CHICKEN FARMERS OF CANADA
LES PRODUCTEURS DE POULET DU CANADA

Chicken Farmers of Canada

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Chicken Farmers of Canada Submission to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food on the Environmental Contribution of Agriculture

No one protects and optimizes Canada's vast terrain more than Canadian farmers. Canadian chicken farmers are leaders in sustainability, and constantly advancing their operations to improve bird health and welfare, and to ameliorate environmental stewardship and sustainability on the farm. Through the implementation of good production practices, chicken farmers are taking steps to ensure that our sector is environmentally sustainable for decades to come.

Canada's 2,877 chicken farmers located in all ten provinces work hard every day to produce the safe, high-quality chicken that helps feed our country. The sector supports over 101,900 jobs in rural and urban communities across the country, contributing $8 billion to Canada's Gross Domestic Product and paying $1.9 billion in taxes. Our farmers are leaders in innovation on the farm and want to keep the sector growing, sustainably while strengthening trust and enhancing value for Canadians. We are proud that chicken is Canada's number one meat protein.

When it comes to growing a sustainable, thriving sector, Chicken Farmers of Canada has a long history of being proactive and implementing of-farm programs for food safety, animal care and responsible antibiotic use. Our key values of sustainability are:

- Protecting bird health and welfare
- Producing safe chicken for Canadians
- Preserving the health of the land and of our farms
- Providing value to Canada, and affordable food to Canadians through supply management

We recognise that sustainability is important to Canadian consumers. They are interested in understanding where their food comes from and that the work behind producing it is environmentally, economically, and social sustainable. These questions and values are important to us as well.

The Canadian chicken sector completed a life cycle assessment (LCA) in 2018 (Appendix 1) to measure the environmental and social performance of Canada's chicken sector, from hatching egg

to processor. From it, we learned that over the past forty years, the chicken sector in Canada has shown continuous environmental improvement as a result of major productivity gains and significant improvements in feed conversion ratio. During that timeframe, there have been some notable reductions on a per kilogram basis: 37% lower carbon footprint, 45% lower water consumption, and 37% lower non-renewable energy consumption.

In addition, per kilogram of protein, the carbon footprint of Canadian chicken is lower than other livestock commodities in North America, and when considering the average carbon footprint of chicken in different regions around the world, Canadian chicken production has the lowest carbon footprint overall.

The innovative practices that farmers have adopted to reduce environmental impacts of their barns include computer-controlled heating and ventilation systems, renewable geothermal and biomass heating, high efficiency lighting, insulated and heated floors, and solar walls to pre-heat incoming air. In addition, 70% of Canadian chicken farmers are enrolled in their provincial Environmental Farm Plan. This program evaluates farms in terms of environmental strengths and potential risks and farmers then develop action plans to address those risks.

These findings convey strong messages about the excellent environmental performance of the Canadian chicken sector. The LCA demonstrates, with facts and figures, the sector's strong performance and commitment to sustainability. Going forward, these positive LCA results are not an invitation to be complacent about the sector's achievements thus far, we see it as an opportunity to renew our dedication to continual improvement.

Chicken Farmers of Canada is a founding member of the Canadian Poultry Research Council (CPRC) which encourages innovation, science, and education in poultry research. Over the years, the poultry sector has invested over $8.5 million in research, which has been matched by government and other agencies to over $40 million. As part of its mandate, CPRC has a research program dedicated to supporting several environmental projects in the sector. These include the prevalence and effect of veterinary pharmaceutical residues in the environment, the direct injection of poultry litter on agricultural land, the environmental implications of phosphorus and calcium

flows in poultry production, workplace exposure to environmental contaminants in commercial poultry barns, useful products from spent hens, and emissions from poultry operations.

Chicken Farmers of Canada recently joined a coalition of partners in the Canadian agri-food sector to develop *The National Index on Agri-Food Performance*. This team aims to develop a set of performance and progress indicators to ensure Canada's position as a trusted leader in the worldwide food industry.

