



ALDI UK
Animal Welfare Policies and Performance



Position Statement

ALDI UK is part of the ALDI SOUTH Group.

“The ALDI SOUTH Group of Companies conducts its business according to the principle of corporate responsibility. In all we do we assume responsibility towards our customers, business partners, employees, the community, and the environment.”

(Source: *Corporate Responsibility Principles of the ALDI SOUTH Group*)

Our Approach

Sustainable buying practices are essential for the long-term success of our business. We take responsibility for the resources used in the production of our products across our UK supply chains. Our aspiration is that all our products are made in a sustainable way, considering environmental and ethical criteria, including animal welfare – from raw materials to final production.

Animal welfare is an important part of being a responsible business and we are committed to high standards of welfare for animals used in both our food and non-food products. We believe that a model of continuous improvement is the most appropriate route towards delivery of our animal welfare goals.

Underlying our Animal Welfare Policies are the following ‘Five Freedoms’ as set out by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC):

Freedom from Hunger and Thirst - ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

Freedom from Discomfort - by providing an 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 animals own kind.

Freedom from Fear and Distress - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Beyond these foundation requirements, ALDI also believe that animals, being sentient beings, should experience positive emotional health, reflected as a minimum in a life worth living and wherever possible a good life.

The ALDI UK Animal Welfare Policies apply to all of our own-label food and non-food products sold in the UK, irrespective of tier, geography or species.

Animal Welfare Management and Monitoring

We work hard to ensure that all animals are treated fairly and provided with the highest welfare standards.

Our People

We have a dedicated team within our UK Corporate Responsibility (CR) Department for animal welfare and work closely with our specialist veterinary consultants, The Evidence Group, and our suppliers. Our team are experts in their area having completed academic training at University. They also hold existing certificates for the Animal Welfare Officer training course at Bristol University or equivalent per species (i.e. Fish Health and Welfare course at Stirling University). To further their development, they attend industry events and roundtables, and represent the British Retail Consortium (BRC) on Industry Boards such as the Red Tractor and the Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) Industry Consultation Group.

To support our Buying teams, our animal welfare team provide training on animal welfare topics and the respective Buying Directors are informed on the status of policy implementation on a regular basis (at least annually).



Certification

Primarily we support animal welfare through certification schemes such as Red Tractor, Quality Meat Scotland and RSPCA Assured and have our own animal welfare standards that go over and above legal requirements. All of our own label fresh primary meat is Red Tractor, QMS Assured or RSPCA Assured and audited at least annually by these certification schemes. In addition we have the ALDI Animal Welfare Policies.

Our aim is to source 100% of our Specially Selected fresh primary eggs, poultry and pork as RSPCA Assured. We have increased the number of RSPCA Assured products we sell year on year so that we now have over 100 products across our range. We regularly review our range to identify further opportunities for RSPCA Assured products. You can find out more about our commitment to RSPCA Assured products and recipe inspiration at <https://www.rspcaassured.org.uk/where-to-buy/aldi/>.

Our Suppliers

While our International Position Statement describes the position of the ALDI SOUTH Group as a whole, our national UK Buying Policies constitute binding documents for our buyers and suppliers, and form essential elements of our purchasing contracts.

Our animal welfare requirements form part of the contractual agreement between ALDI and suppliers at the time business is awarded. We expect all of our suppliers to adhere to these standards and apply them to all sub-suppliers throughout the entire production process. Our suppliers are required to inform us if they are not compliant with any of our requirements or have a non-compliance or audit failure. Where instances of non-compliance with our policies are detected, suppliers are expected to provide a corrective action plan to resolve the violations and demonstrate that these steps have adequately addressed non-compliances with an independent audit.

We require our suppliers to ensure traceability of raw materials back to their origin. Upon request, the supplier must be able to provide information on the entire value chain on the basis of product labelling.

We expect all our suppliers to provide adequate training to all individuals involved with the direct handling of animals throughout the supply chain. ALDI have regular meetings and conferences with suppliers to support on animal welfare policies. Throughout the last 12 months we have hosted farmers in our Atherstone and Bathgate distribution centres where our team have given them an insight into the Aldi supply chain and discussed future opportunities and challenges for animal welfare.

As required, we conduct our own audits in order to verify adherence with our policies or entrust third-party service providers with this task.

Policy Review

For International Animal Welfare Policies there is an International Working Group on Animal Welfare, which comprises of Corporate Responsibility Managers from the individual ALDI SOUTH countries and is chaired by the Corporate Responsibility International (CRI) department. This Working Group is responsible for further development of our strategic approach at an international level. Proposals for updates of our international approach are approved within the scope of the International Committee Managing Directors Buying:

Figure 1: Policy Development and Implementation for the ALDI South Group





The UK Animal Welfare Policies in their current version are assessed and, if required, updated on an annual basis. This is the only way to guarantee the long-term sustainable and responsible sourcing of our animal-based products. We develop our policies in conjunction with The Evidence Group and through supplier consultations.

