



Animal health and welfare: Beef

We are committed to the systematic development of sustainable business, both in strategy and actions. Responsibility of our operations applies to the entire supply chain from feed and genetics of animals all the way to the consumer.

Holistic welfare

HKScan’s contractual production farms in Finland and Sweden are committed to strict instructions with regard to the rearing, feeding, healthcare and disease protection of animals.

Beef cattle are raised in cowsheds and loose barns as well as in pens and pastures. Calves bred for the purposes of pedigree cattle production are born on suckler cow farms, where they graze with their mothers up to an age of approximately six months. After this, the calves are relocated to specialised rearing farms or remain at their birth farm. Calves born on dairy farms are relocated to a calf rearing or finishing establishment between the age of two weeks and three months. The teenage calves of a calf rearing establishment are relocated to the finishing establishment at the age of six months.

<p>There is complete traceability thanks to the individual tagging of cows and contractual production.</p>	<p>* GOOD ANIMAL CARE AND HIGH ANIMAL WELFARE</p>	<p>* GOOD HEALTH AND CONTROLLED USE OF MEDICINES</p>	<p>* HIGH STANDARD OF HYGIENE THROUGHOUT THE PRODUCTION CHAIN</p>
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PRIMARY PRODUCTION	ANIMAL TRANSPORT	SLAUGHTERING OPERATIONS
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Room to move and eat  Roughage for the good of the rumen  Enough drinking water  Padding to lie down on  Minimum use of antibiotics  The use of growth hormones is prohibited  De-horning in calf rearing establishments only with sedation, anaesthetics and pain relief; no painful procedures  Salmonellavapaa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Skilful and calm treatment of animals  Authorised drivers  Transport vehicles designed specifically for cows  Transport distances as short as possible  The washing and disinfection of transport vehicles after each journey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Supervision of food and slaughtering hygiene  The supervision and assessment of the animals’ welfare as well as enough rest and as short a waiting time as possible  Possibility for movement at own initiative  Strictly controlled slaughtering process  Trained staff, the continuous presence of a veterinarian  Recording video surveillance and the continuous improvement of conditions
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Cows are the number-one utilisers of roughage. The rumen of a cow digests ingredients that humans cannot make use of as nourishment. As grazers, cows play a role of unparalleled importance for biodiversity. Given that cows are big animals with a long life, each cow is especially valuable as an individual and deserves the best possible care. The health and breeding of cattle stock are of a good standard in the Nordic countries and an important part of HKScan’s contractual production.

Robert Nilsson, Senior Advisor, HKScan Producer Services



Friendship, peace and room to move

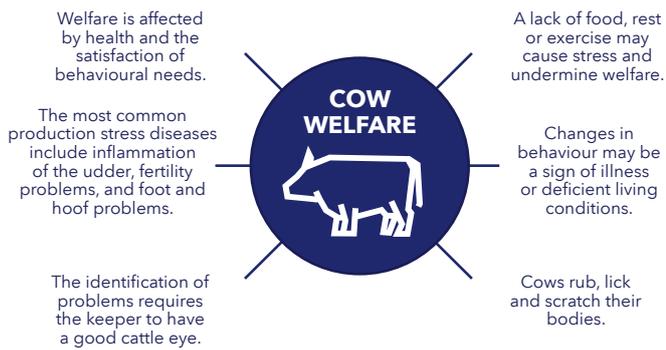
Cows are intelligent and social animals that spend the majority of their time eating, ruminating and resting. Cows form close friendships and follow a precise hierarchy. Licking other members of the herd is an important part of social interaction. Young cows love to run and frolic together. For calves, playing is a particularly important way to learn social skills and body control.

Despite their gregarious nature, cows also need peace and quiet. Adult cows rest for 11-13 hours a day. Insufficient rest and uncomfortable resting places may cause stress and predispose cows to diseases. This is why their resting places must be soft, spacious and peaceful, with good air conditioning. There must also be a sufficient number of peaceful feeding and drinking places for the entire herd.

Cows are ruminants that spend most of their days gathering, chewing and ruminating feed. Cows eat approximately 8-12 hours a day and ruminate for 6-9 hours a day.

Beef cattle are reared in loose barns or in insulated establishments. The bedding and padding of resting places consists of straw, peat or rubber mats. These provide a warm resting place.

Cows have a wide, 300-degree field of vision. Even so, they cannot see as clearly as humans and take time to process what they are seeing. Cows also have poor stereoscopic vision, which is why they have to lower their heads to see things on the ground clearly. It is important to understand the behaviour specific to the species in the treatment of cows as well as how their senses work.



Source (in Finnish): <http://www.nautatieto.fi/naudan-elintavat>

FAVOURABLE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

The short growing season of the Nordic countries makes them ideal for the cultivation of herbage and the production of forage. The production of dairy and beef maintains the self-sufficiency of food production.

THE BASIS OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BIODIVERSITY

- Manure is a valuable fertilising substance and soil improver
- Manure returns valuable nutrients and organic matter to fields
- Grazing prevents the overgrowth of meadows

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PASTURES

- Pastures tie up carbon dioxide and carbon
- Pastures reduce the phosphorus load
- Pastures prevent the run-off of nutrients into waterways
- Pastures maintain biodiversity
- Pastures ensure the utilisation of soil



A LIGHTER CARBON FOOTPRINT

More than 80 per cent of beef derives from animals in the dairy production chain, due to which the carbon footprint of the production is relatively smaller than in separated beef production. In addition to dairy and beef products, every bit of a cow's carcass is utilised, thereby also yielding leather and gelatine, for example.

