

POULTRY FAQ'S

Q: Is the use of antibiotics harmful to the welfare of chicken?

A: The FDA and USDA strictly regulate the use of veterinarian-administered antibiotics based on the needs of the chicken. Therefore, the antibiotics used to treat chickens are not harmful, but helpful to the health and well-being of the animals.

Q: Is the use of antibiotics in chicken harmful to my health or the health of my family?

A: No. When a regulated antibiotic is administered to a chicken, the FDA requires a strict "withdrawal" period to ensure that none of that antibiotic remains in the chicken's system by the time it is processed for consumption. There is currently no scientific data that supports the idea that treating chicken with antibiotics in any way impacts human health. In fact, not treating sick flocks with efficacious antibiotics actually endangers the eventual consumer, as untreated sick chickens carry more bacteria of all sorts into the processing plant. As long as proper safe handling instructions and proper cooking temperatures are met, consumers are safe, but higher bacteria counts increase the risk of food borne illness if meat is improperly handled or undercooked.

Q: Are the antibiotics given to chicken similar to the antibiotics used by humans?

A: Not only is the biology of a chicken and the biology of a human extremely different, but the types of antibiotics used in poultry production are also different. According to the American Meat Institute (AMI), "The vast majority of antibiotics are used either in people, or in animals, but not both ..."

Q: What systems are in place to make sure poultry products meet all agency requirements and are safe for consumption?

A: Under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, the USDA's Food and Safety Inspection Services (FSIS) inspects and certifies all poultry products before they enter the supply chain.

Q: Are any of the FDA-regulated antibiotics used in poultry production unnecessary?

A: Not at Sanderson Farms. Similar to our pets and to humans, chickens become ill and require these antibiotics to become healthy again. We will not order antibiotics to be used unless our licensed veterinarians deem them necessary to maintain the health of the flock.

Q: Is the chicken I buy at the grocery store filled with hormones, unless its label states otherwise?

A: No, all chicken products are free of added growth promoting hormones, as required by the FDA since the 1950s.

Q: If no hormones are added to chickens, how do you explain their dramatic increase in size over the years?

A: The increased growth in chickens over the years is due to the advancements in poultry nutrition, health and genetics. It is not due to the use of added hormones, as they are strictly prohibited for use in poultry production.

Q: Does "100% Natural Chicken" really mean natural?

A: For Sanderson Farms, it absolutely does. We pride ourselves on producing 100% all-natural chicken. Although some companies sell "natural" chicken products that have been pumped with seaweed solution and saltwater, when we say 100% natural, we mean it. Sanderson Farms brand chicken is always single ingredient, 100% chicken.

Q: What exactly is in chicken feed, and is it nutritious?

A: Chicken feed mostly consists of corn and soybean meal, balanced with vitamins and nutrients. Sanderson Farms has a staff of in-house nutritionists who ensure their chickens' diets contain all the requirements necessary to grow healthy poultry.

Q: Are chickens treated inhumanely on poultry farms?

A: Sanderson Farms is actively involved in the preservation of their animals' welfare and exercise all measures to ensure that they are provided with the best possible care. Our birds are raised in a climate-controlled environment and are free to roam around their housing facility, which allows them safety from outside predators and potential diseases. These houses are well equipped with systems to steadily provide feed and water to the birds, as well as carefully control lighting and air flow to avoid any undue stress. The Sanderson Farms corporate veterinary staff oversees the health of the flocks on a daily basis.



100% Natural