ALDI UK seeks further advice to improve our policies through external benchmarking (such as BFAW and CIWF), competitor benchmarking, customer research, research and development projects and through close relationships with welfare and farming organisations (page 14).

Research and development is primarily conducted through the ALDI Dairy Farm Partnership (page 9), which includes a group of dedicated UK dairy farmers. This group meet Arla UK 360 farm standards which go beyond Red Tractor standards.

UK Achievements and Targets

- 100% of our Everyday fresh meat and milk is British and Red Tractor assured in England.
- 100% of our Scottish Everyday Red Meat is QMS Assured.
- 100% of our shell eggs are British and meet British Lion Standards. All of our free range eggs are RSPCA Assured or Organic. We are committed to sourcing 100% of our shell eggs from cage-free supply chains by 2025 at the latest.
- In 2018, we were the 2nd largest retailer of RSPCA Assured products, and 1st for RSPCA Assured chicken by volume.
- 100% of our farmed fish is certified to one of the following standards; Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), GLOBAL G.A.P., Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) (2* or above); or is certified to organic standards.
- We've become one of the few UK supermarkets to guarantee that all of our own brand household and beauty product ranges are not tested on animals.
- We offer organic products and other better welfare product options within the areas of meat, poultry, egg, and dairy products, and ensure that these products are recognisable by providing corresponding information on the packaging, in our stores, and in our advertising materials.
- We offer our customers vegetarian and vegan products as alternatives to animal-based products and continuously review our product range. The respective products are labelled accordingly to ensure that they are recognisable for consumers.

Welfare Reporting

The ALDI SOUTH Group collects animal welfare information annually for the following;

International Goal	UK Performance 2018
100% Cage-Free Shell Eggs by 2025	67%
Offer higher welfare or organic options for own label fresh meat, poultry, egg and milk	11.9% (79 products)

We record welfare outcome data and antibiotic usage from our fresh pork and chicken suppliers monthly, and fresh milk suppliers annually. We require these suppliers to submit data through our welfare reporting platform, managed by The Evidence Group. The ALDI UK CR team assess progress quarterly with The Evidence Group, it is reviewed against the industry benchmark and performance is communicated to the business. We work collaboratively with our suppliers to take action when targets are not met. Find our latest animal welfare performance on page 12.

Non-Food Policies

Animal testing

It is our policy in the UK that all own label cosmetics, toiletries and household products and their ingredients must not be tested on animals. For cosmetics and toiletries, products must not have been tested from a fixed cut-off date of 11 March 2013 and 01 January 2015 for household and cleaning products.

We've become one of the few supermarkets in the UK to guarantee that all of our own brand household and beauty product ranges are not tested on animals. We received the Leaping Bunny certification from Cruelty Free International and, as a result, all own-brand products in these categories will feature the organisation's globally-recognised Leaping Bunny symbol.



Leaping Bunny is the only globally recognised certification for cosmetics, personal care and household cleaning products which demonstrates a genuine commitment to no animal testing within a company's own-brand products.

Find out more about ALDI's Animal Testing Policy here: <https://www.aldi.co.uk/cruelty-free-accredited>.

Down, Feather and Wool

Angora wool from the Angora rabbit is not permitted in any of our products.

We prohibit the sourcing of merino and fine wool products from sheep that have been 'mulesed'. Mulesing is a surgical procedure that removes the skin around the tail of the sheep to prevent flystrike.

Feather and down must be sourced from suppliers that meet the guidelines under the Responsible Down Standard (RDS).

Feather and down cannot be sourced from birds that have been force fed, e.g. for the production of foie gras.

Feathers, wool, cashmere or mohair must not be obtained from the live plucking of animals.

Exotic Animals

ALDI products must not contain leather or skins from endangered or threatened species or from wild caught or exotic animals.

Fur

We do not allow the use of real fur in our products. Any products containing fake fur are tested by our technical service providers.

Leather

Any leather product used in ALDI own-label products must be a by-product from the meat industry and cannot be obtained from live skinning or boiling of animals.

All suppliers of leather products must be a member of the Leather Working Group and its associated guidelines. Suppliers must work collaboratively with the ALDI team to agree a process that monitors the provenance of leather and skin products from farm through to finished product in order to ensure the welfare of the animal at every stage.

Food Policies (General)

The ALDI UK Animal Welfare Policies reflect our minimum requirements, which we strive to exceed wherever possible. We expect all our suppliers and business partners to adhere to these standards, which form part of our contractual relationships. Our suppliers and business partners are expected to apply these standards to all sub-suppliers throughout the entire production process.

