

Farm Animal Welfare Progress Report

Published September 2023 for 2022 Calendar Year



Introduction

At Morrisons, as British farming's biggest direct supermarket customer, we have our own livestock buyers sourcing animals directly from over 2,700 British farmers, some of whom have been supplying us for over 30 years. Uniquely, we own our own abattoirs, located in Turriff (Aberdeenshire), Spalding (Lincolnshire) and Colne (Lancashire) and manufacture the majority of our own fresh food across our 19 manufacturing sites and 498 stores, including bakery, seafood, meat, fruit & veg, flowers and chilled processed products.

Our Corporate Responsibility Survey results (pictured below) demonstrate that sourcing well, securing British supply and maintaining high standards of farm animal health and welfare remain important issues for customers; they all make good business sense. Animal welfare remains a key area of interest, staying within the top 10 of the most important issues considered by the 4,000 shoppers surveyed. In sourcing such a high percentage of British food - all of our fresh meat, milk and eggs are British - we are supporting the high standards of welfare that lie at the heart of British farming. We work closely with our farmers and suppliers across our whole supply chain to raise farm animal health and welfare standards, and satisfy our customers' need for great food at an affordable price.



Key Welfare Outcomes 2022

In conjunction with our suppliers we monitor a wide range of key welfare indicators, which are reported to our Animal Welfare Steering Group, chaired by our Technical and Sustainability Director, on a monthly basis along with commentary and an action plan around any anomalous figures. This allows us to have clear visibility of the welfare of animals in our own brand supply chain, and means we can react quickly to any concerns regarding those figures. We are striving for continuous improvement in our animal welfare standards, and reporting of these figures is an important part of that process.

In addition to the reporting of key welfare indicators, we are working with academic institutions and agricultural colleges, along with sector experts, to deliver practical research and best practice guidance to improve animal welfare standards, which we share with our supplying farmers.

A note on scope: All outcome measures reported refer to Own Brand products only.

Audit Standards

100% of meat (including fish), shell egg or milk used in any Morrisons own brand product must be sourced to a Morrisons accepted certified farm assurance standard. All our accepted certified farm assurance schemes can be found in the [Key Animal Welfare Policies Section](#) of our website, along with our policy related to Branded products sold at Morrisons.

Travel times

Having our own abattoirs, we also look after a lot of the transport to our plants too and have eleven 'high welfare' transporters fitted with drinking systems and insulated roofs to keep the livestock as comfortable as possible on their journeys. Any journey times which take animal transport over our 8 hour policy, whilst still legally compliant, are investigated and reports made to our Animal Welfare Steering Group. It should also be noted that the provision of higher welfare transport ensures the animals are being looked after during longer journeys; all animals are inspected for welfare compliance both prior to loading and after unloading by our own drivers who hold City & Guilds welfare qualification.

The majority of live animal transport in our fresh supply chain from farm to abattoir arrives in under four hours, and we are always working to reduce the number of animals reaching abattoir in more than 8 hours. **The below figures refer to journeys made within the UK. 100% of our own-brand fresh meat products are British. Own-brand products account for 98% volume of the entire fresh meat category in Morrisons.**

	2022		
	0 - 4 hours (YoY change)	4 - 8 hours	> 8 hours (YoY change)
Beef	58.51% (+3.68%)	44.74% (-3.47%)	0.22% (-0.21%)
Pork	50.85% (+3.06%)	48.81% (-3.38%)	0.34% (+0.32%)
Lamb	65.34% (-2.65%)	28.62% (+4.82%)	6.04% (-2.17%)
Turkey	45.98% (+8.83%)	53.0% (-4.17%)	1.00 (-4.68%)
End of Lay Hens	85%	0%	15%*
Dairy Cull Cows (Liquid Milk Supply Chain only)	100%	0%	0%

The improved compliance with our 8 hour maximum journey time in our Lamb supply chain in 2022 has been partly attributed to a change in sourcing strategy, resulting in more local sourcing, and therefore shorter journey times.

A change to sourcing for turkey, particularly at Christmas 2022 in light of Avian Influenza challenges, resulted in reductions in longer travel times.

100% of our shell eggs are produced to RSPCA Assured standards, which includes a requirement for spent hens to be transported in 8 hours or less. 100% of our English based spent hens are transported in 4 hours or less, while *100% of our Scottish based spent hens were covered by a continued derogation from RSPCA Assured as approved processing plants are not yet available within an 8 hour journey time.

Broiler Chicken Travel Times are reported separately below due to the more detailed recording we require from suppliers.

	0 - 1 hour	1 - 2 hours	2 - 4 hours	4 - 8 hours	> 8 hours
2021	71%	23%	2%	4%	0%
2022	63%	37%	0%	0%	0%

Transportation

We monitor road traffic incidents (RTAs), noticeable fatigue and any stock dead on arrival. Figures below represent 2022 Road Traffic Accidents and resulting fatalities for our own transport vehicles, while DOAs represent the total figure, including from contractor vehicles.

Note: Due to all transportation of poultry taking place outside our own transport vehicles, we do not have available data on RTAs.

Own Brand Fresh Products	
Beef	
RTAs that resulted in livestock fatalities in 2022	None
DOAs (YoY change)	0.0015% (+0.0009%)
Notes on YoY change	Two DOA were recorded in cattle for 2022. Each DOA is investigated and findings fed back to the relevant parties.
Pork	
RTAs that resulted in livestock fatalities in 2022	None
DOAs (YoY change)	0.0138% (+0.0034%)
Notes on YoY change	Any potential trends or patterns associated with travel times and DOAs have been investigated, with no conclusive connections found.
Lamb	
RTAs that resulted in livestock fatalities in 2022	None
DOAs (YoY change)	0.0050% (+0.004%)
Notes on YoY change	Any potential trends or patterns associated with travel times and DOAs have been investigated, with no conclusive connections found.
Broiler Chicken	
DOAs (YoY change)	2022: 0.088% (+0.013%)
Notes on YoY change	A slight increase has been seen from 2021 to 2022 driven by the hot weather, however, transport times on average have been reduced driven by improvements taken by our major supplier to improve temperature management processes for broiler transport during hot weather, including a lower stocking density in transport modules, and increased ventilation.
Turkey	
DOAs (YoY change)	0.03% (-0.001%)
Notes on YoY change	DOAs have steadily decreased in our turkey supply chain since 2019.

Pre-slaughter Stunning

All meat used in any Morrisons own-branded product is required to be stunned in a manner that renders the animal insensible to pain prior to slaughter. We also require that all end of lay hens are stunned before slaughter. 100% of birds in our chicken supply are stunned pre-slaughter through CO₂ multi-phase stunning. 100% of pigs within our supply base are gas stunned before slaughter, in line with current RSPCA Assured recommendations. We remain open to considering alternative stunning methods in pigs, and would welcome additional research by Defra into how these methods can be practically applied to a commercial abattoir setting.

Our abattoirs were the first in England to have staff qualified in the Welfare at the Time of Killing (WATOK) standards.

	2022	
	% Stunned	% Effectively Stunned*(YoY Change)
Beef	100%	99.04% (+1.74%)
Pork	100%	99.96% (No Change)
Lamb	100%	99.76% (+0.96%)
Chicken	100%	99.99% (No Change)
Turkey	100%	99.99% (No Change)
End of Lay Hens (Shell Egg Supply Chain only)	100%	99.99% (No Change)
Dairy Cull Cows (Liquid Milk Supply Chain only)	100%	99% (No Change)
Farmed Fish	% Stunned	
Salmon	100%	
Trout	100%	
Bass	100%	
Bream	100%	
Halibut	100%	
Pangasius	100%	

(*100% in 'Effectively Stunned' indicates no re-stuns were required; secondary stuns are still within policy).

Beef and Lamb: There has been a YOY improvement in effective stunning in our beef and lamb supply chains.

Close Confinement

Our farm standards policy covers animals from the UK, EU and non-EU countries of origin. We have strict requirements in avoiding animals produced in systems which use sow stalls, single penning, battery cages, tethering, veal crates and force feeding. We adhere to EU regulations, and more specifically British Red Tractor standards, that have strict controls on animal confinement.

Species / Product	Close Confinement								
Pork (Fresh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% free from sow stalls (ie gestation crates) 11.7% outdoor bred (ie no farrowing crates in use), up from 8.3% in 2021, 6.2% in 2020, and 5.9% in 2019 10.4% temporary crating / loose lactation (ie 'free farrowing' crates in use), up from 1.1% in 2021 <p>In line with industry definitions of 'free farrowing', how we report close confinement data in pigs has changed to provide more clarity.</p>								
Pork (Continental meats and processed lines)	<p>We receive regular animal welfare updates with results and key findings from their farm audits. 100% of supply is compliant with required farm assurance standards, such as Global GAP or Interporc IAWS, along with EU regulations.</p> <p>On occasion, sow stalls may be used for a short time period in line with country legislation. We are in discussion with our main suppliers who are currently undergoing trials to understand how and when this can be reduced to zero.</p> <p>The latest version of the standards used by our main suppliers (Interporc IAWS farm standards) are now supported by Compassion in World Farming as well as numerous other NGOs.</p>								
Shell Egg	100% Free Range or Organic, in line with our Cage Free commitment								
Ingredient Egg	<p>100% free from battery cage production</p> <p>64% cage free as of 1st July 2023, 59% in July 2022, 59% in 2021, 57% in 2020, and 55% in 2019.</p>								
Broiler Chicken	<p>5.4% of fresh poultry is either organic or raised to RSPCA Assured or Red Tractor Enhanced welfare standards, all of which require slower growing birds and a lower stocking density</p> <p>Maximum permitted stocking density for 'conventional' supply: 38 kg/m²</p> <p>Average stocking density for 'conventional' Own Brand fresh chicken supply:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="483 1673 1477 1937"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1673 979 1738">2022</td> <td data-bbox="979 1673 1477 1738">34.20 kg/m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1738 979 1803">2021</td> <td data-bbox="979 1738 1477 1803">35.57 kg/m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1803 979 1868">2020</td> <td data-bbox="979 1803 1477 1868">35.91 kg/m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1868 979 1937">2019</td> <td data-bbox="979 1868 1477 1937">36.19 kg/m²</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2022	34.20 kg/m ²	2021	35.57 kg/m ²	2020	35.91 kg/m ²	2019	36.19 kg/m ²
2022	34.20 kg/m ²								
2021	35.57 kg/m ²								
2020	35.91 kg/m ²								
2019	36.19 kg/m ²								
Turkey	Maximum permitted stocking density: 59.1 kg/m ²								

	2022: average stocking density for Own Brand fresh supply: 51.46 kg/m ² 2021: 49.23 kg/m ² 2020: 49.89 kg/m ² 2019: 50.46 kg/m ²
Beef Cattle	100% free from tethering (beef) We do not source beef cattle from intensive feedlot production systems.
Dairy Cows	5.7% housed all year round, with 100% provided with additional species specific environmental enrichment if housed
Veal	100% free from crates
Force Feeding	100% of animals are free from force feeding

Farmed Fish

Our revised policy for fish and seafood sourcing, launched in 2020, sets limits on a range of farm practices which are integral to fish welfare, including limitations on stocking densities to avoid overcrowding. Specifically, the following stocking density requirements are in place:

Species	Maximum Stocking Density Requirements	Commentary
Salmon	25 kg/m ³ (International production) 15 kg/m ³ (UK production)	Actual stocking density in our UK supply chain has increased from 2.8kg/m ³ in 2021 to 3.63 kg/m ³ in 2022
Trout *	60 kg/m ³ (Fresh water) 15 kg/m ³ (Salt water)	Actual stocking density in our UK fresh water supply chain has decreased from 33.36kg/m ³ in 2021 to 32.28kg/m ³ in 2022
Bass	15 kg/m ³	In 2022, the actual stocking density in our UK supply chain was 5.02kg/m ³
Bream	15 kg/m ³	In 2022, the actual stocking density in our UK supply chain was 3.71 kg/m ³
Pangasius	N/A	There are no specific requirements for Pangasius, as this is managed on a site by site basis, based on a number of variables such as water quality

(* We only take fresh water at this time, but have a policy in place for salt water sourcing in case our sourcing strategy changes).

Dairy - Milk and Cheddar Cheese

100% of our retail liquid milk in 2022 was produced to the high standards set in the Arla UK 360 standards, and 100% of our cheddar cheese is produced to UK Red Tractor standards as a minimum with additional supplier standards set on top. The installation of robots means cows are able to choose independently when they are milked, and gives farmers access to a fast flow of individual-specific data. This means farmers can react quickly to any signs of health or welfare issues, and can create management plans that fit

the needs of each individual cow based on specific data sets. Should any dairy cows be housed all year round, we require suppliers to install additional environmental enrichment, as illustrated in the Species Specific Environmental Enrichment section of this report.

Routine Surgical Procedures

Routine surgical procedures are not permitted within Morrisons' own brand supply chain. Certain procedures are permitted under strict veterinary supervision and guidance, such as castration in cattle and sheep.

Species	Policy Requirement	2022 Compliance Rate	Commentary
Broiler Chicken	No beak trimming	100%	No beak trimming in supply
Turkey	No desnooding	100%	No desnooding in supply
Laying Hens (Eggs)	IRBT only permitted	100%	A change in sourcing means the non-beak trimmed birds decreased to 1.22% in 2022
Dairy cows	No tail docking	100%	No tail docking in supply
Beef	Castration under veterinary guidance only	100%	No routine castration in supply
Pork	No routine castration	100%	No change year on year due to us working with a small select group of suppliers.
	No routine tail docking	100%	
	% of whole, intact tailed pigs	1.2%	
Lamb	No routine teeth reduction	100%	No mulesing in supply No routine castration in supply
	No mulesing	100%	
	Castration under veterinary guidance only	100%	
Farmed Fish	No fin clipping	100%	No fin clipping in supply

Species Specific Environmental Enrichment

Species	% with access to Enrichment	Examples of Enrichment
Broiler Chicken	100% of birds had access to at least three of the examples listed	Perch space, pecking substrate, bales, pecking objects (eg CDs, plastic bottles/toys, cable ties, knotted string), outdoor roaming in Free Range systems
Turkey	100% of birds had access to at least two of the examples listed	Pecking objects (eg plastic toys/balls), sawdust bales, outdoor roaming in Free Range systems
Duck	We do not sell any Own Brand fresh duck products, however 100% of duck used as an ingredient in Own Brand products is Red Tractor certified	As required by Red Tractor standards, all ducks have access to bathing water and straw
Laying Hens (Eggs)	100%	100% Free Range; outdoor range including trees/bushes, perch space, pecking objects, dustbathing areas
Dairy - Milk	100%	Grazing on outdoor systems, loafing areas, straw and/or cow brushes on indoor systems.
Dairy - Cheddar Cheese	100%	Grazing on outdoor systems, cow brushes, straw or loafing areas on indoor systems
Beef	100%	Grazing on outdoor systems; straw on indoor systems
Pork	100% had access to at least one of the examples listed	Straw, hessian cloth sacks, hemp rope, fresh wood, plastic toys
Lamb	100%	Grazing on hillside/outdoor systems; straw on indoor systems
Farmed Fish	Data currently unavailable	Suppliers are currently assessing the validity of different enrichment options, and how best to report these

Environmental enrichment for farmed fish remains a challenge, however we are currently working closely with our suppliers to explore options for enrichment trials and reporting structure.

Species Specific Outcomes

Chicken

KPI	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Commentary
Mortality	4.40%	4.41%	4.21%	4.50%	3.85%	4.02%	A slight increase in mortality was seen in 2022 vs 2021, due to extreme heat challenges in the summer, however, this is an improved position compared with 2020 where we also saw extreme temperatures. This improvement is driven by significant improvements in heat management.
Pododermatitis	26.12%	27.80%	30.10%	17.65%	10.92%	9.71%	Changes to our fresh chicken supplier base over the last two years have contributed to a significant improvement in Pododermatitis levels. Overall, only one small volume supplier reported Podo levels above our target.

Turkey

KPI	2019	2020	2021	2022	Commentary
Mortality (Hens)	3.81%	4.39%	4.16%	3.66%	An improvement from 2021 figures for Hens, however Stags saw an increase of 0.59%.
Mortality (Stags)	5.77%	5.47%	5.41%	6.00%	
Leg Culls	1.16%	1.39%	1.26%	0.94%	Through 2020 and 2021 leg health challenges due to disease presence resulted in more leg culls, through new management practices brought in through 2021 there has been a decrease year on year.

Laying Hens

Shell Egg Supply Chain:

Please note that due to labour and farm access challenges, 2022 figures do not represent 100% of supply.

KPI	2019	2020	2021	2022	Commentary
Mortality	4.18%	3.59%	4.26%	4.56%	As mentioned above, of the farms that data was collected from, a small number reported increased feather loss in 2022 vs 2021. This is due to birds housed for longer during the Avian Influenza government housing order.
Keel Bone Damage	39.72%	27.04%	20.41%	20.39%	
70 week Feather Score 2	25.87%	21.64%	22.50%	25.90%	
Cage Free	78%	100%	100%	100%	Free range target achieved ahead of 2025 commitment

Ingredient Egg Supply Chain:

KPI	2019	2020	2021	July 2022	July 2023	Commentary
Cage Free	55%	57%	59%	59%	64%	In 2021, our egg packing site began supplying liquid egg to our manufacturing sites. As of 1st July 2022, our supply chain remains 64% cage free

Dairy - Liquid Milk

KPI	2020	2021	2022	Commentary
Average Grazing Days	224	221	219	Minimum requirement of 120 days per year in 'For Farmers' range. The weather through 2022 was challenging due to the drought but still enabled farms to reach a reasonable average for the numbers of days grazed.
Results following are for 100% of cattle within liquid milk supply				
Lameness	8.86 per 100	8.82 per 100	8.49 per 100	vs 2022 national average of 36 per 100*
Mastitis	28.33 per 100	25.4 per 100	20.72 per 100	vs 2022 national average of 32 per 100*
Cleanliness score 1 & 2	7.88%	6.15%	7.13%	Scores 1&2 Definitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minor deviations compared to normal. 2. Major deviations from normal, with an area of dirt at least 40cm in length
Physical Comfort score 2	2.98% (Note this figure is for score 1 & 2)	0.46%	0.49%	Our aligned farmers often use the additional income provided by our Milk For Farmers products to install additional health and welfare management tools, such as more matting, foot baths, and rotating brushes.

*data source: Kingshay Dairy Costings Focus Annual Report 2022, [available here](#).

Beef

KPI	2019	2020	2021	2022	Commentary
Casualty Animals	0.0047%	0.0109%	0.0155%	0.010%	An improved position year on year, any incidents have been investigated through the Animal Welfare Steering Group and fed back to the relevant suppliers.
Lairage Resting Time 0-6 hours		39%	38%	35.40%	Increases in the lairage resting times had no effect on the overall welfare of the cattle
Lairage Resting Time 6-12 hours		34.4%	21%	20.21%	
Lairage Resting Time >12 hours		26.6%	41%	44.39%	

Lamb

KPI	2019	2020	2021	2022	Commentary
Casualty Animals	0.0065%	0.0091%	0.0167%	0.01%	Potential root causes of this increase has been fully investigated, with one trend identified
Lairage Resting Time 0-6 hours		22.6%	22.7%	23.55%	Reduced resting times had no effect on the overall welfare of the lambs

Pork

KPI	2019	2020	2021	2022	Commentary
Casualty Animals	0.0103%	0.0186%	0.0134%	0.01%	Casualty slaughters are monitored and any potential trends or patterns associated are highlighted at our animal welfare steering group.
Lairage Resting Time 0-6 hours		36%	32%	38%	Increases in the lairage resting times had no effect on the overall welfare of the pigs
Lairage Resting Time 6-12 hours		44%	22%	25%	
Lairage Resting Time >12 hours		20%	45%	37%	
Lameness		0.0255%	0.0148%	0.01%	Changes to our sourcing strategy have led to significant improvements on both lameness and tail bitten pig KPIs
Tail Bitten Pigs		0.5247%	0.1948%	0.15%	

Farmed Fish

KPI	Mortality Rate				
	Salmon	Trout	Bass	Bream	Pangasius
2020	1.87%	0.92%	2.49%	0.83%	1.83%
2021	0.62%	0.32%	0.75%	0.54%	Data currently unavailable
2022	1.01%	0.31%	0.59%	0.64%	Data currently unavailable
Commentary	Please note that due to changes in data collection methodology of KPIs for fish, along with supply chain challenges, there is limited data availability for 2022, and data reported here represents a sample of our full supply chain				

Definitions

Term	Policy Definition
Meat	The generic term “meat” extends to include skeletal muscle with naturally included or adherent fat and connective tissue as well as offals such as heart, tongue, liver and kidney. It does not include stocks, bouillons, gelatine, refined fats, suet, lard, blood/blood proteins, meat proteins, collagen or natural casings.
Fresh meat	“Fresh meat” means “meat” sold to the ultimate consumer in a refrigerated condition (including that in vacuum-packs or protective atmosphere packaging) that has neither undergone any preserving process other than chilling nor had other non-meat ingredients added.
Processed meat	“Processed meat” means “meat” sold to the ultimate consumer in a refrigerated or ambient condition (including that in vacuum-packs or protective atmosphere packaging) that has undergone preserving processes other than chilling, or has had other non-meat ingredients added.
Ingredient meat	“Ingredient meat” means “meat” sold to the ultimate consumer in a refrigerated or frozen condition (including that in vacuum-packs or protective atmosphere packaging) where “meat” is not the main ingredient, but makes up more than 5% of the overall product.
Ingredient egg	“Ingredient egg” refers to products sold to the ultimate consumer in an ambient, refrigerated or frozen condition (including that in vacuum-packs or protective atmosphere packaging) where egg is not the main ingredient, but makes up more than 5% of the overall product.
Ingredient dairy	“Ingredient dairy” refers to products sold to the ultimate consumer in an ambient, refrigerated or frozen condition (including that in vacuum-packs or protective atmosphere packaging) where dairy is not the main ingredient, but makes up more than 5% of the overall product.
Morrisons accepted certified farm assurance scheme	An accepted, publically available farm assurance standard that encompasses food safety, traceability, animal welfare and environmental protection where certification is conferred by a certification body accredited to EN45011.