



# **ALDI UK**

## **Animal Welfare Policies and Performance**

Updated May 2020



## 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.

In 2019, we launched the ALDI UK Farming Strategy which focuses on 3 areas: supporting British farming; improving the welfare and health of animals; 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 UK 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 UK Animal Welfare Policies apply to all of our own-label and branded 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 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 roundtables, and represent the British Retail Consortium (BRC) on Industry Boards such as the Red Tractor.

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, pork and Scottish salmon as RSPCA Assured. With over 50 different RSPCA Assured labelled items on our shelves, ALDI is the third largest retailer in the UK of RSPCA Assured products. 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/>.

In Scotland, we source fresh Scottish pork that has been assured by SSPCA through the QMS Specially Selected pork scheme.

### 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 2: 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 BBFAW 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 achieve Arla UK 360 farm standards which go beyond Red Tractor standards.

## UK Achievements and Targets

- ALDI South Group moved up from Tier 3 to Tier 2 in the 2019 Business Benchmark for Farm Animal Welfare (BBFAW) assessment.
- In 2019, ALDI UK was the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest retailer of RSPCA Assured products, and one of the largest retailers for RSPCA Assured chicken.
- 100% of ALDI Everyday fresh meat and milk is British and Red Tractor assured in England and Wales.
- 100% of ALDI Scottish Everyday fresh beef, lamb and pork 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. And we aim to source 100% cage-free egg ingredients by 2025. Due to these commitments, ALDI has applied for the Compassion in World Farming's Good Egg Award in 2020.
- 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 are one of the few UK supermarkets to guarantee that all of our own-label 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 2019
<b>100% Cage-free shell eggs by 2025</b>	64% (No. of eggs sold)
<b>Offer higher welfare or organic options for own-label fresh meat, poultry, egg and milk</b>	11.1% (101/910 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-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.

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 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.

In the UK, ALDI is actively working with suppliers to fulfil the recommendations highlighted in the 2015 O'Neill Review on *Antimicrobials In Agriculture and the Environment* and UK's five year *National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2019–2024 (VARSS)*.

That's why ALDI is a sponsor of RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance), which is a collective of interested parties across the food supply chain ensuring the long-term sustainability of the agricultural industry and the safeguarding of human health. ALDI supports the guidance from RUMA 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. Consequently, ALDI is part of the FIIA (Food Industry Initiative on Antimicrobials) 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 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.

In line with the FIIA, 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

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 primary poultry, meat, shell eggs & milk.*

We also sell a number of higher welfare products including free-range, RSPCA Assured and Organic. In 2019 we were the third 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 fresh primary chicken, pork, free-range eggs and farmed salmon.*

Product	Farm Standard	Product Scope
<b>Beef</b>	Red Tractor/ QMS Scotch beef	100% fresh primary beef/Scottish Everyday beef
<b>Lamb</b>	Red Tractor/ QMS Scotch lamb	100% fresh primary lamb/Scottish Everyday lamb
<b>Chicken</b>	Red Tractor plus additional ALDI Animal Welfare Policy: access to natural light and environmental enrichment.	100% fresh primary chicken
	RSPCA Assured free range	100% Specially Selected fresh primary chicken
<b>Turkey</b>	Red Tractor	100% Fresh turkey
	RSPCA Assured	100% Specially Selected turkey
<b>Pork</b>	Red Tractor	100% fresh primary pork
	RSPCA Assured Outdoor Bred	100% Specially Selected fresh primary pork
	Specially Selected SSPCA Assured	100% Scottish Everyday pork
<b>Laying Hens</b>	British Lion Code	100% fresh shell eggs
	RSPCA Assured Free Range	100% fresh free range shell eggs
	Organic	100% fresh organic shell eggs
<b>Dairy</b>	Red Tractor	100% fresh liquid milk, cream, block butter and British cheeses.
	Organic	100% organic milk
<b>Farmed Fish</b>	ASC, GLOBAL G.A.P, BAP 2* or Organic	100% 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 an external auditing agency and used as a training and management tool for all employees handling live animals.

*Scope: All 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 the UK all year round, including lamb.

