



ASDA

OUR 2024 animal HEALTH & WELFARE REPORT



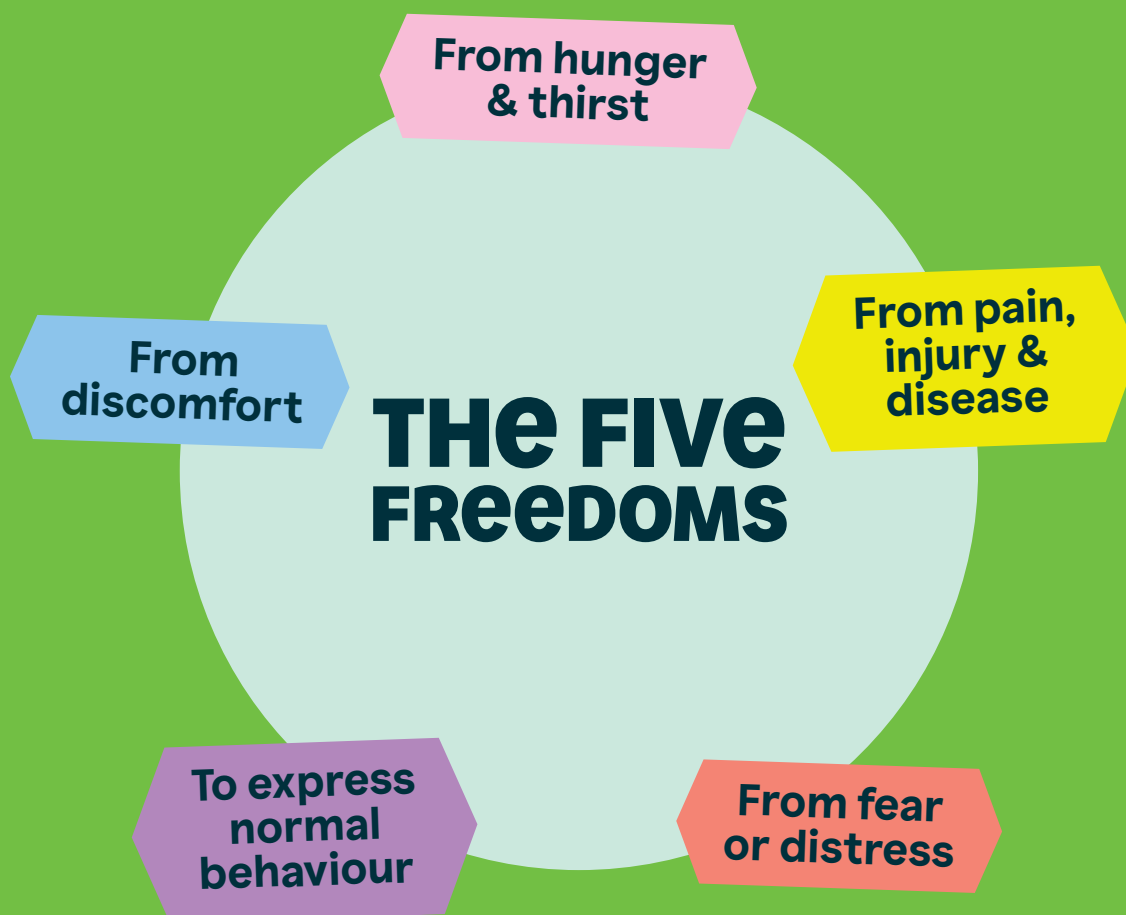
BACKGROUND

We know that animal welfare is a key concern for the customers we serve, and we share their belief that animals should be treated with compassion and respect. That's why we source with integrity, working closely with our suppliers to uphold robust standards of animal care across our supply chains. Better welfare produces healthier animals and higher quality, sustainable food. As part of our wider ESG strategy, we're committed to continual progress in this area, delivering on behalf of our customers to build a better, more responsible food system for the future.

OUR APPROACH TO ANIMAL WELFARE

Animals are sentient beings capable of experiencing a range of emotions and sensations and we commit to ensuring their physical and mental well-being throughout their lives.

Our approach is guided by internationally recognised frameworks, including the Five Freedoms and the Five Domains, which together inform our standards for humane and respectful treatment. ASDA's commitment to animal welfare is embedded across our supply chains and underpinned by our sourcing policies.



