

## Animal Welfare Standards:

### A Comparison of Industry Guidelines and Independent Labels

Practice	Industry Guideline (Individual industry trade associations) <sup>1</sup>	American Humane Certified (American Humane Association) <sup>2</sup>	Certified Humane Program (Humane Farm Animal Care) <sup>3</sup>	Animal Welfare Approved (A Greener World) <sup>4</sup>	Global Animal Partnership 5-Step Animal Welfare Rating Program (GAP) <sup>5</sup>	Certified Organic (USDA Agricultural Marketing Service) <sup>6</sup>
<b>RUMINANTS (BEEF CATTLE, DAIRY CATTLE, SHEEP)</b>						
<b>Use of growth hormones</b>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Growth promotants, including ractopamine, are allowed</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle and Sheep:</b> Growth hormones are allowed</p>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Must not be given growth promoter (M7, M11)</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> Must not be fed, injected, or implanted with growth promoter (M7, M11)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> No standards</p>	<p><b>Cattle and Sheep:</b> Dairy and beef cattle and sheep must not be fed or implanted with any growth promoter (FW4)</p>	<p><b>Cattle and Sheep:</b> Growth hormones or the use of any substance promoting weight gain are prohibited (3.1.3)</p>	<p><b>Beef Cattle and Sheep:</b> Growth hormones are prohibited for beef cattle (3.1.2) and sheep (1.2.1) at all Steps</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> No standards</p> <p>Note: Pilot standards for sheep (v1.3 updated July 9, 2019)</p>	<p><b>Cattle and Sheep:</b> Growth hormones prohibited for dairy and beef cattle and for sheep (§ 205.238(c)(3))</p>
<b>Pain relief for castration</b>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Recommended that it be performed under 3 months (p. 45); mentions seeking guidance for pain relief for older animals but not required (p. 54)</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> Should occur at the youngest age possible; pain relief is required (p. 38)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Recommended be performed as early as possible; pain relief may be required if performed after 6 weeks (p. 26)</p>	<p><b>Cattle:</b> For dairy (M53) and beef cattle (M48), castration must be performed at earliest age possible; pain relief is required only for certain methods up to 2 months of age; after 2 months castration must be performed surgically by vet with pain relief</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> No standards</p>	<p><b>Cattle:</b> For beef and dairy cattle, rubber ring may be used up to 7 days of age without pain relief and other methods may be used between 7 days and 6 months of age using pain relief; after 6 months, must be performed by vet using pain relief (H10(a)(3))</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Castration may be performed between 24 hours and 7 days of age; pain relief is recommended (H14(a)(1))</p>	<p><b>Cattle:</b> For beef and dairy cattle, castration may be performed using rubber ring up to 7 days old and using scalpel or burdizzo up to 2 months old; pain relief not required (4.7.4)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Castration may only occur when uncontrolled breeding cannot be prevented by any other management (4.7.1); c it may not be performed after 7 days of age; pain relief not required (4.7.5)</p>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> May be performed up to 6 months for Step 1, and 3 months of age for Steps 2 – 4; no pain relief required; prohibited for Steps 5 – 5+ (5.5.1)</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> No standards</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> May be performed up to 8 weeks for Steps 1 &amp; 4 (2.6.1); pain relief required outside specified age range (2.6.4); castration prohibited for Steps 5 – 5+ (2.6.2)</p>	<p><b>Cattle and Sheep:</b> To be performed as needed to promote welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress (§ 205.238(a)(5)); pain relief not explicitly required</p>
<b>Pain relief for dehorning or disbudding</b>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Recommended be performed under 4 months; pain relief not required or recommended (p. 54)</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> Recommended be performed under 8 weeks with pain control; after 8 weeks should be performed by vet as a “surgical procedure” (p. 38)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Not specified</p>	<p><b>Cattle:</b> Approved disbudding methods, for dairy (M53) and beef cattle (M48), include cauterization up to 7 days old and hot iron with pain relief up to 30 days old; after 30 days must be done by vet with pain relief</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> No standards</p>	<p><b>Cattle:</b> Approved disbudding methods include cauterization up to 7 days old &amp; hot iron at around 2 months of age, both require pain relief; after 6 months must not be routine procedure and must be performed by vet using pain relief (H10(a)(2))</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Dehorning/disbudding prohibited (H14)</p>	<p><b>Cattle:</b> Dehorning is prohibited (4.8.2); disbudding allowed up to 2 months of age using hot iron cauterization and must be preceded and followed with anesthetic (4.8.6); caustic paste can be used if under 7 days old (4.8.7)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Dehorning/disbudding prohibited (4.8.2)</p>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Disbudding must be performed before 6 weeks of age for Steps 1 – 4, pain relief required for use of hot iron; disbudding prohibited for Steps 5 – 5+ (5.6.1)</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> No standards</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Dehorning/disbudding prohibited at all Steps (2.8.1, 2.8.2)</p>	<p><b>Cattle and Sheep:</b> To be performed as needed to promote welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress (§ 205.238(a)(5)); pain relief not explicitly required</p>