Chicken Farmers of Canada recently joined the Agriculture Carbon Alliance (ACA), a national coalition of farm organizations whose goal is to amplify farmers' sustainable practices and advocate for constructive and evidence-based policies regarding carbon pricing, offsets, retrofit funding, and related environmental policies. The Alliance hopes to function as a resource for the federal government regarding solutions-oriented strategies to ensure the industry remains competitive, both at home and around the world.

These coalitions are also engaging with government and other stakeholders on the Canadian dialogues for the upcoming United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). The Summit's action tracks are focused on delivering 'bold new actions' to transform the way the world produces and consumes food and sustainable growth. It is important to note here that these action tracks are promoting a shift away from animal agriculture. It is essential for Canada to raise awareness at the UN Member State level of the important role all agricultural industries—including animal agriculture—play in the food system from an environmental, social and economic standpoint. If we want to deliver on the goal of sustainably feeding the world by 2050, no type of agriculture can be excluded.

Canada's chicken farmers are proud of the role they play in building a more innovative, environmentally focused, and sustainable future for Canadian agriculture and all Canadians. Our programs are reviewed and revised regularly, and we continue to be committed to research. We are always open to exploring opportunities on how to benchmark sustainability on farms and improve our impacts on the environment.

Appendix A

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE CANADIAN CHICKEN VALUE CHAIN

THE EVOLVING JOURNEY TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

In 2017, Chicken Farmers of Canada launched its first life cycle assessment (LCA) of the Canadian chicken value chain to measure the environmental and social performance of Canadian chicken production.

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT
ISO 14040-44

From coast to coast, farmers and businesses participated in this important study involving the entire supply chain of chicken production.

1976
2016

40 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

OUR APPROACH

PRODUCING MORE WITH LESS

Since 1976, our environmental performance significantly improved because of major **productivity gains** and about 20% improvement in our **feed conversion ratio**.

OUR RESULTS

LOWER ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Over the past 40 years, the work conducted by Canadian chicken farmers resulted in the following reductions:

- 37% LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT
- 45% LOWER WATER CONSUMPTION
- 37% LOWER NON RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

A study conducted in 2017 by

GROUPE AGÉCO
sarecon

This project was made available through the AgriMarketing Program under Growing Forward 2, a federal, provincial, territorial initiative

Canada
Growing Forward 2

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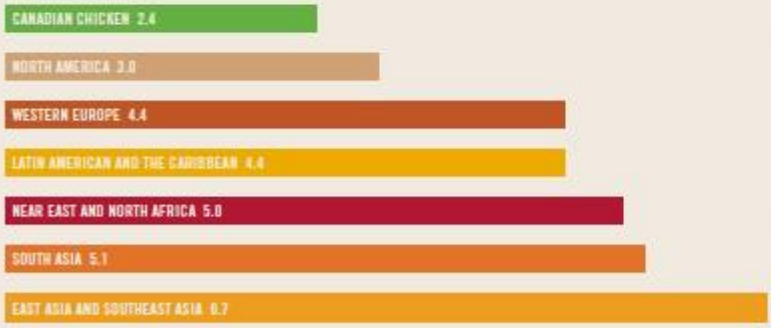
SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE CANADIAN CHICKEN VALUE CHAIN

THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF CHICKEN PRODUCTION IN CANADA

BENCHMARK AND PERSPECTIVE

KG CO_2 EQ. PER KG OF CHICKEN

When considering the average carbon footprint of chicken in different regions around the world, Canadian chicken production has the lowest carbon footprint overall.*



PRESERVING THE HEALTH OF THE LAND AND THE FARMS

70% of Canadian chicken farmers are enrolled in their provincial Environmental Farm Plan.

This program evaluates farms in terms of environmental strengths and potential risks and farmers then develop action plans to address those risks.

PER KG OF PROTEIN, THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF CANADIAN CHICKEN IS LOWER THAN THE OTHER LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES PRODUCED IN NORTH AMERICA*

The good performance of chicken protein is explained by the fact that chickens do not produce significant emissions from enteric fermentation. The feed conversion ratio is also the lowest among livestock.

