



# Lidl UK Farm Animal Health and Welfare Policy



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### Sourcing for the Future

Creating sustainable supply chains that are fair to everyone, bringing better jobs and supporting local economies.



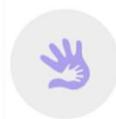
### Securing our Supply Chain

Building strong, mutually-beneficial relationships for the long term.



### Championing a Healthy Society

Making quality food affordable and inspiring customers to live healthy and active lifestyles.



### Supporting our Colleagues

Helping everyone reach their full potential.



### Protecting the Environment

Minimising our impact through our efficient way of working.

## Approach to Farm Animal Welfare

At Lidl UK the welfare of farmed animals worldwide forms a key part of our commitment to ‘Sourcing for the Future’. We believe this is in the interest of both our business, ensuring integrity and sustainability, and our customers, who are increasingly invested in the sustainability and ethics of the products they purchase when they enter our stores.

Lidl UK is committed to continually achieving higher welfare standards within its supply base and is publishing this first policy to state overarching business commitments and positions on key welfare standards.

## Overarching Policy on Farm Animal Welfare

Lidl UK’s policy on animal welfare is based on and endorses the Five Freedoms, which were proposed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC):

- **Freedom from hunger** and thirst by ready access to water and a diet to maintain health and vigour.
- **Freedom from discomfort** by providing an appropriate environment.
- **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 appropriate company of the animal’s own kind.
- **Freedom from fear and distress** by ensuring conditions and treatment, which avoid mental suffering.

As part of our sourcing strategy, Lidl UK has a strong commitment to UK farming and ensures that 100% of the following own-brand product lines are sourced from UK suppliers:

Shell Eggs	Milk	Cream	Butter
‘Birchwood Farm’ and ‘Strathvale Farm’ Beef	‘Birchwood Farm’ and ‘Strathvale Farm’ Chicken	‘Birchwood Farm’ and ‘StrathvaleFarm’ Pork	

Over the coming years we will continue to invest in British products and, for this reason, have made our UK supply chains a focus for this policy.

This policy will evolve in future iterations to expand in scope and expectation. With the evolution of this policy Lidl UK expects suppliers to benchmark their farms against industry standards for production, health and welfare and refine business management to not only actively improve animal welfare but ensure business viability and sustainability. Lidl UK expects suppliers to dedicate resource within their business operations to ensure

compliance to this policy.

This policy is owned by the Responsible Sourcing Manager, Lidl UK, and must be implemented by the Lidl UK supply base as part of the commercial business relationship. Lidl UK reserves the right to audit compliance against this policy at any time and any queries on this policy should be directed to [CSR@lidl.co.uk](mailto:CSR@lidl.co.uk). Lidl UK welcomes feedback on the positions outlined.

### Approved Supplier List

As part of our supply chain management process all fresh meat and poultry sourced into the Lidl UK supply chain must come from an approved supplier. In order to become an approved supplier into Lidl UK, key quality assurance requirements must have been met and audited by Lidl UK. This includes a commitment to implementing the contents of this policy.

### Compliance to Minimum Standards

As a minimum, all British fresh and frozen meat, poultry and dairy must be Red Tractor Farm Assured. All fresh and frozen beef, lamb and pork sourced from Scotland must be assured to Quality Meats Scotland. Lidl UK aims to work closely with UK suppliers operating to legal requirements within international supply chains to drive improvements in animal welfare standards across the supply chain.

Own-brand products sold in Lidl UK procured through our international businesses must comply with our international sourcing standards on animal welfare, which can be found online on the respective Lidl country websites. Through our international network of businesses we aim to drive improvements in the standards of farmed animal health and welfare worldwide.

### Commitments to Higher Welfare Standards

Where appropriate, we accredit products to higher welfare standards through the RSPCA's ethical food label, 'RSPCA Assured'. This standard independently certifies that farm animals have been reared to higher welfare standards and are fully traceable from farm to fork. In this regard, Lidl UK has made the following commitments:

- All outdoor bred pork must be RSPCA Assured.
- All 'Deluxe' Turkey must be RSPCA Assured.
- From October 2017 all free range chicken must be RSPCA Assured.
- From September 2017 all 'Deluxe' farmed salmon must be RSPCA Assured.
- All free range and organic shell eggs must be RSPCA Assured.
- Additionally, all organic shell eggs must be certified to the Organic Farmers and Growers standard.