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<b>Tail docking</b>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Tail docking is not recommended (p. 54)</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> Phased out in dairy cattle as of January 1, 2017</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Recommended that docking be performed as early in life as possible; pain relief may be required if performed after 6 weeks of age; ultra-short docking discouraged (p. 38)</p>	<p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> Prohibited (M53)</p> <p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Not specified</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> No standards</p>	<p><b>Cattle:</b> Prohibited for dairy and beef cattle (H10(a)(4))</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Prohibited unless there is high risk of suffering due to fly strike; if necessary, must be done between 24 hours and 14 days old using a rubber ring or docking iron (H14(a)(2))</p>	<p><b>Cattle and Sheep:</b> Prohibited (4.8.1)</p>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Not specified</p> <p><b>Dairy:</b> No standards</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Must be performed before 8 weeks of age for Steps 1 &amp; 4 (2.9.2); pain relief required outside of specified age range (2.9.6); tail docking prohibited for Steps 5 &amp; 5+ (2.9.4)</p>	<p><b>Cattle and Sheep:</b> To be performed as needed to promote welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress (§ 205.238(a)(5)); pain relief not explicitly required</p>
<b>Bedding for dairy cows</b>	<p>Adequate (clean, dry, and deep) bedding is recommended (p. 47)</p>	<p>Adequate clean bedding required with a minimum depth of 3 inches within stalls (E18)</p>	<p>Adequate clean, dry and comfortable bedding required with a minimum depth of 3 inches within stalls; cow mattresses may be used with a minimum of 1 inch of bedding to absorb moisture (E23(c))</p>	<p>In housing, bedding must be available to all animals at all times and must be clean, dry, mold-free and replenished as needed ; bedding must not cause discomfort/harm to the animals (8.4.1, 8.4.4, 8.4.5)</p>	<p>No standards for dairy cattle</p>	<p>Clean, dry bedding required (§ 205.239(a)(3))</p>
<b>Tethering of dairy cows in tie-stalls or stanchions</b>	<p>Tie stalls and stanchions allowed (p. 48)</p>	<p>Tie-stalls and stanchions are prohibited (except in particular circumstances and for no longer than 4 hours) (M32)</p>	<p>Tie stalls and stanchions are prohibited (E22(a))</p>	<p>Tie stalls are permitted only during milking and/or feeding before or after milking (8.2.1)</p>	<p>No standards for dairy cattle</p>	<p>Not specified [Tie-stalls and stanchions are not prohibited] (§ 205.239(c)(4))</p>
<b>Isolation of dairy calves</b>	<p>No restriction on isolation of dairy calves, however, support for group housing is provided (p. 53)</p>	<p>Isolation of calves is prohibited beyond 8 weeks of age (M25); under 8 weeks, hutches or individual pens may be used, but they must be arranged so that calves may see and hear other calves, outdoor area not required (E25)</p>	<p>Hutches or individual pens may be used up to 8 weeks of age (E46(b)), hutches or pens must be arranged so that calves may see and hear other calves in neighboring units (E46(g)), outdoor area required (E46(m)); calves may not be tethered (E46(d))</p>	<p>Artificially reared calves may be kept in individual pens for up to 28 days but must have sight and sound of other calves (4.5.12, 4.5.13); it is recommended that calves be reared by their mothers or foster mothers (4.4.6, 4.5.1)</p>	<p>No standards for dairy cattle</p>	<p>Dairy calves may be individually housed up to 6 months of age, after which they must be on pasture during the grazing season (§ 205.239(c)(2))</p>
<b>Confinement of beef cattle and sheep to feedlots</b>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Feedlots allowed (p. 26)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Feedlots allowed (p. 15)</p>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Feedlots allowed but windbreaks (E40) and heat abatement are required (E39); if cattle show signs of heat stress, immediate action must be taken to provide relief (E39). Dry resting areas should be provided and mud must be managed (E41)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> No standards</p>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Feedlots allowed but windbreaks (E16) and sunshades (E17) required in some instances, dry resting areas should be provided, and mud must be managed (E18)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> May be confined to pens but must be able to exercise (E17, E19)</p>	<p>Confinement to feedlots is prohibited (6.1.5)</p>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Feedlots allowed for Steps 1 – 2 (7.1.2)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Feedlots allowed for up to 70 days of the animal’s life at Step 1 (4.1.7)</p>	<p>Feedlots may be used for finish feeding of ruminants; finishing period shall not exceed 1/5 of animal’s life or 120 days, whichever is shorter (§ 205.239(d))</p>

