



PALEO APPROVED

Program Requirements for Layers

1. PALEO APPROVED

Requirements for Paleo Approved, Humanely Treated, Pastured, Antibiotic-free, and Hormone-free poultry are outlined herein along with Paleo Approved Guidelines. These standards apply to all farms and ranches certified by The Paleo Foundation for the production of market animals and products in the Paleo Approved Program. Only certified farms and ranches following these standards are explicitly given the rights to use Paleo Approved logos, trademarks, certification marks, or other design marks hereinafter referred to as The Paleo Approved Label.

1.1 APPLICABILITY OF THE PALEO APPROVED LABEL

The Paleo Approved Label was developed and trademarked by Paleo Foundation to identify food products that meet the standards of the Paleo Approved Program. The Paleo Approved Label is a certification mark registered with the U.S. Trademark and Patent Office, and its use is only permitted by those who have entered into a contractual agreement with The Paleo Foundation. The Paleo Approved Label was designed to establish an easily identifiable mark indicating that a product has met the strictures of the Paleo Diet and merit use of the Paleo Approved Label. Paleo Approved requirements may be amended periodically based on current research.

1.2 APPLICABILITY OF THE PALEO APPROVED LABEL

1.2.1 The Paleo Approved Label is allowed to be used on packaging, promotional materials, point of purchase materials, websites, sales literature, banners, company stationery, and other advertising materials. Use of The Paleo Approved Label must comply with the guidelines as outlined in this document. If a company wishes to present the logos in a manner other than as described in Statement of Use Guidelines, The Paleo Foundation must approve the request and give permission in writing to the Producer.

1.2.2

Producers may display The Paleo Approved Label only on products that have been certified by Paleo Approved.

1.2.3

Producers must have a contractual agreement with The Paleo Foundation to use the Paleo Approved Label.

1.2.4

Producers may only use the trademark on company stationery if the entire product line has been audited and certified Paleo Approved.

1.2.5

If the entire product line has been audited and certified Paleo Approved, Producers may display The Paleo Approved Label on their entire website.

1.2.6

If the entire product line was not certified, The Paleo Approved Label may appear on a page containing audited and certified Paleo Approved products only.

1.2.7

Products that have not been audited and certified Paleo Approved are not permitted to appear on the same page as The Paleo Approved Label, as this could be misleading to consumers.

1.3 APPLICABILITY OF THE PALEO APPROVED LABEL

1.3.1

To complete the application process, the applicant must sign an affidavit stating that all answers and statements provided in their application were true to the best of their knowledge.

1.3.2

Use of the Paleo Approved Label is only permitted after audit and certification by Paleo Approved of the applicant's farm or ranch.

1.3.3

The Paleo Foundation retains the right to make unannounced visits to applicant's farms or ranches to verify that all Paleo Approved Requirements are continuously being met.

1.3.4

The Paleo Foundation retains the right to inspect the applicant's products to verify that all Requirements are met.

1.3.5

Use of The Paleo Approved Label for any product which does not meet each of the Paleo Approved Requirements, has not been audited, or has not been given explicit permission is strictly prohibited.

1.3.6

Misuse of The Paleo Approved Label will result in immediate suspension of the agreement and/or prosecution.

1.3.7

The Paleo Approved Label must be :



- 1) Upright
- 2) Complete
- 3) Clearly Visible
- 4) Paleo Approved File
- 5) At least 1/2 inch in diameter

2. BREEDS AND ORIGIN OF BIRDS

Paleo Approved Bird breeds must be chosen with consideration of their ability to thrive in the prevailing climatic conditions of the farm, in free range, forage-based, outdoor systems.

2.1 APPLICABILITY OF THE PALEO APPROVED LABEL

2.1.1

The farmer must ensure that any bird brought onto the farm for breeding is suitable for the Paleo Approved Program.

2.1.2

Birds from confinement and/or caged systems are prohibited from the Paleo Approved Program.

2.1.3

Birds who have undergone genetic selection to the point that their welfare is negatively affected are prohibited.

2.1.4

A record of the source, date of purchase and number of breeding birds must be kept.

3. SOIL HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT

Land managers must be proactive in order to build biological health and diversity in their soil, and a pasture management plan must be in place that addresses the specific farm site. Animals must not be permitted to forage on denuded lands with minimal vegetation. For best practices, animals should be managed holistically to prevent overgrazing and processes of desertification, ensuring adequate nutrition from forage for all animals, as well as natural behaviors.

3.1 SOIL AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT

3.1.1

Animals must not graze on pastures that have been degraded by overgrazing and/or other management techniques.

3.1.2

The activity of the birds must not cause more than 20% of the ranging and foraging area they are kept on to become denuded.

3.1.3

The amount of outdoor area should be such that the timing of the animal moves are driven by plant recovery thereby insuring that the health and welfare of the birds and range and forage quality is maintained.

3.1.4

Birds are not permitted to overgraze on land to the point that it begins to damage the soils.

