



ALDI UK

Animal Welfare Policies and Performance

Updated December 2024



Position Statement

ALDI UK is part of the ALDI SOUTH Group.

“Sustainability is one of the most relevant and pressing topics of our time. How sustainable we act now will influence our planet and the lives of future generations. At the ALDI SOUTH Group, responsibility is one of our core values and we need to act quickly and change the way we do business. By addressing pressing social and environmental problems, we can use our scale and influence to have the greatest impact on people and nature.” (Source: Sustainability [Principles of the ALDI SOUTH Group](#))

The ALDI SOUTH Group’s Global Sustainability Strategy (GSS) consists of six strategic dimensions which have been designed to embed sustainability into the whole business. Animal welfare is one of these key dimensions, therefore we continually 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.

(Source: Sustainability [Principles of the ALDI SOUTH Group](#))

Our Approach

The ALDI UK agriculture strategy filters through from our Global Sustainability Strategy (GSS) focusing on three areas: reducing the climate and environmental impact of farming, improving animal welfare across our supply chains and protecting our British sourcing credentials across meat, poultry, eggs and dairy. We deliver our strategy through robust policies, accurate data and productive relationships throughout our supply chains.

Sustainable agriculture involves farming in a way that preserves and restores habitats, improves soil healthy and water quality, and avoids deforestation. Yet food production is still a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. At Aldi UK, we strive to reduce the emissions from agriculture by fostering practices that are less damaging to the environment than traditional agricultural processes.

Animal welfare is an important part of being a responsible business and we are committed to high standards of welfare for animals used in our products.

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: by providing 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 animal’s 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.

The ALDI UK Animal Welfare Policies apply to all 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 are provided with the highest welfare standards.

Our People

We have a dedicated team within our UK Sustainability Department for animal welfare who work closely with our suppliers and specialist veterinary consultants. To further their development and stay at the forefront of industry, the team regularly attend relevant events and roundtables.



To support our Buying teams, our animal welfare team provide training on animal welfare topics and the respective Buying Directors are updated on policy implementation on a regular basis.

Certification

We support animal welfare through certification schemes such as Red Tractor, Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), British Lion Egg and RSPCA Assured and have our own animal welfare standards that go over and above legal requirements. All our own-label fresh primary beef, pork, poultry, shell eggs and milk are Red Tractor, QMS Assured or RSPCA Assured, and audited independently at least once every 18 months by these certification schemes.

Our aim is to source some Specially Selected fresh primary meat and fish as RSPCA Assured. We regularly review our range to identify further opportunities for RSPCA Assured products. You can find out more about our RSPCA Assured products and find recipe inspiration at <https://www.rspcaassured.org.uk/where-to-buy-rspca-assured/buy-at-ALDI/>.

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

Our Suppliers

Our animal welfare requirements form part of the contractual agreement between ALDI and our suppliers. We expect all of our suppliers to adhere to these standards and apply them to all sub-suppliers throughout the 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 raised, suppliers are expected to provide a corrective action plan to resolve the violations and demonstrate that these steps have adequately addressed any non-compliances raised.

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.

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 with suppliers to support implementation of animal welfare policies.

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

Policy Review

ALDI South Group has an International Animal Welfare Working Group, which comprises Sustainability Managers from the individual countries and is chaired by the International Sustainability International (ISUST) department. This Working Group is responsible for development of our strategic approach at an international level.

Our UK Animal Welfare Policies are reviewed and, if required, updated on an annual basis. We believe this is the best way to guarantee the long-term sustainable and responsible sourcing of our animal-based products. We develop our policies in conjunction with consultants and suppliers.

ALDI UK also use external benchmarking (such as BBFAW and CIWF), competitor benchmarking, customer research and development projects, and relationships with welfare and farming organisations to inform our policies.

Research and development is primarily conducted through the ALDI Dairy Farm Partnership (ADFP), which includes a group of over 150 dedicated UK dairy farmers. This group adheres to Arla UK's farm requirements which go beyond Red Tractor standards. In October 2024, ALDI announced plans to invest in dairy farming through an enhanced partnership with Arla to ensure greater focus on sustainability and animal welfare practices.

We work closely with other suppliers to support their own R&D projects that deliver ALDI's welfare and environmental targets.

UK Achievements and Targets

- 100% of ALDI Scottish everyday fresh beef and pork is QMS Assured.
- 100% of our shell eggs are British and meet British Lion Standards.
- 100% of our shell eggs are cage-free and 100% of our own brand shell eggs are Free Range (RSPCA Assured or Organic).

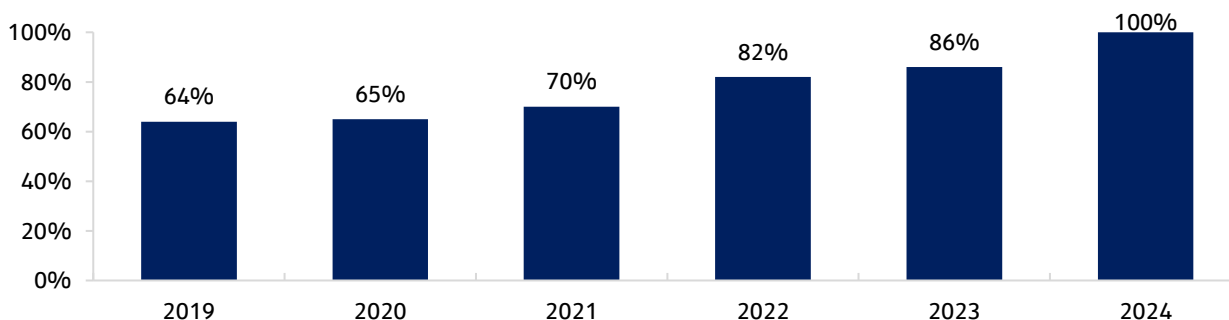


- All egg ingredients (whole, liquid and powdered egg) in own-brand products will be sourced from cage-free supply chains by the end of 2025.
- We are committed to achieving 100% certification for our farmed fish. Our goal is to have all of our farmed fish certified to one of the following standards: Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), GLOBAL G.A.P., Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP 4*), or certified organic.
- We are one of the few UK supermarkets to guarantee that all of our own-label household, toiletry and cosmetic product ranges are not tested on animals.
- We offer organic products and other higher welfare product options within meat, egg, and dairy categories and ensure that these products are recognisable to customers 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.
- A key pillar of our Health and Nutrition strategy is to encourage and support customers following sustainable diets. We collaborated with the British Dietetic Association to explore what healthy, sustainable diets look like for the ALDI customer. Key messages were to opt for higher welfare meat and increase plant-based protein, aiming for a 50/50 split between animal and plant sources. You can read more about this project on our website: [British Dietetic Association - ALDI UK](#)

Welfare Reporting

The ALDI SOUTH Group collects animal welfare information annually as part of our international commitments such as our 100% cage free egg goal by the end of 2025. Our progress can be seen below.

Figure 2: Progress towards our 2025 cage-free shell egg commitment



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 on an ongoing basis to make this transition.

We work closely with our buying and category department to ensure we are maximising our higher welfare offering.

We record welfare outcome data from high priority supply chains through our welfare reporting platform, managed by Map of Ag. The ALDI UK Sustainability team assess progress with Map of Ag and we work collaboratively with our suppliers to take action where any potential issues are identified.

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 for household and cleaning products from 1 January 2015.

We have Leaping Bunny certification from Cruelty Free International and, as a result, all own-label products in these categories feature the organisation's Leaping Bunny symbol.



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

Down, Feather and Wool

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

Alpaca wool 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.

Feather, 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. Sheepskin is not considered fur and therefore does not fall under this policy.

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 follow its associated guidelines.

Food Policies (General)

ALDI UK Animal Welfare Policies reflect our minimum requirements, which we strive to exceed wherever possible. We expect 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.

