

Animal Welfare Practices

Codes of Practice for Farm Animals

In BC, livestock producers follow the National Farm Animal Care Council of Canada Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals. These Codes of Practice cover the animal's environment, feed and water, animal health, husbandry, transportation and euthanasia practices.

The Codes include **Requirements** which are either a regulatory requirement, or an industry-imposed expectation outlining acceptable and unacceptable practices relating to the care of animals. Requirements, at minimum, are to be implemented by all persons responsible for farm animal care. There are also **Recommended** Practices that complement the Code's Requirements. Recommendations promote producer education and encourage the adoption of practices for continuous improvement in animal welfare.

BC ranchers and farmers meet and exceed these practices.

Animal Welfare

Our BC farmers and processors care about animal welfare and most exceed the Codes of Practice. You can help support and understand the animal welfare practices of BC farmers by following them on social media, on our BCMeats website and Facebook page.

Understand what practices qualify for animal welfare certification and support our hard-working BC farmers who have a passion for improving the lives of the animals they raise.

- Get to know your local BC ranchers and farmers
- Encourage your local stores to stock higher-welfare BC meats

Animal Welfare at Processing

Meat processing plants in BC must meet provincial and federal animal handling regulations which are amongst the highest in the world. These regulations ensure that animals are humanely handled and processed.

The regulations include:

- The use of tools to handle animals
- An animal health assessment at arrival
- Pen densities and safety
- Ventilation
- Access to water upon arrival
- Feeding requirements

Those establishments with a government meat inspector on site during processing have their animal welfare practices monitored by the inspector. Many BC processors are also third-party certified for animal welfare.

Animal Transfer of Care

To ensure continuity of care for animals in BC, no animal is to be left at an auction mart, independent holding facility, packing plant or other assembly centre without written documentation that care has

been transferred between the transporter and the receiver. This is done to ensure that the individual responsible for caring for the animals can be clearly identified at all times.

Included in this documentation is the condition of the animal upon arrival, the date; time and place of the last feed, water and rest; and the date, time and place of arrival.

It is critical that animals are not left without confirming that someone is responsible for providing care for them.