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<b>Access to pasture</b>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Access to the outdoors and to pasture not required</p> <p><b>Dairy cattle:</b> Under best practices, tied cattle have daily outdoor access (p. 48)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Access to the outdoors and to pasture not required</p>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Access to pasture not required; access to the outdoors not specified (E19)</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> Access to pasture and access to the outdoors not required (E19)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> No standards</p>	<p><b>Cattle:</b> Dairy (FW8) and beef cattle (E1, E45) must have year-round access to the outdoors, but not to pasture</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Access to pasture/an outside exercise area during the grass-growing season is required (FW8)</p>	<p>Continuous outdoor pasture access is required for all animals (7.0.1)</p>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> For Steps 1 – 2, must spend at least 2/3 of their lives on range or pasture; at Step 4, must spend at least 3/4 of their lives on range or pasture; for Steps 5 – 5+, must live continuously on range or pasture (7.1.1)</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> No standards</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Must have unrestricted access to pasture at all times (except during extreme weather events) (4.1.4)</p>	<p>All ruminants must have daily access to pasture during the grazing season (including in the finishing period) (§ 205.239(a)(1) and (2), § 205.239(d))</p>
<b>Maximum length of transport</b>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Stress is to be minimized in the transport of beef cattle (no time limits) (p. 71)</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> No time limits; provisions for feed must be made if the trip is over 24 hours</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Rest stops should be given for transport of 48 hours or more (or sheep should be allowed space to lie down)</p>	<p><b>Cattle:</b> Transport is to be accomplished in the shortest time possible, with no specific time limit given (T8)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> No standards</p>	<p><b>Cattle:</b> Transport must not exceed 8 hours (T7)</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Transport must not exceed 8 hours (T2)</p>	<p><b>Cattle and Sheep:</b> Transport must not exceed 8 hours (13.1.8)</p>	<p><b>Beef Cattle:</b> Limits are 25 hours for Step 1, 16 hours for Steps 2 – 4, and 8 hours for Step 5; transport prohibited for Step 5+ (10.4.1)</p> <p><b>Dairy Cattle:</b> No standards</p> <p><b>Sheep:</b> Limit is 18 hours for Steps 1, 4, and 5 (6.6.1); transport prohibited for Step 5+ (6.6.2)</p>	<p>Animals must go no longer than 28 consecutive hours before being unloaded for food, water, and rest (federal 28 Hour Law, 49 U.S. Code § 80502)</p>
<b>PIGS</b>						
<b>Manually applied blunt force trauma as euthanasia method for piglets</b>	<p>Appropriate for piglets up to 12 lbs (p. 18, Written Euthanasia Plan)</p>	<p>Acceptable euthanasia procedures are those listed in AVMA euthanasia guidelines (M51) [manually applied blunt force trauma not prohibited]</p>	<p>Acceptable methods are those listed in National Pork Board’s euthanasia guide (H(10)(a)) [blunt force trauma not prohibited for pigs up to 12 lbs]</p>	<p>Prohibited on piglets heavier than 12 pounds (5.5kg) (3.3.2.5)</p>	<p>Prohibited as of Oct. 20, 2016 for all Steps (1.4.8)</p>	<p>Not specified</p>
<b>Pain relief for castration</b>	<p>Surgical castration should be performed early, such that no open wounds remain at time of weaning; if performed after weaning, pain relief should be used; immunological castration is recommended alternative (p. 19, Piglet Processing Procedures)</p>	<p>Permitted under 7 days of age without pain relief; for older animals, pain relief and vet supervision are required (M47)</p>	<p>Permitted under 7 days of age; pain relief must be used for older animals (can only be castrated for veterinary reasons) (H9(a)(4))</p>	<p>Piglets may be castrated up to 7 days of age; pain relief not required (4.7.6)</p>	<p>For Steps 1 – 4, piglets may be castrated on or before 10 days of age, pain relief strongly encouraged (2.4.1); for Steps 5 – 5+, castration is prohibited (2.4.2)</p>	<p>To be performed as needed to promote welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress (§ 205.238(a)(5)); pain relief not explicitly required</p>