Animal Cloning

ALDI products must not be sourced from cloned animals or their offspring. Cloning is a process that produces genetically identical individuals without genetic modification. Whilst products from cloned animals have been found safe for human consumption, there are major concerns about the welfare of these animals and their progeny. Cloning is controlled under EU regulation.

Scope: All own label and branded food products.

Animal Welfare Training

ALDI UK sets out the following requirements for our suppliers:

- The animal welfare manager on a site must have received training from a recognised authority (e.g. the City and Guilds Award in Basic Stockmanship and Welfare).
- All staff involved in handling animals must have received training from the certified manager.

Scope: All own label fresh primary core & seasonal eggs, milk, poultry & pork.

Antibiotics

Antibiotics are used to treat, control and prevent disease in farm animals. ALDI believes that antibiotic use in animal medicine, when applied responsibly, promotes good animal welfare. We therefore support the need to protect antimicrobial medicines and reduce the threat of antibiotic resistance to human health.



That's why ALDI is a sponsor of the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA), a collective of interested parties across the food supply chain. We are also part of the Food Industry Initiative on Antimicrobials (FIIA) which has the stated vision of 'Retailers, manufacturers, processors and food service companies coming together to promote and support responsible antimicrobial use and action on antimicrobial resistance'.

ALDI UK suppliers should be working with their producers towards a rational reduction in the use of antibiotics within agriculture. Reduction in quantities should be implemented within the constraints of long-term sustainability. For example, through practices that reduce the number of animals requiring treatment rather than decreasing the dosage or period of treatment. As part of this process, it is expected that suppliers are actively working towards, and have a documented strategy. This strategy should be available to the ALDI Corporate Responsibility team on request and within seven days of notice and should cover the following:

1. Farming systems to prevent disease should be put in place through herd health planning including:
 - a. Biosecurity protocols, to prevent the introduction of novel infections to the herd/flock.
 - b. Reduction or eradication of endemic disease via changes to farm infrastructure and management strategies.
2. Quantities of antibiotics used should be monitored at an individual farm level, and in the longer term, at group level or the individual animal.
3. A clinical diagnosis should be made before antibiotics are applied.
4. Avoidance of prophylactic antimicrobial usage. Prophylaxis is only permitted under the direct instruction of a veterinary surgeon, and producers must retain a record as to why prophylaxis was necessary, and have a management strategy on how to prevent future prophylaxis.
5. Proportionate metaphylactic usage. Only close in-contact animals at high risk of developing disease should be treated.
6. Use of antimicrobials identified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as 'highest priority critically important' to human medicine can only be used on an individual animal basis and where strong evidence exists that other therapies would have poor efficacy. These classes include 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and long-acting modern macrolides.

Scope: All Everyday and Seasonal own label fresh milk, fresh primary pork and chicken products.

Assurance Standards

Red Tractor and Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) standards provide independent certification of animal welfare standards and are audited by a third party. As a minimum, in the UK, all of our everyday fresh meat and milk is Red Tractor certified. Compliance with these standards is verified by a regular Red Tractor audit. Suppliers must notify us of any compliance issues or audit failures.

All of our eggs are 100% British and certified to meet British Lion Standards.

All farms supplying ALDI UK with meat, poultry or dairy products may be subject to announced or unannounced audits by ALDI UK or our chosen third-party technical service provider.

Scope: All own label fresh eggs, milk, poultry and pork.

We also sell a number of higher welfare products including free-range, RSPCA Assured and Organic. In 2018 we were the second largest UK retailer of RSPCA Assured products, which includes our eggs, chicken, turkey, pork and salmon. RSPCA Assured products guarantee the animals in our product supply chains have been independently checked to meet the RSPCA's strict standards of high animal welfare, including space to roam, stimulating environments and well cared for, healthy animals.

Scope: All own label Specially Selected fresh primary eggs, chicken and pork.

Product	Farm Standard	Product Scope
Beef	Red Tractor/ QMS Scotch Beef	All fresh primary beef/Scottish Everyday Beef
Lamb	Red Tractor/ QMS Scotch lamb	All fresh primary lamb/Scottish Everyday Lamb
Chicken	Red Tractor plus additional ALDI Animal Welfare Policy: access to natural light and environmental enrichment.	All fresh primary chicken
	RSPCA Assured Free Range	All Specially Selected fresh primary chicken



Pork	Red Tractor	All fresh primary pork
	RSPCA Assured Outdoor Bred	Specially Selected fresh primary pork
	Specially Selected SSPCA Assured	Scottish Everyday Pork
Laying Hens	British Lion Code	All fresh shell eggs
	RSPCA Assured Free Range	All fresh free range shell eggs
	Organic	All fresh organic shell eggs
Dairy	Red Tractor	All fresh liquid milk
	Organic	All organic milk
Farmed Fish	ASC, GLOBAL G.A.P, BAP 2* or Organic	All fresh, frozen and canned farmed fish

CCTV

All abattoirs supplying ALDI UK with meat must have a CCTV system in place that covers all areas of the abattoir where live animals are being held and handled, including the stunning and slaughter area. CCTV footage must be reviewed regularly by an employee in a management level position responsible for animal welfare and/or external auditing agency and used as a training and management tool for all employees handling live animals. In line with government legislation, the CCTV equipment must be capable of recording legible time and date stamped images. These images need to be stored for a period of 3 months.

