Thanksgiving Starts with Canadian Farmers



For many Canadians, turkey is a major part of their Thanksgiving tradition. Long before family and friends gather, it all starts on Canadian farms, where turkey farmers raise birds to meet the needs of Canadians.

Across the country, over 510 turkey farmers help bring locally raised turkey to communities nationwide. Behind every flock is a year-round commitment to responsible farming, strong animal welfare practices and to producing safe, high-quality food for Canadians.

National programs

And how do turkey farmers do this? National standards help provide a clear approach to raising turkey in Canada. Turkey Farmers of Canada (TFC) administers two mandatory On-Farm Programs: the TFC Flock Care Program© and the TFC On-Farm Food Safety Program©. Together, these programs provide a framework to animal care, food safety and biosecurity on turkey farms across Canada.

Both programs are mandatory and reviewed each year with annual audits by qualified on-farm auditors, giving added confidence in the practices behind Canadian turkey. It is all part of why Canadians can feel great about having Canadian-raised turkey during the holidays.

Raised with care

The TFC Flock Care Program allows the turkey industry to demonstrate and verify Canadian turkey farmers' commitment to ensuring the proper care and respectful treatment of their birds.

The program provides turkey farmers with standards for the care of their birds, based on Canada's national Code of Practice. These standards are backed by annual audits, including independent third-party oversight, ensuring they are applied on farms across the country.

At its heart, the program reflects the care, and attention farmers bring to their flocks daily.

Flock Health and Food Safety



Biosecurity is an important part of everyday farm management. Farmers follow established practices designed to protect flock health, which includes keeping barns and equipment clean, and carefully managing who and what enters areas where turkeys are raised.

These practices also go hand in hand with food safety. Through TFC's On-Farm Food Safety Program, biosecurity, flock health and food safety are all part of a consistent approach to raising Canadian turkey. This includes controlling pathogens on-farm, minimizing disease transmission to turkey flocks and ensuring that turkeys marketed are free of medication and other residues.

These measures help farmers protect their birds while supporting the production of safe, high-quality food for Canadians.

From Canadian farms

Beyond the farm gate, Canada's turkey industry generates $5.6 billion in economic activity annually and supports more than 18,300 jobs across rural and urban communities. From farmers and feed suppliers to processors, transporters and others throughout the supply chain, Canadian turkey connects communities across the country.

This is especially meaningful at Thanksgiving, while we prepare to gather around the table. That turkey tradition represents months of work and attention by farmers, and the many people involved in bringing Canadian food to tables this holiday season.

Let's celebrate the farmers behind the food. Thanksgiving starts long before the holiday meal. It starts on Canadian farms.