



# Animal Welfare Buying Policy

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## Animal Welfare Policy Statement

As a leading grocery retailer, ALDI US is committed to the well-being of the animals in our supply chain. We believe that proper animal care practices are based on both science and ethical obligations and values. This belief stems from our responsibility towards our customers and the environment as stated in our Corporate Responsibility Principles. ALDI US does not raise animals nor do we own or operate processing facilities, but we are committed to responsibly sourcing our food and non-food private label products within the following product groups:

### Food products

- Meat and poultry products
- Shell eggs
- Milk and dairy products
- Fish and seafood products<sup>1</sup>

### Non-food products

- Textiles and bedding
- Health and beauty products, cleaners, detergents

The ALDI SOUTH group released an international position statement on animal welfare defining the company-wide key areas of action, and ALDI US aspires to source products from animals that are treated according to established welfare standards. We seek to work with suppliers who share this commitment. We will not tolerate animal abuse or neglect in our supply chain.

## Animal Welfare Guiding Principles

We support the principles of good animal welfare based on the definitions of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE):

"Animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress."

Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and appropriate veterinary treatment, shelter, management and nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter or killing."<sup>2</sup>

ALDI US believes in the following guiding principles for good facility management and animal welfare:

1. Animal Handling and Husbandry
2. Feed and Water
3. Genetics and Breed Selection
4. Health
5. Housing Systems
6. Transport and Slaughter
7. Traceability
8. Social Compliance

<sup>1</sup> Please see the ALDI US Seafood Buying Policy for further information on the responsible sourcing of seafood.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/tahc/2010/chapitre\\_aw\\_introduction.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahc/2010/chapitre_aw_introduction.pdf)



## 1. Animal Handling and Husbandry

Personnel should be adequately trained in practices that promote good animal welfare and carry out routine husbandry practices in a way that minimizes pain and distress.

## 2. Feed and Water

Animals should receive water and quality feed on a regular schedule that meets their nutritional requirements for good health.

## 3. Genetics and Breed Selection

Breeds should be selected for both the environment/climate and the system in which they are bred.

## 4. Health

Animal health needs (including euthanasia) should be attended to in a prudent and responsible manner by knowledgeable personnel. We support the judicious use of antibiotics to treat sick or injured animals as stipulated by the Food and Drug Administration's Veterinary Feed Directive.

## 5. Housing Systems

Animal housing should be designed, constructed, maintained and operated in a manner that minimizes and prevents animal distress or injury.

## 6. Transport and Slaughter

The processes and facilities for loading, transporting, unloading and slaughter should be designed, constructed and maintained so as to permit proper handling of animals and prevent increased risk of injuries and minimize animal distress.

## 7. Traceability

We support efforts to improve the traceability of our animal-based products, and recognize it is pivotal in improving animal welfare throughout the supply chain.

## 8. Social Compliance

ALDI US is committed to human rights and fair labor practices throughout our supply chain. It is a matter of great importance that production of goods for our business is carried out under conditions which respect these rights. Suppliers of all ALDI SOUTH Group countries are required to follow the ALDI Social Standards in Production at all stages of the supply chain.

## Animal Welfare Policy Implementation and Supplier Expectations

As a retailer, it is our responsibility to work with our suppliers to support animal care and handling practices that are responsible, sustainable and ethically justified. Our suppliers are responsible for implementing our animal welfare requirements, and we expect them to be committed to upholding good animal welfare practices and to strive for continuous improvement.

ALDI US encourages adherence to the following programs, as relevant, as evidence of commitment to animal welfare:

- Eggs - United Egg Producers (UEP) guidelines and Certified Humane<sup>3</sup>
- Beef - Beef Quality Assurance Program and the North American Meat Institute 2017 Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide
- Dairy - National Dairy FARM Program guidelines
- Pork - Pork Quality Assurance Plus, National Pork Board Common Industry Audit guidelines and the North American Meat Institute 2017 Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines Audit Guide
- Poultry - National Chicken Council and National Turkey Federation guidelines

<sup>3</sup> Please see the ALDI US Key Commitments on Animal Welfare section in this document for further action requested on UEP Certification and Certified Humane.

# ALDI US Animal Welfare Buying Policy



In the event a producer is found to be non-compliant with our animal welfare policy or a supplier is listed on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Food Safety and Inspection Service Human Handling and Enforcement Actions website, ALDI reserves the right to request a qualified third party assessment of a farm and/or facility in ALDI's supply chain and may request a Corrective Action Plan and follow-up assessment.

The ALDI AlertLine is available to report any known or suspected misconduct involving ALDI US business. This includes but is not limited to: human or animal abuse, harassment, conflicts of interest, discrimination, theft, falsifying company records, asking for or receiving inappropriate gifts or gratuities and health and safety issues. We encourage suppliers to share details about the AlertLine with production facilities and farms and make this information available to workers.

The Corporate Responsibility team annually reviews our Animal Welfare policy and may modify the content based on the guidance of an external panel of scientific experts, suppliers, industry organizations, and in consideration of developments in the US market. All changes to the animal welfare policy are reviewed with the relevant Directors of National Buying and approved by the Vice President of National Buying.

## ALDI US Key Commitments on Animal Welfare

- All fresh, liquid and boiled eggs supplied to ALDI US are certified by the United Egg Producers (UEP). All organic cage-free eggs supplied to ALDI US are Certified Humane.
- Fresh meat and poultry suppliers must ensure that animals are rendered unconscious and insensible to pain prior to entering the slaughter process.
- Our shell egg supply chain will be 100 percent cage-free by 2025, based on available supply, regulatory, and consumer demand.
- We expect our suppliers to pursue the elimination of crates for pregnant sows in favor of group housing.
- We support the development of breed programs for polled (hornless) cattle, which would eliminate the need for disbudding and dehorning practices. Until a full transition to polled cattle, we support disbudding as best practice for removing or preventing horn growth in calves.
- We support the elimination of tail docking in cattle.
- We prohibit the use of raw materials derived from exotic and/or endangered animal species for our products.
- For products containing down, feathers, or duck or goose meat, we prohibit both live-plucking and force feeding.
- We do not offer any products containing angora wool or real fur.
- For products made from merino wool, we prohibit our suppliers from using the mulesing method.
- Animal testing is prohibited for finished health and beauty products, detergents, and cleaners.

For any questions regarding this policy, contact ALDI at <https://www.aldi.us/en/contact-us>



**Editor:**  
ALDI US  
Corporate Responsibility

1200 N Kirk Rd  
Batavia, IL 60510

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