



Australian Chicken Meat
Federation (ACMF) Inc

Industry Position Statement on Animal Welfare

Definitions and Scope

High standards of bird welfare and strong economic performance go hand in hand.

Ensuring that chickens are well fed, healthy and comfortable is in the best interests of both birds and growers.

Situation Analysis and Background

Meat chickens are never raised in cages.

Commercial meat chickens are raised in large, clean, temperature regulated sheds. Free range chickens have access to barn yards as well as their shed.

Standards are in place for bird welfare, including:

- ❖ Government/industry endorsed Codes of Practice, which set out how meat chickens are cared for throughout their lives, including housing, feed, transportation and processing.
- ❖ An industry-developed model welfare audit program covering hatchery, breeder rearing, breeder laying, growing, pick-up, transport and processing. Companies are encouraged to incorporate relevant elements in their own quality plans.
- ❖ All companies incorporate elements of good practice for bird welfare in their standard procedures.

Standards ensure that the consideration of the birds' health is of paramount importance. This includes keeping them in comfortable conditions by managing factors such as temperature, humidity and air-flow and quality. It also covers ensuring that they are provided with water, shelter, and a high quality diet that exactly matches their physiological needs. These factors have an important effect on the welfare of the birds as well as on the overall efficiency of the farming operation.

Policy Statements on Animal Welfare:

The industry meets three primary objectives by caring for livestock in a welfare-friendly manner:

- ❖ To maintain respect for the birds, so they do not suffer.

- ❖ To ensure flocks grow as efficiently as possible and they are not damaged in the process.
- ❖ To recognise and respect consumer, retailer and general community attitudes and expectations regarding the humane treatment of livestock farmed specifically for consumption.

Birds must receive prompt and appropriate attention to prevent and treat disease. Sick or injured birds that cannot be adequately or successfully treated are culled quickly and humanely so that they do not suffer. Members must ensure that their birds do not suffer any unnecessary pain, distress, fear or physical injury.

Meat chickens are never raised in cages.

While broiler or meat chickens are reared and processed specifically for human consumption, the industry is committed to ensuring that this is done humanely.

For further information:

Please visit www.chickenwelfare.com.au and our general website www.chicken.org.au . The Industry Standard and the relevant Codes of Practice are available at www.chicken.org.au under Bird Health & Welfare (as well as under Downloads).



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CHICKEN WELFARE MATTERS:

HEALTHY CHICKENS MEAN A HEALTHY INDUSTRY

Welcome to chickenwelfare.com.au where you can find the Straight Facts about Australian meat chickens.

You may hear a lot of emotive and sensational claims about meat chickens. These claims are often wildly exaggerated, use loaded language or are based on what happens overseas.

What you're not told is that:

- Australian meat chicken growers care about their flocks and are proud of their stockmanship and their ability as stockmen to raise healthy birds
- High standards of bird welfare make good economic sense, and ensuring that chickens are well-fed, healthy and comfortable is in the best interests of birds and growers
- Our customers - quick service restaurants and supermarkets most prominently - have exacting standards like us and audit bird welfare systems

The Australian Chicken Meat Industry subscribes to government-endorsed national Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals which cover the humane breeding, raising, transportation and processing of birds. These Codes were developed in consultation with governments, industry and animal welfare organizations.

Chicken growers are proud to be part of an industry that employs 40,000 Australians directly, and some 120,000 people indirectly, and produces a healthy, nutritious and inexpensive food that plays an important role in the diets of most Australians.

Feel free to browse the rest of the site to find the Straight Facts on Australian chicken meat.