





# Questions to Ask at the Farmers Market Farm Animal Welfare

The number of farmers markets in the U.S. has almost doubled in the past decade as more consumers seek out ethical, sustainable, locally grown food. Farmers markets can be great places to "shop with your heart" for welfare-conscious food, including beautiful fruits and vegetables, **but what should you ask farmers if you're seeking higher-welfare meat, eggs or dairy?** Here are some questions to help start that conversation:

### 1. Does your farm have any animal welfare certifications?

Seek out farms certified by Animal Welfare Approved, Certified Humane or Global Animal Partnership (Step 2 and above). If your favorite farms aren't certified, encourage them to look into it at ASPCA.org/FarmCertification.

#### 2. Are animals raised indoors or outdoors on your farm?

- ✓ Ideally, animals spend the majority of their lives on pasture or have daily access to the outdoors.
- ✓ If indoors, make sure they are not raised in cages, and ask if they are provided with enrichment (like perches for egg-laying hens and rooting materials for pigs).

# 3. Do you dock tails (for cows or pigs) or debeak/beak trim (for egg-laying hens or turkeys)?

✓ When animals have enough space and enrichment, physical alterations like tail-docking and debeaking are generally unnecessary.

## 4. Do you use antibiotics?

✓ Responsible antibiotic use means limiting use to sick animals and not administering antibiotics routinely to promote faster growth.