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

## 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 2019, we were the third 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
<b>Cage-Free Eggs</b>	100% of our shell eggs and egg ingredients will be cage-free by 2025.	60.99% - total egg 64% - Cage-free shell eggs 26.5% - Cage-free egg ingredients
<b>Farrowing Crates</b>	We offer a range of Specially Selected fresh primary pork that is outdoor bred and RSPCA Assured. These standards do not allow farrowing crates. We require our Red Tractor 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.	100% fresh primary Specially Selected pork is outdoor bred and RSPCA Assured
<b>Finfish - Stocking Density</b>	All of our Specially Selected fresh farmed salmon is RSPCA Assured which ensures lower stocking densities.	100% Specially Selected fresh farmed salmon
<b>Force-Feeding</b>	ALDI products must not be sourced from birds that have been force fed e.g. foie gras.	100% No force-feeding
<b>Single Penning</b>	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
<b>Sow Stalls</b>	Permanent sow stalls are not permitted on any farms producing ALDI products.	100% fresh pork free from sow stalls
<b>Tethering</b>	Tethering of cattle is not permitted in our UK supply chain, which is audited through Red Tractor standards.	100% fresh milk free from 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.

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





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 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.

*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. Therefore:

- 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.
- All sows and finishing pigs must have access to suitable quantities of safe and suitable material to allow them to perform their natural rooting behaviours.
- Due to their strong nest building instinct, sows and gilts must be provided with a safe and suitable nesting material prior to farrowing, where applicable.

*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	UK Performance 2019
<b>Beak trimming</b>	All of our organic shell eggs are sourced from hens that have not been beak trimmed. 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 beak trimming and de-toeing for hens, bill trimming, claw trimming and wing clipping for ducks. Suppliers must 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.	100% Fresh organic shell eggs free from beak trimming
<b>Branding</b>	All cattle must not be hot branded or identified by dewlap tags.	100% Fresh milk and beef
<b>Castration</b>	<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 British and Red Tractor 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 British and Red Tractor 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



<b>Disbudding / Dehorning</b>	<u>Cattle:</u> Calves must be disbudded before 8 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).	100% Fresh milk  100% Fresh Everyday primary beef
<b>Mulesing</b>	We do not permit mulesing.	100% free from mulesing
<b>Tail Docking</b>	<u>Cattle:</u> Routine tail docking is not permitted under EU legislation and therefore not permitted in the UK. <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 and the anus in the case of male sheep.  <u>Pigs:</u> 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. For Red Tractor pork - 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.	100% fresh milk free from tail docking.  98.26% All fresh and frozen products containing milk ingredients.
<b>Tooth Reduction</b>	<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
<b>Nose Rings</b>	The use of nose rings in the top of the nares (snout/disc) is prohibited. Septal nose rings in outdoor sows are only permitted following veterinary recommendation detailed in the Veterinary Health Plan and on welfare grounds only.	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. 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 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%.

We work with our fresh pork suppliers to record any ineffective stuns. During 2019, 0.002% of stuns were ineffective and therefore had to be repeated to ensure the animals were insensitive to pain.

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

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

## 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 residences or ownerships in an animal's lifetime must not exceed 4 for all animals used in ALDI products.

Animals destined to provide protein into the ALDI supply chain, and dairy calves, must not have been transported live either into or out of the UK, except for where farms in Northern Ireland need to transport livestock over the border into the Republic of Ireland.

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

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 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% British and 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 to be 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 2019 we were proud to be one of the largest volume UK retailers of RSPCA Assured Free Range chicken. Our RSPCA Assured Free Range chicken have lower stocking densities of 30kg/m<sup>2</sup>, slower growing breeds and have access to pasture.

To enable us to have a clear and viable plan of how we could achieve the Better Chicken Commitment, we are currently carrying out research and conducting product trials to increase our range of higher welfare products. We continue to discuss with our suppliers, other retailers, our competitors and food service companies via the British Retail Consortium (BRC), to identify how we could achieve the commitment. We also continue to discuss the matter with Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), who we aim to meet regularly and attended their Broiler Forum in November 2019.

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 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 2019, 64% of our shell eggs sold were cage-free and 26.5% of our own label products contained cage-free egg ingredients.

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.

By the end of 2020, we will report on agreed welfare outcome measures for laying hens in our supply chain.



### Turkey, Duck & Goose

All our fresh turkey, duck and goose is 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 and organic poultry. Here, birds 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.

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.

By the end of 2020, we will report on agreed welfare outcome measures for turkeys in our supply chain.



**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. All our block butter, cream and British cheeses are also British and Red Tractor assured.

