

# ALDI US

# Animal Welfare

## Buying Policy

Date: 03/2025





## 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](#).

The ALDI SOUTH Group released an [Animal Welfare Factsheet \(2025\)](#) defining the company-wide key areas of action. 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 to animal welfare. ALDI US will not tolerate animal abuse or neglect in our supply chain.

ALDI US does not raise animals, nor own or operate processing facilities, but ALDI US is committed to responsibly sourcing our food and non-food private label products within the following food groups:

### Food Products:

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

### Non-Food Products:

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

## Animal Welfare Guiding Principles

ALDI US supports the principles of good animal welfare based on the definitions of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly the 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 behavior, 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>***

**- WOAH, 2012**

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

<sup>2</sup> WOAH, Introduction to the Recommendations for Animal Welfare: [A Update 2012 Chapter 7 1 Introduction Welfare.pdf](#)

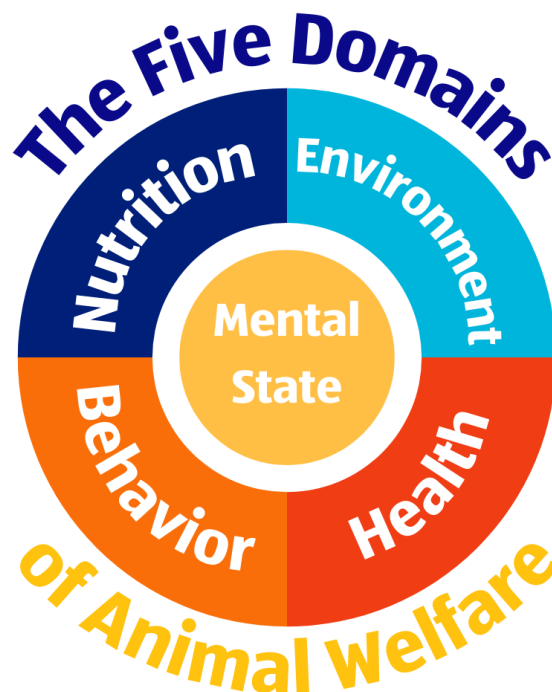
# ALDI US Animal Welfare Buying Policy



The foundation of ALDI US' Animal Welfare policy is established by the Farm Animal Welfare Council's globally recognized '**Five Freedoms**':

1. **Freedom from Hunger & Thirst**  
Providing access to fresh water and a diet formulated to maintain full health and support vigor in the animal.
2. **Freedom from Discomfort**  
Providing a suitable environment that offers shelter and a comfortable resting area for the animal.
3. **Freedom from Pain, Injury, or Disease**  
Prevention or rapid diagnosis, and subsequent treatment of ailments.
4. **Freedom to Express Normal Behavior**  
Providing sufficient space, properly constructed and maintained facilities, and the company of the animal's own kind.
5. **Freedom from Fear & Distress**  
Ensuring conditions and treatment that prevent mental suffering in the animal.

Additionally, ALDI US believes that animals are sentient beings, and their emotional health should be prioritized amongst all management practices. Our approach to Animal Welfare is also informed by the '**Five Domains**', as these domains were developed with animal mental well-being in mind.



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Furthermore, ALDI US believes in the following 8 guiding principles for proper management and animal welfare:



## 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. ALDI US supports 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, illness, or injury.



## 6. Transport and Slaughter

The processes and facilities for loading, transporting, unloading and slaughter should be designed, constructed, and maintained to permit proper handling of animals, and prevent increased risk of injuries, and minimize animal distress. All animals used in the production of fresh meat and poultry products must be stunned prior to slaughter. The stunning method used must ensure animals are unconscious and insensible to pain prior to death.



## 7. Traceability

ALDI US supports 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.

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## 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. ALDI US suppliers are responsible for implementing our animal welfare requirements, and are expected to be committed to upholding good animal welfare practices, as well as 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)
- Certified Humane



### Beef

- Beef Quality Assurance Program
- North American Meat Institute 2017 Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide



### Dairy

- National Dairy FARM Program



### Pork

- Pork Quality Assurance Plus
- National Pork Board Common Industry Audit Guidelines
- NAMI 2017 Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide



### Poultry

- National Chicken Council Guidelines
- National Turkey Federation Guidelines





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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 Corporate Responsibility team annually reviews the ALDI US 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.

## **ALDI US Key Commitments on Animal Welfare**

### Farm Management Practices

- ALDI US expects our suppliers to pursue the elimination of gestation crates for pregnant sows, in favor of group housing.
- ALDI US supports the development of breed programs for polled (hornless) cattle, which would eliminate the need for disbudding and dehorning practices/procedures. Until a full transition to polled cattle is achieved, we support humane disbudding as best practice for removing or preventing horn growth in calves.
- ALDI US supports the elimination of tail docking in cattle.
- All fresh shelled 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.

### Humane Slaughter

- Fresh meat and poultry suppliers must ensure that animals are rendered unconscious and insensible to pain via an approved humane method of stunning prior and up to the moment of death occurs at slaughter.

### Banned Products and Practices

- ALDI US prohibits the use of raw materials derived from exotic and/or endangered animal species for our products.
- ALDI US prohibits the use of skins, hides, or leathers derived from exotic and/or endangered animal species for our products.
- ALDI US does not offer any products containing angora wool or real fur.
- Animal testing is prohibited for finished health and beauty products, detergents, and cleaners.
- ALDI US does not offer foie gras.
- For products containing down, feathers, or duck or goose meat, ALDI US prohibits both live-plucking and force feeding.
- For products made from merino wool, ALDI US prohibits our suppliers from using the mulesing method.
- For products containing coconut, ALDI US prohibits the use of monkey labor.

# ALDI US Animal Welfare Buying Policy



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 to ensure this information is available to workers.

At ALDI US, we recognize the need to address animal welfare standards within our supply chain, understanding the complexities of the current landscape while working towards continuous improvement. We acknowledge that the ethical treatment of animals is a critical aspect of responsible sourcing. In light of this, we engage with our stakeholders, suppliers, and industry experts to identify and implement practices that align with market realities and evolving animal welfare standards. While our efforts are focused on meeting established expectations, we are aware that there is still much to be done to create a more compassionate and sustainable supply chain.