Scope: All own label products containing dairy, poultry & meat.

Country of Origin

All own label fresh everyday and seasonal eggs, milk, poultry and meat must be sourced from the UK all year round, including lamb.

Scope: All own label fresh Everyday and Seasonal products containing eggs, dairy, poultry & meat.

Confinement

We require all own label fresh milk, poultry and meat to be Red Tractor certified as a minimum. We source a number of RSPCA Assured chicken, pork, eggs and fish products. In 2018, we were the second largest retailer of RSPCA Assured products, which means that animals have greater space to roam and express natural behaviours. We have the following policies and goals for confinement systems:

Confinement	Position	UK Performance
Cage-Free Eggs	100% of our shell eggs will be cage-free by 2025.	67% Cage-free shell eggs
Farrowing Crates	We offer a range of Specially Selected fresh primary pork that is outdoor bred and RSPCA Assured. These standards do not allow farrowing crates. ALDI UK is keen to work with Red Tractor pork suppliers to remove the requirement to confine sows during the farrowing period.	Fresh primary pork
Finfish - Stocking Density	All of our Specially Selected fresh farmed salmon is RSPCA Assured which ensures lower stocking densities.	100% Specially Selected fresh farmed salmon
Force-Feeding	ALDI products must not be sourced from birds that have been force fed e.g. foie gras.	100% No force-feeding
Single Penning	Red Tractor dairy standards require calves to have visual and tactile contact with other calves and to be group housed after 8 weeks of age. All calves must be able to see and touch other calves at all times. Additionally, we work with a group of British dairy farmers who achieve the Arla UK 360 standards. As part of these standards, calves must be moved into group accommodation by 7 days and by an absolute maximum of 21 days of age.	100% British fresh milk from farms that group house calves by 8 weeks 20% British fresh milk from farms that group house calves by 21 days
Sow Stalls	All of our Everyday and Specially Selected fresh primary pork is 100% British and therefore ban the use of sow stalls.	100% British pork free from sow stalls



Tethering	Tethering of cattle is not permitted in our UK supply chain, which is audited through Red Tractor standards.	100% British fresh milk free from tethering
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Environmental Enrichment

Environmental enrichment is the process of providing stimulating environments for animals in order for them to demonstrate their species-typical behaviour and to enhance their well-being.

For our own label Everyday and Seasonal fresh primary chicken, we go above industry standard. We require all chickens to be provided with appropriate environmental enrichment. Suitable enrichment must include access to natural light, pecking objects and bales.

Scope: All own label products containing eggs, dairy, poultry & meat.

Rooting is a natural behaviour that pigs will spend a large amount of time doing if given the opportunity. The provision of suitable manipulable material will ensure these needs are met and reduce the risk of displacement behaviours such as tail biting. Therefore our aspiration is that all sows and finishing pigs must have access to suitable quantities of straw to allow them to perform their natural rooting behaviours. Due to their strong nest building instinct, sows and gilts must also be provided with straw as a nesting material, for the 7 days prior to farrowing.

Scope: All own label fresh primary Everyday & Seasonal pork.

Farm Management Practices

We prohibit the castration of pigs and of mulesing of lambs. ALDI aspire to prohibit routine farm practices for animals but understands the farm management challenges this would incur. We work with our suppliers to manage welfare issues surrounding routine farm practices such as teeth clipping, nose ringing and tail docking for pigs, de-budding for cattle and beak trimming for hens. Suppliers must agree with the ALDI CR team, a programme that manages the welfare issues surrounding routine mutilations.

Confinement	Position	UK Performance 2018
Beak trimming	All of our organic shell eggs are sourced from hens that have not been beak trimmed. We aspire to prohibit the routine farm practices used for all laying hens, such as beak trimming, and ask that our suppliers work to find an alternative solution.	100% Fresh organic shell eggs free from beak trimming
Branding	Dairy cattle must not be hot branded or identified by dewlap tags.	100% Fresh milk
Castration	Pigs: The castration of pigs by physical or chemical means is prohibited for all own label fresh primary pork. Cattle/Lambs: 100% of our own label fresh beef and lamb is British and Red Tractor Assured. Red Tractor has specific standards in place for the type of castration according to age of animal, the operator and anaesthetic needed.	100% Fresh primary pork free from castration
Disbudding / Dehorning	Dairy: Where farm practices such as de-budding are used animals must be provided with both pain relief (i.e. NSAIDs) as well as local anaesthetic. 100% of our own label fresh beef is British and Red Tractor Assured. Red Tractor has specific standards in place for the type of disbudding or dehorning according to age of animal, the operator and anaesthetic needed.	100% Fresh milk 100% Fresh Everyday primary beef
Mulesing	We do not permit mulesing.	100% lamb free from mulesing
Tail Docking	Cattle: Routine tail docking is not permitted under EU legislation and therefore not permitted in the UK. Pigs: We offer a range of Specially Selected fresh primary pork which is outdoor bred and accredited to RSPCA Assured standards. These standards do not allow tail docking, unless a derogation is given by RSPCA and vet approval.	100% British fresh milk free from tail docking.



