

# Animal Welfare

## Leading the Industry in Animal Welfare Auditing

Our FarmCheck® program is an industry-leading third-party audit program that helps to ensure that independent livestock and poultry farmers are monitored for proper animal welfare practices. Our Corporate Office of Animal Welfare oversees the implementation of the program.

Since the program's beginning in 2013, a total of 2,883 third-party audits have been conducted across our beef, pork, chicken and turkey supply chains. We are currently making updates to our FarmCheck® program to create a more robust tool, and with this sustainability report, we are sharing more detailed information about the results of our audits.

The program's four guiding principles include:

- *Site Checks:* Third-party auditors conduct on-farm site checks to ensure animals have access to food and water, as well as proper human-animal interaction and worker training.
- *Animal Welfare Advisory Panel:* The group of experts in animal welfare help review the audit criteria used in the program and recommend any needed improvements.



- *Research:* With guidance from our Advisory Panel, we support farm animal welfare by reviewing existing research as well as funding and promoting research we believe will lead to continued improvement in animal welfare best practices.
- *Staff:* We have an expert team of animal welfare specialists tasked with overseeing all our efforts around animal welfare.

## Scope & Criteria

The FarmCheck® program scope is based on a statistical analysis of each protein supply chain. This analysis allows us to determine the number of farms that should be audited each year so that, over a three-year period, we can be 99 percent confident that 95 percent or more of our supply chain complies with the standards of the program. Based on this analysis, the target number for all supply chains in FY2018 was 462. We analyze several criteria on audited farms to gauge the physical and behavioral welfare of the animals.

Observations on farms that do not meet the criteria established in the audit tool are noted as a deficiency. If possible, deficiencies are corrected on-site prior to the completion of the audit. If not, then a corrective action plan is created with input from the farmer and our animal welfare, live operations and procurement teams. As a result of the 2018 FarmCheck® program audits, we identified three areas for improvement across all Tyson Foods supply chains in the areas of records and documentation such as training, maintenance logs, and written standard operating procedures; internal checks; audits and assessments; and facility repair.

## Poultry

When auditing poultry operations, we check the foot pads of birds in a group of 30 that are between 14 and 28 days of age and note any lesions. We give a gait score to the producer for the previous seven days of production depicting the number of birds that are observed out of 100 that are unable to stand and walk. We also assess housing conditions, inspect for injuries or illness, and observe catching operations.

## Swine

While we currently use the [Common Swine Industry Audit](#) platform, FarmCheck® program has always focused on verifying key aspects of animal welfare: proper human-animal interaction, proper caretaker training, access to food and water, and the body condition of the animals. Through this initiative, we're able to verify that our suppliers are striving to provide the best possible care to their hogs, regardless of the operation type or system.



## Cattle

When auditing cattle feed yards and livestock markets, we reference the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) guidelines. As of January 1, 2019, Tyson Fresh Meats began purchasing all live cattle from BQA-certified direct cattle suppliers. In 2018, Tyson Fresh Meats licensed the Progressive Beef™ system and made a commitment to include over 1 million head of cattle from producers certified under the Progressive Beef™ system. In 2019, we commit to doubling our live cattle supply raised under these best management animal husbandry practices. The Progressive Beef™ system continues the Tyson path laid by FarmCheck® program and Beef Quality Assurance and integrates a quality management system that will further improve animal care, food safety and environmental sustainability practices through a transparent and verifiable system.