

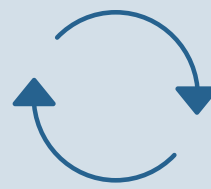
The Sustainable and Ethical Practices of the Down and Feather Industry A Global Assessment of Industry Statistics and Practices

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Global Production and Traceability

- _ Over 99.5% of the global feather production is a byproduct of the food industry, with less than 0.5% coming from live geese, according to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).
- _ More than a byproduct, down and feather is also a waste product of the global food industry that is cleaned and sanitized to be used in bedding, clothing, and outdoor gear.
- _ Farms raise ducks and geese for their meat, not for the procurement of down and feather. The global down and feather supply chain involves rigorous traceability audits to monitor and uphold ethical sourcing practices.



Sustainability and Environmental Impact

- _ Down and feather positively contributes to the overall sustainability of the planet as the materials are recyclable, bio-degradable, and environmentally friendly – no resources go to waste or end up in landfills.
- _ Derived from nature, down and feather fill are a fully renewable resource, unlike synthetic fill materials.
- _ A recent global life cycle assessment study conducted by Long Trail Sustainability showed that down fill material has 85% to 97% lower environmental impacts across all relevant categories including Human Health, Environmental Resources, Ecosystems, Cumulative Energy Demand, and Climate Change, when compared to polyester fill.



Animal Welfare and Procurement

_ Organizations such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the European Union, set standards to ensure ethical treatment of animals raised for food. Similarly, regions like the United States and China have established strict animal welfare regulations.

_ To qualify for memberships in industry organizations, down and feather manufacturers and wholesalers must sign pledges committing to uphold animal welfare regulations within the global food and agriculture industry.

As an organization, IDFB supports the ethical treatment of animals and firmly opposes the illegal harvesting of down or feathers from live birds. IDFB supports its many members that promote traceability programs and ethical treatment of animal pledges. All IDFB members, including trade associations across Europe, Asia, and America, adhere to standards ensuring the ethical treatment of birds.