Genetic Modification

We understand that genetically modified (GM) food is a sensitive issue for our customers. GM ingredients and derivatives are not permitted in our own label meat, eggs and milk. Current scientific evidence and the position of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) states: “there is no reason to suppose GM feed presents any more risk to farmed livestock than conventional feed. Animals fed on authorised GM crops are considered to be as safe as animals fed on non-GM crops.” As a result, we do not prohibit the use of GM ingredients in animal feed. All of our Organic certified products, including eggs and milk, are free from GM animal feed.

Scope: All own label products.

Growth Promoters

The use of growth promoting substances (hormonal or antibiotic) is not permitted for ALDI own label meat, poultry or dairy products.

Scope: All own label and branded products containing eggs, dairy, poultry & meat.

Force Feeding

The force feeding of birds is not permitted e.g. foie gras.

Scope: All own label products.

Pre-Stun Slaughter

To avoid unnecessary suffering, all farmed meat and poultry in our own-label products are required to be pre-stunned so that the animal is unconscious and insensible to pain at the point of slaughter. Alternative methods to electrical stunning should be considered for chicken and pigs. Gas stunning mitigates the risk of animals, due to varying levels of resistance, receiving an inadequate electrical current level that will not cause insensibility before slaughter. Aldi observes the ongoing development in pig stunning.

Scope: 100% of own label products originate from animals that are pre-stunned.

Slower Growing Breeds

All ALDI UK Specially Selected fresh primary chicken must be of a slower growing breed and free range.

Scope: All own label Specially Selected fresh primary chicken.

Transport

Livestock transport and movements can be stressful to animals and should be kept to a minimum. All livestock transport time for all journeys must not exceed more than 8 hours from the first animal loaded to last animal unloaded.

The number of movements between distinct holdings within an animal’s lifetime must not exceed 4, for all animals used in ALDI UK products. Animals must not be transported live outside of the UK.

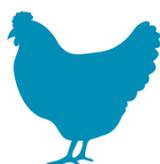
Scope: All own label fresh eggs, milk, meat and poultry.

Suppliers submit their transport times on a monthly basis to our animal welfare partner, The Evidence Group.

Scope: All own label fresh chicken and pork.

Species	Travel Time Policy	UK Performance 2018
Beef	< 8 hours	All fresh primary beef
Lamb		All fresh primary lamb
Chicken		All fresh primary chicken
Pork		All fresh primary pork
Dairy		All fresh milk

Food Policies (Product Specific)



Chicken

All of our Everyday fresh primary chicken 100% British and is Red Tractor certified as a minimum. Suppliers are audited at least once a year by Red Tractor and we meet with our chicken suppliers on a regular basis to discuss topics including animal welfare.

In addition to Red Tractor certification, we have the ALDI UK animal welfare policies.

Here we require all our Everyday fresh primary chicken is provided with appropriate environmental enrichment that allows them to perform natural behaviours of pecking, dustbathing and perching. Environmental enrichment therefore includes windows for natural light, pecking objects and straw bales.

For our Specially Selected fresh primary chicken, this is 100% British and RSPCA Assured Free Range. In 2018 we were proud to sell the highest volume of RSPCA Assured chicken compared to any other UK retailer. Our RSPCA Assured Free Range chicken have lower stocking densities of 30kg/m², slower growing breeds and have access to pasture.

We work with our suppliers and The Evidence Group to collate welfare outcome measures from farms and abattoirs supplying ALDI UK. Every month this data is submitted by the suppliers and is reviewed every quarter by our CR team and The Evidence Group. The KPIs measured are:

- Leg Culls (Culling due to lameness)
- Total Mortality (Died on farm)
- Dead on Arrival
- Culled on Arrival
- PMI Rejects (Birds where the whole carcass was rejected post slaughter)
- Hock Burn
- Pododermatitis (also referred to as Foot Pad Burn)
- Stocking Density
- Transport Times (from the first chickens loaded on farm to the last chickens unloaded at abattoir).



