

2024 Animal Welfare Metrics & Guidance (Multiprotein Product)

Report data for the prior calendar year (2023). Metrics in this focus area will be displayed based on the designation of slaughter or further processor and type of protein for each establishment.

Resources provide information to assist in meeting the metric or to help define criteria for the metric. Resources may be a known standard, policy, practice, program, and/or recognized best practice.

Multiprotein product: If the establishment processes a multiprotein product, you won't be reporting on questions that apply to the live animal. You will answer questions that apply to processing to avoid duplicating data. (Achievements: A8 & A9)

Foundational Metrics (Baselines)

None

Achievement Metrics

When answering these achievement metrics to indicate yes, type the number of establishments for which you are reporting that would say yes. Within the achievement metrics, we use a commit, track, deliver, made public framework. This framework is to show the company's or establishment's progression as it relates to meeting this metric and possibly going above and beyond the metric (deliver/made public).

In general, across all focus areas unless clarified under the metric, the following will be the guiding definitions for commit, track, deliver, made public, not applicable, and choose not to report.

- **Commit (C)** - Means internally the company has stated a commitment to the metric.
- **Track (T)** - Means internally the company has a mechanism for measuring/recording/reporting information supporting this metric.
- **Deliver (D)** - Means the company is meeting the internal goal(s) or commitment(s) pertinent to this metric. For some metrics, Deliver may refer to using the information to identify opportunities for improvement and demonstrate a gap closure or going above and beyond meeting the metric.
- **Made Public (P)** - At the company level, information regarding this metric has been published, printed, or posted publicly displaying the company's commitment to this metric externally. Examples: posted on the company website; included in an ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) report; etc.
- **N/A** - Not Applicable
- **Not Reporting (NR)** - Choose not to report.

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Definitions (unless otherwise clarified in the metric):

- Supplier: who the Establishment receives a product and/or service from.
- Customer: who the Establishment sells a product and/or service to.

The question mark (?) after each metric provides guidance on how to report for each individual metric. If there is nothing specific to that metric for interpretation assistance, then the definitions of commit, track, deliver, and made public as written above prevail.

Example: If you are reporting for 3 establishments, the max number you can input is 3.

- If 3 of 3 of the establishments have committed to the metric, enter 3.
- If only 2 of 3 establishments are tracking the metric, enter 2.
- If only 1 establishment has delivered on the metric, enter 1.
- If the answer is no for all establishments reported on, enter zero.

Reminder: In the reporting module, you will only see metrics relating to the protein AND whether an establishment was designated as a slaughter and/or processing facility. If an establishment is incorrectly displaying as slaughter or further processor contact your Company Verifier. They can make changes to the establishment type under Company Setup. Below look for SLAUGHTER or FURTHER PROCESSOR (see A8 & A9) after each metric.

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Indicator	Metric	C	T	D	P	NA	NR
Live Animal Holding & Slaughter	A8. Maintains a written company animal welfare policy that requires direct suppliers (slaughter establishment) to implement a comprehensive Animal Welfare Program. (further processor)						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit - A policy is in place to source from direct (immediate) suppliers that implement a comprehensive Animal Welfare Program (see Resource below). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplier to be defined as a slaughter establishment. • Aim of this metric: Raw material suppliers implement a comprehensive Animal Welfare Program. • Track - A program is in place to verify suppliers who slaughter implement a comprehensive animal welfare program AND that suppliers who don't slaughter but provide meat products have an animal welfare policy in place. Letters of guarantee or affidavits would suffice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: This metric contributes to the industry's 2025 Animal Welfare Protein PACT goal and the US Roundtable for Sustainable Beef's 2025 Packer/Processor Sector Target. • Deliver - All suppliers provide proof of implementation prior to delivery. • Made Public - Examples: Information about the company animal welfare program is available on a website, shared upon request, part of a supplier program, in a sustainability report, etc. • N/A - If selected, a text box will ask why this metric isn't pertinent to the establishment and/or company. • Resource: Meat Institute Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide 						
Industry Engagement	A9. Participates in species-specific stakeholder initiatives (e.g., industry welfare committees) to improve animal well-being. (slaughter) (further processor)						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit - Company has identified and committed to participating in species-specific stakeholder initiatives, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat Institute Animal Welfare Committee • State Beef or Pork Council • NCBA (National Cattlemen's Beef Association) • NPP (National Pork Producers) • American Veal Association • American Lamb Council • US RSB (US Roundtable for Sustainable Beef) • US RSPE (US Roundtable for Sustainable Poultry & Eggs) • National Chicken Council (NCC) Animal Welfare Committee • National Turkey Federation (NTF) Animal Welfare Committees • American Association of Avian Pathologist (AAAP) Animal Welfare Committee • International Poultry Welfare Alliance (IPWA) • Breeder Companies • A veterinary association • Or similar at a regional or state level. • Track - Records are kept documenting regular participation such as attendance; working on subcommittees or task forces; and/or knowledge contributions at meetings, conferences, etc. • Deliver - Company engages in any of the following activities to advance continuous improvement in animal welfare: Works with an external animal welfare advisor/committee; Conducts/invests in projects dedicated to advance animal welfare (e.g., technology and innovation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If selected, a text box for more information will appear. By providing information on project investments – new research and innovations this keep's the Meat Institute's Animal Welfare Staff in the loop. • Made Public - Posting participation on social media; having conversations with customers (e.g. restaurants, retailers, etc.) about animal welfare related topics; conversing with fellow packer/processor colleagues in the animal welfare space to stay informed on the latest information and innovations. 						

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Protein PACT's Animal Welfare Goal

By year's end of 2025, 100% of members who handle animals will pass third party animal transport and handling audits. (A2 Track; A5 Track) AND all members will require all suppliers to implement [an animal welfare program that includes] employee training and species-specific standards for animal care (A7 Track; A8 Track).

Success of this metric will be collected during the 2026 reporting window gathering industry data from our slaughter and processing companies' 2025 calendar year operations.

General Meat Institute Resources for Animal Welfare:

- [Meat Institute's Animal Welfare Page & Committee info](#)
- [Meat Institute Animal Handling Audit](#)