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Kosher status of specific birds and animals

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In response to questions posed by Rabbi Yosef Grossman, Rav Belsky wrote the following regarding the *kashrus* of certain questionable birds and animals:

Buffalo

It is a European species which is *mutar*. Brought in *Shulchan Aruch* Y.D. 28:14.

Bison

An American species which is *ma'alei geirah* and *mafris parsa* but has no *mesorah*. The *Pri Megadim*¹ says that animals don't need a *mesorah* and therefore this animal is okay. *Chazon Ish* had a *chiddush* in a personal letter to require *mesorah* for animals but the universal opinion is to be lenient.

Pheasant

Some communities have *mesorah* and some didn't eat it; it was a big issue in Europe. Keep away from it unless clarity of general *mesorah* is established.

Muscovy Duck

Commonly considered *assur*.

Mallard Duck

Keep away from it. Most *Poskim assur* and the *matirim* give weak reasons.

Guinea Fowl

Many *teshuvos* were written about it but most were negative.

Peacock

I never heard of a reliable *mesorah* for Peacock. Should be investigated.

Quail

Okay; common *mesorah*. [Some say that there are subspecies sans-*mesorah*].

Grasshoppers

*Rashi*² says not to eat them and therefore we don't. *Taimanim* do eat certain grasshoppers but the OU doesn't provide *kashrus* specifically for *Taimanim*.

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ר' חשרי תשס"ד לפ"ק

¹ *Pri Megadim* (S.D.) 80:1.

² *Rashi, Vayikra* 11:21.