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<b>Tail docking</b>	Should be performed early, such that no open wounds remain at time of weaning; pain relief not required or recommended (p. 19, Piglet Processing Procedures)	May be performed through 7 days of age; pain relief should be employed if appropriate options exist (M47)	Tail docking is prohibited except in exceptional circumstances; if recommended by a vet, HFAC must be notified prior (H9(a)(3))	Tail docking is prohibited (4.8.1)	Tail docking is prohibited at all Steps (2.6.1)	To be performed as needed to promote welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress (§ 205.238(a)(5)); pain relief not explicitly required
<b>Minimum age for weaning</b>	No age limit	Each litter must be weaned no earlier than 21 days (unless vet-approved) (M22)	Average age should be 28 days or more (FW12)	Pigs must be at least 6 weeks of age at weaning (4.6.15)	Minimum ages are 28 days for Step 1 (2.16.2), 35 days for Step 2 (2.16.3), 42 days for Steps 3 – 4 (2.16.4), and 56 days for Steps 5 – 5+ (2.16.5)	Not specified
<b>Bedding for sows and market pigs</b>	Bedding not required, but recommended when air temperatures approach the lower critical limit (p. 17, Thermal Comfort/Air Temperature); if used, must be dry enough not to transfer mud/manure onto animals (p. 20, Facilities)	Unless kept outdoors in the wintertime, bedding not required for sows or growing pigs (E39); piglets must have access to a warm area, which may include artificial heat and thick, dry bedding (M21)	Bedding required for sows (E23), piglets and growing pigs (E14), both indoors (E11) and in outdoor winter shelters (E32(2))	In housing, clean, dry, mold-free bedding must be available to all animals at all times; bedding must be replenished when needed and must not cause discomfort or harm the animals (8.4.1, 8.4.5, 8.4.6)	Pig housing must have bedding that is maintained daily to ensure the base of the pen is covered and provides a dry place for all pigs to lie for all steps(4.1.1)	Clean, dry bedding required (§ 205.239(a)(3))
<b>Confining sows in crates</b>	Crates allowed for both gestation and farrowing (p. 13, Space Allowance)	Farrowing crates must be wide enough and long enough for sows to turn around, lie down without having to rest their heads in the feeders, and lie on their sides (E31)	Crates that prevent sows from turning around and traditional straight, narrow farrowing crates are prohibited (E23(a),(c))	Gestation and farrowing crates are prohibited (4.3.18); sows cannot be confined to individual huts more than 24 hours before farrowing date (4.3.19)	Gestation and farrowing crates prohibited at all Steps (2.12.1, 2.12.2)	Routine confinement prohibited; however, animals may be temporarily confined under a variety of conditions (§ 205.239(b))
<b>Indoor air ammonia limit</b>	Must not exceed 25 ppm (need only be measured if pigs show signs of exposure to poor air quality) (p. 18, Air Quality)	Should be less than 10 ppm and must not exceed 25 ppm (M45, E16)	Should be less than 10 ppm and must not exceed 25 ppm (E9)	If ammonia can be smelled, farmer must take action to eliminate the source (8.0.22)	Must not exceed 20 ppm for Steps 1 – 4 (4.3.2)	No ammonia limit; general requirement for ventilation and air circulation suitable to the species (§ 205.239(a)(4)(ii))
<b>Enrichment for pigs confined indoors</b>	Not required or recommended	A variety of physical enrichment items, rotated on a regular schedule (at least weekly), is required (E33)	Suitable materials for rooting and objects for manipulation must be provided (E27)	Pigs may not be regularly confined indoors (7.0.2); in-house or field-based confinement systems must not restrict pigs' natural behaviors (7.2.5)	Indoor environmental enrichments required for all pigs at Steps 2 – 4 (4.10.1); enrichments must be provided in outdoor areas for Step 3 (5.3.1); for Step 4, enrichments must be provided in outdoor areas when pigs are removed from pasture (5.3.2)	All animals must be provided conditions which allow for exercise, freedom of movement, and reduction of stress appropriate to the species (§ 205.238(a)(4)); enrichment not explicitly required