More information on the RSPCA Assured standard can be found online at <https://www.rspcaassured.org.uk/>.

## **Lidl UK Policies Relating to Multiple Farmed Species (beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy calves, meat chickens, fattening pigs, laying hens, breeding sows, lamb)**

### Antibiotics

We recognise the importance of antibiotics in human and animal medicine and the risk of their improper use. We encourage our producers to optimise welfare, health, hygiene, husbandry and biosecurity of animals in order to reduce the need to use antibiotic treatment. When required, animals should receive appropriate treatment, using antibiotics as little as possible and as much as necessary. Lidl UK endorses the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) principles and will align with sector targets to be published in October 2017.

## CCTV

All abattoirs must be equipped with CCTV, functioning in a way as to provide a retainable recording of all shackling, stunning and killing activity that takes place in the course of the ordinary operation of the facility. This must be made available on request to relevant DEFRA representatives, veterinary surgeons, appointed auditors / agents and relevant Lidl UK staff.

## Transportation

Lidl aims to reduce livestock transportation times by working with local and regional suppliers as much as possible. All suppliers must be compliant to the EU regulation on the welfare of animals in transport. Procedures should be put in place to ensure that animal welfare is managed during periods of transportation and that trained hauliers are used without exception. Transportation of livestock should be kept to a minimum and not exceed 8 hours. Vehicles used must maintain the health and welfare of the stock being transported.

## Stunning

All farm animals entering the Lidl UK supply chain must be rendered insensible to pain prior to slaughter. These methods will be dependent on the species and abattoir. All operations must be compliant to Welfare at Time of Killing (WATOK) regulations and the EU 1099/2009 regulation as appropriate.

# Lidl UK Specific Farm Animal Welfare Policies

## Laying Hens

Lidl UK has committed to the following targets:

**Cage Free** 100% of shell eggs and eggs contained as ingredients in Lidl UK products must be sourced from cage-free hens by 2025, in line with UK industry.

**Origin, transparency and traceability** All shell eggs must be produced under the Lion Assurance Scheme and carry the British Lion mark. Producers operating under this scheme must adhere to the British Lion Code of Practice which set strict controls to ensure high levels of traceability, safety and welfare. Under the scheme each egg is consistently printed with the farming method, country of origin and a code which relates to the specific farm the egg is produced, providing our customers with the information to trace each egg back to its source.

**RSPCA Assured** All free range and organic shell eggs must be RSPCA Assured, ensuring that higher standards of animal welfare are met at all stages of the hens' lives. This includes providing hens with access to environmental enrichment such as pecking blocks, straw bales and dustbathing boxes and ensures that the RSPCA's strict standards on stocking density, flock-size and access to the outdoors are met.

**Organic** All organic shell eggs must be certified to the Organic Farmers and Growers standard. This ensures that birds are reared to the high animal welfare standards outlined in the European Organic Regulation.

## Beak Tipping

Lidl UK is closely monitoring developments within the industry on the issue of beak tipping. All suppliers of eggs should be engaged within relevant initiatives and programmes to address and ultimately reduce the need for beak tipping, whilst ensuring that existing welfare standards are not compromised.

## Fresh British Chicken

Fresh British chicken supplied to Lidl UK must meet the following standards:

- Stocking density must not exceed 38kg/m<sup>2</sup>.
- Windows should equate to a minimum of 3% of floor area on all new builds (from January 2016) and 1% of floor area on old builds (pre January 2016), allowing birds access to natural daylight.
- For every 1000 birds there must be at least one and a half straw bales and one pecking object creating an environment for birds to exhibit natural behaviours.

## Meat Pigs and Sows

The routine tail docking, teeth clipping or teeth grinding of pigs is not permitted within our meat pig and sow supply chains. There may be instances where, as a last resort and under the guidance of a veterinary surgeon, these practises may be permitted if it is in the best interests of pig welfare.

