

Whole Foods Market Natural Meat Program and Animal Compassionate Standards for Pigs

The standards listed below include both the Whole Foods Market Natural Meat Program Standards (which must be met before Animal Compassionate status is evaluated) and the Animal Compassionate Standard. Animal Compassionate Standards are listed at the end of each section and are highlighted in blue.

Section 1: Farm Plan and Documentation

1-a

Each farm will maintain records of inoculations, illnesses and injuries, treatments, isolations, etc. as well as periodic farm maintenance, documentation of any emergency conditions, etc.

1-b

A rodent control plan must be outlined in the Farm Plan, including both ongoing maintenance and last resort methods. The rodent control plan should be limited to methods of control and elimination that do not cause undue suffering. If live traps or glueboards are used, they must be monitored daily and any rodents captured are to be killed in a humane manner.

Farmers are asked to experiment with non-lethal means of rodent control and to share their results with the Animal Compassion Foundation.

1-c

There must be a plan for predator control. Exclusion of predators is the preferred means of control. If predation cannot be controlled by exclusion, non-lethal means of predator control must be employed as the first line of defense and employees trained in the methods that work best in the area of the farming operation. If lethal means must be employed because non-lethal means were proven through trial to be ineffective, the method of control must be humane. Lethal methods MUST target only the offending animal.

1-d

There must be a land management plan that takes into account stocking density, regeneration and maintenance of pasture condition, quality of the grass/legume/plant cover, etc.

1-e

The farm must have a written training program for new employees. There must be a record of trainings conducted for each individual.

1-f

The farm must have a training program for ongoing training of employees who handle animals. Records of any training, seminar conference, etc. must be maintained for each employee.

1-g

Each farm must have an animal health plan. The health plan should include nutritional targets for each growth stage, maintenance of health and protocols for addressing internal and external parasites, vaccination plan, injury, illness, etc.

1-h

The farm must have written emergency procedures that are kept in a prominent location to be readily available for reference in the event an emergency occurs.

Section 2: Origin of Stock

2-a

Genetically engineered and/or cloned animals are prohibited.

2-b

Breeding programs should be designed to minimize problems associated with fast growth.

2-c

Semen from genetically engineered stock is prohibited.

Section 3: Treatment for Injury or Illness

3-a

In the event a pig suffers accidental injury on the farm, the animal must receive immediate individual treatment designed to minimize pain and suffering, including veterinary treatment if prompt relief cannot be provided by the farmer

3-b

The use of therapeutic levels of antibiotics, sulfas, or any other synthetic anti-microbial is prohibited.

3-c

It is required that individual animals in need of medical attention be treated to relieve their symptoms. If medication prohibited in these standards is required for treatment, the animal must be marked for identification and removed from the Whole Foods Market program.

3-d

If an illness or injury is serious enough for the animal to be killed, the animal must be promptly and humanely euthanized on the farm.

Although at this time there are few alternatives to blunt trauma for piglets, there is research being conducted to develop more humane euthanasia possibilities for neonates. Whole Foods Market will stay abreast of these developments and

when there are viable alternatives, investigate them to determine whether they should be added to our Animal Compassionate Standards.

Section 4: Gestating Sows and Boars

4-a

Pigs must display an overall body condition score between 2 and 4.

4-b

Any animal with a body condition score outside the acceptable range must receive care and treatment.

4-c

Lameness must be noted, the animals treated and the cause addressed immediately upon exhibition.

4-d

The use of sub-therapeutic levels of antibiotics, growth hormones, beta agonists such as ractopamine, or of sulfas to control or mask disease, routinely induce farrowing, enhance performance or promote growth is prohibited.

4-e

The feeding of mammalian or avian by-products to pigs is not permitted.

4-f

Stored feed must not be allowed to become moldy, mildewed or otherwise compromised in quality.

4-g

Feed must be free of rodent contamination.

4-h

Pigs at all stages of development are to be fed daily.

4-i

All animals must have free and continuous access to clean drinking water.

4-j

Sow groups must be fed simultaneously in a way that prevents competition for food and enables all sows to eat their full ration.

4-k

Pigs must be introduced into a social group in a manner that minimizes aggressive encounters.

4-l

A pig may not be kept in isolation unless briefly required for veterinary procedures or if the animal is injured or sick.

4-m

Sick animals are to be separated from the population in a "sick pen".

4-n

The primary enclosure for sick or injured animals should meet all space requirements.

Further Requirements to Meet Animal Compassionate Standards

4-o

Ear notching of sows and boars is permitted only in circumstances where no other method of identification is possible. The farmer must be able to prove his rationale for ear notching.

Methods of non-harmful marking will be researched. Welfare implications of other marking methods will also be considered during further research.