Scope

Our sourcing policies apply to all animals in our own-brand supply chains — across fresh, frozen, and processed products — and sets out the standards and expectations for supply chains.

Governance

Personnel:

We have dedicated colleagues at ASDA who are responsible for Agricultural Standards and animal welfare. These colleagues work closely with suppliers and standards bodies, to ensure high welfare practices are implemented and maintained across all species.

Leadership:

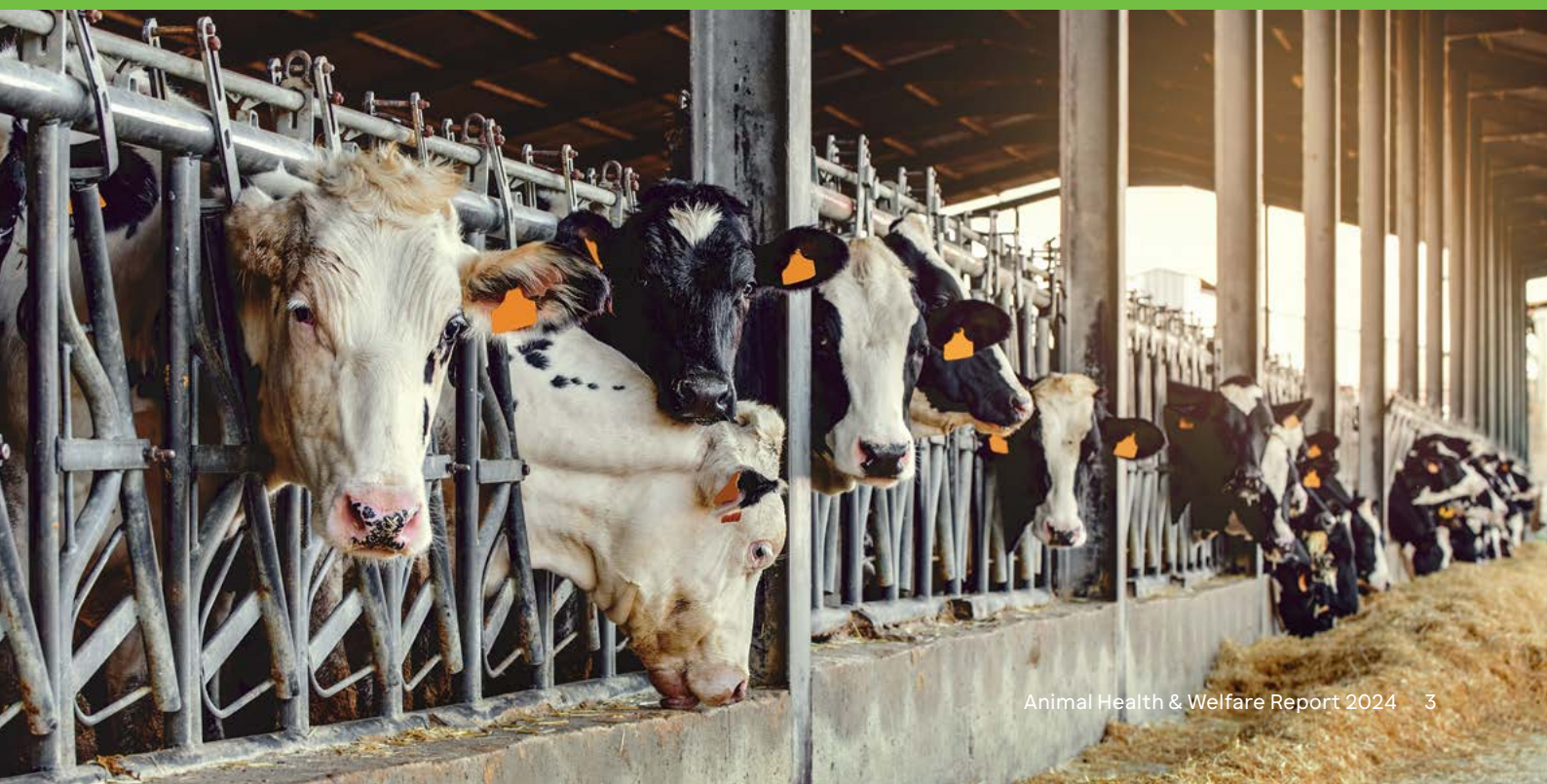
Our sourcing policies are governed by the ASDA Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Steering Committee, with active participation from members of our Executive Board.