Fresh primary product scope includes raw chilled cuts of meat that have not been further processed, e.g. pork chops, steak, minced meat and chicken breast. Primary Proteins could include an additional ingredient such as oil or herbs. Policy requirements across fresh primary extend as recommendations to further processed, modified, frozen or cooked foods for human consumption.

Animal Cloning

ALDI products must not be sourced from cloned or genetically modified animals or their offspring. Cloning is a process that produces genetically identical individuals. 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 regulations.

Scope: All own-label and branded food products.

Animal Welfare Training

ALDI UK sets out the following requirements for our suppliers:

- The Animal Welfare Officer 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 Officer.

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

Antibiotics



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

ALDI are part of the Food Industry Initiative on Antimicrobials (FIIA) which has the shared vision of 'Retailers, manufacturers, processors and food service companies coming together to promote and support responsible antimicrobial use and action on antimicrobial resistance'.

We believe that the use of antibiotics in animal farming should be prescribed by qualified veterinarians and with a view to good animal welfare and long-term sustainability. We do not support the prophylactic use of antibiotics in animal farming, or their use as growth promoters.

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 accepted 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 first 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.

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 beef, pork, poultry, eggs and milk is Red Tractor, Quality Meat Scotland or British Lion Egg certified. Compliance with these standards is verified by regular inspections. Suppliers must notify us of any compliance issues or audit failures.

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 high welfare products including Free Range, RSPCA Assured and Organic, which includes our shell eggs, fresh milk, meat 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 animal welfare, including space to roam and stimulating environments to ensure they are well cared for and healthy.

Scope: All own-label fresh primary meat, dairy, free-range eggs and farmed salmon.

CCTV

All abattoirs supplying ALDI UK with fresh primary poultry, meat & shell eggs must have a CCTV system in place that covers all areas of the abattoir where live animals are being held and handled, including the stunning and slaughter area. CCTV footage must be reviewed regularly by an employee in a management level position responsible for animal welfare and/or an external auditing agency and used as a training and management tool for all employees handling live animals.

Scope: All fresh primary poultry, meat & shell eggs.

Country of Origin

All own label fresh primary poultry, beef, pork, shell eggs and milk must be sourced from the UK all year round.

Genetic Modification

GM ingredients and derivatives are not permitted in our own-label meat, eggs and milk. Animals fed on authorised GM crops are considered to be as safe as animals fed on non-GM crops. As a result, we do not prohibit the use of GM ingredients in animal feed. All of our Organic certified products, including eggs and milk, are free from GM animal feed.

Scope: All own label & branded food 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 and 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.

Confinement

We require all own-label fresh milk, poultry and meat to be Red Tractor certified as a minimum. We source RSPCA Assured chicken, pork, egg and fish, which means that animals have greater space to roam and express natural behaviours. We have the following policies and goals for confinement systems:

Policy	Species	Policy Scope	% Free from confinement
Cage-Free Eggs 100% of our own brand and branded shell eggs, and own-brand egg ingredients (whole, liquid and powdered egg) will be cage-free by the end of 2025.	Laying Hens	All own label and branded shell eggs, all own-label egg ingredients	100% (shell eggs) 69% (egg ingredients by no. of lines)
Finfish - Stocking Density Our Specially Selected fresh farmed salmon fillets are RSPCA Assured, which ensures lower stocking densities.	Salmon	Fresh Specially Selected Salmon Fillets	100%
Force-Feeding ALDI products must not be sourced from birds that have been force fed e.g. foie gras.	Poultry	All own label and branded products	100%
Single Penning Red Tractor dairy standards require calves to have visual and tactile contact with other calves and to be group housed after 8 weeks of age. All calves must be able to see and touch other calves at all times.	Dairy	All own label fresh milk	100%



Sow Stalls Permanent sow stalls are not permitted on any farms producing ALDI products.	Pigs	All own label fresh primary pork	100%
Tethering Permanent tethering of cattle is not permitted in our UK supply chain, which is audited through Red Tractor standards.	Dairy	All own label fresh milk	100%

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.

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. All ALDI's fresh, primary chicken:

- Is raised at a lower stocking density to allow more space to roam (30kg/m² which is lower than the Red Tractor industry standard of 38kg, providing chickens with 20% more space)
- Has access to at least 2 metres of perch space, manipulable material and pecking objects, to allow for natural behaviour including perching, dustbathing and pecking (in line with Red Tractor)
- Is provided with natural lighting so that windows equate to a minimum of 3% of the floor area (in line with Red Tractor)

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 right environment. 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 natural behavioural requirements, reduce instances of tail biting and other uncharacteristic behaviour.
- 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.

Slower Growing Breeds

All ALDI UK Specially Selected fresh primary chicken is a slower growing breed and Free Range

Scope: All own-label Specially Selected fresh primary chicken.

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.

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. Since 2020, there have been no cases of ineffective stuns within our pork supply chain.

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

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



Farm Management Practices

We prohibit the castration of pigs and mulesing of lambs. ALDI aspire to prohibit routine farm practices for animals but understands the farm management challenges this may 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.

Management Practice	Species	Policy Scope	% Free from farm level intervention
Beak trimming All of our organic shell eggs and fresh primary chicken are sourced from birds that have not been beak trimmed.	Laying Hens / Meat Chickens	Organic Shell Eggs & Fresh primary chicken	100%
Branding All cattle must not be hot branded or identified by dewlap tags.	Beef & Dairy	Fresh Primary Beef and Fresh Milk	100%
Castration The castration of pigs by physical or chemical means is prohibited for all own-label fresh primary pork.	Pork	Fresh Primary Pork	100%
Mulesing We do not permit mulesing.	Lamb	All own label lamb products	100%
Tail Docking Cattle: Routine tail docking is not permitted under EU legislation and therefore not permitted in the UK.	Dairy	Fresh Milk	100%
Tooth Reduction Pigs: 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.	Pork	Fresh Primary Pork	100%
Nose Rings 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.	Pork	Fresh Primary Pork	100%

Transport

Livestock transport and movements can be stressful to animals and should be kept to a minimum. All livestock transport time for all journeys should not exceed more than 8 hours from the first animal loaded to last animal unloaded. Suppliers must notify Aldi of any instances where transport times exceeds 8 hours and provide supplementary information to Aldi for review.

Animals destined to provide protein into the ALDI supply chain, and dairy calves, must not have been transported live 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.

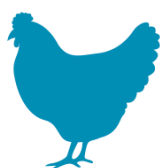
Suppliers submit their transport times on a monthly basis to our animal welfare partner, Map of Ag.

We recognise that transport times can be impacted by an array of external factors beyond our suppliers control, which is why we require suppliers to provide evidence and justification where the 8 hour transport time is exceeded.

Scope: All own label fresh chicken, turkey and pork.

Species	Travel Time Policy	2024 Compliance
Chicken	8 Hours	100% Fresh Primary Chicken
Pork		99.85% Fresh Primary Pork
Turkey		100% Fresh Primary Turkey

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 ALDI UK animal welfare policies. 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 includes windows for natural light, pecking objects and straw bales.

All ALDI's fresh, primary chicken:

- Is raised at a lower stocking density to allow more space to roam (30kg/m² which is lower than the Red Tractor industry standard of 38kg, providing chickens with 20% more space)
- Has access to at least 2 metres of perch space, manipulable material and pecking objects, to allow for natural behaviour including perching, dustbathing and pecking (in line with Red Tractor)
- Is provided with natural lighting so that windows equate to a minimum of 3% of the floor area (in line with Red Tractor)
- Is pre-stunned prior to slaughter using controlled atmospheric stunning with an inert gas (CO₂) – electric stunning is only used as an emergency backup.

We are continuously looking at ways in which we could improve the welfare of chickens within our supply chains. We are in regular open dialogue with the Better Chicken Commitment campaign and Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) discussing market trends and welfare improvements. In addition to this we work closely with our suppliers to monitor and manage animal welfare on farm.

