



ALDI Ireland

Animal Welfare Policies and Performance

Updated July 2021



Position Statement

ALDI Ireland 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 Irish 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.

In 2019, we launched the ALDI Ireland Farming Strategy which focuses on 3 areas: supporting Irish Agriculture, improving the welfare and health of animals and environmental enrichment. We plan to deliver our strategy by having strong policies in place, accurate data and meaningful relationships throughout our supply chains.

Figure 1: ALDI Ireland Farming Strategy



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 Ireland Animal Welfare Policies apply to all of our own-label and branded food and non-food products sold in the Republic of Ireland, 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 GB & IE 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 and 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 take part in roundtable discussions with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and Bord Bia.

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 Bord Bia and have our own animal welfare standards that go over and above legal requirements. All of our own-label fresh meat and poultry is Bord Bia assured and audited at least every 18 months. In addition we have the ALDI Animal Welfare Policies.

Our Suppliers

While our International Position Statement describes the position of the ALDI SOUTH Group as a whole, our national Ireland 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.

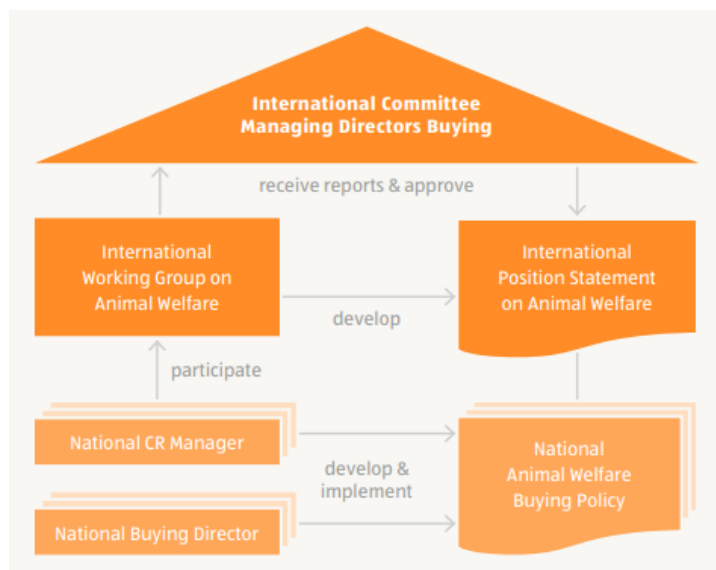
As required, we conduct our own audits in order to verify adherence with our policies or entrust third-party service providers with this task.

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 2: Policy Development and Implementation for the ALDI South Group



The Ireland 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 Ireland 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.

Ireland Achievements and Targets

- 100% of ALDI Everyday fresh meat and poultry is Irish and Bord Bia assured.
- 100% of our fresh milk is Irish and sourced from Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- We are committed to sourcing 100% of our shell eggs from cage-free supply chains by 2025 at the latest. And we aim to source 100% cage-free egg ingredients by 2025. Due to these commitments, ALDI has been awarded the Compassion in World Farming’s Good Egg Award in 2020.
- By the end of 2020 we aim for 100% of our farmed fish to be certified to one of the following standards; Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), 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 are one of the few Irish supermarkets to guarantee that all of our own-label household and beauty product ranges are not tested on animals.
- We offer organic products 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	IE Performance 2019	IE Performance 2020
100% Cage-free shell eggs by 2025	39% (% of Eggs Sold)	18% (%of Eggs Sold)
Offer higher welfare or organic options for own-label fresh meat, poultry, egg and milk	1.5% (% Share of Fresh Meat Products)	1.93% (% Share of Fresh Meat Products)



Non-Food Policies

Animal testing

It is our policy in Ireland 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 Ireland to guarantee that all of our own-label 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-label 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-label products.

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 Ireland 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 Ireland sets out the following requirements for our suppliers:



- The Animal Welfare Manager on site at abattoirs must hold a current certificate of competence EC 1099/2009.
- All personnel involved in live animal handling and management at the abattoir must have received training from the certified Animal Welfare Manager.

Scope: All suppliers of own-label fresh primary poultry & meat.

Antibiotics

Antibiotics are used to treat, control and reduce 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.

ALDI supports the principle that antimicrobials should be used 'as little as possible, but as much as necessary', in order to ensure the highest level of animal health & welfare is achieved across farms supplying ALDI.

We work with industry experts to support our policy development and engage with industry colleagues to share best practice.

ALDI supports the principles of the European Commission's Guidelines for the prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine (2015/C 299/04) and this policy is closely based around these principles.

ALDI accepts the current European Medicines Agency (EMA) Antimicrobial Advice ad hoc Expert Group (AMEG), categorisation of antibiotics.