Eggs

All our shell eggs are sourced from the UK and certified to meet British Lion Standards, which includes strict measure on traceability, welfare, feed, temperature and hygiene. We sell a range of free range eggs and eggs certified to higher welfare standards including RSPCA Assured and Organic. Here, hens have more room to roam, access to pasture when weather and ground conditions permit and stimulating environments,

such as straw and objects to peck at.

We are committed to sourcing 100% of our own-label fresh shell eggs from cage-free hens by 2025. We are working with our suppliers to make this transition. In 2018, 67% of our egg sales were cage-free.

We aspire to prohibit the routine farm practices used for laying hens, such as beak trimming, and ask that our suppliers work to find an alternative solution.



Dairy

All of our fresh milk is British and Red Tractor or Organic certified. Our Organic milk is independently certified to meet the Soil Association's high standards of animal welfare, with plenty of space and access to pasture when weather and ground conditions permit.

100% our fresh milk is sourced from dairy cows that are free from tethering and must not be hot branded or identified by dewlap tags.

We aspire to prohibit routine practices of dairy cows such as de-budding but understand the farm management challenges this would incur. Our suppliers must work with their farmers and our animal welfare partner to agree a programme that manages the welfare issues surrounding routine farm practices. Where farm practices such as de-budding are used, the animal must be given pain relief as well as anaesthetic.

Historically, dairy bull calves were often seen as a by-product of the dairy industry and could be culled on farm or exported out of the UK. It is our policy that no dairy calves can be transported live outside of the UK and instead of culling dairy calves our suppliers must work with their farmers to ensure there are alternative options. While it is no longer a common practice on UK dairy farms, our key dairy supplier Arla Foods has taken the decision that the euthanasia or slaughter of healthy calves before 8 weeks of age will no longer be permitted on any of their supplying dairy farms, from 31 December 2020.

We also promote leading animal welfare through our ALDI Dairy Farm Partnership, which we launched in 2018. This programme is designed to support a dedicated group of British dairy farmers to achieve Arla UK 360 farm standards which encourages leading animal welfare requirements.

Figure 2: Arla UK 360 Farm Standards



The Arla UK 360 farm standards go above industry standards for animal welfare as they require;

- The farm to be open to unannounced visits at any time.
- Every farm must install CCTV – as a minimum in the close-care pen, calving pen and parlour – where indoors.
- Every farm must supply welfare outcome measures every quarter to an online platform (e.g. cow and calf mortality, culling, calf still births, lameness, physical comfort, cleanliness, body condition and mastitis).
- All prophylactic use of antibiotics is prohibited.
- All medicine purchases and usage must be recorded via an electronic medicine book.
- All disbudding to be carried out on all animals born on farm before 21 days of age, if the developing horn bud can be identified, using local anaesthetic and pain relief.
- All bull calves that are to be castrated must be castrated within 7 days of age, using a rubber band and pain relief.
- The farm must be engaged in active disease eradication programmes such as BVD and Johnes.
- No healthy calf born on the holding to be euthanised, exported or slaughtered within the first 8 weeks of life.
- All calves must be able to see and touch other calves at all times. They must be moved into group accommodation as soon as possible.
- Lactating cull cows must travel directly to slaughter and must not be sold in livestock markets.

Farm audits are carried out annually by third party auditors and all farms are involved in Arla's benchmarking groups to drive continuous improvement and ensure target outcome measures are met by all farms.

Alongside the key measures, the ALDI Dairy Farm Partnership looks at development projects to address key issues facing the industry. Some of our farmers are trialling 3D imagery systems to help them identify changes in each cow's physical wellbeing, mobility and weight even before they are visible to the human eye.

We also work with our farmers each year during Open Farm Sunday. This gives consumers a chance to see all the incredible work that goes on around UK farms.

For all of our fresh liquid milk suppliers we collate welfare outcome measures from farms supplying ALDI UK. Annually this data is submitted by the suppliers and is reviewed by our CR team and The Evidence Group. The KPIs measured are:

- Number of Fully Housed Systems

- Milk Yield per Cow per Year
- Calving Interval
- Mobility
- Culling Rate
- Mastitis
- Cow Mortality
- Still Births
- Calves Died at 0-6 Weeks

Pigs



100% of our own label fresh Everyday pork is British and, as a minimum, Red Tractor certified. We also offer a range of RSPCA Assured outdoor bred pork in our Specially Selected range. All of our Scottish Everyday Pork is Specially Selected SSPCA Assured.

100% of our British pork is free from sow stalls and we ask our suppliers to work on a programme to investigate commercially viable alternatives to the use of farrowing crates.

The castration of pigs by physical or chemical means is prohibited in all our fresh primary pork. We aspire to prohibit all farm mutilations and our suppliers must agree a programme that manages farm practices including tail docking, teeth clipping and nose ringing.