100% of our fresh milk, cream, butter and British 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 8 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.

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 support the UK industry commitment to achieve this by 2023.

We 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 3: 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. Monthly this data is submitted by the suppliers and is reviewed by our CR team and The Evidence Group on a quarterly basis. The KPIs measured are:

- Number of Fully Housed Systems
- Milk Yield per Cow per Year
- Calving Interval
- Age at First Calving
- Lameness
- 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 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. All sows and finishing pigs must have access to suitable quantities of safe and suitable material to allow them to perform their natural rooting behaviours. Due to their strong nest building instinct, sows and gilts must be provided with a safe and suitable nesting material prior to farrowing, where applicable.

We recommend that all supplying farms should be signed up to the AHDB Significant Disease Charter (or equivalent in Scotland and Wales).

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

100% of our own-label Everyday fresh primary beef 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.

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 8 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 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.



## Lamb

100% of our own-label Everyday fresh primary lamb is British and Red Tractor 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.



## Fish

ALDI aspires to develop welfare standards for fish. Our Specially Selected farmed salmon is RSPCA Assured.



## Wild-Caught Game

ALDI has the following requirements for wild-caught game:

- All game birds and mammals must have been legally shot in the open season for that species.
- All shoots must follow the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) Code of Good Shooting Practice. This sets out the framework that enables shoot managers, guns, gamekeepers and their employees to deliver sustainable shooting, paying attention to the management of habitat and avoiding nuisance to others.
- Game birds should be reared in accordance with the DEFRA Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes.

We also recommend that primary suppliers are members of the British Game Alliance (BGA) and audited to the BGA standards.

## 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.

We are working with our turkey and egg suppliers to report on animal welfare outcome measures by 2021, and are constantly reviewing other species.