Compliance:

Welfare is a core requirement in meat standards and a fundamental trade condition. 'We verify compliance through working with our suppliers including through engagement, standards, third party certifications and Asda lead audits. Suppliers must meet legislative requirements, apply welfare standards consistently and maintain full supply chain traceability. All meat can be traced to the abattoir and, upon request, back to origin. Breaches of our welfare standards must be reported immediately with corrective actions implemented.

Training:

ASDA Agriculture and technical colleagues remain engaged on animal welfare and for example in early 2025 6 colleagues received animal health and welfare training (e.g. Fundamentals of Animal Welfare at Slaughter by Bristol University). Suppliers must have trained welfare officers in lairage and abattoir and ensure all animal-handling staff are appropriately trained, with records available upon request.



Farm Assurance

All meat sourced from the UK is assured to Red Tractor, Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL) and Meat Commission standards. All shell eggs are assured to the British Lion Code Standards. We also source meat from overseas such as Lamb from New Zealand assured to the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme (NZFAP), Beef from Republic of Ireland assured to Bord Bia standards and Pork from Denmark assured to the Danish Product Standard. All farmed fish is assured to either BAP, ASC or Global Gap.

Welfare outcome measures

In collaboration with key suppliers, we collect species specific welfare outcome data periodically, this is used for assessing animal health, physical condition and behaviour. We have welfare outcome measures across all relevant species in our supply chain (covering all geographies).

Engagement

Working with farmers and suppliers

We collaborate closely with suppliers and have dedicated farmer groups across our Dairy, Beef and Lamb supply chains focusing on improving animal welfare, sustainability and resilience. Since 2023, over 160 ASDA aligned farms supplying Arla cover 100% of ASDA fresh milk supply, are supported to meet a higher standard of animal welfare and report on key welfare metrics. We also work with academic institutes and industry stakeholders to support research and development into animal health & welfare and drive continuous improvement.

Communication of animal welfare

We believe educating the wider community about high animal welfare standards is essential, which is why we actively participate in events across the country including Open Farm Sunday (OFS) through LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming). This year one of our ASDA aligned Dairy farmers hosted an OFS on their farm showcasing how they work to high standards of animal welfare.

We also attend key agricultural shows including the Balmoral Show, Royal Highland Show and the Great Yorkshire Show. These events allow us to engage with a wide range of audiences — including the public, schools, NGOs, customers, and suppliers — to raise awareness of higher welfare farming systems and promote best practices across the industry.



KEY WELFARE POLICIES

In addition to our core standards we implement species-specific standards tailored to address the unique welfare needs of each animal, focusing on the most significant considerations for each species.

Scope

Progress on key welfare policies and outcome measure reporting covers key suppliers for primal meat, fish, eggs and dairy (fresh milk) where data is available. Outcome measure data represents UK and ROI Beef, UK Lamb, UK Pork, UK Chicken, UK Fresh Milk, UK Turkey and a majority of our shell egg supply. We continue to work to increase the scope of our reporting each year.

Antibiotics

We recognise the critical link between the overuse of antimicrobial medicines and the rise of antibiotic resistance. ASDA actively promotes responsible antibiotic use, restricting the highest priority “critically important” antibiotics (fluoroquinolones, 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins and colistin) to only use as a last resort. Routine prophylactic use in livestock is prohibited. We adhere to UK species specific reduction targets, collaborate with industry groups such as the Food Industry Initiative on Antimicrobials (FIIA) and the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA), and work closely with suppliers to monitor and promote responsible usage.



Confinement

We recognise that close confinement in livestock farming systems is a serious issue and have commitments and standards in our policies which protect animals in our supply chain from aspects of confinement.

Confinement commitments

We are working on confinement in eggs and have committed to phasing out eggs produced in caged systems, so all our own brand shell and ingredient egg will be produced in barn or free-range systems by the end of 2025. We will report the status of delivery for cage free eggs in early 2026.