We work with our suppliers and Map of Ag to collate welfare outcome measures from farms and abattoirs supplying ALDI UK. Every month this data is submitted by the suppliers and is reviewed regularly by our NSUST team and Map of Ag. The KPIs measure:

- Total On Farm Mortality
 - Leg Culls (culling due to lameness)
 - 7 Day Mortality (On Farm)
- Dead on Arrival (DOA)
- Culled on Arrival
- PMI Rejects (birds where the whole carcass was rejected post slaughter)
- Hock Burn
- Breast Blisters
- Pododermatitis (also referred to as Foot Pad Burn)
- Stocking Density
- Transport Times (from the first chicken loaded on farm to the last chicken unloaded at abattoir).

Figure 4: Health Outcomes – Chicken

Health outcomes for chicken have increased slightly year on year, due to a number of factors including the implementation of gut health programmes using natural products, altered Coccidiostat programmes in feed,



trial of litter, and a comprehensive ventilation programme for all staff on farm. we have been working closely with our supplier through our action plans to reduce Pododermatitis and Hock Burn back to previous levels.

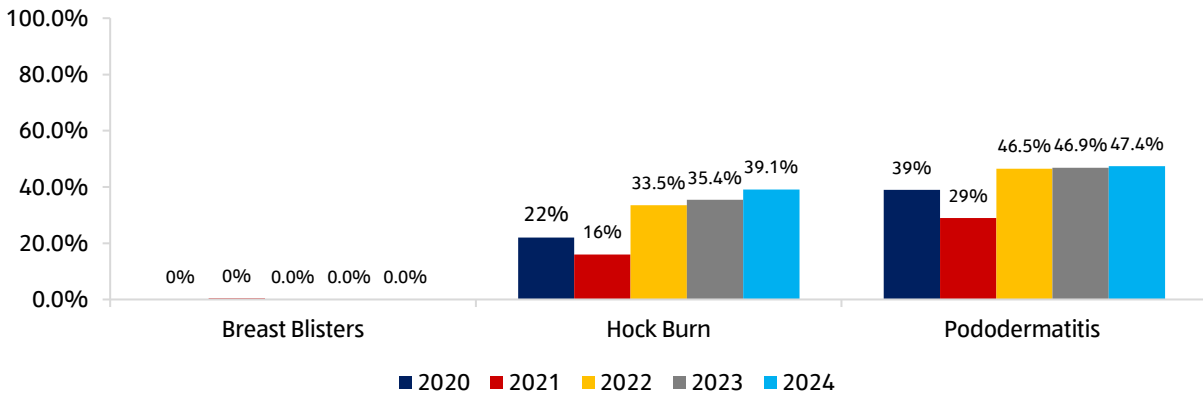


Figure 5: Abattoir Outcomes – Chicken

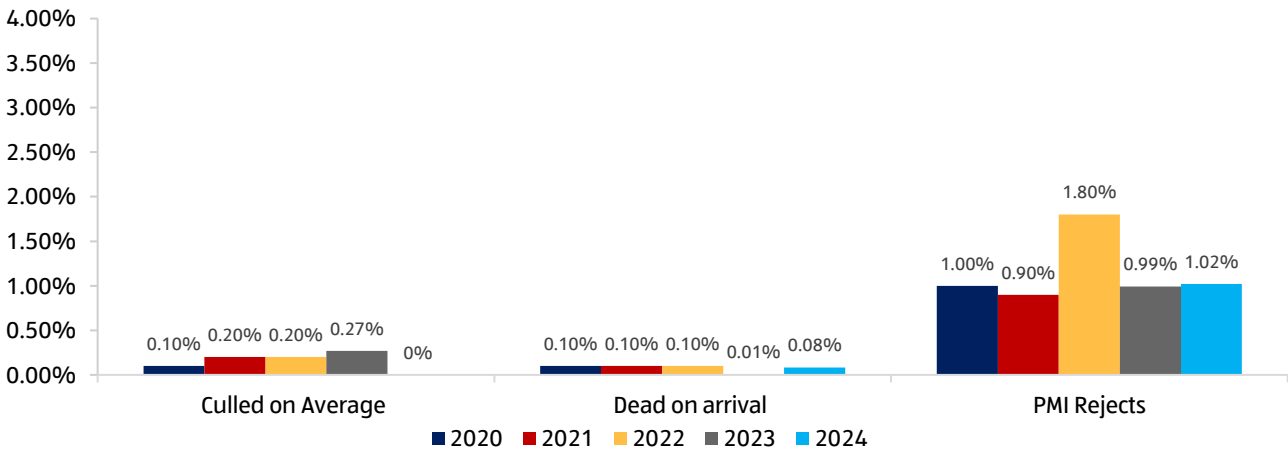


Figure 6: Average Transport Times (hrs) – Chicken

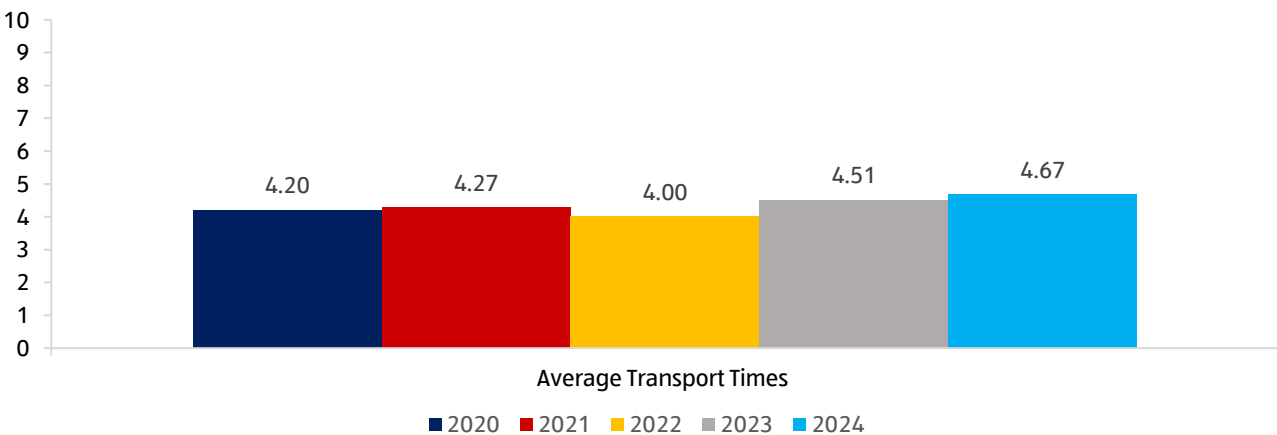


Figure 7: Antibiotic Usage – Chicken

At ALDI, we have had no critically important antibiotic usage (CIA) over the past 6 years within our fresh poultry supply chain. We work closely with our suppliers to monitor antibiotic usage and benchmark performance vs the industry average to highlight health and welfare issues.

