



Animal Welfare **POSITION STATEMENT**

At Cracker Barrel, everything starts with quality food served with care. That care extends into the way we source ingredients, how we choose and work with our suppliers and our insistence that our suppliers demonstrate a commitment to animal welfare by adhering to the following principles:

- Animal housing and handling practices should minimize discomfort and promote opportunities for animals to interact with each other and express their normal behavior.
- Animals should be provided a healthy and balanced diet that supports their natural growth, including access to clean water.
- Appropriate measures should be in place and practiced to prevent and promptly treat injury, illness and disease to promote overall animal wellbeing and minimize pain.
- Animals should never be abused or neglected, and appropriate steps should be taken to minimize animal fear and distress.

SOURCING APPROACH

Cracker Barrel sources all of its beef, pork, poultry, dairy and egg products domestically from suppliers who meet or exceed our standards for animal care, quality and food safety. This not only allows visibility into our suppliers' animal welfare practices but also ensures that the food we serve to guests is produced in compliance with US laws and regulations and with appropriate agency oversight.

We regularly engage with our beef, pork, poultry, dairy and egg suppliers throughout the year, including a quarterly collection of animal welfare practices and an annual data-driven survey. In addition, our suppliers annually submit full audits for our review. We give preference to

suppliers that can document how they meet or exceed the animal welfare standards set forth by organizations such as:

- United Egg Producers
- Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (Dairy FARM program)
- National Chicken Council
- National Turkey Federation
- National Pork Producers Council
- National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- North American Meat Institute



EGG AND PORK COMMITMENTS

We're committed to transitioning 100% of our egg supply to be cage-free by the end of calendar year 2026. Moving toward that commitment, our current goal is to achieve:

- 25% by end of 2024
- 60% by end of 2025
- 100% by end of 2026

Cracker Barrel gives purchasing preference to suppliers who have gestation stall free pork available.

ANTIBIOTICS

We support animal production practices that reduce and, where possible, eliminate the need for antibiotic use in food animals. Our goal is that animals used in food production for Cracker Barrel should not routinely be given medically important antibiotics unless a veterinarian determines it necessary to treat sickness or to control* a diagnosed outbreak of disease. For instance, the chicken served in our restaurants comes from flocks that USDA certifies as not having received medically important antibiotics.

We ask our beef, pork, poultry, dairy and egg suppliers to track and annually report to us full audits of antibiotic use/non-use for products supplied to us. Approved third-party audit standards include the [USDA's Certified Responsible Antibiotics Use Standard](#). An approved list of USDA Processed Verified Programs can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

**Cracker Barrel follows FDA's definition of control as "the drug being administered to a group of animals once a proportion of the animals in the group have been diagnosed by a veterinarian with the indicated disease."*

ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

We understand that our stakeholders have a variety of perspectives on animal welfare, some of which are directly opposed to one another and may be influenced by limitations in the food supply chain. We try to strike an appropriate balance by regularly engaging with guests, investors, suppliers, industry players and activists on a variety of animal welfare topics to educate ourselves and chart our path forward in this area. We are committed to an open and honest dialogue about our successes and our challenges on animal welfare, including transparently reporting on our positions and our progress in our annual ESG Report.