Our Responsible Use of Antimicrobials Policy has the following requirements:

- **Risk Management:** Each farm supplying ALDI must have a health plan which should include:
 - Biosecurity protocols: to prevent the introduction of novel infections.
 - Biocontainment: to ensure that infectious disease does not spread within a farm if present.
 - Reduction or eradication of enzootic disease: via changes to farm infrastructure and management strategies.
 - Vaccination strategies: to minimize disease risk.
- **Administration:** Antibiotics must be used responsibly in line with industry and veterinary guidelines.
- **Diagnosis:** A diagnosis must be made before antibiotics are applied. The diagnosis should be made by a vet or person on-farm who has received appropriate training.
- **Prophylactic Use:** Routine prophylactic antimicrobial use is not permitted.
- **Metaphylactic Use:** Metaphylactic antimicrobial use may be used in exceptional circumstances, where animal welfare is threatened.
- **Category B Antimicrobials:** 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, colistin and fluoroquinolones must not be used on supplying farms other than in exceptional circumstances where welfare problems would otherwise occur, and where their use is backed up by appropriate bacteriology or other epidemiological evidence.
- **Category C Antimicrobials:** Macrolides and potentiated amoxicillin may only be used where there is a clear and justifiable benefit to animal welfare over other classes of antimicrobial.
- **Replacement:** Suppliers should be proactive in understanding possible alternative products to antibiotics on farms to help control disease. This could include pain relief as a 1st line treatment, or the use of probiotics on farm.

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.

Scope: All own-label fresh primary poultry, meat, eggs, dairy and farmed fish.

Assurance Standards

Bord Bia standards provide independent certification of animal welfare standards and are audited by a third party. As a minimum, in Ireland, all of our everyday fresh meat and poultry are Bord Bia certified, while our fresh milk is 100% Irish. Compliance with these standards is verified by a regular Bord Bia. Suppliers must notify us of any compliance issues or audit failures.



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

Scope: All own-label fresh primary poultry, meat, shell eggs & milk.

Product	Farm Standard	2019 Product Scope	2020 Product Scope
Beef	Bord Bia	100% fresh primary beef	100% fresh primary beef
	Organic	100% organic fresh beef	100% organic fresh beef
Lamb	Bord Bia	100% fresh primary lamb	100% fresh primary lamb
Chicken	Bord Bia	100% fresh primary chicken	100% fresh primary chicken
Turkey	Bord Bia	100% Fresh turkey	100% Fresh turkey
	Organic	Specially Selected turkey	Specially Selected turkey
Pork	Bord Bia	100% fresh primary pork	100% fresh primary pork
Laying Hens	Bord Bia	100% Fresh shell eggs	100% Fresh shell eggs
	Bord Bia Free Range	100% Fresh free range shell eggs	100% Fresh free range shell eggs
	Red Tractor		100% Fresh shell eggs (for 2020 only)
	Organic	100% fresh organic shell eggs	100% fresh organic shell eggs
Dairy	Organic	100% organic milk	100% organic milk
Farmed Fish	ASC, GLOBAL G.A.P, BAP 2* or Organic, BIM	86.96% fresh, frozen and canned farmed fish	98 % fresh, frozen and canned farmed fish

CCTV

All abattoirs supplying ALDI IE 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 an external auditing agency and used as a training and management tool for all employees handling live animals.

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

Country of Origin

All own label fresh primary poultry, meat, shell eggs and milk must be sourced from Ireland all year round, including lamb. (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland). *A small proportion of eggs were sourced from the UK in 2020, all of which were certified to Red Lion standards as a minimum.* The reason for this was an Avian Influenza outbreak which occurred in March 2020.

Scope: All own-label fresh primary poultry, meat, shell eggs & milk.

Confinement

We require all own-label fresh poultry, meat and eggs to be Bord Bia certified as a minimum. We source a number of organic meat, eggs and milk products. We have the following policies and goals for confinement systems:

Confinement	Position	IE Performance 2019	IE Performance 2020
Cage-Free Eggs	100% of our shell eggs and egg ingredients will be cage-free by 2025.	39% (% of Eggs Sold)	18% (% of Eggs Sold)
Force-Feeding	ALDI products must not be sourced from birds that have been force fed e.g. foie gras.	100% No force-feeding	100% No force-feeding
Sow Stalls	Permanent sow stalls are not permitted on any farms producing ALDI products.	100% fresh pork free from sow stalls	100% fresh pork free from sow stalls
Tethering	Permanent tethering of cattle is not permitted in our Irish supply chain.	100% fresh milk free from permanent tethering	100% fresh milk free from permanent tethering



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.

Chickens should have access to dry, friable litter to allow for dust bathing and exploratory scratching behaviour.

Scope: All own-label fresh primary chicken.

We require all fresh turkey, duck and goose to be provided with suitable enrichment must include access to dry, friable litter to allow for shovelling and dibbling. Suppliers must ensure all enrichment is safe.