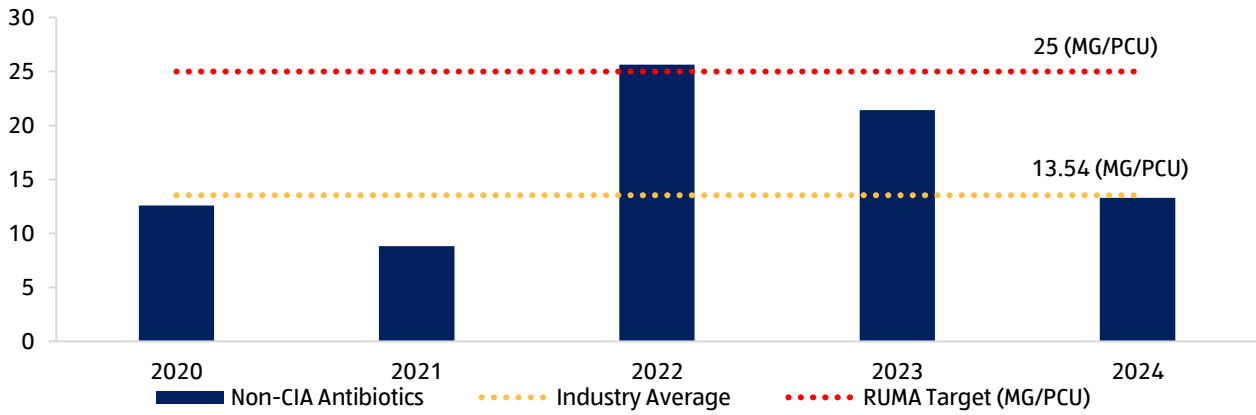
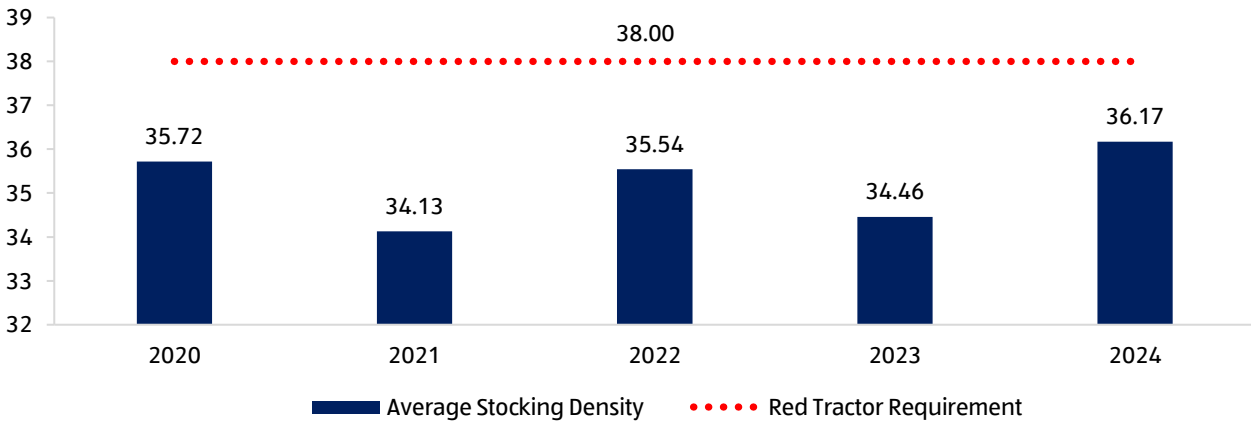


Figure 8: Average Stocking Density (kg/m²) – Chicken

Since February 2024, we have been phasing in 30kg stocking density into our supply chain, so much of our data is a mixture of houses stocked at 30kg and 38kg. Since the phasing in we have had to make adjustments to weight for age, as the bird stocked at 30kg were growing much faster than expected.



Eggs

All our shell eggs are sourced from the UK and certified to meet British Lion Standards as a minimum, which includes strict measures on traceability, welfare, feed, temperature, and hygiene.

100% of our own-label and branded shell eggs are cage free, with all own-brand shell eggs being Free Range (RSPCA Assured or Organic). We met this target over a year ahead of our 2025 cage-free shell egg commitment. We have also committed to ensuring egg ingredients (whole, liquid and powdered egg) in our own label products will be from cage-free hens by the end of 2025.

Free Range hens have more room to roam (30 kg/m²), access to pasture when weather and ground conditions permit and stimulating environments, such as straw and objects to peck at.

We collate animal welfare KPI’s for laying hens across our supply chain.

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.

Figure 9: Feather Coverage - Laying Hens

Feather coverage is important for laying hens to regulate body temperature, protect birds from sunburn, and allow for dustbathing and preening. Feather loss can be associated with stress, pain, cannibalism and reduced productivity. Our suppliers monitor feather coverage in accordance with RSPCA’s guidance for laying hens. A



score of 0 indicates no-minimal feather loss, score 1 indicates a slight feather loss and score 2 is moderate feather loss.

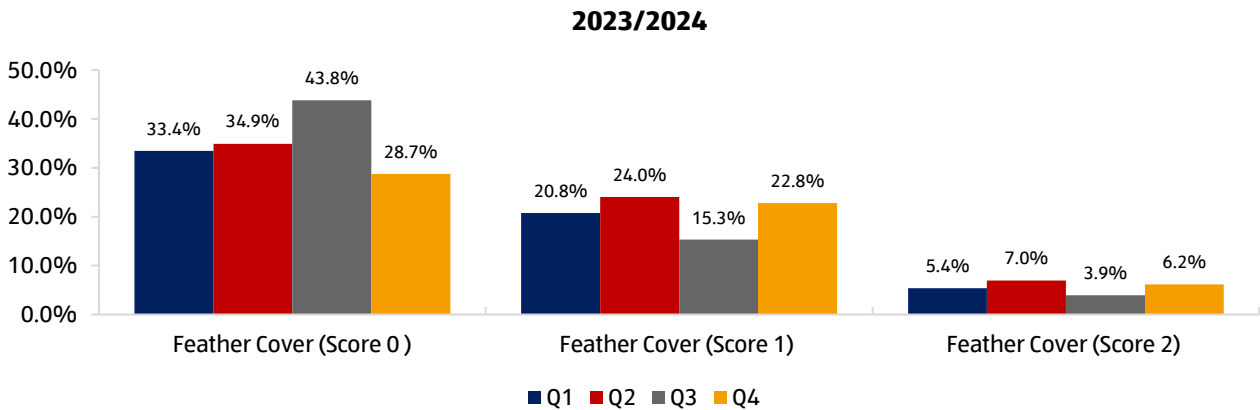
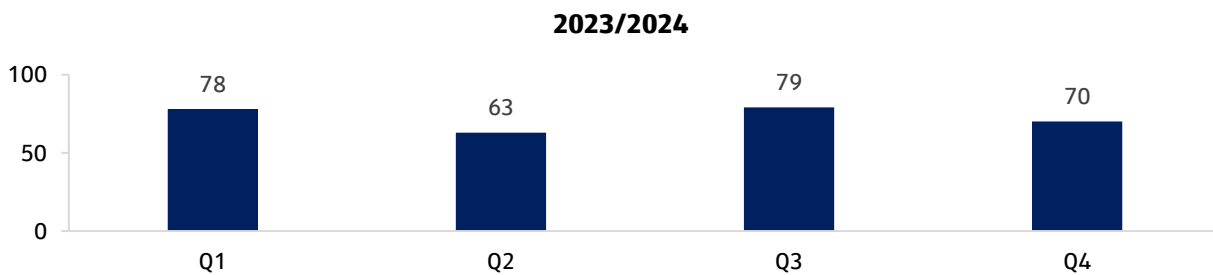


Figure 10: Average age at depopulation (weeks) - Laying Hens

A number of our supplying farms have been impacted by the Avian Influenza virus, therefore driving down our quarterly depopulation average.



Turkey, Duck & Goose

All our fresh turkey, duck and goose is sourced from the UK and certified to meet Red Tractor standards, which include measures 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 pecking objects.

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.