Our confinement policies:

- Animals are housed in systems which meet or exceed the species and weight specific space requirements – 100% all species
- Sow stalls are not permitted on UK farms – 100%
- Beef is not permitted from feedlot systems – 100%
- We do not permit veal produced in veal cates - we do not sell any veal
- Tethering of breeding females (dairy cows, beef cows, sows, ewes) is not permitted – 100%
- We do not permit confinement and associated gavage (forced) feeding practices are not permitted e.g. foie gras
- Finfish are raised in open water systems - 100% salmon and bass/bream

Where sow stalls are used in our EU supply, it is for a maximum of 28 days post service. Farrowing crates are currently used with our pork supply chain; however, we support the pig industry research into adaptive farrowing systems and the move to adaptive farrowing systems, recognising that this transition takes time and investment.

Routine management procedures

ASDA is committed to reducing management mutilations in our livestock supply chains, without compromising the welfare of the animals or safety of the workers.

Mutilation commitments

We have standards in our policies prohibiting management mutilations including;

- Tail docking of dairy cows is prohibited – 100%
- Mulesing of lambs is prohibited – 100%
- Beak trimming of broiler chickens is prohibited – 100%
- Dubbing of breeder cockerels is prohibited – 100%
- Castration of UK pigs is prohibited – 100%
- Live feather plucking for down is prohibited – 100%
- Fin clipping of finfish is prohibited – 100%

Certain routine procedures are performed as part of management practices within our supply chains to ensure the animal welfare is not compromised. One example is tail docking in pigs, to reduce the occurrence of tail biting- a behaviour that can lead to more serious welfare issues. Teeth clipping or grinding may also be done to prevent injuries from fighting at the teats- both are only allowed under veterinary guidance.

All farms (UK and EU) must have reduction plans in place to reduce tail biting and requirement for docking. These plans include records of tail-biting incidences, remedial actions, investigation into the cause and steps to prevent its repetition. Where tail docking or teeth clipping/grinding is carried out, it is done by trained, competent staff using approved methods within defined timelines.

We are working with our suppliers to reduce the occurrence of castration of pigs with 60% EU pigs currently not castrated.

Enrichment

Environmental species-specific enrichment allows animals to express a variety of natural behaviours that is essential for their physical and mental well-being.

Examples of enrichment requirements:

- Pigs must have access to enrichment suitable to their production system such as straw, shavings, sand, wood and rubber and should enable proper investigation, manipulation and foraging activities – 100%
- Broiler chickens must have access to natural light – 100%
- Broiler chickens, turkeys and laying hens must have access to enrichment such as bales/perches – 100%
- Dairy cows must have access to cow brushes – 100%

Transport

Transport times

We recognise that longer transport times can be stressful for animals, therefore all animals should be transported within 8 hours or less. For broiler chickens we encourage travel under 4 hours as they are more susceptible to adverse effects from transport time.

Occasions beyond the processors or haulier's control may occur. If policy breaches happen, suppliers must notify us and monitor and, if needed, develop action plans.

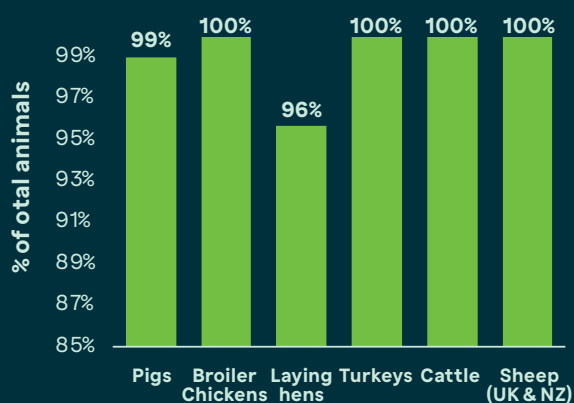


Figure 1:
% of animals travelled within 8 hours

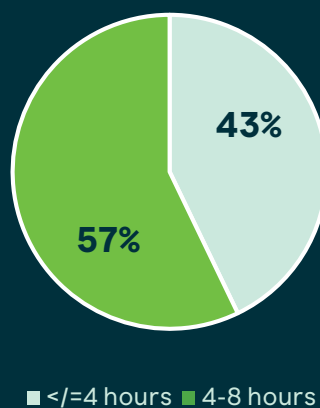


Figure 2:
% of broiler chickens transported

Figure 1 shows over 95% of farm to slaughter transport times were less than 8 hours across of own brand fresh meat supply chains. Figure 2 shows that in 2024 43% of broiler chickens were transported within 4 hours.

