

Animal Welfare Policy

Executive Summary

Our mission is to deliver the ingredients for a better life, and we strive to ensure that families have convenient access to a wide variety of fresh, high-quality and affordable nutrition options. Furthermore, as part of our commitment to corporate social responsibility, SpartanNash believes that the humane treatment of animals should play an important role in the production and sale of food and other essential consumer goods. These responsibility practices have earned SpartanNash the trust of consumers for more than 100 years.

Although SpartanNash does not own or operate any farms or animal processing facilities, we believe animals should and can be raised, handled, transported and processed in ways that ensure they are clean, safe and free from cruelty, abuse or neglect. SpartanNash also recognizes that best practices around animal welfare are part of an ongoing evolution based on various factors, including new information, technologies and agricultural advancements. We believe that animal welfare practices should be based on both science and ethics.

Animal Welfare

In accordance with the SpartanNash [Vendor Code of Conduct](#), we expect suppliers and vendors to comply with all laws and regulations. Additionally, we expect our suppliers to incorporate the Five Freedoms of animal welfare in their supply chain:

- **Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition** by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
- **Freedom from (physical and thermal) discomfort** by providing an appropriate environment.
- **Freedom from pain, injury and disease** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- **Freedom to express (“most”) normal (patterns of) behavior** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind.
- **Freedom from fear and distress** by ensuring conditions and treatment, which avoid mental suffering.

In addition, SpartanNash commits to:

- Continuing to support our Animal Welfare Committee in identifying and evaluating animal welfare issues and reporting to company management any findings, best practices or recommendations.
- Engaging and working cooperatively with our vendors and suppliers to embrace and promote animal welfare best practices within in the supply chain process.
- Addressing any animal welfare issues in cooperation with our vendors and suppliers in a timely manner.
- Working cooperatively with industry and agricultural experts to stay abreast of scientific developments in animal welfare.

SpartanNash’s approach regarding animal welfare topics are listed below:

Dairy Dehorning and Polled Genetics

We believe that quality dairy products begin with quality animal care and healthy cows. The Animal Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) states that dehorning is important for farmers and animal safety. Research on polled cows is ongoing, and the increasing availability of polled cows provides a promising alternative to dehorning. Polled genetics has been successfully implemented in the beef industry; we support the use of polled genetics breeding programs for dairy cows, which, if successful, may ultimately eliminate the need for dehorning. Until dehorning is eliminated, SpartanNash supports the adoption of best management practices, including using polled sires and disbudding calves before eight weeks of age with the use of anesthetics and/or analgesics.

Genetically Modified Seafood

We do not sell genetically modified seafood.

Eternal Oceans Seafood Sourcing

We commit to partnering with suppliers utilizing fisheries that are certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) for wild-caught species or the Global Aquaculture Alliance Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) and Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) for farm-raised species. We support our suppliers' relationships with seafood industry leaders, such as the Sustainable Fisheries, which allow for continual improvement in sourcing for all seafood we sell.

Artificial Growth Hormones (rBGH/rBST) in Private Brand Fluid Milk

Since 2008, our private-label milk, marketed as Our Family[®] milk, has been entirely sourced from cows that are not treated with artificial growth hormones (rBST). Furthermore, none of the conventional milk sold in our corporate retail stores is sourced from cows treated with artificial growth hormones.

Cage-Free Eggs

We will continue to comply with the laws and regulations of the states where we do business. Additionally, we are committed to steadily increasing the percentage of cage-free eggs we sell in our corporate retail stores, while still ensuring affordable egg options for consumers.

Plant-Based Protein Options

We strive to provide our store guests with numerous protein options to suit their individual needs, including many plant-based proteins, where available.

SpartanNash Corporate Social Responsibility Commitment

Animal welfare is one component of our overall commitment to corporate social responsibility. We understand that our business decisions, products, services and operations have a direct impact on the communities we serve and the environment. When evaluating a change to our business, we will carefully consider the social, environmental and financial impacts of our decisions to ensure we are a good corporate citizen and community partner.