3.1.5

Ranging and Foraging areas should be managed with a holistic approach.

3.1.6

Herbicides and pesticides may only be used when weeds and pests cannot be practically controlled by other means.

3.1.7

Birds must not be grazed or kept on land within 21 days of direct application of herbicides or pesticides.

3.1.8

The use of any manures or fertilizers for pasture land that are bought in from off-farm must be justified by soil testing and crop nutritional need.

4. FEED GUIDELINES

Farmers must comply with any local, state, and federal requirements for poultry production. Paleo Approved Program Requirements do not preclude the Veterinary Practices Act of their State.

4.1 FOOD GUIDELINES

4.1.1

Animals must have continuous access to feed and water without undue competition.

4.1.2

The nutritional requirements of the birds must be adequately met through foraging and appropriate supplementation.

4.1.3

Birds must be fed a diet which is:

- 1) Age appropriate
- 2) Sufficient quantity to maintain health
- 3) Formulated to satisfy omnivorous needs

4.1.4

Birds must have free access to food each day, aside from when otherwise directed by an attending veterinarian.

4.1.5

Animals in the Paleo Approved Program must not be kept in an environment likely to cause nutrient deficiencies.

4.1.6

Birds must have access to green and growing vegetation on the range whenever conditions allow.

4.1.7

Birds must have access to insoluble grit.

Note: Supplementation with wild-caught local fish, vermiculture, rodents, reptiles, insects, and roughage is permitted within the Paleo Approved Program,

4.2 WATER GUIDELINES

4.2.1

An adequate supply of clean drinking water must always be available to birds that are kept at pasture unless otherwise directed by a veterinarian.

4.2.3

All local, state, and federal laws must be adhered to regarding access to running or still water resources.

4.2.6

Producers must have provisions for an emergency supply of clean water.

5. HUMANELY TREATED

Farmers must comply with any local, state, and federal requirements for humane poultry production. Paleo Approved Program Requirements do not preclude the Veterinary Practices Act of their State.

5.1 CONFINEMENT GUIDELINES

5.1.1

All animals in the Paleo Approved Program must be maintained at all times on pasture, out on the range.

Note: Birds may only be housed with no pasture access in an emergency situation and to a maximum of up to 28 days.

5.1.2

Animals in the program may not be confined to cages, or field-based pens that restrict natural behavior.

Note: exceptions to sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 are limited to emergencies that threaten animal welfare.

5.1.3

A bird must not be kept in isolation unless briefly required for veterinary procedures or to recover from an illness or injury.

5.1.4

After the brooding period, each bird must have continuous access to at least 4 square ft (0.37 sq m) range and foraging area.

5.2 HUMANE ENVIRONMENT

5.2.1

Producers must monitor the condition of environment and take appropriate measures to safeguard animals during thermal swings, taking into account:

- 1) Breed
- 2) Age
- 3) Climate
- 4) Availability of shelters

5.2.2

During climactic conditions, animals must have continuous access to shade, shelter, and water systems to provide them with adequate relief.

5.2.3

If constant abnormal behaviors develop that inhibit natural behavior, managers must develop and implement a program to alleviate the issue.

5.3 FLOCK SIZE AND BEHAVIOR

5.3.1

Chickens must be managed and monitored to minimize fighting, feather pecking and other negative behaviors, and necessary steps must be taken to protect birds from harm.

5.3.2

If negative behaviors affecting the welfare of birds in the flock are seen or reported, the farmer should reduce the flock or colony size within the affected flock or any future flocks in order to minimize negative behaviors

Recommended Chickens should be kept in flocks of no more than 500 birds.

5.4 BREEDING FLOCKS AND LAYING BIRDS

5.4.1

Breeder flocks and laying hens should have access to 7 in (18 cm) aerial perch per bird.

Recommended: Perches should be rounded with a flat top, and built in a manner that allows firm and secure grip with no sharp edges that could injure the bird.

5.4.2

Hens must have access to ventilated nest boxes and nesting material.

Recommended: Laying hens should have at least one individual nest box for every five birds. Nest boxes should be in a dark and secluded area.

5.4.3

Forced molting is prohibited.

5.5 CHICKS AND PULLETS

5.5.1

Litter must be provided for placement of young birds.

5.5.2

Young birds must have access to forage by seven days of age. The amount of outdoor area must be such that the health and welfare of the birds and range and forage quality is maintained.

5.5.3

In climatic conditions that do not pose a risk to bird health, young birds must have access to a ranging and foraging area from four weeks of age.

5.5.4

Severe physical alterations are prohibited. This includes de-clawing, de-spurring, de-beaking, wattle trimming, comb trimming, and caponizing birds.

Note: Trimming of feathers and identification is permitted. Bands are recommended.

