

**FRASER VALLEY DUCK & GOOSE
TRADITIONAL FREE RANGE GEESE
Raised Without the Use of Antibiotics
or Feed Containing Animal By-Products
and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at
www.fvdg.com**

4540 Simmons Road
Chilliwack, BC V2R 4R7

**PRODUCTION CRITERIA
STANDARDS**

Ph: 604-823-4435
Fx: 604-823-4306
Email: joe@twinmaple.com

Created by:
Jack Reams Agri Business Consulting
44704 Cumberland Avenue
Chilliwack, BC V2R 3B6
Ph: 604-858-1715

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I. Terms of Reference – What is it to be certified?

- a. The intention of this document is to provide the public with the assurance that any geese labeled as “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised Without The Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com” have been produced according to the provisions of this document and have met all applicable requirements as listed in this document.
- b. The items listed in this document are to provide the public with details of the scope of the program, the production requirements and claims made for the certification of product labeled as ““Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised Without The Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com””.
- c. The ultimate objective of this document is to assure the public that the production has been verified by a third party independent audit of each production unit and flock which is labeled as above and that any flock not meeting all of the criteria as listed in this document will not be labeled as “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised Without The Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com”.
- d. The producer of specialty geese intending to be sold and labeled as “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised without the Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com” must comply with the applicable provisions of this standard. Production practices implemented in accordance with this standard must maintain production at levels to maintain or improve the well-being of the animals being produced.
- e. The producers of specialty geese intending to sell geese labeled as “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised Without The Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com” shall be enrolled in the B.C. Environmental Farm Plan.
- f. Any non-compliance must be corrected within an agreed to time frame between the auditor and Fraser Valley Duck & Goose

II. Recordkeeping - By Certified Operations

- a. The operation must maintain records concerning the production of all products intending to be marketed as “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised Without The Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com”.
- b. Such records must:
 1. Be adapted to the particular farm upon which the certified product is being produced.

2. Fully disclose all production activities on a given farm in sufficient detail as to be readily understood and audited.
 3. Be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the terms stated in this document.
- c. The certified operation must make such records available to an independent auditor appointed by Fraser Valley Duck & Goose at an agreed upon time during normal business hours.
- d. Each flock produced and marketed as “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised without the Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com” must be inspected and all production information made available at the time of audit.
- e. All information gathered by a CFIA independent auditor will be strictly confidential and only used to authenticate the production of product.
- f. An initial audit of the production unit will detail production facilities and general activities particular to that unit. Subsequent audits will be concerned with changes to the production unit and with the specific flock being produced for marketing as “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised without the Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com”.

III. Allowed and Prohibited Substances and Production Criteria

The methods and feed ingredients used in the production of “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised without the Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com” are listed as follows:

- a. No antibiotics or animal by-products will be used in the production of “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised Without The Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com” in any form from birth; i.e. as feed additives, water, or injection.
 1. The use of any antibiotics or feed containing animal by-products at any time in the life of a flock will dictate the immediate removal of the flock from the labeling as “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised Without The Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com”.
- b. All geese will be raised free range. Free Range is defined as:
 1. After the geese have reached eight weeks of age, they will be allowed to range in a pasture outside of the barn for a minimum of six hours per day.
 2. The area outside of the barn will be equal to or greater than the area provided inside the barn and will contain suitable foraging material.
 3. Geese will be allowed outside access from eight weeks of age to slaughter for a minimum of 75% of the days during this period.

- c. The routine administration of a specified vaccine required for the general health of the flock is allowed as prescribed by an attending veterinarian.
- d. If for any reason items a, b or c above cannot be followed as deemed necessary by a qualified veterinarian, the owner of a flock is obligated to alter the husbandry practices for the humane care and treatment of the flock rather than letting the flock suffer. The flock would then be removed from the specialty program.

IV. Humane Living Conditions

Brooding

The brooding period is normally up to 28 days. The first seven days are critical phase of brooding period. Goslings must be kept within the comfort zone which is a part of the brooding area where goslings should spend majority of the time during the first three days. After that goslings may utilize remaining brooding area depending on temperature and other conditions.

- a. During brooding to four weeks of age, goslings will be allowed a minimum of 1.3 sq.ft/bird.
- b. Goslings should not be disturbed in the brooding area during the first three days unless there is a problem with equipment. There should be sufficient feed in the supplement trays to last for three days. Grower should walk outside the brooding area and gently move any stray birds back into area.
- c. There should be uniform light distribution of 20 lux for 24 hours per day for the first seven days. Eight hours of darkness or natural darkness will be maintained for the following three weeks to maintain good skeletal health.
- d. Temperature range in brooding area should be 32°C at floor level for the first three days. Temperature is gradually reduced to 24°C by the end of the brooding period (28 days). A minimum of 18°C is maintained in the barn area throughout the growing period.
- e. Supplemental feed trays will be provided during the first three days of the brooding period. A minimum of one tray per 250 goslings will be used. Supplemental feed trays may be removed at the end of the third day. Regular pan feeders will also be available from day one.
- f. Clean fresh water using accepted automatic drinkers will be available from day one. Additional water cups (one cup/200 goslings) will be added to the water line for the first three days to provide additional access to water.
- g. Adequate approved bedding i.e. wood sawdust, wood shavings, or straw must be maintained at all times and added as required.
- h. Ventilation systems must be operated in such a manner to provide quality air at all times, removal of carbon dioxide and noxious gasses, and reasonable control

of humidity. Each brooder building must have the capacity for minimum ventilation to provide comfort and remove moisture and ammonia.

- i. Culling of non viable goslings is good husbandry practice. Cull goslings must be euthanized by rapid cervical dislocation.

Rearing

Living conditions for geese to be produced and labeled as “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised Without The Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com” must adhere to the space requirements listed below:

- a. Adhere to the following minimum space requirements deemed to be acceptable for humanely raised geese:
 1. During the growing-finishing period, geese will be allowed a minimum of 3.05 sq.ft./bird of inside barn space.
 2. During the growing-finishing period, geese will be allowed a minimum of 7.0 sq.ft./bird of outside free-range space.
- b. All geese shall be adequately bedded using approved bedding i.e. wood sawdust, wood shavings, or straw. Bedding may be added during the growing period, as required.
- c. Geese must be allowed access to outside runs as stated in the standards Sec. III.b.1.
- d. Temperature monitoring shall be maintained throughout the life of the flock and should, at minimum, record inside and outside temperatures and may include monitoring of humidity and static pressure for enclosed barns.
- e. Lighting inside barns shall not exceed 20 hours during any given 24-hour period after three weeks of age.
- f. Ventilation systems must be operated in such a manner to provide quality air at all times, removal of carbon dioxide and noxious gasses, and reasonable control of humidity. Each barn must have the capacity for minimum ventilation to provide comfort and remove moisture and ammonia.
- g. Culling of non viable geese is good husbandry practice. Cull geese must be euthanized by rapid cervical dislocation.

V. Feed and Feeding

Geese must be provided with feed rations free of antibiotics and animal by-products and practice the following general requirements:

- a. Ingredient lists for all rations must be available for review by approved auditor.
- b. Feeding system must provide adequate feeder space as recommended by equipment manufacturer and based on grower experience.

- c. No feed will be placed outside the barn. Geese have free access to return to the barn for feed at any time when ranging outside.
- d. Feed samples must be maintained by the feed supplier for a minimum of 90 days after delivery to farm.
- e. Where automatic feed delivery system is used, it must be monitored a minimum of twice daily.
- f. Feed storage on farms must be bird and rodent proof.

VI. Water

Water must be supplied to geese at all times during the growing period and shall:

- a. Include a minimum of annual water testing for nitrates and coliform.
- b. Includes the flushing and sanitizing of all water lines between flocks.
- c. Include the minimum number of drinkers, as per manufacturer's specifications for all geese.
- d. No water will be available outside the barn. Geese have free access to return to the barn for water at any time when ranging outside.

VII. Manure Disposal

- a. Shall be contained in an approved storage area to stop pollution of all ground water, or
- b. Hauled away from farm or spread on the land upon removal from barns.

VIII. Physical Alterations

- a. No physical alterations are required in the rearing of geese.

IX. Parallel and Conventional Production

Parallel and conventional production may occur on the production unit producing "Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised Without The Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com" if the following precautions to prevent commingling are maintained:

- a. Records available to auditor clearly distinguishing between areas of conventional production and the production of "Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised without the Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com".