4-p

Detusking boars is prohibited.

4-q

Nose-ringing of sows or boars is prohibited.

There will be an 18 month transition period beginning on October 1, 2005 for producers to find a way to provide pasture for the breeding animals without nose ringing.

Section 5: Gestating Sows and Boars Outdoor Conditions

5-a

Outdoors, pigs must have continuous access to shelter where they can find protection on their own and to which they can be moved for necessary shelter.

5-b

Shade must be provided in all outdoor areas.

5-c

The ground beneath moveable huts must be in good condition.

Further Requirements to Meet Animal Compassionate Standards

5-d

All pigs must have access to the outdoors.

5-e

Continuous access to pasture is required for sows and boars.

5-f

Range and pasture must be maintained with 75% plant cover at minimum.

5-g

In the heat of summer, wallows or sprinklers must be provided to prevent heat distress.

Section 6: Gestating Sows and Boars Housing Requirements

This section pertains to sows and boars that are housed in winter with outdoor access (for Animal Compassionate evaluation) and for sows housed in systems that are Whole Foods Market Natural Meat program compliant.

6-a

No gestation or boar crates or tethers are permitted.

6-b

Group housed gestating sows must have sufficient space to express relative social position, which means they must be able to turn sideways to avoid contact with another sow.

6-c

Indoor accommodations must provide boars enough space to perform their natural behaviors, to walk about freely and turn about and lie down without encountering the edges of their pen.

6-d

Each animal must have access to separate eating, lying and dunging areas.

6-e

All pigs must be able to lie on dry bedding. That bedding must be of sufficient depth to provide comfort and protection to the animals.

6-f

Bedding must be straw or other non-toxic substance that will allow the pigs opportunities to explore and to root.

6-g

Bedding must be clean and fresh.

6-h

All housing must provide warmth for pigs in cold weather and the ability to remain cool in hot weather.

6-i

Ammonia levels must be lower than 10ppm, carbon dioxide levels must be below 3000ppm and hydrogen sulfide levels must be below .5ppm.

6-j

The equipment and fittings in buildings and other premises that pig's access should be maintained in such a way that they do not inflict injuries or pose risks to the animals.

6-k

Flooring in permanent housing must allow effective cleansing and disinfection. Dirt or earth floors are not acceptable.

6-l

The animals' living quarters must be cleaned using procedures that ensure hygienic conditions and substances that are not harmful to the pigs.

6-m

There must be fire protection systems in place in stationary, permanent housing.

6-n

Escape routes to the outdoors must be available from interior pens.

Further Requirements to Meet Animal Compassionate Standards

6-o

Group housed gestating sows must have a minimum of 30 sq ft, excluding feeding area.

Further research will be undertaken on space requirements for combined indoor-outdoor access systems

6-p

Whether indoors or outdoors, boars must have a minimum space allowance of 64 sq feet at all times, excluding dunging and feeding areas.

6-p

All pigs must be able to lie on dry bedding. That bedding must be of sufficient depth to provide comfort and protection to the animals as outlined in the guideline below.

Minimum Bedding Requirements for Gestating Sows and Boars				
	Below 20°	20-39°	40-59°	Over 60°
Bedding Depth	12"	8"	6"	3"
Deep Bedding	12"	12"	6"	6"

6-q

Pigs must have natural light during the day and natural darkness during the nighttime whenever they are housed.

6-r

Slatted floor is prohibited except surrounding water stations and must make up no more than 25% of the total floor area.

Section 7: Farrowing Sows

7-a

Pigs must display an overall body condition score between 2 and 4.

7-b

Any animal with a body condition score outside the acceptable range must receive care and treatment.

7-c

Lameness must be noted, the animals treated and the cause addressed immediately upon exhibition.

7-d

The use of sub-therapeutic levels of antibiotics, growth hormones, beta agonists such as ractopamine, or of sulfas to control or mask disease, routinely induce farrowing, enhance performance or promote growth is prohibited.

7-e

The feeding of mammalian or avian by-products to pigs is not permitted.

7-f

Stored feed must not be allowed to become moldy, mildewed or otherwise compromised in quality.

7-g

Feed must be free of rodent contamination.

7-h

Sows are to be fed daily.

7-i

All animals must have free and continuous access to clean drinking water.

7-j

Sow groups must be fed simultaneously in a way that prevents competition for food and enables all sows to eat their full ration.

7-k

Pigs must be introduced into a social group in a manner that minimizes aggressive encounters.

7-l

A pig may not be kept in isolation unless briefly required for veterinary procedures or if the animal is injured or sick.

7-m

Sick animals are to be separated from the population in a "sick pen".