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<b>Access to outdoors</b>	Access to outdoors and to pasture not required or recommended	Access to the outdoors and to pasture not required or recommended	Access to outdoors and to pasture not required or recommended	Continuous access to pasture required except when their welfare would otherwise be negatively affected (7.5.1)	Continuous access to outdoors required for pigs over 2 weeks of age at Step 3 and higher (5.5.1, 5.5.2); for Steps 5 – 5+, pigs must live continuously on pasture (5.5.3)	All animals must have year-round access to the outdoors (§ 205.239(a)(1)); vegetation not required
<b>Maximum length of transport</b>	No time limit specified	Transport is to be accomplished in the shortest time possible, with no specific time limit given (T8)	Transport must not exceed 8 hours (T11(c))	Transport must not exceed 8 hours (13.1.8)	Transport must not exceed 16 hours for Steps 1 – 5 (7.6.1); transport prohibited at Step 5+ (7.6.2)	Animals must go no longer than 28 consecutive hours before being unloaded for food, water, and rest (federal 28 Hour Law, 49 U.S. Code § 80502)
<b>BIRDS (EGG-LAYING HENS, MEAT CHICKENS, MEAT TURKEYS)</b>						
<b>Growth rate of meat birds limited</b>	<b>Meat chickens:</b> Diets must be formulated, produced, and fed to prevent all signs of nutritional deficiency and to promote good health and normal maintenance and growth; limiting growth not explicitly required or recommended (p. 9) <b>Turkeys:</b> Limiting growth not required or recommended	Limiting growth not required or recommended.	For meat birds, feeding regimes must be controlled to avoid problems with rapid growth (FW3)	<b>Meat Chickens:</b> Average rate of growth must not exceed 40 grams per day (2.2.5) <b>Turkeys:</b> Average rate of growth must not exceed 68 grams for females and 86.2 grams for males per day (2.2.7)	<b>Meat Chickens:</b> Average daily growth rate must not exceed 68 grams for Steps 1 – 3 (1.2.1), 50 grams at Step 4 (1.2.2), 45 grams at Step 5 (1.2.3), and 35 grams at Step 5+ (1.2.4) <b>Turkeys:</b> Average daily growth rate must not exceed 159 grams for males and 97 grams for females at Steps 1 – 2 (1.2.1), 136 grams for males and 87 grams for females at Steps 3 – 4 (1.2.2), 98 grams for males and 59 grams for females at Step 5 (1.2.3), and 65 grams for males and 38 grams for females at Step 5+ (1.2.4)	Limiting growth not required or recommended
<b>Beak trimming of hens</b>	Two versions are allowed: day-old infrared treatment at the hatchery and beak trimming at 10 days old or younger (p. 9)	Debeaking is prohibited; beak trimming may be done within first 24 hours at hatchery using infrared laser equipment, or within first 10 days on-site (M39)	Beak trimming may be performed at 10 days of age or younger and may only remove tip of upper mandible (H6(b))	Beak trimming prohibited (5.4.1.1)	Day-old infrared treatment removing no more than 1/3 of the beak may be performed at the hatchery for Steps 1 – 3 (2.4.2); beak trimming prohibited for Steps 4 – 5+ (2.4.4) Note: Based on the pilot standards for laying hens	To be performed as needed to promote welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress (§ 205.238(a)(5)); pain relief not explicitly required