It is important that animals are able to demonstrate their natural behaviour to enhance their wellbeing. Rooting is a natural behaviour for pigs, so it is our aspiration that all pigs have access to suitable manipulable material in order to carry out this behaviour.

We work with our suppliers and The Evidence Group to collate welfare outcome measures from farms and abattoirs supplying ALDI UK. Every month this data is submitted by the suppliers and is reviewed every quarter by our CR team and The Evidence Group. The KPIs measured are:

- Lameness
- Dead on Arrival
- Lairage Deaths
- Multiple Slap Marks
- Tail Biting
- Hernias and Abscesses
- Body Lesions
- Pneumonia
- Pleurisy
- Pericarditis
- White Spot
- Transport Times (from the first pigs loaded on farm to the last chickens unloaded at abattoir).

Beef and Lamb



100% of our own label Everyday fresh primary beef and lamb is British and Red Tractor Assured. The majority of our Specially Selected fresh beef originates from the native breed Aberdeen Angus and has been certified by the Aberdeen Angus Society <https://www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk/>. As part of their certification scheme we work closely with Identigen <https://www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk/> and DNA swab every carcass at the abattoir so we can trace back to 100% Angus Pedigree sire. All of our Scottish Everyday beef is QMS Assured Scotch Beef.

In addition, ALDI UK are proud to partner with The Prince's Countryside Fund to provide vital support to farming communities over the next 3 years. We are supporting the Fund's flagship initiative, The Prince's Farm Resilience Programme, so that family beef and sheep farms across the UK can be offered free business skills training and advice.

Rabbit



We do not use rabbit meat in any of our products including pet food.



Welfare Performance

Outcome measures are about measuring the effect of farming systems on the health, physical condition and behaviour of animals, with the aim of improving animal welfare directly and efficiently.

We record welfare outcome data and antibiotic usage from our fresh pork and chicken suppliers monthly, and fresh milk suppliers annually. We require these suppliers to submit data through our welfare reporting platform, managed by The Evidence Group. The ALDI UK CR team assess progress quarterly with The Evidence Group, it is reviewed against the industry benchmark and performance is communicated to the business. We work collaboratively with our suppliers to take action when targets are not met.

Pigs

Figure 3: Pig Outcome Measures 2018 - Tail Biting



Figure 4: Pig Outcome Measures 2018 - Lameness

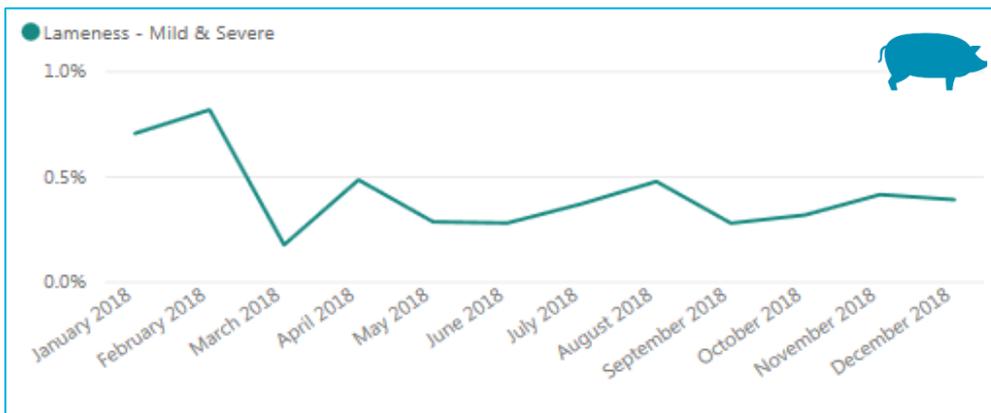
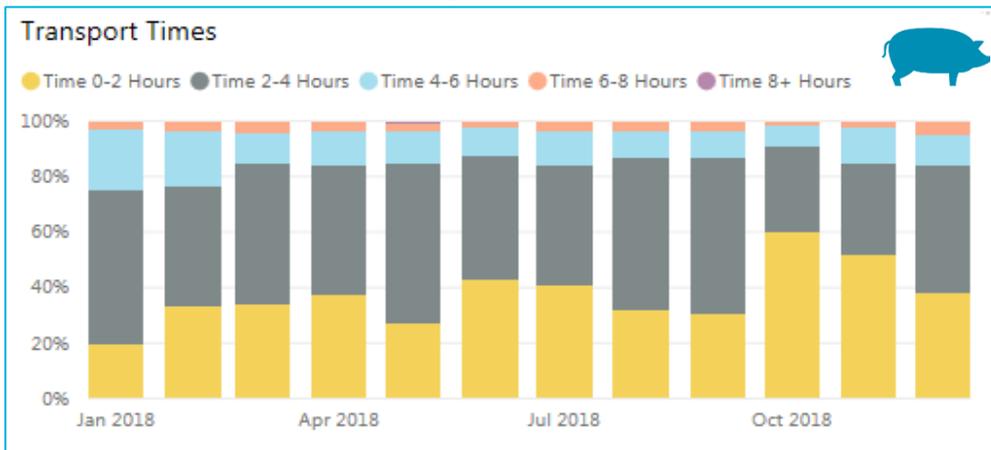