Figure 11: Farm Outcomes – Turkey

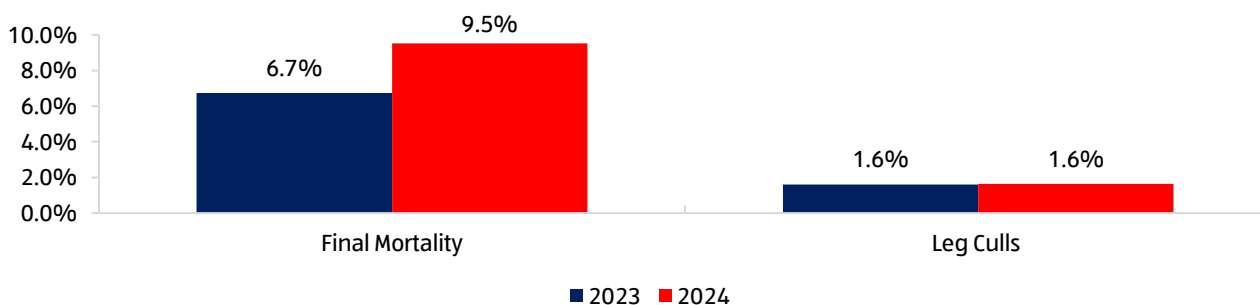




Figure 12: Health Outcomes – Turkey

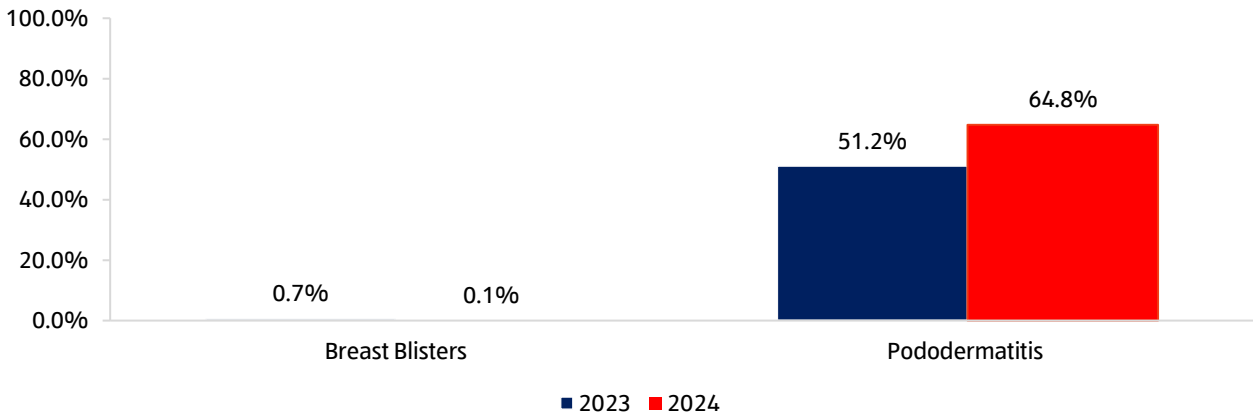


Figure 13a: Abattoir Outcomes – Turkey

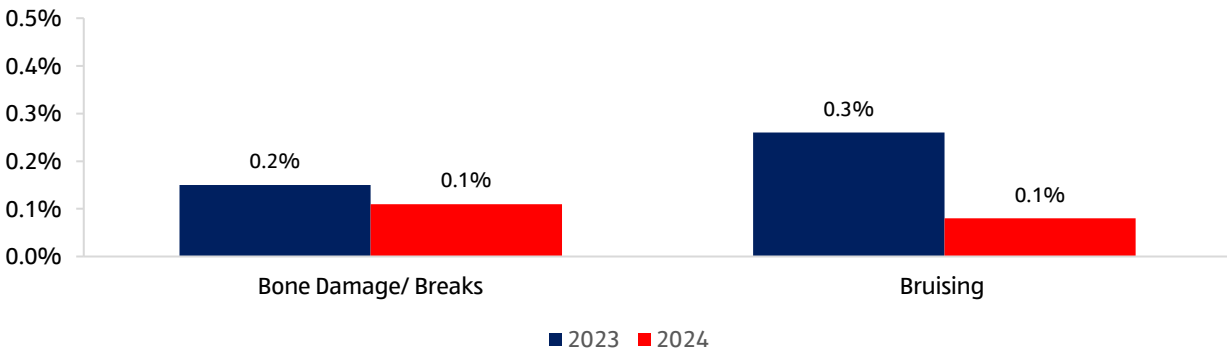


Figure 13b: Abattoir Outcomes – Turkey

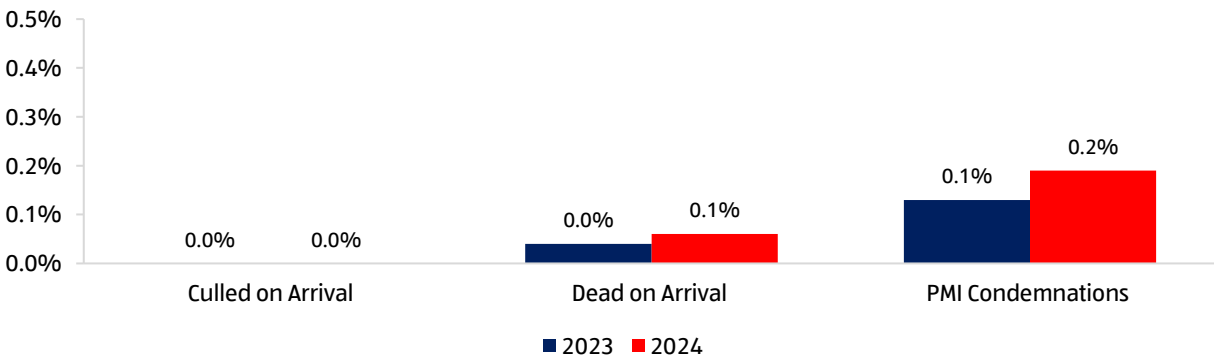


Figure 14: Transport Time (hrs) - Turkey

Our supplying farmers are located within two hours of our processing plants, keeping transportation stress associated with travelling to a minimum.

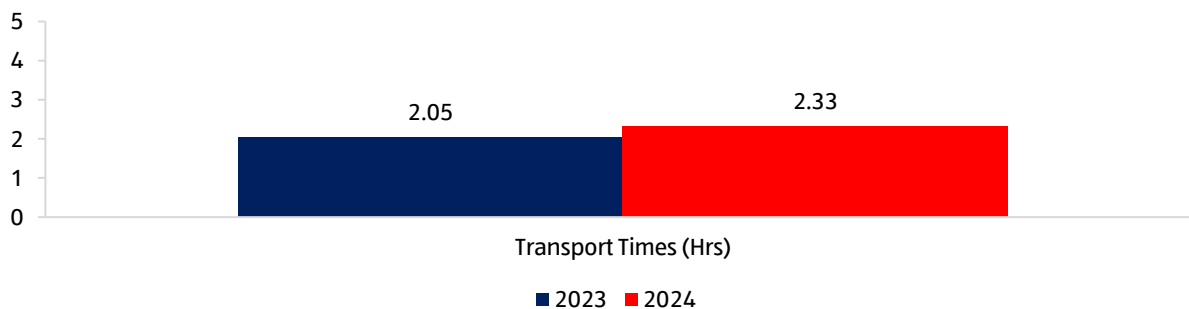
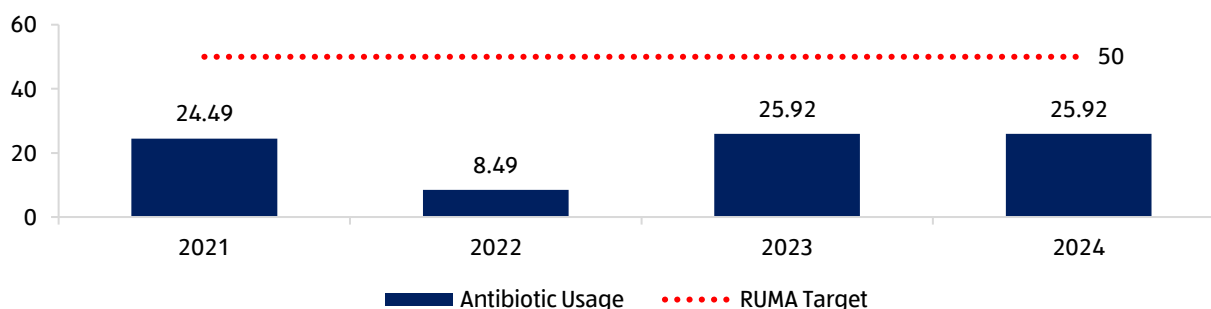


Figure 15: Antibiotic Usage (mg/PCU) – Turkey



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 indigenous 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 permanent 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 recommend these are limited. 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 raised completely 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 we do not permit the slaughter of healthy calves.

