



ANIMAL WELFARE UPDATE 2026

At Whitsons, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing sustainable sourcing practices and promoting animal welfare throughout our operations. We recognize the integral role animal welfare plays in building a more sustainable future and are dedicated to the care and compassion of animals in our supply chain. We understand the importance of transparency and accountability in animal welfare practices. That is why we regularly review and enhance our reporting processes, collaborate with suppliers to strengthen animal welfare practices, and publicize our targets, performance, and achievements.

Cage-Free Eggs:

All the eggs we source come from cage-free or pasture-raised hens. This commitment ensures that the birds have access to a more natural environment, promoting their welfare.

Broiler Chicken Welfare:

Whitsons remains committed to continuously improving animal welfare practices and responsible sourcing. We actively engage with our supplier partners to identify ways to enhance the welfare of broiler chickens across our operations.

Aspirational Progress Roadmap

To enhance transparency and accountability, Whitsons has established forward-looking target timelines for key Better Chicken Commitment (BCC) components. We will continue to update this roadmap annually based on measurable progress, supplier alignment, and evolving industry capabilities.

Our annual aspirational targets:

Criteria	2024 (actual)	2025 (actual)	2026 (actual)	2027 (target)
3rd Party Auditing	99%	100%	100%	100%
Stocking Density	93%	100%	100%	100%
Enriched Environments (Litter, Lighting, & Enrichments)	93%	100%	100%	100%
CAS	In development	3%	3%	Increase adoption through supplier engagement and infrastructure expansion
Breed	In development	In development	In development	Increase adoption through supplier engagement and infrastructure expansion

The chicken we source is free of hormones and steroids; no antibiotics important to human health are used.

Whitsons is committed to advancing progress toward Better Chicken Commitment (BCC) standards through active supplier engagement, operational alignment, and transparent reporting. While certain components, such as Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS) and higher-welfare breed adoption, require broader industry development, we are focused on making measurable, year-over-year progress. We have established forward-looking targets and will provide annual public updates to track progress against these milestones, adjusting our approach as supplier capabilities and industry conditions evolve.

Pork:

The pork we source is 100% hormone-free. We are committed to working with our suppliers to source gestation crate-free pork as soon as possible. We regularly review our suppliers to improve our reporting and transparency.

Seafood:

Our seafood is sourced exclusively from sustainable fisheries, adhering to guidelines such as the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch. We prioritize ethical sourcing practices to minimize our environmental impact and support responsible fishing practices. We also partner with Red's Best, which distributes sustainable wild-caught fish and seafood for over 1,000 small community-based fishing boats in New England.

Plant-based Offerings:

Since partnering in 2022 with Humane World for Animals (formerly the Humane Society of the United States), Whitsons has expanded access to healthy, sustainable plant-based options across our K–12 programs through our proprietary *Veggabóls* platform, the first 100% plant-based K–12 concept of its kind. Whitsons has established a companywide goal that 33% of all meals offered will be plant-based by 2027. Currently, plant-based meals represent approximately 24% of offerings, with continued progress driven by menu innovation, student engagement, and collaboration with our operational teams.

In 2026, Whitsons earned a B+ rating on the Humane World for Animals Protein Sustainability Scorecard, reinforcing our position as a leader in advancing plant-forward dining options.

In addition to expanding menu offerings, Whitsons tracks the environmental impact of these initiatives, demonstrating measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Through continued investment in plant-forward programs, we are supporting more sustainable food systems while contributing to improved animal welfare outcomes through reduced reliance on animal-based proteins.

Continuous Improvement:

We are actively collaborating with our suppliers to strengthen ethical practices within our supply chain by:

- Holding our suppliers accountable for animal welfare through monitoring and third-party audits.
- Conducting regular reviews with our suppliers to improve our reporting and transparency.
- Publicizing our animal welfare targets, performance, and achievements.

At Whitsons, we are committed to treating animals with compassion, and we invite you to join us on our journey as we strive to build a better world for all. Together, we can create a more humane and sustainable future for future generations.