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[www.AnimalWelfareApproved.org](http://www.AnimalWelfareApproved.org)

### **ANIMAL WELFARE APPROVED PROGRAM NOW OPEN TO CANADIAN FARMS**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Animal Welfare Approved, a program that promotes the well-being of animals and the sustainability of humane family farms, announced today that it has approval from the Canadian government to begin certifying farms in Canada. “We’re excited about expanding our program,” said Director Andrew Gunther. “Americans and Canadians have a shared concern for the welfare of farm animals and protecting family farms and that is reflected in their purchasing decisions. American consumers know buying products with the Animal Welfare Approved label ensures their meat, dairy and eggs came from high welfare farms. Soon Canadians will be able to benefit in the same way.”

Labels on Animal Welfare Approved products in Canada will read “This product originates from animals who are raised under the standards of the Animal Welfare Approved Program (TM).” The label will also provide the Animal Welfare Approved website address. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency considers certifying standards to be part of a label claim and independent third-party certifiers must provide the public access to its standards. The standards for Animal Welfare Approved have been available on its website since the site was launched in early 2008 and the website address will be on Animal Welfare Approved product labels. “We are a very transparent organization,” Gunther remarked. “We believe in our standards. They are practical and science-based and people should know what we’re about up front.”

Gunther says that Animal Welfare Approved expects to launch the Canadian program by the end of the year. Farms interested in obtaining more information about applying for the Animal Welfare Approved seal can go to [www.animalwelfareapproved.org](http://www.animalwelfareapproved.org), email [info@animalwelfareapproved.org](mailto:info@animalwelfareapproved.org), or call 202-546-5292.

The Animal Welfare Approved program and food label unite conscientious consumers with farmers who raise their animals with compassion. Animal Welfare Approved is “setting the standard for how farm animals should be taken care of,” according to Robert. F. Kennedy, Jr. The Animal Welfare Approved program was recently lauded by the World Society for the Protection of Animals as having the highest animal welfare standards of any third party certifier in the US.

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A PROGRAM OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

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