

Nestle Pushes For Humane Treatment of Animals in Supply Chain

Nestle USA

GLENDALE, Calif. (PRNewswire) — Nestle has announced a major pledge to improve the welfare of the farm animals in its supply chain, following the signature of a partnership agreement with NGO World Animal Protection.

The agreement means that the hundreds of thousands of farms that supply Nestle with their dairy, meat, poultry and eggs will have to comply with tighter animal welfare standards.

Nestle, with its global purchasing footprint, also becomes the first major food company to form an international partnership with an animal welfare NGO.

World Animal Protection, which has been working with governments, communities and international agencies to improve animal welfare for more than 50 years, welcomed the agreement.

"Our decision to work with Nestle is based upon their clear commitment to improving animal welfare and the lasting change this can have on millions of farm animals around the world," said Mike Baker, the organisation's Chief Executive.

'Highest possible standards'

Nestle has some 7,300 suppliers from whom it buys animal-derived products directly - everything from milk for its range of yoghurts and ice-creams, to meat for its chilled foods and eggs for its fresh pastry and pasta.

Each of these suppliers, in turn, buys from others, meaning that Nestle's Responsible Sourcing Guidelines apply to literally hundreds of thousands of farms around the world.

"We know that our consumers care about the welfare of farm animals and we, as a company, are committed to ensuring the highest possible levels of farm animal welfare across our global supply chain," said Benjamin Ware, the company's Manager of Responsible Sourcing.

World Animal Protection has been working with Nestle on how to specifically tighten and improve the [Nestle Responsible Sourcing Guideline](#) [1], which all suppliers must adhere to as part of the [Nestle Supplier Code](#) [2]. Both of these build upon the [Nestle Commitment on Farm Animal Welfare](#) [3].

These now include, for example, spacing requirements for the rearing pens of certain species of animals, such as pigs and cows, to ensure they are not cramped

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and can engage in normal animal behaviour.

In addition, following the involvement of World Animal Protection, Nestle's guidelines also seek to minimise pain for farm animals by using veterinary practices that reduce pain, or avoiding the practices in the first place by different animal husbandry practices. An example would be the dehorning of cows. Cow horns are removed so that they do not injure other cows.

Farm assessments

Nestle has commissioned an independent auditor, SGS, to carry out checks to ensure the new standards of animal welfare are met on its supplying farms. In 2014, several hundred farm assessments have already been carried out worldwide. Some of these checks are also attended, unannounced, by World Animal Protection representatives whose role is to verify the auditors.

When a violation is identified, Nestle will work with the supplier to improve the treatment of farm animals to ensure they meet the required standards. If, despite engagement and guidance from Nestle, the company is unable or unwilling to show improvement, it will no longer supply Nestle.

The World Animal Protection agreement forms part of Nestle's broader Responsible Sourcing activities. These cover human rights, health and safety and environmental issues, and build upon multiple commitments, including, for example, a pledge that by the end of next year, 40% of the company's key commodities - including meat, poultry, eggs and dairy will be fully traceable.

About Nestle USA

Named one of "The World's Most Admired Food Companies" in Fortune magazine for seventeen consecutive years, Nestle provides quality brands that bring flavor to life every day. From nutritious meals with Lean Cuisine® to baking traditions with Nestle® Toll House®, Nestle USA makes delicious, convenient, and nutritious food and beverages that make good living possible. That's what "Nestle. Good Food, Good Life" is all about. Nestle USA, with 2013 sales of \$10 billion, is part of Nestle S.A. in Vevey, Switzerland — the world's largest food company with a commitment to Nutrition, Health & Wellness — with 2013 sales of \$99 billion. For product news and information, visit Nestleusa.com [4] or [Facebook.com/NestleUSA](https://www.facebook.com/NestleUSA).

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[1] http://cp.mcafee.com/d/avndzgA96QmbLe9LI8L6XCQrILCzBBdZx4SztBYQsIFLLfCQrlzATDzhOCedETod79EVspjod79IHlpt9kxYi8aR0PI9WhZnQ9rOVLk3eMDF7RvgBLbCZKgZZRB_HYYCevssWZOWq9EVD7f8IFFIEFYjt6OaqJNOvaxVZicHs3jq9JYTvAXTLuZXT

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[2] http://cp.mcafee.com/d/k-Kr4wUgdElnusjvohudTdETpvd7barX29J6XbVEVpjvuvdETp79Lf6zBcsrhKMqejhOUOCMqejpnoOWiF3UAgIG1DojQzWLEiTBPuE6txfifG-xbundXsxXXHb_nVVcs-UVRXBQQjhOqeuhpjjphjVqWdAkRrZA-I3PWApM6CQPrVK_9TLuZXTLsTsS02xZ9D_O-riDPbDO8hS9r4aSrl-4Wov8x7oBlgHpJnUjFB6RBzVv6CkrmmfBYiZGEun-14-I2vb8eCRCW4NmDNcOJZ0kj67Ca69h_BPpEVovhdwPWjfYQgr25mUm-xEwtSaFEwS4Btfd41zPTtzVEwnlBdnUjdl3zvnLX

[3] http://cp.mcafee.com/d/FZsSczgdw1NJ5yXPyrX2bNKVJ6XbVEVpjvohdETpvd7barXPVJ6X8VdVUQsFzzqdS3hOqen6kS3hOraX6nil8v4y2JgcX2uAvlZ2mYKrR0PI9WhZnQ9rOVLrAfvtpvW_f9zDT7eLsKCyqejhPObaqraavbnhlyCHssDOEuvkzaT0QSOsvdTVeZXTLuZXCXCM0kfFc_-nPqk-ps-h2eNboxmPqLMDjbh_pOwh7FTEjSfE3QXCtfr_8JNQYlgYPVZIBvxf8vip_BRRpjl-4OXKNlBx2iKDBP7DKX7-mgtdHdQ9yJfypBrW0Fqcfckciz_bCPhOM-yr1DQCvVEwS4ajMJZ3h0XIljh1I9aWuq837DKX7Ph0KHaqLMCro76OHdy

[4] http://cp.mcafee.com/d/1jWVlp6xESyNtVNdz5UTsSztBYQsIFLI8CQrILCzBBdZVYSztAsCYYqekNNJ6X1EVd7bzar1EVdBtzbFaAfyh1mE6txfifG-xbundWwpS4Z8-HW4JVstJO7LKILZvDANPXzDnKnjhd79Evv5BddB5fBHESHjlKejVkffGhBrwqrodLCXYDuZXTLuZPtPo0a7QCvXtdVv3qPt2oHjUCpm-wamz3P534E_OVIQsIfECMpZ9D-q8dx2HsbvgQgeX5kQgr2iKDCy0NVXKNYQgbGOCHY9CS1NK7AR