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<b>Natural light/dark cycles</b>	<p><b>Hens:</b> During molt, light should be reduced to no fewer than 8 hours (p. 10)</p> <p><b>Meat Chickens:</b> Minimum of 4 hours of darkness daily (need not be continuous) (D5)</p> <p><b>Turkeys:</b> Minimum of 4 hours of darkness/reduced light daily (6.3)</p>	<p><b>Hens:</b> Minimum of 8 hours of continuous light daily; minimum of 6 hours of continuous darkness (M14)</p> <p><b>Meat Chickens:</b> Minimum of 8 hours of continuous light daily; minimum of 4 hours of continuous darkness (M11)</p> <p><b>Turkeys:</b> Minimum of 8 hours of continuous light daily; minimum of 6 hours of darkness (M14)</p>	<p><b>Hens:</b> Minimum of 8 hours of continuous light daily; minimum of 6 hours of continuous darkness (E15)</p> <p><b>Meat Chickens:</b> Minimum of 8 hours of continuous light daily; minimum of 6 hours of continuous darkness (E15)</p> <p><b>Turkeys:</b> Minimum of 8 hours of continuous light daily; minimum of 8 hours of continuous darkness (E14)</p>	<p><b>Hens and Meat Birds:</b> Artificial light is permitted as long as it does not exceed 16 hours per day (8.0.11)</p>	<p><b>Hens:</b> Minimum of 6 hours continuous darkness daily for Steps 1 – 2 (4.7.3), 8 hours for Steps 3 – 5+ (4.7.4); natural light required year round for Steps 4 – 5+ (4.7.2)</p> <p><b>Meat Chickens:</b> Minimum of 6 hours of continuous darkness, 8 hours of continuous light daily for Steps 1 – 2 (4.5.6), 8 hours of both for Steps 3 – 5+ (4.5.7, 4.5.8)</p> <p><b>Turkeys:</b> Minimum 6 hours of continuous darkness daily for Steps 1 – 2 (4.5.3), 8 hours for Steps 3 – 5+ (4.5.4)</p>	<p>Light/dark periods not specified; all animals must have year-round access to direct sunlight (§ 205.239(a)(1))</p>
<b>Indoor air ammonia limit</b>	<p><b>Hens:</b> Level should be less than 10 ppm and not exceed 25 ppm (p. 20)</p> <p><b>Meat Chickens:</b> Level should not exceed 25 ppm (D3)</p> <p><b>Turkeys:</b> Level should not exceed 25 ppm (5.3)</p>	<p><b>All Birds:</b> Level should be less than 10 ppm and must not exceed 25 ppm (M34, M38, M38)</p>	<p><b>All Birds:</b> Level should be less than 10 ppm and must not exceed 25 ppm (E23, E22, E21)</p>	<p><b>All Birds:</b> If ammonia can be smelled, farmer must take action to eliminate the source (8.0.22)</p>	<p><b>Hens:</b> Level must not exceed 20 ppm at all Steps (4.6.2)</p> <p><b>Meat chickens:</b> Level must not exceed 20 ppm at all Steps (4.4.2)</p> <p><b>Turkeys:</b> Level must not exceed 15 ppm at all Steps (4.4.2)</p>	<p>No ammonia limit for birds; general requirement for ventilation and air circulation suitable to the species (§ 205.239(a)(4)(ii))</p>