We ensure greater focus on animal welfare through our Aldi Dairy Farm Partnership, which we launched in 2018. This programme is designed to better support a dedicated group of British dairy farmers to achieve Arla’s Customer Welfare Standards to drive positive change in the dairy sector.

The Arla Customer Welfare 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 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 Johne’s.
- No healthy calf born on the holding to be euthanised, exported or slaughtered.
- All calves should be paired (or group) housed by 7 days of age and must be paired, or group housed by 21 days of age.
- Lactating cull cows must travel directly to slaughter and must not be sold in livestock markets.

Farm visits are carried out at least once every 18 months by third party assessors and farms are able to be involved in Arla’s benchmarking groups to drive continuous improvement and ensure target outcome measures are met.

Alongside the key measures, the ALDI Dairy Farm Partnership looks at development projects to address key issues facing the industry. Previous work involves trialling 3D imagery systems to help identify changes in each cow’s physical wellbeing, mobility and weight even before they are visible to the human eye. A future project focus will be helping set a baseline for carbon sequestration so that this can be accounted for in future carbon footprint models.

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.

We collate welfare outcome measures from all of our partnership farms that supply Arla with fresh liquid milk. This data is submitted by the suppliers on a quarterly basis and is reviewed by our NSUST team and Map of Ag. We monitor performance indicators across all of our partnership farms. The KPIs measured are:

- 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

Figure 17: Calving interval (Days) – Dairy

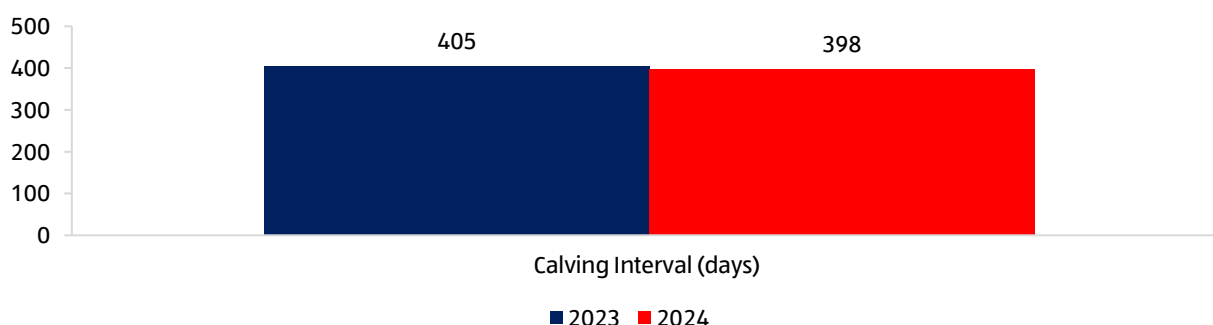




Figure 18: Age at first calving (Months) – Dairy

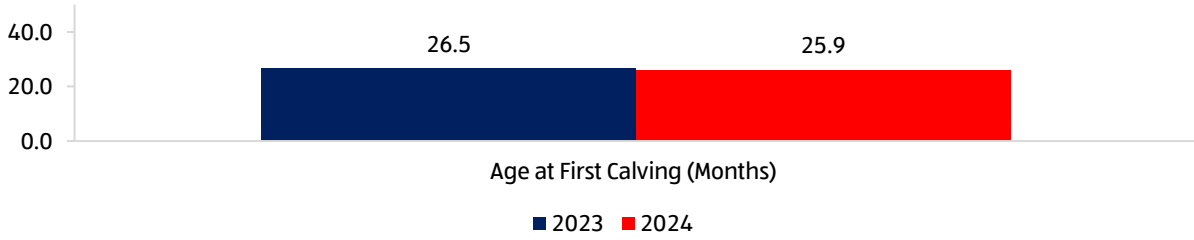


Figure 19: Lameness Score – Dairy

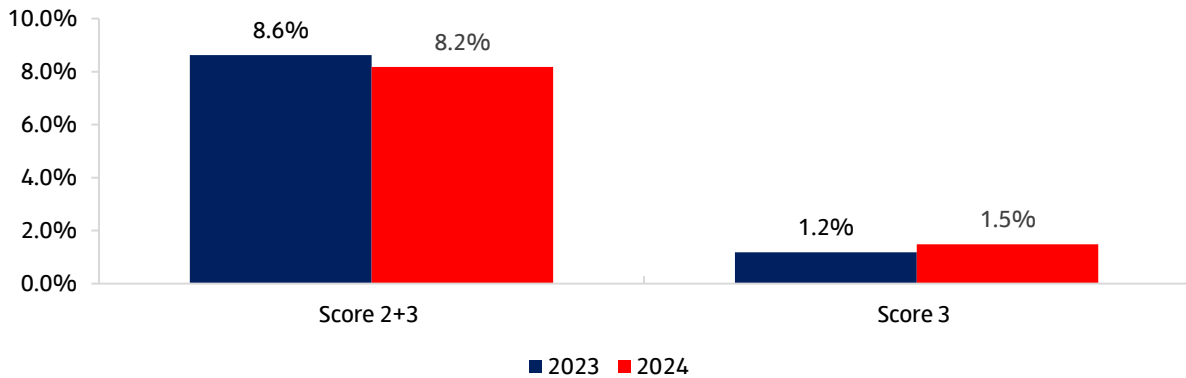


Figure 20: Mastitis cases per 100 cows – Dairy

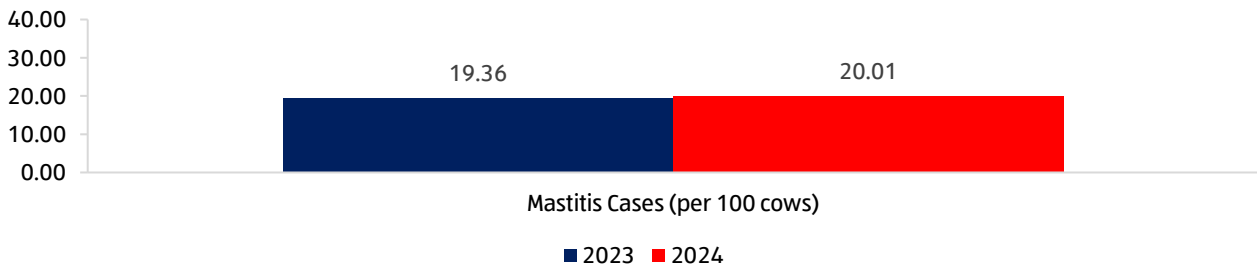
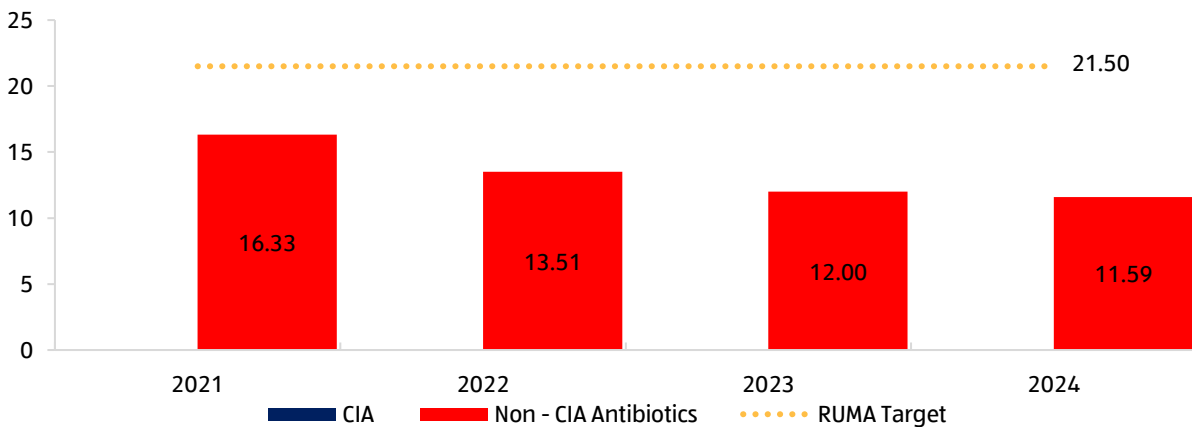


Figure 21: Antibiotic Usage - Dairy

Antibiotic usage within our Dairy farm partnership has consistently remained below the RUMA target for the industry. With no CIA usage over the previous four-year reporting period.