Pigs and sows must have permanent access to environmental enrichment and be provided with adequate manipulable materials throughout their lives.

No electric goads should be used in the moving, handling or loading of pigs except under extreme circumstances, as stated within the Red Tractor Farm Assurance scheme.

## Dairy Cattle

All suppliers of dairy into Lidl UK must ensure the health and welfare of livestock is actively managed, assessed and reviewed on a regular basis. As stated, the Red Tractor Farm Assurance Scheme is seen by Lidl UK as a minimum standard. With the evolution of the Lidl UK Animal Health and Welfare Policy Lidl UK expects dairy suppliers to benchmark their farms against industry standards for production, health and welfare and refine business management to not only actively improve animal welfare but ensure business viability and sustainability.

Lidl UK encourages the processes of proactive herd health planning, human resource management, responsible use of medicines and experienced stockmanship. Guidelines on these processes may be found in the Red Tractor Farm Assurance guidelines. Lidl UK appreciates the demand for production efficiency and diversification in the dairy sector and all Lidl UK suppliers should be actively involved in the process of business and animal health and welfare assessment on an annual basis with veterinary surgeons and appropriate experienced farm advisors to ensure Lidl UK milk is guaranteed to excel above and beyond the minimum standards set out by the Red Tractor Farm Assurance scheme.

## Lamb

All Lamb sourced between July 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> must be sourced from UK suppliers and carry the Red Tractor Assured logo, ensuring that health and welfare is proactively managed at all times. Where possible we aim to supplement our ranges with British Lamb outside of this season, and ensure that all suppliers outside of the scope of the Red Tractor Assurance scheme, base their farming standards on the Five Freedoms.

All Lamb sold within Lidl Welsh stores must be sourced from Welsh suppliers all year round, ensuring that transportation times are minimised as much as possible.

## Farmed Fish

Our policy on the welfare of farmed fish and seafood can be found in our sustainable seafood sourcing policy 'Sourcing our Fish Sustainably'. In addition to this policy we also offer a range of RSPCA Assured farmed salmon, which certifies higher welfare standards across the rearing, handling, transport and slaughter / killing of farmed Atlantic salmon.

## Non-Food and Textiles

### Animal Testing

We do not support animal testing and recognise that our customers are strongly opposed to the use of animals for the testing and development of products. In compliance with the EU ban on animal testing, we do not carry out or commission any such testing on our own-brand products or the ingredients they contain. Suppliers must ensure that cosmetic or household products supplied to Lidl UK have not been tested on animals and have met legally required timescales.

### Fur

In 2014 Lidl International joined the international “Fur Free Retailer” initiative (<http://www.furfreeretailer.com>). As part of this membership Lidl International has committed to not sell own-label textiles, footwear or accessories containing fur from any species (including mink, fox, coyote and rabbits). To ensure that our expectations are met, a stringent monitoring system is implemented by Lidl International, which includes working closely with certification standards such as OekoTex 100, Bluesign and Fairtrade.

### Feather and Down

Feather and down used in our products must be sourced as a by-product of the meat industry and from producers with good animal husbandry. The feather and down must not be a by-product of foie gras production. Feather and down must not be harvested through live plucking and veterinary certificates should be available if requested to prove this.

### Angora Fibres and Other Rabbit Hair

Angora fibres and other rabbit hair must not be used in the production of textiles or accessories.

### Wool

Lidl International does not accept the practice of mulesing. Any Merino wool used within the production of Lidl products must be accompanied by a statement from the supplier to confirm that the wool has not been produced by the mulesing method.

### Leather

All leather must be sourced as a by-product of the meat industry and from producers with good animal husbandry processes and practices. Leather must not be obtained whilst the animal is still alive or from aborted animals.

### Endangered Species

Endangered species that appear on either the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) lists must not be used in any of our products.

## Additional Policy Positions

### Wild Caught Exotic Species

At certain times of the year, Lidl UK sells a range of wild caught exotic species as part of our ‘Food Specials’ range. These species must be harvested in a manner that respects both the welfare of the animals and the local environment. These animals must be slaughtered in accordance with EU guidelines and respect local quotas.