Pigs

Figure 4: Pig Outcome Measures 2019 - Tail Biting

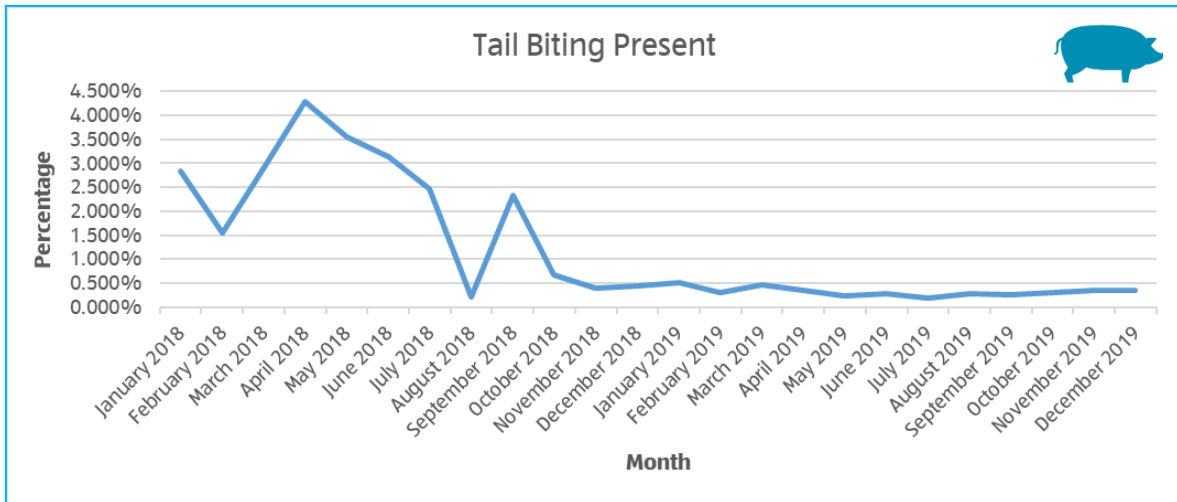


Figure 5: Pig Outcome Measures 2019 - Lameness

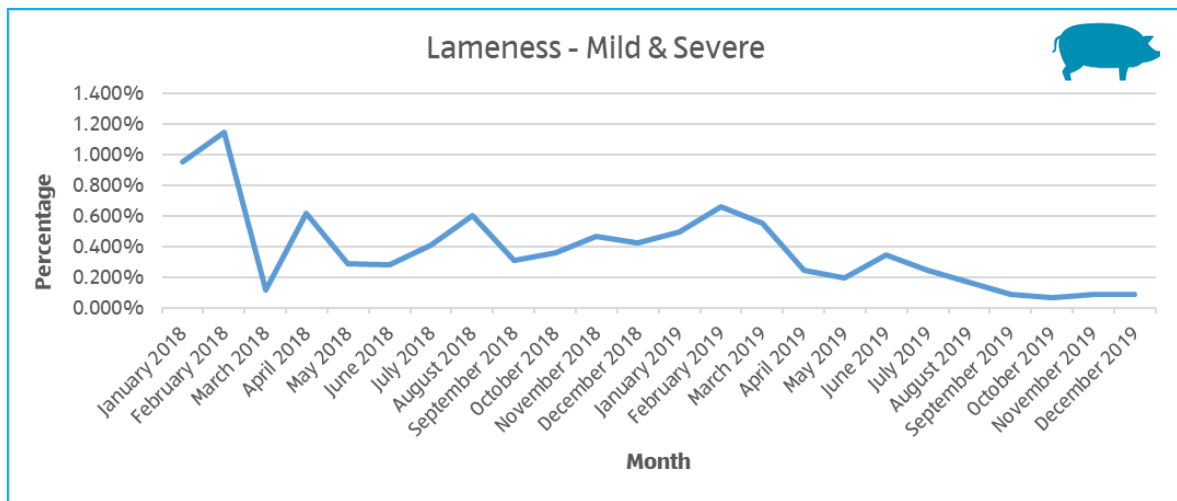
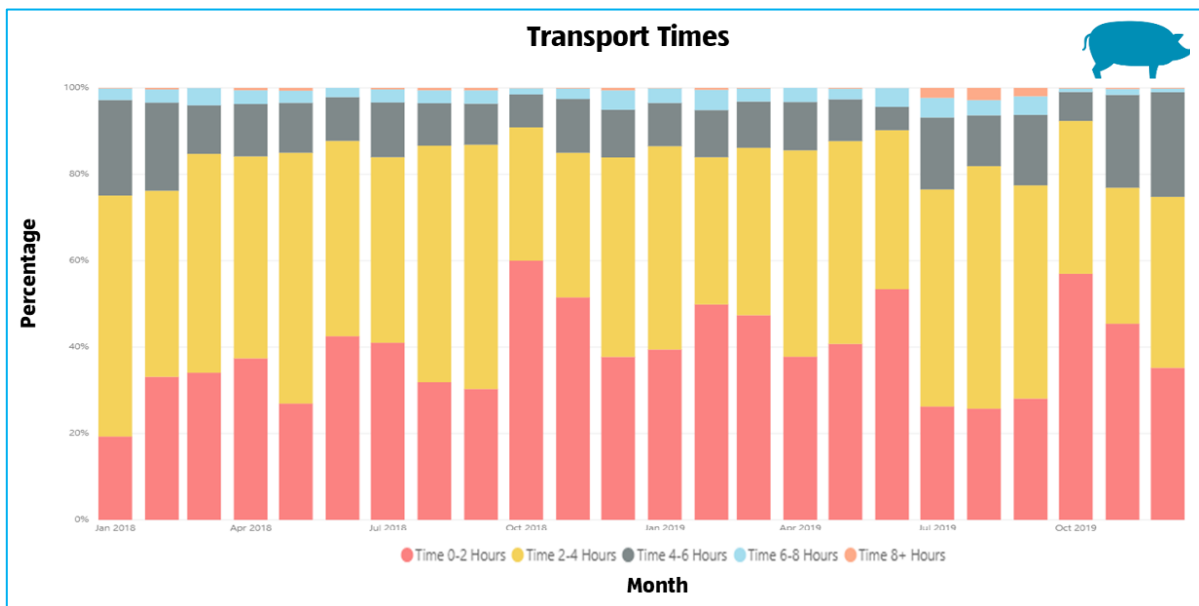