7-n

The primary enclosure for sick or injured animals should meet all space requirements.

Further Requirements to Meet Animal Compassionate Standards

7-o

Ear notching of sows and boars is permitted only in circumstances where no other method of identification is possible. The farmer must be able to prove his rationale for ear notching.

Methods of non-harmful marking will be researched. Welfare implications of other marking methods will also be considered during further research.

7-p

Nose-ringing sows is prohibited.

There will be an 18 month transition period beginning on October 1, 2005, for producers to find a way to provide pasture for the breeding animals without nose ringing.

Section 8: Farrowing Sows Outdoor Conditions

8-a

Outdoors, pigs must have continuous access to shelter where they can find protection on their own and to which they can be moved for necessary shelter.

8-b

Shade must be provided in all outdoor areas.

8-c

The ground beneath moveable huts must be in good condition.

8-d

Sows and piglets must be protected from predators.

8-e

Leghold traps are prohibited for predator control.

Further Requirements to Meet Animal Compassionate Standards

8-f

All pigs must have access to the outdoors.

8-g

Continuous access to pasture is required for sows and boars.

8-h

Range and/or pasture must be maintained with 75% plant cover at minimum.

8-i

In the heat of summer, wallows or sprinklers must be provided to prevent heat distress.

Section 9: Farrowing Sows Housing Requirements

This section pertains to sows and piglets that are housed in winter with outdoor access (for Animal Compassionate evaluation) and for sows housed in systems that are Whole Foods Market Natural Meat program compliant.

9-a

No farrowing crates or tethers are permitted.

9-b

Group housed sows must sufficient space to express relative social position, which means they must be able to turn sideways to avoid contact with another sow.

9-c

Each animal must have access to separate eating, lying and dunging areas.

9-d

All pigs must be able to lie on dry bedding. That bedding must be of sufficient depth to provide comfort and protection to the animals.

9-e

Bedding must be straw or other non-toxic substance that will allow the pigs opportunities to explore and to root.

9-f

Bedding must be clean and fresh.

9-g

All housing must provide warmth for pigs in cold weather and the ability to remain cool in hot weather.

9-h

Material such as grass and straw must be available in the environment or provided by the farmer in sufficient amounts to allow sows to build nests at farrowing. This pertains to both indoor and outdoor environments.

9-i

Ammonia levels must be lower than 10ppm, carbon dioxide levels must be below 3000ppm and hydrogen sulfide levels must be below .5ppm.

9-j

The equipment and fittings in buildings and other premises that pigs access should be maintained in such a way that they do not inflict injuries or pose risks to the animals.

9-k

Flooring in permanent housing must allow effective cleansing and disinfection. Dirt or earth floors are not acceptable.

9-l

The animals' living quarters must be cleaned using procedures that ensure hygienic conditions and substances that are not harmful to the pigs.

9-m

There must be fire protection systems in place in stationary, permanent housing.

9-n

Escape routes to the outdoors must be available from interior pens.

Further Requirements to Meet Animal Compassionate Standards

9-o

Group housed farrowing and nursing sows must have a minimum of 30 sq ft, excluding feeding area.

Further research will be undertaken on space requirements for combined indoor-outdoor access systems

9-p

Farrowing pigs must have pens at least 6' X 8' whether they are indoors or outdoors.

9-q

Pigs must have natural light during the day and natural darkness during the nighttime whenever they are housed.

9-r

Slatted floor is prohibited except surrounding water stations and must make up no more than 25% of the total floor area.

Section 10: Piglet Welfare

We allow the performance of physical alterations only when the overall physical and psychological welfare of the animal, flock or herd would be benefited to prevent possible injury and only when conducted by a trained operator in an appropriate manner that minimizes any discomfort.

Further Requirements to Meet Animal Compassionate Standards

10-a

It is recommended to keep piglets with their litter mates from birth to slaughter.

10-b

Tooth clipping is prohibited. Routine filing and grinding are prohibited.

10-c

Tail docking is prohibited.

10-d

If piglets are to be castrated, the process must be undertaken before the piglets reach 7 days of age. The procedure must be conducted by person trained for this task.

Whole Foods Market's long term goal is to eliminate the need for castration. Further research will be conducted to determine alternatives to this process.

10-e

The minimum weaning age for piglets is 28 days.

Section 11: Market Pigs

11-a

Pigs must display an overall body condition score between 2 and 4.

11-b

Any animal with a body condition score outside the acceptable range must receive care and treatment.

11-c

Lameness must be noted, the animals treated and the cause addressed immediately upon exhibition.

11-d

The use of sub-therapeutic levels of antibiotics, growth hormones, beta agonists such as ractopamine, or of sulfas to control or mask disease, routinely induce farrowing, enhance performance or promote growth is prohibited.

