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What is Certified Humane Raised & Handled?

In “food animals, stress can affect meat quality... and general [animal] health.” - article in Agricultural Research

The Certified Humane Raised & Handled Label is a consumer certification and labeling program. When you see the Certified Humane Raised & Handled label it means that an egg, dairy, meat or poultry product has been produced with the welfare of the farm animal in mind. Food products that carry the label are certified to have come from facilities that meet precise, objective standards for farm animal treatment.

QUALITY STANDARDS

A team of veterinarians and animal scientists developed the *Animal Care Standards* to ensure that producers and processors keep animals in conditions that have met high standards of animal care:

- Allow animals to *engage in their natural behaviors*
- Raising animals with *sufficient space, shelter and gentle handling to limit stress*
- Making sure they have ample fresh water and a healthy *diet without added antibiotics or hormones*

View HFAC's [Animal Care Standards Fact Sheets](#) for consumers. The Fact Sheets provide information about specific humane issues as they relate to farm animals covered by the Certified Humane program.

Under the system, growth hormones are prohibited, and animals are raised on a regular diet of quality feed free of antibiotics. Producers also must comply with local, state and federal environmental standards. Processors must comply with the American Meat Institute Standards, a higher standard for slaughtering farm animals than the Federal Humane Slaughter Act.

RIGOROUS INSPECTIONS

Humane Farm Animal Care is the independent non-profit organization that conducts regular inspections and administers the “Certified Humane Raised & Handled” program. Participating businesses must pass an initial inspection as well as annual re-inspection to remain part of the Certified Humane Raised & Handled program.

Inspectors have training and education in Animal Science, Veterinary Medicine, or other relevant backgrounds. To further assure fairness, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Services verifies the inspection process.

A BETTER CHOICE

The quality of the meat, poultry, egg and dairy products depends, at least in part, on the quality of care farm animals receive. The Certified Humane Raised & Handled program lets consumers choose products from businesses that are providing humane conditions for the animals in their care.



Letters to:
Retailers and Restaurants

Where can I buy
Certified Humane Raised & Handled?



View a [video](#) about the Certified Humane Raised & Handled program.

Want to receive updates, news and information on the CHRH program?
[<< Click here. >>](#)

