



Bob Evans Farms, Inc. Statement on Cage-Free Eggs and CAK

Bob Evans Farms, Inc., under the direction of Vice President of Food Safety and Quality Assurance Dr. Dustin Dixon, Ph.D., has established an Animal Well-Being Advisory Committee consisting of experts in the field of animal welfare. These individuals help us establish animal welfare policy and programs that are ethically grounded, scientifically verified and economically viable. This committee has helped us establish proper animal handling verification processes for all of our suppliers and employees. This committee also has been instrumental in helping us review and study the newest technologies and procedures in animal handling – including cage-free eggs and CAK.

Our Position On Cage-Free Eggs:

We have a responsibility to all of our constituents – especially our consumers and our shareholders – to do our own research and to be sure that we are making the right decision for all parties. Accordingly, we have joined the Coalition for Sustainable Egg Supply (CSES) to conduct an in-depth study of this issue, evaluating three different housing systems, including cage-free aviary systems, enriched/furnished housing which includes nests and perches, and the current housing environments used by a vast majority of today's U.S. food supply system. The coalition is committed to evaluating the impact of each of these systems on the environment, food safety, worker safety, animal health and well-being, and affordability of food. This research will help Bob Evans make informed purchasing decisions that are ethically grounded, scientifically verified and economically viable and ultimately in alignment with the needs of consumers. We will not change our current policy until we are confident that we are aware of all the benefits and risks of such a prospective change.

Our position on Controlled-Atmosphere Stunning, or CAK:

We have been actively monitoring the current research regarding the use of CAK in the poultry industry. We have found that to date, the research remains inconclusive as to whether CAK is truly a better alternative to the conventional stunning methods used by most of the United States poultry industry. Several organizations have studied CAK and its possible use in the poultry industry and concluded that the improvements to animal welfare are inconclusive. These organizations include the National Chicken Council, the American Humane Association, the American Association of Avian Pathologists and the American College of Poultry Veterinarians, among others. None of these organizations has concluded that CAK is more humane than conventional stunning methods used in the U.S. poultry industry. As new procedures become available, we will continue to consider and discuss the pros and cons of different slaughter techniques, including CAK.

As we analyze evolving technologies, we must consider several other important factors, in addition to animal welfare. These include food safety, product quality, technical difficulties in operating equipment and procedures, environmental factors and expected costs. Today, too many important questions remain unexamined and unanswered regarding the use of CAK in the poultry industry.

We take the issue of animal welfare very seriously, and have taken the appropriate steps to ensure that this commitment extends to our suppliers and employees, as well.