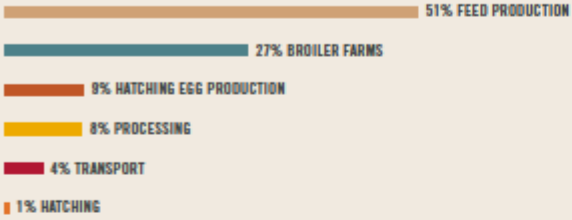
* Source: FAO. 2017. Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM).

CARBON FOOTPRINT (GHG EMISSIONS)

2.4 KG CO_2 EQ./ KG OF CHICKEN

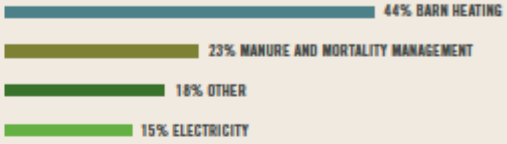
37%
LOWER THAN THE 1976 CARBON FOOTPRINT VALUE OF 3.4 KG CO_2 EQ.

CONTRIBUTION OF EACH LIFE CYCLE STAGE



Feed production contributes to half of the total carbon footprint. The GHG emissions are mainly caused by fertilizers and diesel use to produce feed crops (wheat, corn and soybeans).

BREAKDOWN OF GHG EMISSIONS AT BROILER FARMS



Farms activities are the second largest contributor and they account for a little over one quarter of the carbon footprint, mainly due to energy used on the farm.

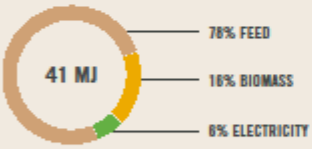
ENERGY USE

41 MJ / KG OF CHICKEN

25 MJ / KG OF CHICKEN

37%
LOWER THAN THE 1976 NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY USE VALUE OF 40 MJ.

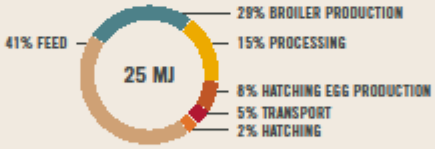
62% COME FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES



"41 MJ would power 8 x 60W light bulbs for a day (24h)"

38% COME FROM NON RENEWABLE SOURCES

PROPANE, NATURAL GAS, OIL



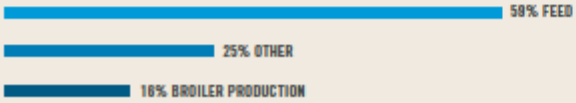
"25 MJ would power 5 x 60W light bulbs for a day (24h)"

The feed production consumes 41% of non renewable resources. This is mainly due to fertilizer production and diesel use.

WATER CONSUMPTION

65 L OF FRESHWATER / KG OF CHICKEN

45%
LOWER THAN THE 1976 WATER CONSUMPTION VALUE OF 118 L.



Feed production accounts for 59% of the total water consumption. Irrigation represents the largest contribution to water consumption.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE CANADIAN CHICKEN VALUE CHAIN

THE SOCIAL PERFORMANCE

A GLOBAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

2,803 CHICKEN FARMERS & 191 PROCESSORS

PAY
2.2 billion
in taxes

CONTRIBUTE
6.8 billion
to Canada's Gross Domestic Product

PURCHASE
2.6 million tons
of feed, supporting other farmers in turn

SUSTAIN
87,200 jobs
across the supply chain

COMMITTED TO FOOD SAFETY & ANIMAL CARE
100% Canadian chicken farmers are certified on the Raised by a Canadian Farmer On-Farm Food Safety Program (OFFSP) and Animal Care Program (ACP).

DEDICATED TO SOCIAL LICENSE
Over 90% of Canadian chicken farmers are engaged in their communities by providing free services to community members or by being engaged in municipal or regional organizations.

COMPETITIVE WORKING CONDITIONS
Over 90% of Canadian chicken farmers pay their workers a salary over the provincial minimum wage and **about 70%** offer their employees benefits such as insurance and bonuses in addition to other benefits in kind.