Figure 6: Pig Outcome Measures 2019 - Transport Times





Chicken

Figure 7: Chicken Outcome Measures 2019 - Stocking Density

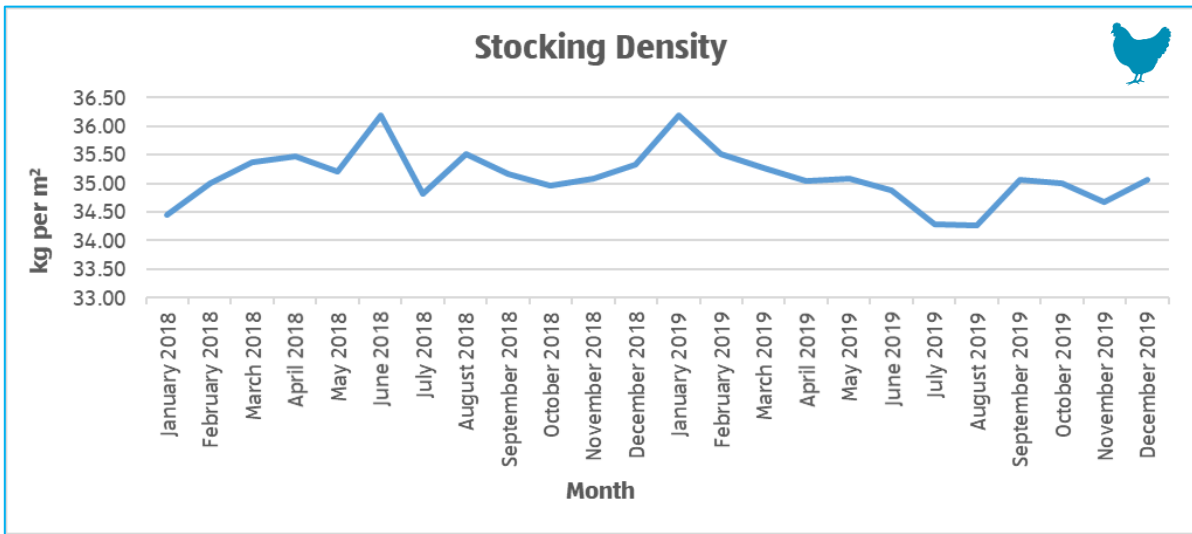


Figure 8: Chicken Outcome Measures 2019 - Dead on Arrival

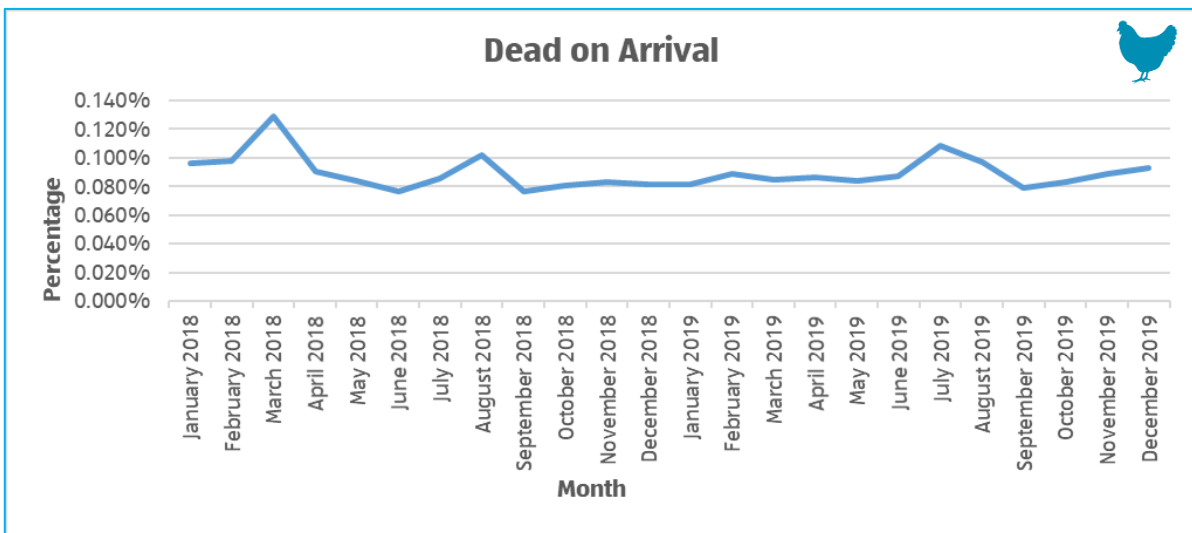
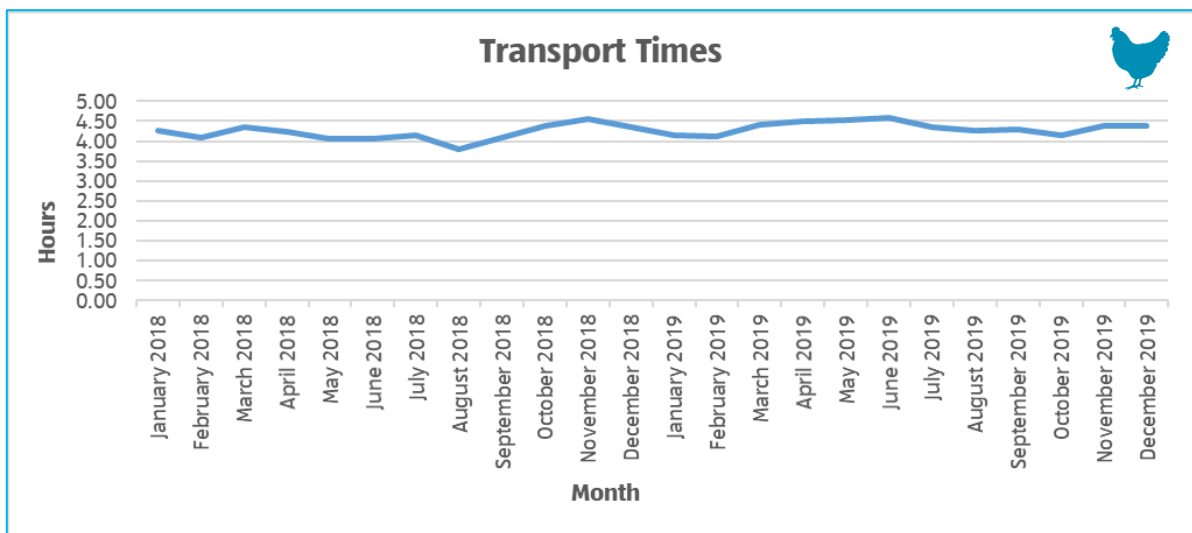


