

Tyson Foods, Inc. 2019 Responses to the Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare

This does not include supply chains associated with the recent acquisition of Keystone and BRF. We are still in the process of evaluating the animal welfare policies and practices of these organizations and expect full integration at a future date.

Management and Commitment

1. *Does the company acknowledge farm animal welfare as a business issue?*

Everything we do at Tyson Foods starts with our purpose – to raise the world’s expectations for how much good food can do. We don’t just try to meet expectations; we try to exceed them, every day, and then consistently challenge ourselves to improve even more. We want to make a difference in the environment, in our workplace and the communities in which we operate, and a difference in animal welfare – and we want to make this difference while we sustainably feed the world.

Our commitment to delivering excellence in animal welfare permeates our global enterprise, from corporate leadership to team members on the ground who interact directly with animals on a daily basis. We are committed to delivering excellence in animal health, animal handling and humane harvesting through leading-edge, third-party monitoring and continuous internal improvement through research and pilot projects.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

2. *Does the company publish an overarching corporate farm animal welfare policy (or equivalent)?*

Tyson Foods maintains an [animal welfare mission statement](#) and a [public commitment to animal welfare](#).

3. *Does the policy statement provide a clear explanation of scope?*

In accordance with our [Supplier Code of Conduct](#), all U.S. supply partners, are expected to use humane procedures and sound animal husbandry practices designed to prevent the mistreatment of animals, in addition to complying with all applicable laws, regulations, and other standards.

Also in our Core Values and [Code of Conduct](#), we have a long-standing commitment to the well-being, proper handling, and humane harvest of all the animals used in our food products. This is not only the right thing to do; it’s also an important moral and ethical obligation we owe to our business partners, consumers and most of all to the animals we depend on for our products and livelihood. We have dedicated professionals providing animal welfare guidance on awareness, transparency and accountability. We expect our global team members and supply partners to comply with laws regulating the humane treatment and harvest of animals, and to serve as stewards of the animals.

4. *Does the company have a clear position on the avoidance of close confinement and intensive systems for livestock?*

We work with thousands of independent farmers every day to ensure they are treating the animals responsibly and with respect, starting with where and how they are housed. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

5. *Does the company have a clear position on the avoidance of products from farm animals subject to genetic engineering or cloning and/or their progeny or descendants throughout its products?*

Our chickens and turkeys that are part of our global operations are not genetically modified or cloned. Moreover, we do not knowingly buy any genetically-engineered livestock for our beef and pork processing operations.

6. *Does the company have a clear position on the avoidance of growth promoting substances?*

We do not administer any substances – including antibiotics – for growth promotion to the poultry in our direct supply chains in the U.S and India. We rely on our independent farmers and our supply partners to comply with laws regulating the use of growth promoting substances and antibiotics. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

For consumers who want beef or pork from farm animals that have never been given antibiotics or growth promotants of any kind, we offer a line of all natural (no artificial ingredients, vegetarian diet, minimally processed) beef and pork products through our *Open Prairie*® Natural Angus and Natural Pork brand. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

7. *Does the company have a clear position on the reduction or avoidance of antibiotics for prophylactic use?*

We have a responsibility to be a part of the solution that addresses stakeholder concerns about antibiotic resistance and the impact of overuse of antibiotics on animal welfare. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

8. *Does the company have a clear position on the avoidance of routine mutilations (castration, teeth clipping, tail docking, toe clipping, dehorning, desnooding, de-winging, disbudding, mulesing, beak trimming, fin clipping, etc.)?*

We avoid physical alterations across our broiler chickens in the U.S., India, and China. For poultry kept on farms for longer periods, such as breeding chickens and turkeys, certain procedures which mitigate future risk of injury may be necessary.

At the beginning of 2019, we also stopped the practice of de-snooding our turkeys. Procedures for chicken breeding flocks may include beak conditioning and toenail trimming, which are performed in accordance with the best animal welfare practices. The goal of these procedures is to reduce injuries among birds and to promote health and welfare of the flocks. These procedures are closely monitored and performed by trained personnel using specialized equipment in the hatchery on day-old poultry.

We encourage our independent farmers and supply partners to use the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and National Pork Board Best Management Practices for age and weight when practices such as dehorning, tail docking and castration are performed. Verification that these guidelines are followed is completed through our *FarmCheck*® program audits on the farm.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

9. Does the company have a clear position on the avoidance of meat from animals that have not been subjected to pre-slaughter stunning, or (in the case of finfish) meat from animals that have not been rendered insensible?