Pigs



100% of our own-label fresh everyday pork is British and, as a minimum, Red Tractor certified. 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.

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 Map of Ag 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 NSUST Team and Map of Ag. The KPIs measured are:

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

Figure 22a: Welfare Outcomes – Pork

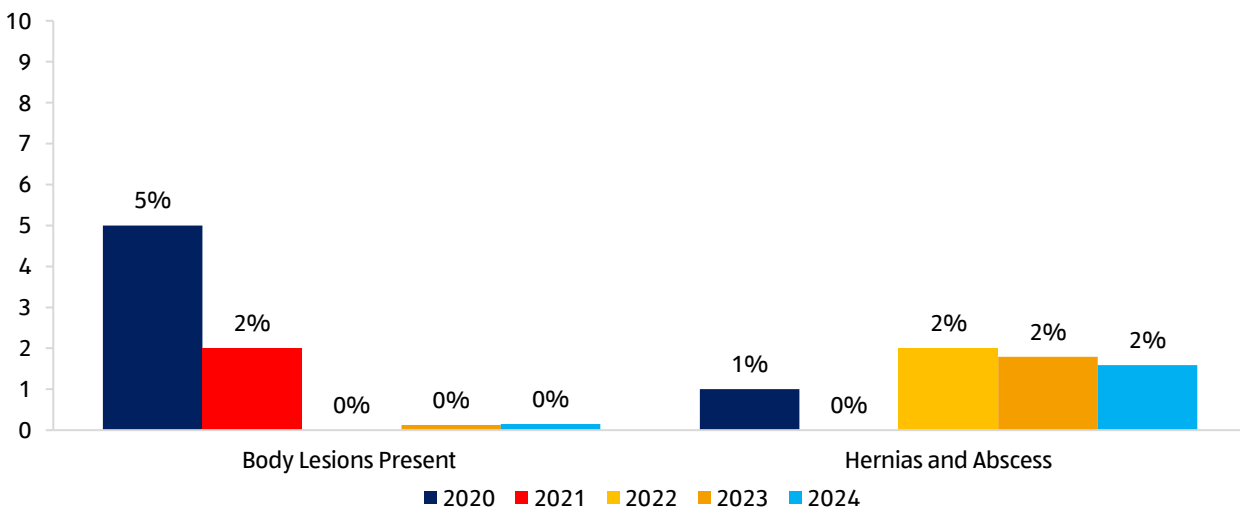




Figure 22b: Welfare Outcomes – Pork

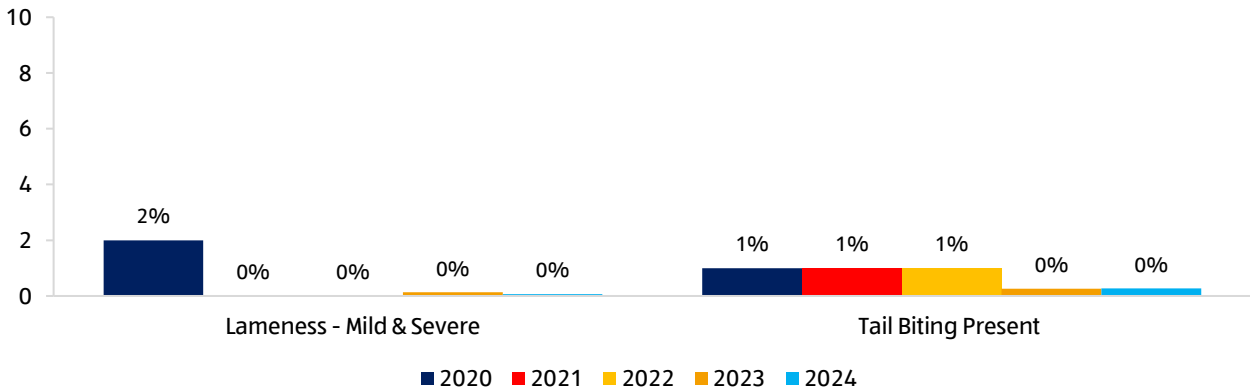


Figure 23: Lairage Outcomes - Pork

We have seen ineffective stun instances decline to 0.0%, with very few welfare instances across all of our processing sites.

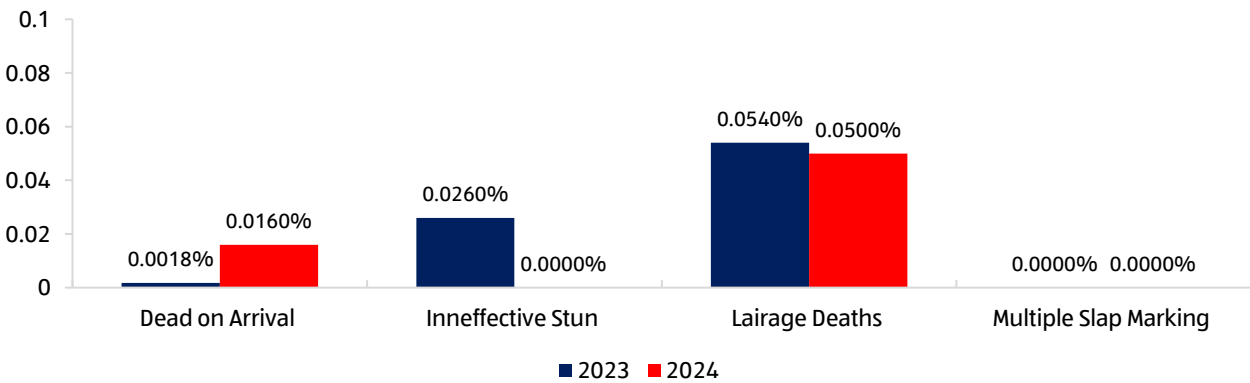
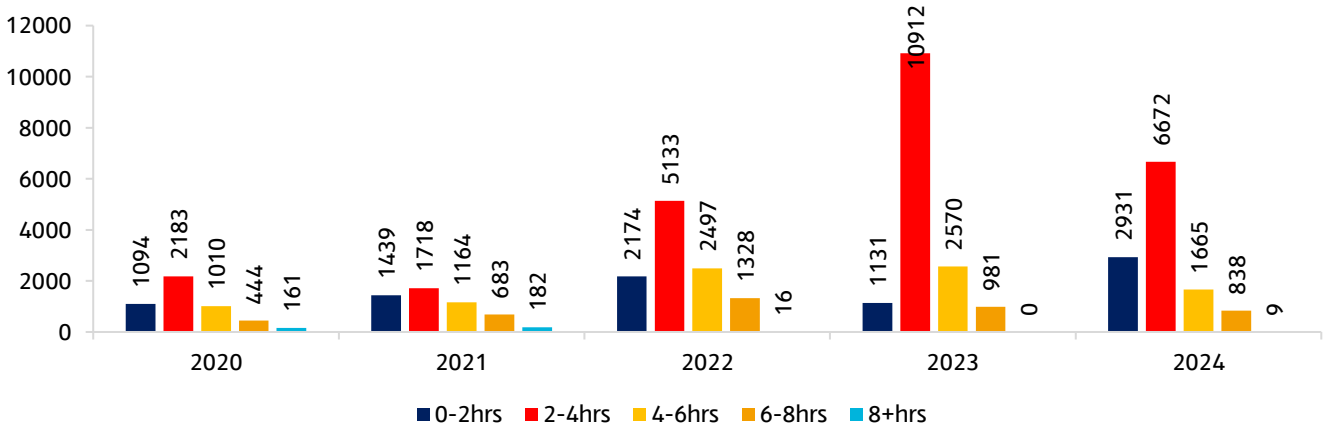


Figure 24: Transport Times - Pork

99.93% of journeys have been below our 8-hour transport policy in 2024. We understand that transport times are liable to external events beyond our supplier’s control, for example bad weather or accidents. Where cases exceed our 8-hour transport policy, suppliers must submit supporting evidence to Aldi for review.



