

Animal Welfare Principles

Loblaws is one of Canada's largest buyers and sellers of meat, poultry, eggs and dairy products. Our customers look to us to ensure the food they purchase is safe, high quality, responsibly sourced and produced in a humane way.

The welfare of animals raised for food is important to us and our customers. As Loblaws is not directly involved in raising or processing animals, we look to our suppliers to ensure that the animals they raise are treated in accordance with government and industry-accepted guidelines for humane treatment.

We are making continued progress toward achieving the globally recognized "Five Freedoms" – an internationally accepted standard for animal care:

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

We remain committed to tackling issues associated with animal welfare and recognize that there is more to do. That is why we continue to collaborate with industry partners and experts to set targets and action plans.

Loblaws has made several decisions over the past several years, including:

- Source fresh veal from vendors that have transitioned to loose housing by the end of 2018
- Source fresh pork from vendors that have transitioned to loose housing by the end of 2022
- Source only cage-free shell eggs by the end of 2025

We also believe in a science-based approach. To that end, we have engaged a scientific advisor, Dr. David Fraser, a leading animal welfare scientist from the University of British Columbia, to provide expert opinion and guidance on how to align our commitments with animal welfare standards and best practices. Loblaws is an associate member of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) since 2011 - a multi-stakeholder forum and national leader on farm animal care and welfare. We are also a member of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) - a national organization that advises senior levels of government and industry on all aspects of farm animal health and welfare.

Loblaws Goals for Improving Animal Welfare:

- Engage with and support the NFACC in developing national Codes for farm animal care and welfare, and evolving Animal Care Assessment Programs to ensure that Codes are followed
- Encourage producers in adopting best practices for animal treatment based on the best science available. This includes working with industry experts and our scientific advisor
- Report on the progress of our animal welfare initiatives in our annual Corporate Social Responsibility reports
- Fund relevant animal welfare research projects as advised by our animal welfare scientific advisor
- Renew and promote opportunities to continue to collaborate on commitments with the food retailer community through our trade association, The Retail Council of Canada, when feasible and practical
- Stay attuned to new technologies developed to advance animal welfare
- Maintain our status as associate members of the NFACC and NFAHWC Council
- Review this commitment on an annual basis and update it as new developments occur

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