Figure 9: Chicken Outcome Measures 2019 - Transport Times





Dairy

Figure 10: Dairy Outcome Measures 2019 - Calf Mortality

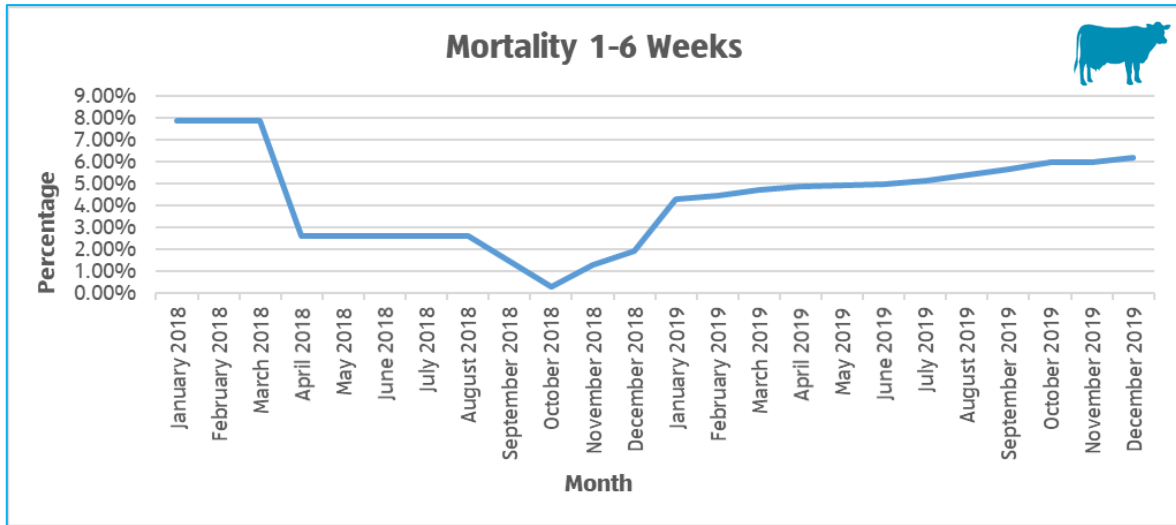


Figure 11: Dairy Outcome Measures 2019 - Lameness

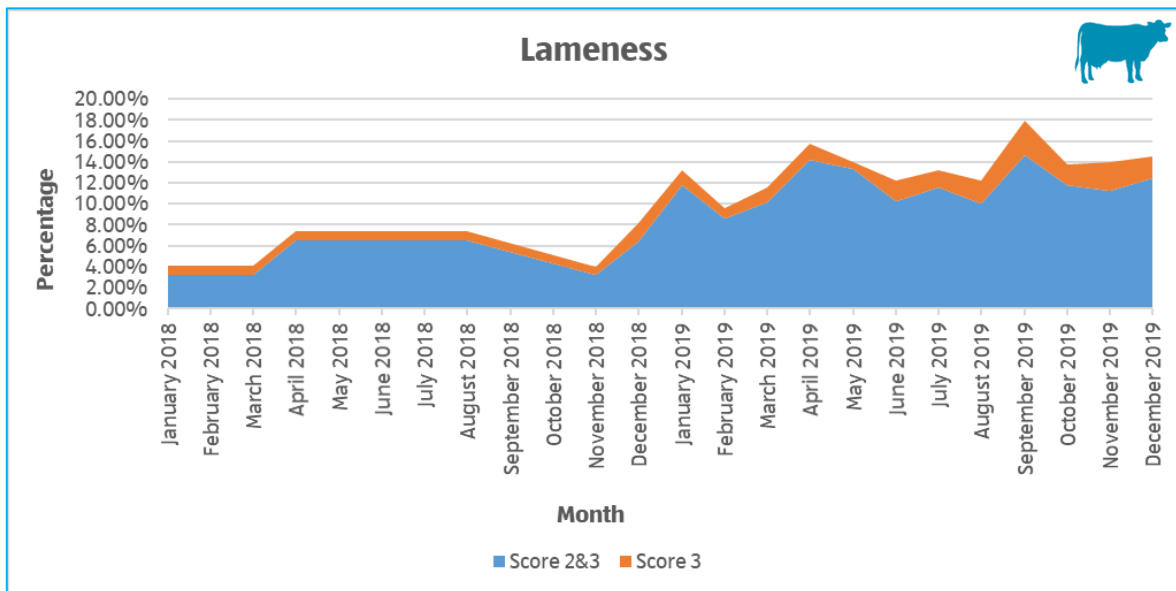
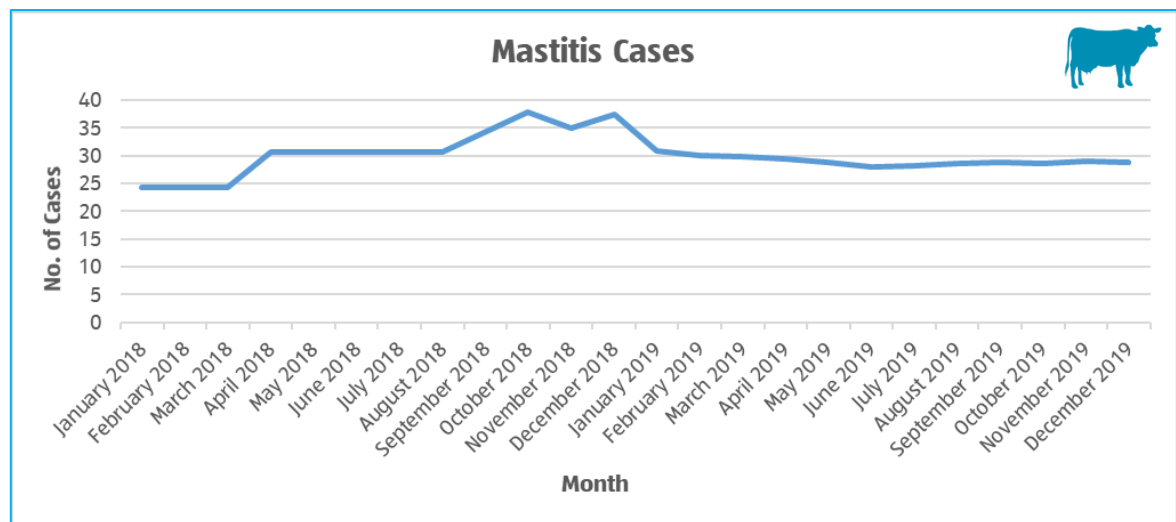


Figure 12: Dairy Outcome Measures 2019 - Mastitis Cases





## 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 Beef and Lamb Board. 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 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.
- **Open Farm Sunday:** ALDI supported 8 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 and Point of Sale Advertising:** Our weekly leaflet regularly features higher animal welfare products.

