



Dear customers, consumers, suppliers and partners,

As a global branded food company, we fully understand and embrace our role as a leading corporate citizen in our industry. Our Animal Stewardship Principles demonstrate our commitment to animal welfare throughout our supply chain.

Hormel Foods works closely and dialogues continuously with our partners who raise and supply the animals that are used in the products we make. Through this dialogue, we have been able to implement pioneering work in the area of controlled atmosphere stunning and improved handling of turkeys, and adopt other advanced welfare positions.

Most recently, Hormel Foods has been engaged in dialogue with internal and external stakeholders around improvements in broiler chicken welfare. Led by our Applegate team, as a purchaser of these raw materials, we encourage our suppliers to progressively adopt changes to animal raising systems that will ensure better welfare outcomes for broiler chickens. These improvements include transitions to enhanced enrichments in the growing environment, improved handling for live animals on farm and the implementation of controlled atmosphere stunning systems at processing facilities.

Making steady, science-based progress toward improved welfare outcomes for animals raised for food production ensures that our industry meets its stewardship mandates for our animals while continuing to ensure safe and affordable sources of protein for our consumers and customers.

Our Broiler Chicken Commitment

Hormel Foods has made a commitment to support additional standards for broiler chickens in our Applegate business, working with the industry to achieve these standards by 2024. With Applegate leading the way, Hormel Foods will also work with suppliers, peers and other stakeholders to encourage efforts to achieve the following standards for all broiler chickens in our supply chain by 2024:

- Offer improved environments in line with the Global Animal Partnership (GAP) standards for better lighting, litter quality and other enrichments.
- Provide birds with enough space to perform natural behaviors, including stocking densities that provide the best outcomes, in line with GAP.
- Develop systems to process broiler chickens in a manner that avoids pre-process handling, and instead uses a multi-step controlled atmospheric processing system.
- Require supplier participation in third-party auditing to track progress.

And by 2026:

- Transition to breeds of chicken recognized as having improved welfare outcomes, including better overall health, in line with GAP.

Achieving these additional standards for broiler chickens is a complex undertaking that will require industrywide collaboration in order to succeed. We are committed to collaborating across our supply chain to further animal welfare while preserving consumer access to quality, affordable food.

“As has been stated by numerous other companies, the transition to these additional standards for broiler chickens over the next several years must be done with the best interest of the animals in mind and in a sustainable and cost-effective way,” said Richard Carlson, vice president of quality management and chair of the company’s animal welfare committee. “We look forward to working collaboratively with suppliers, industry groups, nongovernmental organizations and our customers to continue to drive progress in the broiler chicken industry. Together we can make a difference as we strive to meet these standards in our supply chain.”