

Our Animal welfare work *at a glance*

General principles

We use animal-based ingredients such as milk, eggs, and meat across a range of our products. We believe all animals are sentient beings and should be treated responsibly and with dignity, and we work with our suppliers to ensure that high standards of animal welfare are met.

We continuously advocate for greater awareness of animal welfare issues across our supply chain, and regularly engage with our suppliers to understand their practices and challenges. We seek to improve the lives of farm animals by increasing the visibility and extending the development of good animal welfare practices across our whole supply chain, including within our primary producers and indirect users of animal-derived ingredients.

Our Animal Welfare Policy embraces the Farm Animal Welfare Committee's stated Six Freedoms, identified to safeguard, and improve the welfare of livestock. They are:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. Freedom from discomfort - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from pain, injury, or disease - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind.
5. Freedom from fear and distress - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.
6. Freedom to undergo positive experiences - by providing appropriate conditions to experience positive emotions and encourage natural behaviour.

You can find all our policies and reports for 2023 available on our corporate website.

Some examples of our performance

As a business, we ensure the ingredients we buy are sourced to high standards:

- 100% of our dairy products are assured to various assurance schemes such as: Red Tractor (UK), RSPCA Assured (UK), Board Bia (Ireland), Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme, or Origin Green, EU standards and Organic.
- 100% of our eggs are from cage-free hens (see for instance [Mr Kipling](#))
- 100% of our eggs are KAT certified. KAT is seen as a higher animal welfare scheme.
- 100% of all other species are audited under various assurance schemes such as Red Tractor, RSPCA assured, EU standards or NZ standards.

Working with our suppliers

We work very closely with our suppliers to drive higher animal welfare standards.

We require all suppliers supplying products of animal origin to complete a set of questions on their approach to the management of animal welfare issues, as well as reporting on performance on various criteria. As part of this process, suppliers must confirm that they comply to the Premier Foods Animal Welfare Policy. In addition, we have incorporated animal welfare objectives into the joint business plans of our key suppliers to drive outcomes forward. In the event of non-compliance with the requirements of our animal welfare policy, our team will agree appropriate and time-bound, corrective actions with the supplier. Our supplier audit team will also arrange to visit the supplier's premises to review the process and suggest improvements to meet specification / animal welfare policy. If the supplier is then still unable to comply with our policy, we will serve notice and source from an alternative supplier that can meet our requirements. [Premier foods - Tripconey dairy farm](#)



Collaborating with industry to drive higher animal welfare standards.

In 2019, we have signed and agreed to the principles and policies of the Food Industry Initiative on Antimicrobials (FIIA). We sit on the Strategic Delivery Board of this body which brings together retailers, manufacturers, processors, and foodservice companies, to promote and support responsible antimicrobial use and action on antimicrobial resistance. This means that the farmers we work with stop using antibiotics as a proactive, preventative measure and only use critically important antibiotics, as defined by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), as a last resort to safeguard their animals' welfare where no alternative treatment option is available.

Measuring our progress



Whilst we were delighted to see this work recognised through a Tier 1 ranking by BBFAW (Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare) in 2020, we continually seek to improve and so have set ourselves stretching goals to reach in 2025 and have included animal welfare goals in our Joint Business Plans with suppliers. We have also extended our work to reach the most difficult parts of our supply chain and rolled out our annual animal welfare survey to our animal derivatives suppliers to understand their practices and challenges. This work was recognised with our BBFAW score improving this year and moving from Tier 2 to a Tier 1 ranking in 2020 providing all our stakeholders with the independent verification and confidence in our commitments and practices.

[The full report is available in the BBFAW's website: www.bbfaw.com/benchmark](http://www.bbfaw.com/benchmark)

The BBFAW benchmark has been re-vamped for 2023 with a change of methodology and scoring criteria. We therefore expect a change in ranking this year.

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