



Animal Welfare-Friendly Practices

(Updated: 12/18/14)

Just as with our coffee, Starbucks goal is for everything we sell to be produced under high quality and ethical standards. For the food and dairy we serve, this means a commitment to social responsibility standards with animal welfare as a primary focus. We are committed to working with and buying from farmers and suppliers who share our commitment to humane practices throughout an animal's lifecycle.

Encouraging Industry Best Practices

In 2009, Starbucks established a buying preference in North America to use industry best practices for animal husbandry and processing for dairy, egg, and meat production. As this covers a wide range of practices, in consultation with key stakeholders including our partners (employees) and customers, key non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and through industry engagement, our current areas of focus include:

- Supporting responsible use of antibiotics to support animal health
- Eliminating the use of artificial growth hormones, and for poultry, fast growing practices
- Addressing concerns related to dehorning, tail docking, and castration both with and without anesthesia
- Phasing out gestation crates for pigs and cages for chickens

Specifically, our priority is to ensure we offer food made with ingredients such as cage-free eggs, gestation crate-free pork, and poultry processed through more humane systems such as CAK. For each focus area listed above, we're working with the industry on creating reasonable timeframes. As one example, we have significantly expanded our cage-free egg offerings since 2008, increasing our purchases year over year, and are committed to continue to do so.

Establishing a Global Standard

While we prioritize compliance with existing local animal welfare laws and regulations, we also recognize there is considerable variance in regulatory rigor across the many markets in which we do business. In cases where national standards are not in place, are minimal, or are not consistently enforced, we use the standards set for our U.S. business as our guideline. In addition to committing to this for our own business, we support the development of global science-based national and international standards and guidelines.

Driving Toward Industry-wide Solutions

Some of the issues we would like our suppliers to address must happen at the industry level. Recognizing the responsibility we have as the voice for our customers, we continue to look for opportunities to collaborate with others across our industry and the NGO community to promote best practices. Starbucks is a member of the Global Social Compliance Program, a business-driven effort to promote the continuous improvement of environmental and working conditions of global supply chains. We also participate on the Dairy Management Inc.'s (DMI) Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's Sustainability Committee where issues related to animal welfare can be addressed industry-wide.

Addressing Issues in our Supply Chain

In the event concerns arise with the practices of a supplier, our approach is to work with them to correct the issues, but there are times when we halt business due to the nature of the issues and until adequate resolution takes place.