All direct vendors and suppliers to Tyson Foods are expected to use humane procedures and sound animal husbandry practices designed to prevent the mistreatment of animals, including pre-slaughter stunning. We do procure, however, a small percentage of Kosher beef products that would not fall under these general practices due to the differences with religious slaughter.

10. Does the company have a clear position on the avoidance of long distance live transportation?

We're committed to safe and proper handling of animals during the loading, transport and unloading process. This includes following stocking [density guidelines](#), managing travel times, ensuring proper ventilation and protecting the animals from harsh weather conditions. Learn more [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Governance and Management

11. Has the company assigned management responsibility for farm animal welfare to an individual or specified committee?

Our Corporate Office of Animal Welfare (OAW) is dedicated exclusively to animal welfare. The OAW is comprised of passionate team members who work diligently to ensure we act responsibly about the care and treatment of the animals in our supply chain. Learn more [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

12. Has the company set objectives and targets for the management of farm animal welfare?

We are committed to the welfare, proper handling and humane harvesting of all the animals we use to produce meat and poultry food products. This is a long-standing commitment grounded in continuous improvement, research, the use of outcome-based metrics and transparency. For example, in fiscal year 2018 we reported our performance, for the first-time ever, against key welfare indicators for chickens, cattle and hogs.

FY2018 Key Welfare Indicators

Broiler Chickens		Cattle and Hogs	
Transport Livability	99.83%	No Falls	99.15%
Non-Damaged Wings	99.88%	Not Prodded	99.15%
Acceptable Paw Scores	78%	Acceptable Wait Time	94.02%

We pledge our diligence in leading the industry pursuit of new and improved technology and methods to improve animal welfare.

[Animal Welfare](#)

[Animal Welfare in the Value Chain](#)

[Animal Welfare Monitoring](#)

[Antibiotic Use](#)

[Animal Welfare Innovations](#)

13. Does the company report on its performance against its welfare policy and objectives?

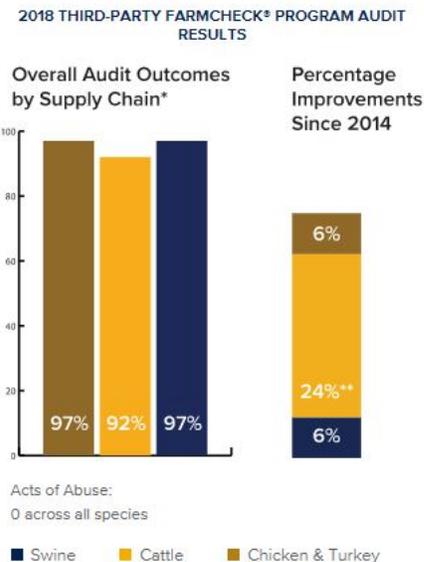
We are committed to transparently advancing animal welfare and experience. [CLICK HERE](#) for full details.

14. Does the company describe its internal processes for ensuring that its farm animal welfare policy is effectively implemented?

We've built an internal culture of caring about animals and delivering excellence in animal welfare is inherent to who we are as an organization. This applies not just to our team members who have daily interaction with animals, but extends all the way up to our senior leadership team. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

In addition, in accordance with our Core Values and [Code of Conduct](#), we have a long-standing commitment to the well-being, proper handling, and humane harvest of all the animals used in our food products. We expect our global team members and supply partners to comply with laws regulating the humane treatment and harvest of animals, and to serve as stewards of the animals.

Additionally, our industry-leading third-party audit program helps to ensure that livestock and poultry farmers are monitored for proper animal welfare practices. Our Corporate Office of Animal Welfare oversees the implementation of the *FarmCheck*® program, through which third-party auditors check the livestock and poultry farms that supply us to ensure they meet a variety of animal welfare criteria.



*Percentages represent the average number of audit elements that were found to be acceptable against their representative frameworks.

**The areas of greatest improvement were training and site assessment/site self-check. Both of these elements of the FarmCheck® program are largely focused on record-keeping requirements. The increased communication by our cattle procurement team helped clarify these requirements for feedyards and livestock markets.