<b>Confining hens in cages</b>	<p>Hens may be housed in conventional or “enriched colony” cages (p. 19)</p>	<p>Cages are prohibited (E1)</p>	<p>Cages are prohibited (Part 3)</p>	<p>Cages are prohibited (7.3.8)</p>	<p>All cage systems are prohibited at all Steps (4.1.1)</p>	<p>Routine confinement prohibited; temporary confinement allowed under some conditions (§ 205.239(b))</p>
<b>Minimum space per bird</b>	<p><b>Hens:</b> Minimum of 67-86 sq inches per caged hen (p. 19), 1.0-1.5 sq ft per cage-free hen (p. 23)</p> <p><b>Meat Chickens:</b> Maximum stocking density ranges from 6.5-9.0 lbs/sq ft depending on weight category (D5)</p> <p><b>Turkeys:</b> Must be free to roam throughout the growing area; no minimum space allowance specified (6.4)</p>	<p><b>Hens:</b> Minimum of 1.0-1.5 sq ft per bird required, depending on the housing type and breed of hen (E20)</p> <p><b>Meat Chickens:</b> Density must not exceed 7 lbs/sq ft (E18)</p> <p><b>Turkeys:</b> No specific space requirement; space is considered adequate if the following 4 outcome criteria are met: gait, litter, ammonia, and clean environment (E17)</p>	<p><b>Hens:</b> Minimum of 1.0-1.5 sq ft per bird depending on the housing type (E19)</p> <p><b>Meat Chickens:</b> Density must not exceed 6 lbs/sq ft (E20)</p> <p><b>Turkeys:</b> Density must not exceed 7.5 lbs/sq ft (E18)</p>	<p><b>Hens:</b> Minimum of 1.8 sq ft per bird indoors, with additional 4 sq ft when excluded from pasture (8.1.3)</p> <p><b>Meat Chickens:</b> Minimum of 0.67 sq ft indoors, with additional 2 sq ft when excluded from pasture (8.1.3)</p> <p><b>Turkeys:</b> Minimum of 5 sq ft indoors, with additional 11 sq ft when excluded from pasture (8.1.3)</p>	<p><b>Hens:</b> Minimum of 1.5 sq ft per bird at Steps 1 – 2 (4.3.2)</p> <p><b>Meat Chickens:</b> Density not to exceed 6.5 lbs/sq ft until 6/30/20 and 6 lbs/sq ft from 7/1/20 onwards for Steps 1 – 2, 6 lbs/sq ft for Step 3, and 5.5 lbs/sq ft for Steps 4 – 5+ (4.6.1)</p> <p><b>Turkeys:</b> Density not to exceed 10 lbs/sq ft for Step 1, 7.5 lbs/sq ft for Step 2, 6.5 lbs/sq ft for Step 3, and 6 lbs/sq ft for Steps 4 – 5+ (4.6.1)</p>	<p>No minimum space requirements for birds</p>

