

Animal Welfare Policy



Animal welfare is a priority for our business and we are committed to working with our suppliers to ensure the health and well-being of all animals reared to produce products for our business. By doing so we aim to ensure we supply the best quality products from fully traceable supply chains.

Products covered by this policy include beef, pork, lamb, poultry, farmed fish, dairy, and eggs sourced from all geographical locations. We will aim to ensure that we work only with suppliers who are aligned to our welfare policies.



Our policy supports the Five Freedoms proposed by the UK Farm Animal Welfare Council:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- Freedom from discomfort by appropriate environment including shelter and comfortable resting area.
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- Freedom to express normal behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and care which avoid mental suffering.

Our goals are as follows:

- We will not sell any products that cannot be produced in compliance with the Five Freedoms, such as foie gras and white veal.
- We will avoid meat, dairy, and eggs from animals kept in close confinement systems.
 - For eggs, we will work towards a free-range egg policy.
 - For pork, we will work towards a gestation crate-free policy.
- We will not permit the use of meat from genetically modified (GM) or cloned animals or their progeny or descendants.
- We will aim to review the use of GM feed in our supply chain and eliminate where possible.
- We will not permit the use of growth-promoting substances or prophylactic antibiotics.
- We aim to ensure our producers use antibiotics as sparingly as possible without compromising animal welfare.
- Routine mutilations will not be permitted. Where necessary, effective pain control must be used.
- Animals must be subject to pre-slaughter stunning.
- Long distance live transportation must be avoided unless in exceptional circumstances.

In creating this policy, we have referenced information from organisations such as the **Business Benchmark for Animal Welfare (BBFAW)**, **Compassion in World Farming (CIWF)**, **Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)**, and **Humane Society International (HSI)** to ensure that we are striving for industry best practice.

Compliance to this policy will be monitored by Company buyers and Technical teams via the company supplier approval process.

This policy will be reviewed annually.