15. Does the company describe how it implements its farm animal welfare policy (or equivalent) through its supply chain?

Our industry-leading third-party audit program helps to ensure that livestock and poultry farmers are monitored for proper animal welfare practices. Our Corporate Office of Animal Welfare oversees the implementation of the *FarmCheck*® program, through which third-party auditors check the livestock and poultry farms that supply us to ensure they meet a variety of animal welfare criteria. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

[Our Approach to Animal Welfare](#)

[Contract Farmer Bill of Rights](#)

16. Does the company assure its welfare scheme to a prescribed standard?

Our industry-leading third-party audit program helps to ensure that livestock and poultry farmers are monitored for proper animal welfare practices. Our Corporate Office of Animal Welfare oversees the implementation of the *FarmCheck*® program, through which third-party auditors check the livestock and poultry farms that supply us to ensure they meet a variety of animal welfare criteria. The requirements of *FarmCheck*® are applicable to our U.S.-based direct supply chain and are based on best practices as recommended through Beef Quality Assurance, Pork Quality Assurance and National Chicken Council. And, in 2019, our *FarmCheck*® broiler chicken audit tools were certified by the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

In addition, in 2018, we demonstrated our commitment to supply chain transparency by becoming the first beef processor to license the Progressive Beef™ program, a comprehensive quality management system designed for cattle feeding operations that sell to companies like Tyson Foods. Progressive Beef covers all aspects of day-to-day cattle care. Cattle feeding operators certified in the program follow best practices for animal welfare, food safety, responsible antibiotic use and environmental sustainability. These practices are verified twice per year through USDA-approved auditors. Each audit is like a report card, and the metrics involved help ranchers improve their operations. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

Innovation and Leadership

17. Is the company currently investing in projects dedicated to advancing farm animal welfare practices within the industry?

We partner with a variety of professionals, academic institutions and industry groups to advance animal agricultural research and best practices for animal welfare throughout the industry. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

18. *Has the company received any notable awards or accreditations for its farm animal welfare performance in the last two years?*

In 2018, our chicken and turkey specialists were certified by the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association's Poultry Handling and Transportation Certification Program (PHT). This training is aimed at teaching poultry transportation and catch-crews best practices and methods in biosecurity, disease recognition, emergency planning and the safe and humane handling of birds before, during and after transport.

In addition, our *FarmCheck*® broiler chicken audit tools were certified by the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization in 2019.

Our Office of Animal Welfare also includes our Animal Welfare Specialists. At the completion of FY2018, we had 53 animal welfare specialists on staff – one for each of our facilities that harvest animals in the U.S., including chicken, cattle, turkey and swine processing plants. These specialists are dedicated specifically to welfare within our operations and conduct internal audits of our facilities, provide service, assistance and expertise to Tyson team members about animal welfare. Specialists are embedded in the day-to-day operations at each facility, acting as a liaison between our operation teams and plant managers, as well as serving as advocates for the animals themselves.

This team, both in Poultry and Fresh Meats (which includes our beef and pork operations), were the first in the industry to be certified as Internal Auditors by the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO). The continuous education required of our specialists annually to keep their certification makes them a critical resource on animal welfare across our entire company. In addition, we have 20 team members that are certified in PAACO's external certification program.

19. *Does the company promote higher farm animal welfare to consumers through education and/or awareness raising activities?*

We advance animal welfare education by providing the use of our facilities and expertise in animal welfare auditing, in cooperation with our supply chain, as well as customers, academics and audit firms. This enables external stakeholders and individuals to gain professional animal auditor certification through the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization.

Additionally, our internal animal welfare experts serve on numerous committees and customer panels where they have the opportunity share knowledge and advancements that can assist with industry performance and education. They are also invited to speak at conferences and seminars supporting education and best practices in animal welfare.

We also open our doors to undergraduate and graduate students in animal science for educational opportunities, providing a place to evaluate welfare dynamics similar to those in the North American Meat Institute's recommended animal handling guidelines. Our facilities also serve as locations for various supply chain and customer educational events focused on animal welfare policies and practices, where the renowned Dr. Temple Grandin acts as a training partner.

20. *We are interested to understand the role that food companies are playing in promoting sustainable lifecycle choices through the products they sell to customers?*

1. *Does the company have a position on promoting non-animal derived protein alongside animal protein?*
2. *Does the company have a stated commitment to reducing/substituting (at least in part) a proportion of the animal protein it sells?*

Our leadership team is strategically focused on innovation and shaping the future of food. We're investing in disruptive food ideas like alternative proteins, products that fight food waste and new uses of food safety and supply chain technologies. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

Additionally, in June 2019, we introduced the company's first plant-based and blended products, along with its new *Raised & Rooted*® brand. The initiative makes us the largest U.S. meat producer to enter the growing alternative protein segment with its own products.

