

## Animal Health and Welfare: Poultry

At HKFoods, responsibility of our operations applies to the entire supply chain from feed and genetics of animals all the way to the consumer. We ensure responsible animal rearing in close collaboration with our contract farmers.

### Wellbeing at every step

We are continuously working to promote the health and welfare of production animals at every stage of the value chain. This work is carried out in close collaboration with authorities, breeding organizations, contract farmers, HKFoods' experts, and our transportation partners. Ensuring good animal care is important to us for many reasons: it reflects our ethical principles and strengthens the responsibility of our operations, enabling sustainable and profitable growth.

All poultry production at HKFoods Finland is based on contract farming, in close cooperation with our partner farms. We provide our contract farmers with guidance and training, and the wellbeing of our broilers is closely monitored by HKFoods' dedicated poultry veterinarian. Our broiler farms are located in Western Finland, within a short distance of our Rauma facility.

<div> <div>Traceability - result of our own and contractual production</div> <div> <div>ANIMAL CARE AND ANIMAL WELFARE ON A HIGH LEVEL</div> <div>FIRST-CLASS BIO-SECURITY OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES</div> <div>FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY OF THE HIGHEST STANDARD</div> </div> </div>		
PRIMARY PRODUCTION	ANIMAL TRANSPORT	SLAUGHTERHOUSE
<div> <div>Controlled conditions (temperature, ventilation and air quality, light intensity and duration)</div> <div>Sufficient space and room to move around</div> <div>No thinning</div> <div>Good living conditions (stress prevention, feed, water, litter management)</div> <div>Inspections of the poultry houses at least twice a day</div> <div>Good production practices, high standards of hygiene and biosecurity</div> <div>Healthy animals with no need for antibiotics</div> <div>No use of hormones</div> <div>Salmonella free. Use of competitive exclusion microflora Broilact® for supporting gut health.</div> <div>Enrichments such as ropes, washers and balls</div> </div>	<div> <div>Skilled personnel ensure catching and handling of birds while minimizing the risk of injury or stress</div> <div>Trained drivers certified for animal transport</div> <div>Vehicles designed specifically for broiler transport</div> <div>Short transport distances, average distance less than 80 km</div> <div>Average transport time less than 2 hours</div> <div>After every transport the vehicles are washed and disinfected. Hygiene of the trucks is regularly checked.</div> </div>	<div> <div>The process is carefully planned. The maximum waiting time for broilers before slaughter is only a few hours</div> <div>Welfare indicators such as footpad health and total flock mortality are assessed for every flock at the time of slaughter by official veterinarians</div> <div>Safe and efficient stunning method: two-phase CO<sub>2</sub> stunning</div> <div>Certified and skilled personnel with a designated animal welfare officer present</div> <div>Each broiler flock is inspected by an official veterinarian both before and after slaughter</div> </div>



We work continuously with our contract farmers to ensure the welfare and health of our broilers, as well as to maintain the safety of our entire food production chain. This is achieved by complying with our strict biosecurity and hygiene protocols and by ensuring the proper care of our poultry. We are very proud that poultry meat produced in Finland is free from salmonella.

Carmela Rosu, poultry veterinarian  
HKFoods Finland Oy



### Pecking, bathing and sufficient rest - an important part of the natural behavior of broilers

Animal welfare is important to us. We want to ensure that animals have a suitable rearing environment and proper living conditions. That's why we actively follow the latest research on the behavior of production animals.

Broilers are active birds that peck at the litter while foraging. Even though they receive feed from feeders, they still enjoy moving around and pecking as a natural behavior. During the day, broilers rest on dry litter, with a minimum resting period of six hours. Rearing houses are windowless, and lighting is automatically controlled to ensure a sufficient dark period throughout the year.

Broilers enjoy dust bathing to keep their feathers in good condition and to maintain thermoregulation. They are observant animals and pay close attention to the reactions and behavior of other birds in the flock. Their natural behavior also includes wing stretching, fluttering, and short flight exercises.

### Avian disease situation in Finland

Highly contagious and serious animal diseases pose a significant threat to animal welfare and production, as they can lead to epidemics, spread globally, and cause major economic losses. For this reason, promoting animal health and maintaining a high level of biosecurity on broiler farms is a key priority for HKFoods. The goal of strong biosecurity is to prevent diseases from entering production facilities, ensuring healthy animals and safe, high-quality products.

DISEASE	FINLAND
Salmonella gallinarum Salmonella pullorum	Not occurring
Infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT)	Not occurring
Avian metapneumovirus (APV/ART)	Not occurring
Newcastle disease (ND)	Not occurring
Avian influenza (AI)	Not occurring
Mycoplasma gallisepticum	Not occurring
Infectious bronchitis (IB)	Occurring, vaccinations started 06/2023



### THE CORNERSTONES OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AT HKFOODS

We follow animal welfare research and legislation, and are committed to the ongoing improvement of animal welfare.

The development of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria is a global concern, making our work in minimizing the use of antibiotics particularly important. Animals that are ill should always be treated. Good vaccination coverage in breeder hens, strict biosecurity measures in the rearing facilities, along with good rearing conditions, support the welfare and health of the birds.

HKFoods participated in the Welfare Quality\* project, where the Welfare Quality\* principles were created.

These principles form the foundation of animal health and welfare at HKFoods:

- Feeding: no prolonged hunger or thirst
- Housing conditions: good resting comfort, appropriate air quality, and ease of movement
- Health: no injuries or disease; necessary treatments are pain-free
- Appropriate behavior: opportunity to express social and species-specific behaviors (e.g. scratching, pecking, foraging, grooming, opportunity for social interaction with flockmates), positive human-animal interaction and overall positive emotional state

\* Science and society improving animal welfare in the food quality chain: <https://www.welfarequalitynetwork.net>

#### A LIGHTER CARBON FOOTPRINT



The carbon footprint result of broilers calculated from the data of 2022 was 2.2 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per kilogram of live weight of the animal.\* The calculations are based on the latest ISO standardized methods and IPCC calculation guidelines. The calculation takes into account the carbon footprint of production from the field to the gate of the production facility. In addition to carbon dioxide, the carbon footprint includes, among other things, methane and nitrous oxide converted into carbon dioxide equivalents.

\* The results are reported as mass-allocated kg CO<sub>2</sub>e / kg live weight.