the core whole or single ingredient products will increase animal welfare across all product categories, including out of scope products.

The animal welfare policy applies to all suppliers. We will begin working toward compliance with private brand suppliers and work with all suppliers to improve compliance throughout the total assortment of whole or single ingredient products by 2025.

We will publish annual key performance indicators to disclose the progress we make against the Five Freedoms for Farm Animals, our guiding principles, beginning in 2021. We will begin disclosing our progress in private brands and work to create disclosure for the entire assortment, including cage-free and gestation-free rates.

### The Five Freedoms for Farm Animals

We believe that an animal's welfare at all phases of its life – whether at a farm, breeding, in transit, at auction or a harvesting plant – should be considered in terms of the globally recognized “five freedoms” of animal welfare. These freedoms form a logical and comprehensive framework for animal welfare, as follows:

- **Freedom from hunger and thirst** – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
- **Freedom from discomfort** – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- **Freedom from pain, injury, or disease** – by prevention or through rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- **Freedom to express normal behavior** – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind.
- **Freedom from fear and distress** – by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

As a customer-facing retailer, we recognize the importance of ensuring healthy farm animal welfare practices and believe we can make significant progress to advance farm animal welfare by working with our suppliers to address:

	<b>Cattle (Beef, and Dairy)</b>	<b>Pork</b>	<b>Poultry</b>
<b>Freedom from hunger and thirst</b>	Improved nutrition	Ready access to feed	Minimize overcrowding
<b>Freedom from Discomfort</b>	Minimize sleep disruption	Monitor heat stress and Reduce painful procedures	Monitor heat stress and Reduce Painful Procedures
<b>Freedom from pain, injury or disease</b>	Limit Dehorning and Tail Docking	Limit physical alterations	Better growth rates
<b>Freedom to express normal behavior</b>	Eliminate Rough handling	Group housing	Better enrichment
<b>Freedom from fear and distress</b>	Ensure Best in class harvest practices	Ensuring better live transport practices	Ensure Best in class harvest practices

**Requirements for Suppliers**

Food Lion expects its suppliers of products derived from whole or single ingredient Cattle (Beef and Dairy) whole Pork (Sows and Commercial Hogs), whole or single ingredient Poultry (Broiler Hens, Laying Hens, & Turkey) and other whole or single-ingredient products derived from farm animals whether derived from Owned, Contracted or Market Purchase sources to:

- **Have a Published Animal Welfare Policy** – Suppliers will be required to establish and publish an animal welfare policy based on the five freedoms and focus on continuous improvement and innovation.
- **Provide an Annual Animal Welfare Report and Disclosure** - Suppliers will be required to report annually against an animal welfare assessment and are required to disclose all major violations immediately.
- **Provide Farm Level Training** – Suppliers are expected to provide adequate training to all individuals involved with the direct handling of animals throughout the supply chain, in the individuals’ native language.

**Issue Statements**

**Animal Testing**

Food Lion does not support the testing of Private brand food, pharmaceutical or cosmetic products and their ingredients on animals’ nor do we ask suppliers of our Private brand products to conduct animal testing on our behalf, unless we have a legal obligation to do so. We expect every reasonable effort to be made to not use animals for testing of food, pharmaceutical or cosmetic products and their ingredients.

## **Antimicrobials**

Food Lion understands the significance of antimicrobials in both human and animal medicine and the threat from improper use in livestock supply chains. Some of these antimicrobials are also used in human medicine and, if overused, can lead to increased antimicrobial resistance. Medically important antimicrobials are included in a list developed and regularly updated by the World Health Organization (WHO).

- Food Lion does not support the use on farm animals of antimicrobials medically critical to humans.
- Food Lion believes that antimicrobials used in animal medicine, when applied responsibly and under veterinarian oversight for treatment of disease or injury, promotes good animal welfare and that antimicrobials should not be used unless the well-being of an animal is endangered.

Food Lion does not support the prophylactic use of antimicrobials in animal farming, or their use as growth promoters. Food Lion will continue working with our suppliers to responsibly reduce antibiotic use in animal farming, especially those considered by the World Health Organization to be critically important for human health.

## **Beta Antagonists**

Beta antagonists are synthetic compounds that mimic some of the effects of naturally-occurring compounds by binding to beta-receptors on the surface of cells within the muscle, fat and other tissues of animals. They are sometimes used in livestock production to enhance growth and alter body composition. Increasingly, consumers are seeking transparency regarding livestock and seeking meat raised in more natural conditions. Food Lion promotes buying meat from livestock that are not fed beta agonists and supports the pork and beef producers who are voluntarily phasing out key beta agonists, such as ractopamine.

## **Broiler Chickens**

Food Lion recognizes that chickens raised for meat production or "Broilers" have several health concerns related to growth size and rate and stocking density. We are actively working with suppliers, stakeholders, and animal welfare experts to develop a set of product standards related to breed, stocking density, and enriched environments, and we are examining science-based studies as they determine the best genetics for animal health.

We will examine the outcomes of these studies in future updates we make to our animal welfare policy and will continue to work with our farmers and suppliers to ensure we meet the best animal welfare outcomes.

We are asking our suppliers to move toward processing all chickens using a multi-step controlled-atmosphere processing system that's widely recognized as more humane.

## **Cage Free Eggs**

Food Lion cares deeply about animal welfare, including the welfare of egg-laying hens. That's why we have committed to reach a 100 percent cage-free shell egg assortment. We are working

quickly in our private brands and are working with our suppliers to transition the full assortment by 2025 or sooner.

### **Growth Hormones**

The local brands sell only private brand milk products free of the artificial growth hormone rBST/rBGH. Additionally, the local brands offer Nature's Promise free from meat that prohibits the use of hormones and growth stimulants.

### **Live Animal Transport and Humane Harvest**

Food Lion understands that farm animals are especially vulnerable to stress during transport and slaughter and expects its suppliers of whole animal products to ensure that all farm animals be rendered unconscious and insensible to pain through effective stunning before harvest and we require this to be accomplished in a single attempt. For religious slaughter, we prefer our suppliers to follow Dr. Temple Grandin religious slaughter requirements. Also, we are committed to avoiding live long-distance transport of farm animals across all species to no more than 8 hours.

### **Pain Management**

Food Lion expects its suppliers of products derived from whole or single ingredient Cattle (Beef and Dairy) whole Pork (Sows and Commercial Hogs), whole or single ingredient Poultry (Broiler Hens, Laying Hens, & Turkey) and other whole or single-ingredient products derived from farm animals whether derived from on Owned, Contracted or Market Purchase sources to have written policies detailing best practices for managing painful procedures to reduce suffering. We ask that our suppliers find and implement solutions to prevent painful procedures where avoidable (for example, tail docking, de-horning and castration).

### **Swine Group Housing and Gestation Stalls**

Food Lion understands there are several conferment concerns regarding gestation stalls for breeding pigs or sows. We are committing to eliminate the use of gestation stalls by 2025 or sooner. We are working quickly in our private brands and with suppliers to transition the full assortment to group housing.