5.6 MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL GUIDELINES

5.6.1

Managers must:

- 1) Develop and implement a training program for keepers.
- 2) Demonstrate that all personnel with responsibilities for animal care have the training and knowledge to perform their duties.
- 3) Develop and implement plans and precautions for emergencies that affect the animal welfare such as a fire, flood, supply gap, and power failure.
- 4) Adhere to an animal health plan and record information appropriately.
- 5) Comply with all local, state and federal regulations.
- 6) Be able to identify and effectively manage animal health problems.

5.6.2

Personnel must be educated, trained, and competent in:

- 1) Recognizing signs of normal and abnormal behavior.
- 2) Recognizing and preventing disease, and when veterinary assistance is necessary
- 3) State and federal guidelines for proper nutrition.

5.6.3

An animal health plan must be drawn up and updated regularly. This plan must include documentation of:

- 4) Causes of morbidity and mortality.
- 5) Disease outbreaks.
- 6) Repetitive Physical Injuries.
- 7) Infectious Diseases.
- 8) Production Disease.

5.7 ILLNESS

5.7.1

If an animal becomes ill, measures must be taken to address it. Homeopathic, herbal or other non-antibiotic alternative treatments are preferred.

5.7.2

If alternative treatments are not suitable or not effective or if a veterinarian has recommended antibiotic treatment, this must be administered.

5.7.3

Birds experiencing pain or suffering from which they are unlikely to recover must be immediately and humanely euthanized on the farm.

5.7.4

Birds treated with an antibiotic must not be slaughtered for the Paleo Approved program.

5.7.5

Birds must not be treated with any medications prohibited for food animal use.

5.7.6

When local or national authorities order the killing of a flock of birds or if any large-scale euthanasia is about to take place to eradicate disease, the Paleo Approved program must be notified immediately.

5.7.7

Records must be kept of mortalities, morbidity and culls including the cause for these where known.

5.7.8

All animals with communicable diseases must be isolated from the rest of the flock.

5.7.9

Causes of sudden deaths, disease outbreaks, and mortality that cannot be readily identified by the manager should be investigated in consultation with a veterinarian.

5.7.10

Managers must be proficient in all procedures that could cause pain to the animals.

5.7.11

Withholding treatment to preserve Paleo Approved status is prohibited.

6. ANTIBIOTIC, HORMONE, AND VACCINE FREE

6.0.1

Antibiotics, Hormones, and Vaccines are prohibited to be administered to animals in the Paleo Approved Program.

Note: Exceptions to section 6.1.1 are limited to symptomatic applications and must be applied when required for animal welfare.

6.0.2

Diagnosis and/or treatment to sick animals must not be delayed.

6.0.3

Antibiotics may not be used except therapeutically, as directed by a veterinarian.

6.0.4

The producer must maintain a written record of all vaccines, antibiotics, or any medicines administered to animals.

6.0.5

Managers must keep records of any antibiotics purchased and administered. Records must be available for The Paleo Foundation when requested.

Note: Probiotics are permitted.

6.1 PARASITE INFESTATION GUIDELINES

6.1.1

The primary methods of preventing parasite infestations must be through pasture and bedding management and removal.

6.1.2

If prevention has not been effective, medicine regimens must be implemented to effectively control worms, lice, mange and any other parasites.

6.1.3

All chickens should have access to dust baths.

7. SHIPPING, MANAGEMENT, AND PROCESSING GUIDELINES

All Shipping, Management of Slaughter Facilities, and Processing Guidelines must coincide with aforementioned Paleo Approved requirements. Paleo Approved Requirements must not be compromised during transportation, or by slaughterhouse management or employees.

7.1 SHIPPING

7.1.1

All transportation systems must be managed to ensure that livestock are not inflicted with pain.

7.1.2

Handling of animals during transportation must be minimal.

7.1.3

Animals in the Paleo Approved program are not to be subjected to antibiotics, sedatives, or any other drug before, during, or after shipment.

7.1.4

Animals in the Paleo Approved Program are not to be fed any prohibited feedstuffs before, during, or after transit.

8. REGIONAL GUIDELINES

All State, Federal, and Provincial Guidelines must be adhered to during the Paleo Approved certification period.

9. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND DEROGATION

The Paleo Foundation must be informed immediately of any changes on farm that could result in a deviation from the Paleo Approved standards. If, in the opinion of the Paleo Approved Standards Board, a system meets all of the principles of the program but does not pass a specific standard or standards, derogation may be granted.

9.1 APPLICABILITY OF THE PALEO APPROVED LABEL

9.1.1

Temporary deviations will be taken into consideration when unexpected circumstances that are not under the control of the farmer arise.

9.1.2

All other deviations from the Paleo Approved standards can be cause for reconsideration of the farmer's participation or removal from the Paleo Approved program and use of its seal, in conjunction with that farmer's products.

9.1.3

In order for a derogation to be granted, an inspection report must be submitted stating the deviation from the published standard, the reason for this deviation, the length of time this deviation from standards will occur and the welfare outcome should the derogation be granted.