Fitness to travel (% of total animals)

Welfare outcome measure metrics; dead on arrival, not fit for transport and killed in situ are captured to monitor the impact of animal transport, including seasonal trends and impact of weather conditions.

Table 1: Fitness to travel outcome measures

Species	Dead on arrival	Not fit for transport	Killed in situ
Pigs	0.01%	0.00%	0.06%
Cattle	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%
Sheep	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%
Chicken	0.07%	n/a	n/a
Laying Hens	0.09%	n/a	n/a
Turkey	0.05%	n/a	n/a

Aquatic transport

We are committed to the avoidance of long duration live transportation of aquatic species and encourage the humane slaughter of finfish and crustacea.

Our fresh Sea Bass, Cod, Hake and Bream, and farmed shrimp from our core supplier is slaughtered on farm with zero transport time.

For fish that must be transported live, fasting before transport is essential to reduce stress from poor water quality, but fasting must not exceed 72 hours to protect welfare.

ASDA does not support or sell live aquatic animals in any stores.

All personnel handling farmed aquatic animals receive training in aquatic species-specific animal welfare considerations.

Animal handling

Handling of animals including during loading and unloading and movement around the lairage can be a cause of stress to animals. We require animals to be handled by trained, competent staff and in ways that does not cause harm or stress to the animals, with a vet present for cattle, sheep and pigs. All abattoirs must have designated Animal Welfare Officers (AWO) who are trained on animal welfare and handling of that specific species. We also require abattoirs to have CCTV in the lairage to allow footage to be monitored and outcome measure data to be verified.

Falls during unloading and in lairage are monitored for cattle, sheep and pigs to allow us to monitor animal handling. Our 2024 UK data set shows there were no occurrences in UK Beef and Lamb lairages (0%) and for pigs (0.01%) indicating there were no issues regarding welfare during handling. Similarly, for falls in stun box which we monitor in our beef lairages there were no (0%) incidents.

Live clipping of sheep or cattle in lairage is not carried out in our supply chains.

Goad use

Electric goads are banned in our UK and New Zealand lamb and UK pig supply chains. In our beef supply chains, due to the size of the animals and to ensure the safety of the personnel handling cattle, it is permitted by subject to strict conditions of use and any use age must be recorded. In 2024 in our UK beef sites 3.05% cattle through the lairage required a goad to be used and in 2.31% ROI. In our EU pig supply chains, electric goads are permitted for use on pigs however only as a last resort and where there is space for the animal to move forward. We are working with our pork supply chain to capture data on goad usage.

Slaughter

All livestock species must be stunned using appropriate species-specific methods in accordance with European regulatory requirements (Regulation 1099/2009 EC). In 2024 we had 100% compliance of this across all species, including broilers, end of lay hens, turkeys, pigs, cattle, sheep and farmed finfish.

Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS) is the predominate stun method within our pigs and poultry supply chains. We support initiatives to develop commercially viable alternatives to the use of high concentration carbon dioxide during stunning only if they ensure the same handling benefits and guarantee of irrecoverable stun. At present 100% of our Pig supply chain is tunned using CAS and 98% of broilers (63.6% bi-phasic, 34.6% multiphasic, 1.8% electric).

Finfish are stunned using electric or automated percussive stun methods. We are working with our prawn supply chain to trial electrically stunning.

Secondary stunning

Secondary stunning is rare and monitored to ensure effectiveness of initial stun method which is crucial to animal welfare. Reasons for a secondary stun are recorded and include; movement, equipment or ineffective. The data in table 2 shows that movement was the most common reason for a secondary stun in beef cattle.

Table 2: % secondary stunning incidences

Species	Stun Method
Pork	0.00%
Beef	UK – 0.02% ROI – 0.10%
Lamb	0.12%
Chicken	0.00%
Turkey	0.00%



SPECIES DEEP DIVE

Dairy

We work closely with our ASDA Dairy Group supporting them to work to enhanced welfare standards, over and above baseline farm assurance. In 2023 we invested into our long-term supplier Arla Foods, Customer Welfare Programme, through this all farms are independently assessed by a third-party veterinary specialist to verify that the required welfare standards are upheld. Animal welfare is monitored on every farm, allowing us to track, trend and benchmark performance against key animal welfare outcomes and targets.