11-e

The feeding of mammalian or avian by-products to pigs is not permitted.

11-f

Stored feed must not be allowed to become moldy, mildewed or otherwise compromised in quality.

11-g

Feed must be free of rodent contamination

11-h

Pigs at all stages of development are to be fed daily.

11-i

All animals must have free and continuous access to clean drinking water.

11-j

A pig may not be kept in isolation unless briefly required for veterinary procedures or if the animal is injured or sick.

11-k

Sick animals are to be separated from the population in a "sick pen".

11-l

The primary enclosure for sick or injured animals should meet space requirements for their growth stage.

Further Requirements to Meet Animal Compassionate Standards

11-m

Ear notching of market pigs is prohibited.

Section 12: Market Pig Outdoor Conditions

12-a

Outdoors, pigs must have continuous access to shelter where they can find protection on their own and to which they can be moved for necessary shelter.

12-b

Shade must be provided in all outdoor areas.

12-c

The ground beneath moveable huts must be in good condition.

12-d

Pigs must be protected from predators.

12-e

Leghold traps are prohibited for predator control.

Further Requirements to Meet Animal Compassionate Standards

12-f

All pigs must have access to the outdoors.

12-g

Continuous access to pasture is recommended for market pigs.

12-h

Range and pasture must be maintained with 75% plant cover at minimum.

12-i

In the heat of summer, wallows or sprinklers must be provided to prevent heat distress.

Section 13: Market Pigs Housing Requirements

13-a

No crates or tethers are permitted.

13-b

Each animal must have access to separate eating, lying and dunging areas.

13-c

All pigs must be able to lie on dry bedding. That bedding must be of sufficient depth to provide comfort and protection to the animals.

13-d

Bedding must be straw or other non-toxic substance that will allow the pigs opportunities to explore and to root.

13-e

Bedding must be clean and fresh.

13-f

All housing must provide warmth for pigs in cold weather and the ability to remain cool in hot weather.

13-g

Ammonia levels must be lower than 10ppm, carbon dioxide levels must be below 3000ppm and hydrogen sulfide levels must be below .5ppm.

13-h

The equipment and fittings in buildings and other premises that pigs access should be maintained in such a way that they do not inflict injuries or pose risks to the animals.

13-i

Flooring in permanent housing must allow effective cleansing and disinfection. Dirt or earth floors are not acceptable.

13-j

The animals' living quarters must be cleaned using procedures that ensure hygienic conditions and substances that are not harmful to the pigs.

13-k

There must be fire protection systems in place in stationary, permanent housing.

13-l

Escape routes to the outdoors must be available from interior pens.

Further Requirements to Meet Animal Compassionate Standards

13-m

Pigs raised for market must have at least the required amount of housing space as outlined in the chart below.

Size of Pig	Minimum indoor per pig	Minimum outdoor per pig	Total space required
Up to 50 lbs	3.5 sq ft		3.5 sq ft
50-100 lbs	5 sq ft	3 sq ft	8 sq ft
110-finish	10 sq ft	5 sq ft	15 sq ft

13-n

All pigs must be able to lie on dry bedding. That bedding must be of sufficient depth to provide comfort and protection to the animals.

13-o

Pigs must have natural light during the day and natural darkness during the nighttime whenever they are housed.

13-p

Slatted floor is prohibited except surrounding water stations and must make up no more than 25% of the total floor area.

Section 14: Loading, Unloading and Transportation

14-a

The condition of the trailer must be in good condition, clean and provide adequate ventilation. The floor must be solid.

14-b

Truck space allowance must meet or exceed the requirements below.

Market Weight Pigs English/Metric Units	Winter English/Metric Units	Summer (+75F/24C) English/Metric Units
200 lbs (90KG)	3.5 sq ft .32 sq m	4 sq ft .37 sq m
250 lbs (113 kg)	4.26 sq ft .40 sq m	5 sq ft .46 sq m
Figures taken from www.gradin.com		

14-c

Accommodations must be made during weather that is either too hot or cold for the comfort of the pigs for their comfort during transport.

14-d

Personnel involved with transport must be thoroughly trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.

14-e

Pigs must have access to water up to the point of transport.

14-f

The use of electric prods is prohibited.

14-g

Pigs must not be pulled or dragged by the tail, ears or limbs, kicked, beaten or mishandled in any way. Boar bashing is prohibited.

14-h

Transporting unhealthy, non-ambulatory or injured animals is prohibited.

Further Requirements to Meet Animal Compassionate Standards

14-i

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Transport may not exceed 12 hours.
Combined pre-transport and transport maximum fasting time is 16 hours.

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