The *RAISED & ROOTED* brand was created to provide great-tasting plant-based and blended foods that are rooted in how people eat today. The initial products under this new brand, which will launch with several major retail customers this year, include plant-based nuggets as well as blended burgers made with a combination of beef and plants. In addition, the company's existing *Aidells*® brand has launched *Aidells Whole Blends*™ sausage and meatballs, made with chicken and plant-based ingredients. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

21. *Does the company report on the proportion of animals (or volume of fresh or frozen animal products and ingredients) for own-brand products in its global supply chain that are free from confinement?*

In FY2018, we surveyed a group of our raw material suppliers that make up more than 80 percent of the money we spend with third parties to purchase chicken, beef, pork and dairy. Of the 72 percent who responded, we learned 100% of the chicken meat we procure is from birds raised in open barns.

Additionally, as of December 2018, 53 percent of Tyson-owned sows on contract farms are housed in open pens, and we expect this percentage to continue to grow.

And as of July 2019, 12.5 % of the laying hens that we source egg products are in cage free systems.

22. *Does the company report on the proportion of animals in its global supply chain that are free from routine mutilations?*

100% of broiler chickens within our direct supply chains in the U.S., China and India are free from physical alterations. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

23. *Does the company report on the proportion of animals in its global supply chain that are subject to pre-slaughter stunning?*

100% of the animals within our direct supply chains in the U.S., China, and India are subject to pre-slaughter stunning.

24. *Does the company report on the average, typical, or maximum permitted live transport times for the animals in its global supply chain?*

We aim to transport live animals less than eight hours. Within our direct supply chain in the U.S., China, and India, the majority of animals we harvest are in transport less than four hours. Due to the geographic profile of independent supply chains, along with the need to operate our processing plants in an efficient manner, we occasionally encounter longer transport times.

Our processing plants maintain standard procedures for receiving live animals that require unloading animals as soon as possible, providing water in holding pens, and feeding the animals if they are kept for longer than 24 hours. We also maintain emergency management plans for motor-vehicle accidents involving animals in transport. Additionally, we monitor transport times and take immediate corrective action if issues with transport times are identified. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

25. *Does the company report on welfare outcome measures?*

We are committed to transparently advancing animal welfare and experience. In our FY18 sustainability report, for the first-time ever, we reported our performance against three broiler chicken welfare indicators and three cattle and hog welfare indicators. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

26. *Does the company provide an explanation of progress and trends in performance?*

We transparently report our animal welfare progress and trends in our annual sustainability report. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

Performance Reporting and Impact

27. *What proportion of laying hens in the company's global supply chain is cage free?*

As of July 2019, 12.5 % of the laying hens that we source egg products are in cage free systems.

28. *What proportion of fresh/frozen pork products and ingredients in the company's global supply chain is sourced from pigs that are from sow stalls?*

As of December 2018, 53 percent of Tyson-owned sows on contract farms are housed in open pens, and we expect this percentage to continue to grow. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

29. *What proportion of fresh/frozen milk or milk products and ingredients in the company's global supply chain is sourced from cows that are free of tethering?*

Not known at this time.

30. *What proportion of broiler chickens for own-brand fresh/frozen products and ingredients in the company's global supply chain is reared at lower stocking densities (specifically, 30 kg/m² or less)?*

Approximately 31-percent of our chickens in the U.S. are reared at a maximum stocking density equal to or less than 6.5 pounds per square foot.

31. *What proportion of laying hens in the company's global supply chain is free from beak trimming or tipping?*

Not known at this time.

32. *What proportion of pigs in the company's global supply chain is free from tail docking?*

Not known at this time.

33. *What proportion of dairy cows in the company's global supply chain is free from tail docking?*

Not known at this time.

34. *What proportion of animals (excluding fin fish) in the company's global supply chain is pre-slaughter stunned?*

All of our facilities in the U.S., India, and China pre-slaughter stun poultry, cattle, and hogs prior to harvest.

35. *What proportion of animals (excluding fin fish) in the company's global supply chain is transported within specified maximum journey times?*

Not known at this time.