X. Flock Health Management

The producer must establish and maintain flock health practices, including:

- a. Daily monitoring of flock and proper disposal of mortalities
- b. Provide for a balanced ration sufficient to meet nutritional requirements of geese at all stages of growth
- c. Establish appropriate housing and sanitation practices to minimize the occurrence of diseases and parasites
- d. Provide for conditions which allow for exercising freedom of movement and reduction of stress appropriate to the size and age of the geese
- e. Administration of vaccines and other veterinary biologics may be used upon veterinarian recommendations.
- f. Flock Health Management:
 1. Flock health records are to be maintained.
 2. If birds are to be added to an existing flock they must be acquired from sources that actively engage in a recognized health program where health records are maintained. Documentation must be provided at transfer as part of the health record.
 3. Dead birds must be handled and disposed of in an acceptable manner.
- g. Sick birds must be humanely euthanized. If the flock experiences unexplained mortality, clinical signs or production drops, birds must be submitted to a qualified poultry diagnostician. Representative samples should be submitted in containers that allow for bio-containment and safe transfer.

XI. Standby Electrical Generator

Standby electrical generator must be available in case of power failure using automated ventilation systems and automatic feeders i.e. automatic system with feed, water, and ventilation.

XII. Pest Control

The producer of “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised without the Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com” shall adhere to the following Pest Control Measures:

- a. Rodents (mice and rats)
 1. Rodent proof buildings, repair visible damage as it occurs.
 2. Rodent and bird proof feed storage.
 3. Clean up feed spills immediately.
 4. Employ regular baiting (follow label instructions) or trapping. Adapt pest control program to activity and seasons.

- b. Insects (flies and beetles)
 - 1. Eliminate or control fly breeding areas (wet manure, decaying birds, low-lying areas or potholes where stagnant water can accumulate, etc.).
 - 2. Remove mortality from the farm at least once a day and dispose of in a manner acceptable under the BC Waste Management Act, Health Act, and Agriculture Waste Control Regulations.
 - 3. Apply insecticides as necessary (misting, residual sprays) at clean out.
 - 4. If spraying for flies, clean up all dead flies regularly.

- c. Wild Birds
 - 1. No wild bird feeders, geese feeders or waterers will be placed in outside ranging areas.

XIII. Audit Trail

Documentation must be available for each flock of “Fraser Valley Duck & Goose Traditional Free Range and Raised Without The Use of Antibiotics or Feed Containing Animal By-Products and Raised to the Humane Standards as Listed at www.fvdg.com” geese as follows:

- a. Documentation to be maintained by individual producer:
 - 1. Documentation of barn cleanout prior to placement
 - 2. Documentation of sanitization process and disinfectants between flocks
 - 3. Documentation of purchases: type, number, supplier, etc.
 - 4. Documentation of feed types and ingredients
 - 5. Documentation of death loss during brooding, growing, finishing
 - 6. Documentation of bio security, including visitor log

- b. Documentation to be maintained by Fraser Valley Duck & Goose:
 - 1. Maintain a complaint register
 - 2. Slaughter documentation including weights
 - 3. Written recall program shall be maintained
 - 4. Document on each box received from slaughter facility
 - i) Individual case identification
 - ii) Individual bar code label on every box
 - iii) Traceability of all lot numbers and bar code labels available to customer if requested
 - iv) Retrievable information includes:
 - 1. Farm source
 - 2. Hatch date
 - 3. Strain and age
 - 4. Date slaughtered
 - 5. Best before date
 - 6. Weight
 - 7. Grade
 - 8. Brand
 - 9. Processing plant
 - 10. Delivery date

XIV. Appeal Process and Mediation

The certifying agent may mediate any dispute with respect to denial of certification or proposed suspension or revocation of certification as defined under these standards at the request of the applicant. Mediation shall be requested in writing to the certifying agent. If the certifying agent rejects the request for mediation, the certifying agent shall provide written notification to the applicant for certification or certified operation. The written notification shall advise the applicant for certification or certified operation of the right to request an appeal within 30 days of the date of the written notification of rejection of the request for mediation.

If the certifying agent accepts mediation, a qualified mediator, mutually agreed upon by the parties to the mediation, shall conduct such mediation. The parties to the mediation shall have no more than 30 days to reach an agreement following a mediation session. If mediation is unsuccessful, the applicant for certification or certified operation shall have 30 days from the termination of mediation to appeal the certifying agent's decision. Any agreement reached during or as a result of the mediation process shall be in compliance with the standards and these regulations.