Scope: All own-label fresh primary turkey, duck & goose.

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.

Pigs must have permanent access to environmental enrichment in order to satisfy their manipulation behavioural requirements, reduce instances of tail biting and other uncharacteristic behaviours.

Scope: All own label fresh primary 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 a programme that manages the welfare issues surrounding routine mutilation with the ALDI CR team.

Management Practice	Position	IE Performance 2019	IE Performance 2020
Branding	All cattle must not be hot branded or identified by dewlap tags.	100% Fresh milk & beef	100% Fresh milk & beef
Castration	<u>Pigs:</u> The castration of pigs by physical or chemical means is prohibited for all own-label fresh primary pork. <u>Cattle:</u> 100% of our own label fresh beef is Irish and Bord Bia Assured. If animals are to be castrated, this must be done before 8 weeks of age, but as young as possible. Animals should receive both local anaesthesia and longer-term pain relief. <u>Lambs:</u> 100% of our own label fresh lamb is Irish and Bord Bia Assured. Careful consideration should be given as to whether castration is necessary. The procedure should only be carried out when lambs are likely to be retained after puberty (approx. 5 months old) and where it is necessary to avoid welfare problems associated with the management of entire males.	100% Fresh primary pork free from castration	100% Fresh primary pork free from castration
Mulesing	We do not permit mulesing.	100% free from mulesing	100% free from mulesing
Tail Docking	<u>Cattle:</u> Routine tail docking is not permitted under EU legislation and therefore not permitted in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland. <u>Lambs:</u> Careful consideration should be given as to whether tail docking is required in the flock and it may be carried out only if failure to do so would lead to subsequent welfare problems because of dirty tails and potential fly strike. It is essential that sufficient tail is retained to cover the vulva in the case of female sheep	100% fresh milk free from tail docking.	100% fresh milk free from tail docking.



	and the anus in the case of male sheep. <u>Pigs:</u> Tail Docking should only be carried out where measures to improve environmental conditions or management systems have first been taken to prevent tail biting, but where there is still evidence to show that injury to pigs' tails by biting has occurred.		
Tooth Reduction	<u>Pigs:</u> Tooth Reduction: Should only be carried out where measures to improve management systems have first been taken to prevent damage to sows' teats or to the faces of other pigs, but there is still evidence that such damage has occurred. All producers supplying ALDI should maintain a detailed record of cases of facial damage to piglets and udder damage to the sow. The Veterinary Health Plan should provide circumstances in which teeth reduction is a necessary technique to be applied, following veterinary advice.	100% fresh pork	100% fresh pork

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. 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 and branded products.

Growth Promoters

No growth promoters are permitted on any farms producing ALDI products. The use of in-feed growth promoting substances (hormonal or antibiotic) is prohibited.

Scope: All own-label & branded food products.

Force Feeding

The force feeding of animals is not permitted in the production of any product destined to be supplied to ALDI e.g. foie gras.

Scope: All own-label & branded food 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. Suppliers should be continually monitoring and reviewing the latest research, to ensure humane slaughter and continual improvement to animal welfare. ALDI observes the ongoing development in pig stunning.

Proportion of animals in ALDI's supply chain that are subject to pre-slaughter stunning = 100%.

Animals killed as emergency slaughter on farm or at the abattoir (outside of standard slaughter process) must not be used in ALDI products.

Stun equipment: Must be regularly inspected and maintained to a documented schedule (which must not be less frequent than the manufacturer's guidelines). Service information must be recorded and available for inspection. Back up stunning devices must be available at all times during killing. Duplicate stuns must be recorded and suppliers must maintain records of where an animal recovers consciousness on the bleed rail, and the causes must be investigated and rectified. This should be available to ALDI on request.

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



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.

Scope: All own-label fresh primary poultry, meat, shell eggs & milk.

Species	Travel Time Policy	Ireland Performance 2019
Beef	< 8 hours	100% fresh primary beef
Lamb		100% fresh primary lamb
Chicken		100% fresh primary chicken
Pork		100% fresh primary pork
Dairy		100% fresh milk
Turkey, Duck, Goose		100% fresh poultry

Food Policies (Product Specific)

Chicken



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

We also sell free range chicken from slower growing breeds at lower stocking density in our Specially Selected range.

Eggs



All our shell eggs are sourced from Ireland and certified to meet Bord Bia standards. We sell a range of free range eggs and eggs certified to higher welfare standards 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 and branded shell eggs and own-label egg ingredients from cage-free hens by 2025. We are working with our suppliers to make this transition. In 2020, 18% of shell eggs sold came from cage-free. We have noted a significant step back in our progress during 2020 with cage free due to supply issues and are working with our supply base to meet our 2025 goals.

We aspire to prohibit the routine farm practices used for laying hens. We require our suppliers to be proactive in understanding alternative management practices, where laying hens could be managed without beak trimming under commercial conditions, without a greater risk to their welfare than that caused by beak trimming.