Practice	Industry Guideline	American Humane	Certified Humane	Animal Welfare Approved	GAP	Certified Organic
<b>Perches provided</b>	<b>Hens:</b> Perches required; (recommends access by 4 weeks of age) (p. 24) <b>Meat Chickens &amp; Turkeys:</b> Perches not required or recommended	<b>Hens:</b> Perches required for hens and pullets (E26) <b>Meat Chickens:</b> Perches not required but may be used (E21) <b>Turkeys:</b> Perches not required but may be used (E20)	<b>Hens:</b> Perches required before 4 weeks of age (E27) <b>Meat Chickens:</b> Perches not required but may be used as a form of enrichment (E28) <b>Turkeys:</b> Perches not required but may be used as a form of enrichment (E26)	<b>Hens:</b> Once in lay, must have access to perches (8.7.1) <b>Meat Chickens &amp; Turkeys:</b> Must have access to raised areas from 4 weeks of age but perches not specifically required (5.3.7)	<b>Hens:</b> Aerial perches required for hens at all Steps (4.8.1) <b>Meat Chickens:</b> Perches required by 4 weeks of age for Steps 5 – 5+ (4.7.1) <b>Turkeys:</b> Perches required for by 7 weeks of age Steps 5 – 5+ (4.7.1)	Perches not required or recommended
<b>Enrichment for meat birds confined indoors</b>	Environmental enrichment not required or recommended for meat chickens or turkeys	Environmental enrichment strongly encouraged but not required for meat chickens (E21) and turkeys (E20)	Meat chickens (E28) and turkeys (E26) housed indoors must be kept active by provision of environmental enrichments	Birds may not be regularly confined indoors (2.2.2)	<b>Meat Chickens:</b> Indoor enrichment required for Steps 1 – 4 (4.8.2); 2 different forms of enrichment required for Steps 2 – 4 (4.8.4) <b>Turkeys:</b> Indoor enrichment required for Steps 2 – 4 (4.8.2); 2 different forms of enrichment required for Steps 3 – 4 (4.8.7)	All animals must be provided conditions which allow for exercise, freedom of movement, and reduction of stress appropriate to the species (§ 205.238(a)(4)); enrichment not explicitly required
<b>Access to outdoors</b>	Access to outdoors not required for hens, meat chickens, or turkeys (no separate standards for “free range/pasture” birds)	Access to outdoors not required for hens or meat birds (AHC has separate standards for “free range & pasture” hens)	Access to outdoors not required for hens or meat birds (CH has specific standards for “free range” and “pasture raised”) (Part 3, G, G)	Continuous access to pasture required for all birds from 4 weeks of age (7.0.3)	<b>Hens:</b> For Steps 3 – 5+, birds over 24 weeks of age must have access to pasture for at least 6 daylight hours per day (5.1.4) <b>Meat Chickens:</b> Continuous outdoor access required from 4 weeks of age for Steps 3 – 5+ (5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3) <b>Turkeys:</b> Continuous outdoor access required for all birds from 7 weeks of age for Steps 3 – 5+ (5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3)	All animals must have year-round access to the outdoors (§ 205.239(a)(1)); (however, USDA allows enclosed “porches” to qualify as a form of outdoor access for birds); vegetation not required
<b>Maximum length of transport</b>	<b>Hens:</b> No time limit specified <b>Meat Chickens:</b> Recommended that the time from catching to slaughter not exceed 12 hours (E10) <b>Turkeys:</b> No time limit specified	<b>Hens:</b> Transport is to be accomplished in the shortest time possible (T8) <b>Meat Chickens:</b> Time between start of loading and end of unloading must be less than 12 hours (T18) <b>Turkeys:</b> Transport is to be accomplished in the shortest time possible (T15)	<b>Hens:</b> Transport must be kept to a minimum (Part 7) <b>Meat Chickens:</b> Time between start of loading and end of unloading must be less than 10 hours (T16) <b>Turkeys:</b> Time between start of loading and end of unloading must be less than 10 hours (T16)	<b>All Birds:</b> Transport to slaughter must not exceed 4 hours (13.3.5)	<b>Hens:</b> Transport is prohibited at Step 5+ (7.2.4) <b>Meat Chickens:</b> Transport not to exceed 6 hours for Steps 1 – 5 (7.4.1); prohibited at Step 5+ (7.4.2) <b>Turkeys:</b> Transport to slaughter must not exceed 8 hours for Steps 1 – 3 (7.4.1), 4 hours for Steps 4 – 5 (7.4.2); prohibited at Step 5+ (7.4.3)	No limit specified for hens or meat chickens and turkeys

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<sup>1</sup>Beef cattle: Beef Quality Assurance, National Manual, 2019, Supplemental Guidelines, 2014; dairy cattle: National Dairy FARM Program, Animal Care Reference Manual, 2017; sheep: American Sheep Industry Association, Sheep Care Guide, 2017; pigs: National Pork Board, Common Swine Industry Audit, 2018; egg-laying hens: United Egg Producers, Animal Husbandry Guidelines for U.S. Egg-Laying Flocks, 2017; meat chickens: National Chicken Council, Animal Welfare Guidelines & Audit Checklist for Broilers, Feb. 2017; meat turkeys: National Turkey Federation, Animal Care Guidelines, 2016.

<sup>2</sup>Standards for each species available at [www.humaneheartland.org](http://www.humaneheartland.org).

<sup>3</sup>Standards for each species available at [www.certifiedhumane.org](http://www.certifiedhumane.org).

<sup>4</sup>Standards for each species available at [agreenerworld.org](http://agreenerworld.org).

<sup>5</sup>Standards for each species (excepting dairy cattle) available at [www.globalanimalpartnership.org](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org).

<sup>6</sup>Based on animal welfare regulations enforced by USDA-AMS and codified at 7 CFR Part 205.

Animal Welfare Institute, September 2020