Beef



100% of our own-label Everyday fresh primary beef is assured to Red Tractor standards. 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/>. All 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 raised completely 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. We support 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.

Figure 25: Health Outcomes – Beef

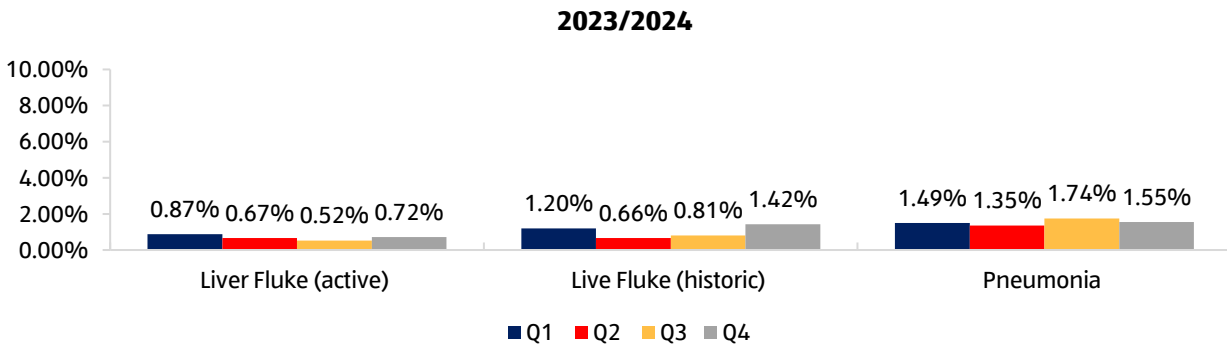


Figure 26: Secondary Stun – Beef

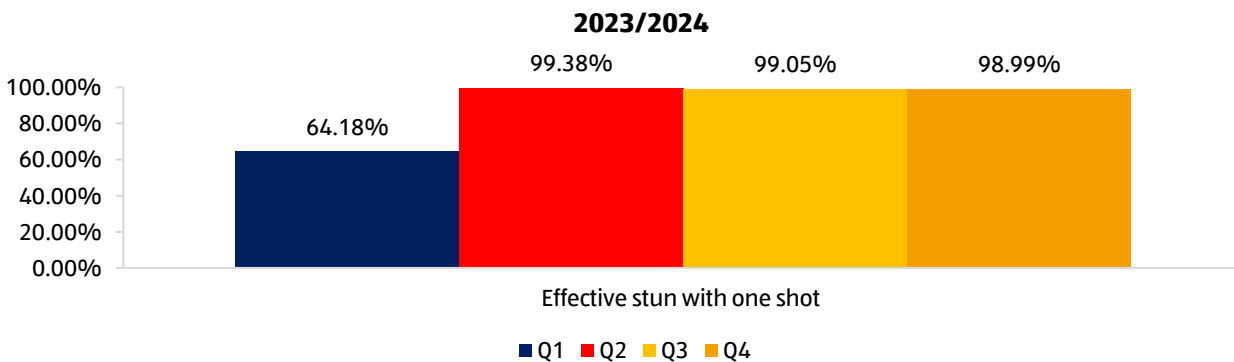
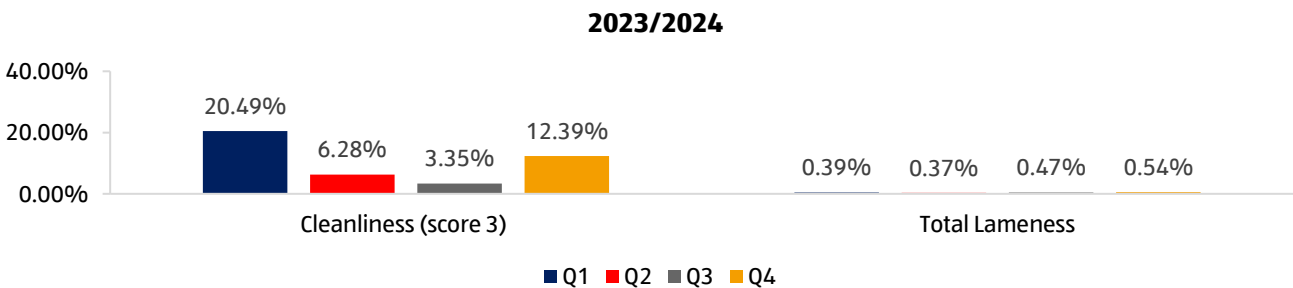


Figure 27: Welfare Outcomes – Beef





Lamb

All of our British and New Zealand lamb are produced to a recognised set of farm assurance standards. For our British own-label fresh primary lamb this is Red Tractor Assured and for our New Zealand lamb this is NZFAP 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 on any lamb product (fresh, frozen or ingredient).

We recommend winter shearing is only acceptable if the sheep are housed. Additionally we recommend sheep are shorn once per year to enable sheep to regulate their temperature and avoid overheating.

ALDI GB/IE recommends to the suppliers if any of the above processes seem necessary, they should be performed by a competent, trained operator in strict accordance with the law.



Rabbit

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



Fish

“Fish and seafood welfare is an important part of being a responsible business and we are committed to high standards of welfare for both farmed and wild fish. Our Specially Selected Scottish salmon is farmed to higher welfare standards and certified by RSPCA Assured. We work with our suppliers and with certification boards to ensure minimum standards for fish welfare are met in our products.

Certification of our products also includes implementing strict requirements on the use of antibiotics in aquaculture and minimising the impact of farming practices on ecosystems. The certifications we use also focus on the welfare of the animals, constantly improving their requirements such as pre-slaughter stunning, maintaining good water quality, reducing stocking densities and the prohibition of eye-stalk ablation of species such as the whiteleg shrimp. We welcome the increase in requirements and will continue to collaborate with certification programs and NGOs to improve our standards in fish and seafood supply chains.

We are working on the development of our own fish and seafood welfare policy, taking into account higher risk species such as salmon and crustaceans.”

As of April 2024, percentage of ALDI products which were MSC Certified:

- 71% of our ALDI Frozen Food are MSC Certified
- 57% of our Fresh Fish are MSC Certified
- 48% of our Canned Foods are MSC Certified



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.

Monkey Labour



ALDI's policy is that no monkey labour can be used in the harvesting of coconuts and coconut ingredients.

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.
- **Sustainability Report:** We publish an annual sustainability report where we offer transparency in our animal welfare KPIs, celebrate our local suppliers and highlighting some of our key ALDI farm partnerships
- **Open Farm Sunday:** ALDI supports Open Farm Sunday, in June 2024 ALDI farms opened their doors to the public to help them understand the link between food and farming, showcase our high animal welfare standards first-hand and promote the ADFP.
- **Agricultural Shows:** ALDI also promotes animal welfare via agricultural shows.
- **ALDI Dairy Farm Partnership:** In October 2024 ALDI announced plans to invest over £30m in dairy farming through an enhanced partnership with Arla to ensure greater focus on sustainability and animal welfare practices.
- **The Royal Countryside Fund:** ALDI supports farmers through our sponsorship of The Royal Countryside Fund's - Farm Resilience Programme.
- **Aldi SpecialBuys Leaflet and Point of Sale Advertising:** Our weekly leaflet regularly features high welfare product.



Industry Involvement

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

ALDI UK Animal Welfare Strategy and Performance



- 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](#))

We partner with veterinary consultants Map of Ag, fish and seafood experts Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and agricultural consultants Kite Consulting through our Dairy Farm Partnership and agricultural consultants FAI Farms through our Beef Farm Partnership.

Additionally, when required, we input into industry and government consultations.