Turkey, Duck & Goose



All our fresh turkey, duck and goose is sourced from Ireland and fresh turkey and duck certified to meet Bord Bia Standards.

Mutilations must not be carried out on farm, unless in exceptional circumstances to avoid a greater welfare issue. Where this is required, veterinary approval must be granted prior to the procedure. Examples of mutilations include de-snooding and beak trimming.

All poultry must be provided with appropriate environmental enrichment. Suitable enrichment must include access to dry, friable litter to allow for shovelling and dibbling. Suppliers must ensure all enrichment is safe.



Dairy

All of our fresh milk is sourced from Ireland or Northern Ireland. Our Organic milk is independently certified to meet high standards of animal welfare, with plenty of space and access to pasture when weather and ground conditions permit.

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

ALDI understand there are welfare concerns around management practices of dairy cows and their calves, for example disbudding, and would like to limit the use of these where possible. Where these practices are required, steps should be taken to minimise the impact it has on the animal's welfare. Calves must be disbudded before 4 weeks of age (unless completely raised horned, or naturally polled). Dehorning must only take place where the horn is growing in such a way that is injurious to the animal. If disbudded or dehorned, animals should receive both local anaesthesia and longer-term pain relief (e.g. with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug). If animals are to be castrated, this must be done before 8 weeks of age, but as young as possible. Animals should receive both local anaesthesia and longer-term pain relief.



Pigs

100% of our own-label fresh Everyday pork is Irish and Bord Bia certified.

100% of our pork is free from sow stalls and we ask our suppliers to be proactive in understanding the latest research on commercially viable alternatives to the use of farrowing crates, in order to develop a longer-term proposal for how to minimise time sows spend in confinement.

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 we require them to have permanent access to environmental enrichment in order to satisfy their manipulation behavioural requirements, reduce instances of tail biting and other uncharacteristic behaviours.



Beef

100% of our own-label Everyday fresh primary beef is Irish and Bord Bia Assured.

100% of our fresh beef is free from tethering and must not be hot branded or identified by dewlap tags.

ALDI understand there are welfare concerns around management practices of suckler cows and their calves, for example disbudding, and would like to limit the use of these where possible. Where these practices are required, steps should be taken to minimise the impact it has on the animal's welfare. Calves must be disbudded before 4 weeks of age (unless completely raised horned, or naturally polled). Dehorning must only take place where the horn is growing in such a way that is injurious to the animal. If disbudded or dehorned, animals should receive both local anaesthesia and longer-term pain relief (e.g. with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug). If animals are to be castrated, this must be done before 8 weeks of age, but as young as possible. Animals should receive both local anaesthesia and longer-term pain relief.

In addition, ALDI Ireland is proud to support the next generation of beef young farmers. ALDI sponsor the Angus All Ireland Bull Calf Championships and are a lead sponsor of the Aldi Irish Angus Youth Development All Ireland Junior Stockperson of the Year competition.



Lamb

100% of our own-label Everyday fresh primary lamb is Irish and Bord Bia Assured.

For farm management practices, we ask that careful consideration is given as to whether



castration is necessary. The procedure should only be carried out when lambs are likely to be retained after puberty (approx. 5 months old) and where it is necessary to avoid welfare problems associated with the management of entire males. Careful consideration should also be given as to whether tail docking is required in the flock and it may be carried out only if failure to do so would lead to subsequent welfare problems because of dirty tails and potential fly strike.

ALDI does not permit mulesing. Additionally, we recommend winter shearing is only acceptable if the sheep are housed.



Rabbit

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



Wild-Caught Game

ALDI requires that all game birds and mammals must have been legally shot in the open season for that species.

Industry Involvement

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

- Aquaculture Stewardship Council ([ASC](#))
- [Bord Bia](#)
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara ([BIM](#))
- Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare ([BBFAW](#))
- Compassion in World Farming ([CIWF](#))
- [Cruelty Free International](#)
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine ([DAFM](#))
- Global Aquaculture Alliance ([GAA](#))
- [GLOBAL G.A.P](#)
- Marine Conservation Society ([MCS](#))
- Marine Stewardship Council ([MSC](#))
- Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance ([RUMA](#))
- World Wildlife Fund ([WWF](#))

We partner with veterinary consultants The Evidence Group and fish and seafood experts Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP).

Additionally, when required we input into industry and government consultations, such as the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) Animal Welfare consultations.

Promoting Higher Animal Welfare

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

- **Website & Social Media:** We talk about our animal welfare policies online and promote farm animal standards.
- **Agricultural Shows:** ALDI promotes animal welfare via our stand at the Irish Ploughing Match.
- **ALDI SpecialBuys Leaflet and Point of Sale Advertising:** Our weekly leaflet regularly features higher animal welfare products.