






Guide to Poultry Applicable Eco-labels¹



Eco-label	 Animal Welfare Institute ²	 USDA ORGANIC	 CERTIFIED HUMANE RAISED & HANDLED <small>³ Meets the Humane Farm Animal Care Program standards, which include: nutritious diet without antibiotics, of hormones, animals raised with outdoor nesting areas, sufficient space and the ability to engage in natural behaviors.</small>	 FOOD ALLIANCE CERTIFIED	 American Humane FREE FARMED CERTIFIED	
Organization	Animal Welfare Institute ²	USDA	Humane Farm Animal Care	Food Alliance ³	American Humane Association	
Quality of Eco-Label ⁴	Not yet rated	Highly meaningful	Highly meaningful	Highly meaningful	Pending	
SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA	Antibiotic Use	No nontherapeutic use of antibiotics. Antibiotics only used to treat individual sick animals	Prohibited	Animals raised on a diet without antibiotics. Antibiotics only used to treat sick animals	No feed additive (non-therapeutic) antibiotics. Antibiotics only used to treat sick animals	In-feed antibiotics may only be given for therapeutic reasons as prescribed by an attending veterinarian
	Arsenic Use	Prohibited in chicken production; small amount allowed in turkey production to treat one specific illness if present on farm	Prohibited	Prohibited-as are all growth promoters	Prohibited	Not addressed
	Animal Byproduct Use	Cannot be fed animal byproducts	Prohibited	Cannot be fed avian protein	Cannot be fed avian protein (Final standards may require all-vegetarian diet)	Feedstuffs containing mammalian or avian derived protein are not permitted
	Use of Cloned Animals	Prohibited; also prohibit genetically engineered animals	Prohibited	Not addressed	Prohibited; also prohibit genetically engineered animals	Not addressed
	Animal Welfare	Detailed space, light, treatment, handling, transport, safety, food and water and housing requirements are included	Access to outdoors required, but animals are not guaranteed continuous outdoor access and can be confined	Space and light requirements; must comply with American Meat Institute Standards for slaughter; must be allowed to exhibit natural behaviors	Space and light requirements; all poultry must be raised in cage free environments; must be allowed to exhibit natural behaviors	Includes requirements for food and water, housing and shelter, space and light, transportation and processing
	Manure/ Nutrient Management and other environmental impact	Limit flock size; require rotational grazing; require health plans that address environmental impacts of pasture management and housing	Not explicitly addressed	Compliance with local/ state/ federal environmental standards is required	Whole farm and poultry specific standards address protection and enhancement of soil and water resources	Compliance with local/state/federal environmental standards is required
	Worker Fairness and Safety	Addressed in part by family farm, pasture and litter requirements	Not explicitly addressed	Not addressed	Explicitly addressed in the required Whole Farm Standard	Not addressed

ENDNOTES

1. Table contains criteria highlights. In most cases, detailed information on the criteria addressed by each certification standard can be found on the applicable organization's website listed in the resource section. These eco-labels have standards that apply to other meat and in some cases non-meat products.
2. Based on Animal Welfare Approved Standards for Turkeys and draft standards for chicken. Detailed standards for chickens are undergoing final review and will be posted to the Animal Welfare Institute website when approved.
3. Food Alliance is in the development process of a national poultry standard for 2007, for anticipated release in 2008 or sooner. Criteria listed in the table above reflect the intention of the standards as outlined in Food Alliance's Guiding Principles and applied in other animal production systems. Standards are pending for full development process and approval. Questions and comments may be directed to Food Alliance's Certification Director.
4. Based on Consumer's Union Guide to Environmental Eco-labels available at eco-labels.org. Consumers Union rates eco-labels based on a number of factors including transparency of information and integrity of the verification process used by each eco-label. This is expected to change over time, as each verification program evolves.

RESOURCES

Links to Certification Programs

Animal Welfare Approved

<http://www.animalwelfareapproved.org>

Food Alliance Certified

<http://www.foodalliance.org/certification/index.html>

Free Farmed Certified

http://www.americanhumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pa_farm_animals_ff_mean.

Humane Farm Animal Care

<http://www.certifiedhumane.org/whatis.html>

Organic Standards (USDA)

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOP/NOP/standards/FullText.pdf>

Other Resources

Consumer's Union Guide to Environmental Eco-labels

<http://www.eco-labels.org>

Food Eco-Labels: A Purchasing Guide

<http://www.noharm.org/details.cfm?ID=1518&type=document>



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