Figure 5: Pig Outcome Measures 2018 - Transport Times





Chicken

Figure 6: Chicken Outcome Measures 2018 - Total Mortality



Figure 7: Chicken Outcome Measures 2018 - Leg Culls

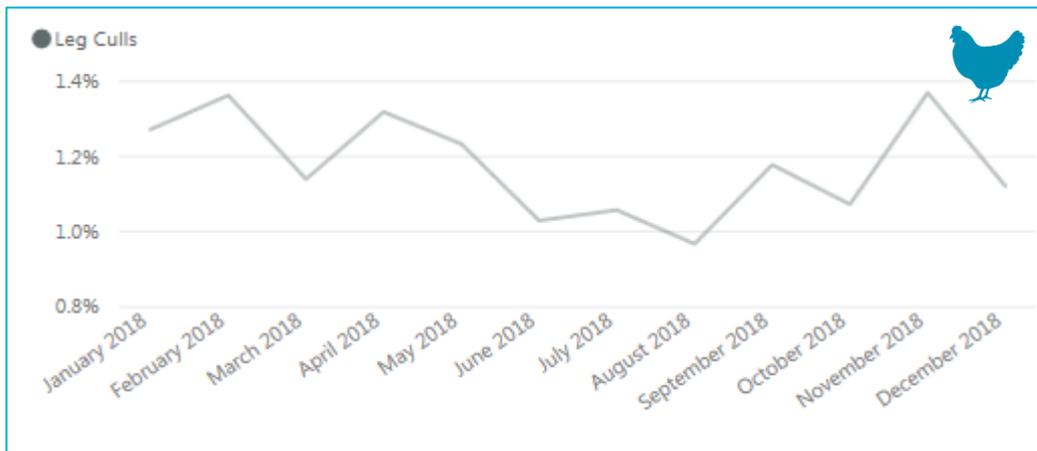


Figure 8: Chicken Outcome Measures 2018 - Dead on Arrival





Industry Involvement

We are proud to work and engage with a number of organisations:

- Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board ([AHDB](#))
- Aquaculture Stewardship Council ([ASC](#))
- Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare ([BBFAW](#))
- British Egg Industry Council ([BEIC](#))
- [British Lion Eggs](#)
- British Poultry Council ([BPC](#))
- Compassion in World Farming ([CIWF](#))
- [Cruelty Free International](#)
- Food Industry Initiative on Antimicrobials (FIIA)
- Global Aquaculture Alliance ([GAA](#))
- [GLOBAL G.A.P](#)
- Linking Farming and the Environment ([LEAF](#))
- Marine Conservation Society ([MCS](#))
- Marine Stewardship Council ([MSC](#))
- National Farmers Union ([NFU](#)) and National Farmers Union Scotland ([NFUS](#))
- National Pig Association ([NPA](#))
- Quality Meat Scotland ([QMS](#))
- [Red Tractor](#)
- Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance ([RUMA](#))
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ([RSPCA](#))
- [RSPCA Assured](#)
- Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ([SSPCA](#))
- [Soil Association](#)
- Waste and Resources Action Programme ([WRAP](#))
- World Wildlife Fund ([WWF](#))

Our ALDI UK CR Manager holds BRC positions on the Red Tractor Dairy Board and QMS Industry Consultation Group. This ensures that we can influence and input into the continuous improvement of these standards.

We partner with veterinary consultants The Evidence Group, fish and seafood experts Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and agricultural consultants Kite Consulting through our ALDI Dairy Farm Partnership.

Additionally, when required we input into industry and government consultations, such as the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Animal Welfare consultation in 2018).

Promoting Higher Animal Welfare

We are proud to promote animal welfare to our customers. We do this in a number of ways:

- **Website:** We talk about our animal welfare policies online and promote farm animal standards.
- **Open Farm Sunday:** ALDI supported 12 dairy farms to open their farms in June 2019, which gave consumers a fantastic opportunity to see animal welfare first-hand.
- **Agricultural Shows:** ALDI promotes animal welfare via our stand at the Royal Highland Show in Ingilston, Edinburgh.
- **ALDI Dairy Farm Partnership:** As part of the Arla UK 360 programme, all dairy farmers have to conduct 2 educational visits per year for children or their local community.
- **Princes Countryside Fund:** We also support farmers through our Sponsorship of the Princes Countryside Fund's - Farm Resilience Programme.
- **ALDI SpecialBuys Leaflet:** Our weekly leaflet regularly features higher animal welfare products, please see below:

