

# Farm Animal Welfare Progress Report

Published July 2022 for 2021 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 20 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 2021

In conjunction with our suppliers we monitor a wide range of key welfare indicators, which are reported to our Livestock Steering Group 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), egg or dairy 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 ten '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 Livestock 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 on arrival.

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.**

	2021		
	0 - 4 hours (YoY change)	4 - 8 hours	> 8 hours (YoY change)
Beef	54.83% (-14.01%)	44.74%	0.43% (-0.36%)
Pork	47.79% (-7.22%)	52.19%	0.02% (-0.44%)
Lamb	67.99% (+11.05%)	23.80%	0.13% (-8.71%)
Turkey	37.05% (-22.09%)	57.17%	5.68% (+0.51%)
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 2021 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 2021 in light of Avian Influenza challenges, resulted in changes to travel times, however compliance to our 8hour maximum journey time was broadly flat year on year.

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 in 2020 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
<b>2021</b>	71%	23%	2%	4%	0%

## Transportation

We monitor road traffic incidents (RTAs), noticeable fatigue and any stock dead on arrival. Figures below represent 2020 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 2021	None
DOAs (YoY change)	0.0006% (-0.0012%)
Notes on YoY change	One DOA was recorded in cattle for 2021. Each DOA is investigated to establish any trends or underlying causes, and findings are fed back to the relevant parties
Pork	
RTAs that resulted in livestock fatalities in 2021	None
DOAs (YoY change)	0.0104% (-0.0014%)
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 2021	None
DOAs (YoY change)	0.0046% (+0.002%)
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)	2021: 0.075% (-0.025%)
Notes on YoY change	In response to an increase in DOAs from 2019 to 2020, significant steps have been 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)	0.04% (-0.016%)
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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

	2021	
	% Stunned	% Effectively Stunned*(YoY Change)
Beef	100%	97.17% (-1.24%)
Pork	100%	99.96% (+1.09%)
Lamb	100%	98.80% (-1.12%)
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).

**Beef:** Although there has been a decline in effective stunning in our beef supply chain, performance remains within our tolerance levels.

**Lamb:** Although there has been a decline in effective stunning in our lamb supply chain, performance remains well within our company's tolerance levels.

## 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"> <li>100% free from sow stalls (ie gestation crates)</li> <li>8.3% outdoor bred (ie no farrowing crates in use), up from 6.2% in 2020, and 5.9% in 2019</li> <li>1.1% temporary crating / loose lactation (ie 'free farrowing' crates in use)</li> </ul> <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)	<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>59% cage free as of 1st 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/m<sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>Average stocking density for 'conventional' Own Brand fresh chicken supply:</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="483 1818 1477 2018"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1818 979 1886">2021</td> <td data-bbox="979 1818 1477 1886">35.57 kg/m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1886 979 1953">2020</td> <td data-bbox="979 1886 1477 1953">35.91 kg/m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1953 979 2018">2019</td> <td data-bbox="979 1953 1477 2018">36.19 kg/m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2021	35.57 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	2020	35.91 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	2019	36.19 kg/m <sup>2</sup>
2021	35.57 kg/m <sup>2</sup>						
2020	35.91 kg/m <sup>2</sup>						
2019	36.19 kg/m <sup>2</sup>						

Turkey	Maximum permitted stocking density: 59.1 kg/m <sup>2</sup> 2021 average stocking density for Own Brand fresh supply: 49.23 kg/m <sup>2</sup> 2020: 49.89 kg/m <sup>2</sup> 2019: 50.46 kg/m <sup>2</sup>
Cattle (Beef, Milk, Cheddar cheese)	100% free from tethering
Dairy (Milk and Cheddar Cheese)	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 <sup>3</sup> (International production) 15 kg/m <sup>3</sup> (UK production)	Actual stocking density in our UK supply chain has decreased from 3.44 kg/m <sup>3</sup> in 2020 to 2.8kg/m <sup>3</sup> in 2021
Trout	60 kg/m <sup>3</sup> (Fresh water) 15 kg/m <sup>3</sup> (Salt water)	Actual stocking density in our UK supply chain has increased from 31.03 kg/m <sup>3</sup> in 2020 to 33.36kg/m <sup>3</sup> in 2021
Bass	15 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	In 2021, the actual stocking density in our UK supply chain was 7.3 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Bream	15 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	In 2021, the actual stocking density in our UK supply chain was 4.6 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
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

### **Dairy - Milk and Cheddar Cheese**

100% of our retail liquid milk in 2021 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	2021 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 2.6% in 2021
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%	Please note an error in data recording in 2020 means that the % of whole, intact tailed pigs was over-reported in that year
	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%	
Farmed Fish	Castration under veterinary guidance only	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	Commentary
Mortality	4.40%	4.41%	4.21%	4.50%	3.85%	2021 marks the first year that our supply base has had an overall average mortality that is lower than our company target. We are pleased with the improvements seen here, as significant improvements in heat management were made following extreme heat challenges in 2020
Pododermatitis	26.12%	27.80%	30.10%	17.65%	10.92%	Changes to our fresh chicken supplier base in 2019 and 2020 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	Commentary
Mortality (Hens)	3.81%	4.39%	4.16%	An improvement from 2020 figures for both Hens and Stags, though still above 2019 for Hens due to some challenges with viral diseases
Mortality (Stags)	5.77%	5.47%	5.41%	
Leg Culls	1.16%	1.39%	1.26%	As above, suppliers experienced leg health challenges due to disease presence through 2020 and 2021 that resulted in more leg culls, though new management practices brought in through 2021 have seen a decrease year on year

## Laying Hens

### Shell Egg Supply Chain:

Please note that due to labour and farm access challenges, 2021 figures do not represent 100% of supply.

KPI	2019	2020	2021	Commentary
Mortality	4.18%	3.59%	4.26%	As mentioned above, the data presented does not represent 100% of supply, therefore figures cannot be directly compared to 2020 and 2019. Of the farms that data was collected from, a small number suffered higher than expected mortality rates in 2021.
Keel Bone Damage	39.72%	27.04%	20.41%	
70 week Feather Score 2	25.87%	21.64%	22.50%	
Cage Free	78%	100%	100%	Free range target achieved ahead of 2025 commitment

## Ingredient Egg Supply Chain:

KPI	2019	2020	2021	July 2022	Commentary
Cage Free	55%	57%	59%	59%	In 2021, our egg packing site began supplying liquid egg to our manufacturing sites. As of 1st July 2022 and despite the cost of living challenge, our supply chain remains <b>59% cage free</b>

## Dairy - Liquid Milk

KPI	2020	2021	Commentary
Average Grazing Days	224	221	Minimum requirement of 120 days per year in 'For Farmers' range. Similarly to previous years, the weather through 2021 meant that the average number of grazing days could be significantly extended beyond the minimum requirement 2019: 222, 2018: 214
<b>Results following are for 100% of cattle within liquid milk supply</b>			
Lameness	8.86 per 100	8.82 per 100	vs 2021 national average of 36 per 100*
Mastitis	28.33 per 100	25.4 per 100	vs 2021 national average of 32 per 100*
Cleanliness score 1 & 2	7.88%	6.15%	Scores 1&2 Definitions: 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%	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. A change to reporting methodology means the performance between 2020 and 2021 cannot be directly compared

\*data source: Kingshay Dairy Costings Focus Annual Report 2021, [available here](#).

## Beef

KPI	2019	2020	2021	Commentary
Casualty Animals	0.0047%	0.0109%	0.0155%	Changes to our sourcing strategy, as well as changes to third party representatives at site, have led to an increase in casualty animals. Incidents have been investigated through the Livestock Steering Group and fed back to the relevant suppliers
Lairage Resting Time 0-6 hours		39%	38%	Operational challenges at processing sites led to delays and therefore increases in the lairage resting times; this had no effect on the overall welfare of the cattle
Lairage Resting Time 6-12 hours		34.4%	21%	
Lairage Resting Time >12 hours		26.6%	41%	

## Lamb

KPI	2019	2020	2021	Commentary
Casualty Animals	0.0065%	0.0091%	0.0167%	Potential root causes of this increase has been fully investigated, with one trend identified
Lairage Resting Time 0-6 hours		22.6%	22.7%	Lamb processing lines experienced less operational challenges than other species, resulting in reduced resting times; this had no effect on the overall welfare of the lambs
Lairage Resting Time 6-12 hours		15.2%	18.4%	
Lairage Resting Time >12 hours		62.2%	58.9%	

## Pork

KPI	2019	2020	2021	Commentary
Casualty Animals	0.0103%	0.0186%	0.0134%	Actions taken on the back of an increase in casualty animals in 2020 have led to an improvement on performance and data recording
Lairage Resting Time 0-6 hours		36%	32%	Operational challenges at processing sites led to delays and therefore increases in the lairage resting times; this had no effect on the overall welfare of the pigs
Lairage Resting Time 6-12 hours		44%	22%	
Lairage Resting Time >12 hours		20%	45%	
Lameness		0.0255%	0.0148%	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%	

## 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
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 2021, 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.