



# COOPER FARMS C.A.R.E.S.

*Certified Animal Raising and Environmental System*



## ANIMAL RAISING

Since 1938 Cooper Farms has taken the lead in providing safe and humane environments for our animals. Widely known as a turkey producing company, we also operate sow farms producing baby pigs, and there's more. We also partner with local family farmers to carefully raise our market hogs and chickens that produce our table eggs. Producing over 15 million healthy turkey poults (baby turkeys) annually, we are considered a top quality supplier to other turkey growing companies.



All of our animals are fed a healthy diet of locally grown grains raised by family farmers. A specialized nutritionist insures that all diets are balanced by including vitamins and minerals into our feed for steady growth. Rest assured, Cooper Farms does not use hormones or steroids in the raising of any of our animals. Our staff veterinarian and health service specialists monitor the health of our birds on a daily basis. Administering antibiotics is at times necessary to insure humane treatment of our flocks. Turkeys must meet National Turkey Federation (NTF) health standards before being moved to our turkey processing facility.



We hire certified animal care specialists to audit our policies and procedures to assure our animals are receiving the best care and living conditions. We also have key staff certified by the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO). This professional animal auditor certification program empowers our staff to review our performance on a regular basis.

At our St. Henry, Ohio processing facility we use industry-leading technology to process over 185 million live pounds of turkey per year. This involves the use of our Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS) system. This first of its kind, revolutionary system exposes our birds to lower handling stress by stunning them before leaving the truck.



*Cooper Farms three panel (CAS) system allows the atmosphere to be controlled on the truck by section. This industry-leading, cutting edge technology is the ultimate in humane stunning.*

Our system provides for a safer more humane transfer of turkeys into our facility. (CAS) is documented as being the humanely preferred method of stunning turkeys versus electrical, which is used in most facilities today.

Cooper Farms is constantly seeking new and improved methods of animal care. Under the guidance of our staff veterinarian we will continue to hold our care and growing practices to the highest standards in the industry.





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## BIO-SECURITY AT COOPER FARMS

Our controlled environment reduces the threat of disease causing agents from entering our farms and affecting our animals.

Our reproduction farms require workers shower in and out, growing farms require special garments prior to entry. Entry to all farms is restricted with signs prominently displayed. To further reduce the risk of carrying in a disease from other livestock farms or wild animals, Cooper Farms is investing in new vehicle and truck washing facilities with drying and sanitizing capabilities. These facilities utilize the latest technological and science based advancements for disinfecting rolling equipment.

We are engaged in daily testing in accordance with the National Poultry Improvement Plan for identifying avian influenza. 100% of our flocks are blood tested insuring compliance with this program. To date, no confirmed cases of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (bird flu) have ever been reported in the United States. In conjunction with the National Turkey Federation, we will be diligent in actively preventing the introduction of pathogens into the U.S. In the unlikely event a H5N1 highly pathogenic strain is detected in one of our flocks, we guarantee that flock will be immediately destroyed.

At Cooper Farms we believe a strong bio-security program is our best defense in minimizing the risk of disease and illness in our animals. We will strive to incorporate the latest technical knowledge and procedures into our programs to promote animal wellness.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

Cooper Farms is proud of our long tradition of environmental stewardship. It is our continuing goal to provide the best products while incurring the least environmental impact on surrounding farms, waterways, and communities.



*Proper nutrient management plays a vital role in environmental stewardship.*

Our Certified Livestock Management staff is expertly trained by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. We encourage our family farm producers in developing a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for proper distribution of animal waste. A sophisticated distribution

system for animal wastewater applies the correct amount on land for the appropriate amount of time. This water is naturally cleaned as it moves through the soil leaving behind important nutrients for crop development.

Our environmental improvements amass more than 45 acres on our lands such as; grass filtering strips along waterways, planting of trees that help reduce soil erosion, and acreage set aside for natural wildlife habitat. Over 400 acres of combined woodlands help cleanse the air of natural animal raising odors.

We are committed to being a good neighbor in our communities where we locate our facilities. Should an environmental event arise, we are fully prepared to provide a rapid and effective response. Taking care of nature and our lands will insure healthy environments for our animals, team members and communities where we live and do business.

*for more information please visit our Web site at:*

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