

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: EFSA Calls for Evidence on the Welfare of Beef Cattle and Turkeys on Farm

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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Report Highlights:

On December 8, 2023, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) launched two calls for evidence to collect data and information to support EFSA’s risk assessments to deliver scientific opinions on the welfare of beef cattle and turkeys on farm. Interested parties can submit a contribution on the topic until January 31, 2024. These evidence calls are a key step in EFSA’s development of the scientific opinions to be delivered by June 30, 2025, for beef cattle and by December 31, 2025, for turkeys. EFSA previously organized a stakeholder meeting regarding this topic on November 7-8, 2023 in Brussels.

General Information:

The European Commission's review of the European Union (EU) animal welfare legislation is an integral part of the EU's Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was tasked by the Commission to provide new scientific advice that reflects the most up-to-date scientific research and data on the welfare of broilers, calves, pigs, laying hens, dairy cattle, ducks, geese, and quails on farm as well as the welfare during transport of pigs, bovines, equids, small ruminants, and animals transported in containers.

In October 2023, the European Commission sent two mandates to EFSA to deliver scientific opinions: by June 30, 2025 on the welfare of beef cattle on farm, and by December 31, 2025 on the welfare of turkeys on farm. The Commission also presented a legislative proposal in December 2023 to revise the EU rules on the protection of animals during transport as part of the animal welfare package.

From November 7-8, 2023, EFSA hosted a stakeholder meeting in Brussels to initiate an open dialogue on the risk assessment process and offer stakeholders the opportunity to learn about EFSA's work on animal welfare. The event engaged a range of partners in a technical discussion on the available data and sources that will contribute to EFSA's scientific advice on the welfare of beef cattle and turkeys on farm. The meeting was also a component of a new engagement approach for the animal welfare mandates, and EFSA plans to engage regularly with stakeholders until the publication of its scientific opinions.

Call for Evidence:

On December 8, 2023, EFSA launched a call for evidence to collect data and information to support the risk assessment on the welfare of beef cattle and turkeys on farm. Stakeholders should prepare their contributions based on the questions outlined in the closing presentations of the two meeting sessions (welfare of beef cattle on farm; welfare of turkeys on farm). The presentations are available at the following link: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/stakeholder-meeting-welfare-beef-cattle-and-turkeys-farming-practices-and-data>.

The calls for evidence are open at the links here on the EFSA Connect portal:

TURKEYS – PC741 - <https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/a0ITk0000001qRB>

BEEF CATTLE – PC742 - <https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/a0ITk0000001qhJ>

Instructions to submit information are also available at the websites above. The deadline to submit a contribution is January 31, 2024.

Attachments:

No Attachments.