



The Farmers Table Production Standards

The farmers that supply food through The Farmers' Table (TFT) meet or exceed Canadian and Saskatchewan Food Safety regulations. TFT standards were developed to provide guidance to its farmers and processors on production practices that:

- Ensure farmers use sustainable farming practices that reduce or eliminate synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, and GMOs;
- Ensure animal health and well being through humane care of all livestock;
- Ensure human and environmental health through responsible care of all livestock, crops, and soil;
- Ensure farmers practice fair and safe working conditions for all farm workers.

TFT farmers are committed to continuing and strengthening their sustainable farm management practices through ongoing training in areas such as Holistic Management Training, Environmental Farm Planning, Low Stress Livestock Handling, Organic Agriculture, Permaculture, and Homeopathy.

TFT standards provide farmers with flexibility in their choice of farming practices. However, individual farm practices must be fully disclosed. The term organic shall only be used on products that are certified to the Canadian Organic Regime (COR). The following standards were developed by TFT farmers and are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

General Farm Standards:

1. Members of The Farmers' Table are Saskatchewan family farmers;
2. TFT farmers disclose their individual farming practices through The Farmers' Table website (thefarmerstable.ca), and can be contacted directly by eaters to answer questions;
3. TFT farmers open their farms to the public on an annual basis for inspection by eaters.

Animal Care Standards:

The following Animal Care Standards apply to all animals raised by TFT farmers:

1. Animals sold through TFT are free of antibiotics, added growth hormones, and subtherapeutic medications throughout their entire lives (signed letter of agreement required);
2. Use of synthetic de-wormers on sheep and alpaca ONLY, must follow organic production standards;(see Producer Guidelines)
3. Animals treated with antibiotics for humane reasons (e.g., illness, disease) do not enter TFT's food system;
4. All herbivore feed is free of animal products;

5. Whenever possible, TFT animals are fed Saskatchewan grown feed grains and forages;
6. TFT farmers actively pursue alternatives to using GMO livestock feed;
7. TFT farmers actively pursue alternatives for animal healthcare, such as homeopathy and other chemical free animal health treatments;
8. TFT animals meet all TFT Animal Care Standards starting at the point of birth (excluding day-old chicks purchased from hatcheries);
9. All TFT ruminants are allowed to forage on pasture during the grazing season.
10. TFT ruminants (beef, goats, lamb and alpaca) in meat production are “grass-fed” and are raised on forage and non-cereal supplement only:
 - a. No starch is added to the diet;
 - b. Distillers grains are not permitted;
 - c. Beef carcasses of 600 lbs and over are preferred.
11. TFT Ruminants in dairy production are fed a ration that meets their physiological and behavioral needs for their living conditions and stage of production.
12. Regarding poultry:
 - a. No TFT poultry is de-beaked;
 - b. Laying hens are kept in free run/outdoor/non-confined housing;
 - c. Meat birds are free run or pastured only, with no permanent confinement;
 - d. Chicks are fed only non-medicated starter.

Fruit, Vegetable and Whole Grain Production Standards:

1. All fruit, vegetable and whole grain products are Saskatchewan grown;
2. No use of synthetic pesticides, fungicides, herbicides and fertilizers in crop production;
3. No GMO seed is used;
4. No synthetic seed treatment is used;
5. Use of green manure and composted animal manure for nutrient replenishment encouraged;
6. Use of crop rotation to help in the control of diseases, weeds and pests is encouraged.

Beekeeping Standards:

1. Beekeepers are registered with the Province of Saskatchewan; 2. Use of integrated pest management techniques:
 - a. No prophylactic use of medications/acaricides/antibiotics. Treatments are used only in the presence of disease/pests;
 - b. Routine testing of hives is used to determine what pests/diseases are present;
 - c. Formic acid and oxalic acid are preferred treatments for mite control;
 - d. Beekeepers always give preference to least powerful treatments, following all label directions/provincial recommendations for dosage and lead time for removal of treatments prior to addition of honey supers;
3. No treatments are in use while honey supers are present on the hive.

4. Bees are overwintered, indoors or outdoors;
5. Local sources of bees for replacing colony losses are preferred when available;
6. When honey is processed, minimal heat is applied (i.e., honey should not be heated beyond 50°C/120°F) for the shortest amount of time possible to allow for straining/settling;
7. Moisture level of honey is tested prior to bottling to ensure moisture content is less than 18%;
8. Honey extracting equipment is free of lead-based solder and extracting facilities meet minimum provincial health standards.

Processing Standards:

1. TFT food processing will be done in accordance with Saskatchewan Health and Safety Regulations.
2. For value-added products, producers are strongly encouraged to source local ingredients.

(Last revised April 2016.)