Our ASDA Dairy Farmers are a group of 164 British Dairy farmers, producing milk that accounts for 100% volume of our own brand milk.

Some key policies that our Dairy farmers must comply too include;

- Farms are open to unannounced audits at any time.
- No healthy calf born on the holding to be sold for export, euthanised or slaughtered within the first eight weeks of life.
- 100% of farms perform selective dry cow therapy and do not feed antibiotic waste milk to calves.
- All medicine purchase and usage must be recorded via an electronic medicine book.
- All prophylactic use of antibiotics is prohibited. Antibiotics are not allowed to be used within footbaths.
- 100% of farms are required to house calves in groups by 21 days of age, with many farms doing this within the first 7 days
- 100% farms provide cows with indoor environmental enrichment in the form of cow brushes
- 100% farms have a detailed veterinary-led herd health plan in place for infectious disease control with action of active implementation. Including BVD, Leptosirosis, IBR, Nespora, TB and Johne's.
- 100% of farms are required to provide local anaesthetic and long-acting pain relief when performing disbudding and castration procedures.

Welfare Outcome Measures & KPI's

As part of the new programme, we started collecting welfare outcome data from the group of farmers on a quarterly basis allowing us to monitor trends and performance. For 2024 we are benchmarking performance against the programme threshold and as we build the data set annual, we can also track improvement year on year.

This data is monitored with any key issues identified and built into the support provided to farmers through knowledge exchange and advice from animal health and welfare experts.

Table 3: Dairy Welfare Outcome Measures 2024

KPI	2024 Data	Threshold
Lameness	7.67%	>20%
Physical comfort (score 2)	0.48%	>3%
Cleanliness (score 1 & 2)	3.61%	N/A
Body condition (score 2)	0.17%	>3%
Mastitis (Cases per 100 cows)	20.68%	>40 per 100 cows
High Somatic Cell Count	14.96%	>20%
Calf mortality (0-28 days)	7.76%	>8%
Culled <30 days in milk	1.47%	>2.5%

Calf Mortality has been close to threshold within our Asda aligned farms during 2024, this has improved into 2025 as farmers implement their veterinary led action plans with a laser focus on calf mortality through improved management of Colostrum, nutrition, environment, hygiene and enhanced immunity.

Lameness is a key focus for the dairy industry, with studies showing that the national GB herd has a lameness prevalence of around 30% according to the [GB Dairy Cow Lameness Manifesto](#). Our Asda aligned farmers are outperforming in this area with an average combined lameness scores of 1 & 2 at 7.67%. Farmers conduct quarterly mobility scoring with an independent RoMS accredited assessor once per year, this along with farmers veterinarian support has helped manage lameness levels throughout the group.



Poultry

We work closely with our integrated poultry suppliers for fresh primal, collecting welfare outcome measures to monitor performance.

Broiler Chickens

Mortality levels are a key measure of poultry welfare, however it is impacted by several external factors including seasonality, breeder parent age. A wet winter caused a spike in pododermatitis, this was managed through ventilation improvements and improved litter management.



Table 4: Chicken Outcome Measures 2024

KPI	2024 Data	Threshold
Mortality	4.72%	</= 4.5%
Leg culls	0.81%	</= 1.25%
Hock burns	17.17%	</= 15%
Pododermatitis	40.7%	</= 15%
Post-mortem inspection rejects	1.21%	</= 0.5%
Antibiotic usage	11.76mgPCU	</= 25mgPCU

Throughout 2024/25 we have trialled a ‘Room to Thrive’ tier of poultry products which was compliant to the Red Tractor enhanced welfare standard, but it was discontinued to to commercial underperformance. Over the next 18-24 months we will begin moving our entire range of standard tier of chicken from 38kg/m2 to 30kg/m2 stocking density. Other aspects of enhanced welfare of chicken, including slower growing breeds will be explored following our stocking density transition.

Laying hens

We collect welfare outcome data from our egg suppliers including mortality and feather score over the production period of laying flocks.

Table 5: Laying Hen Outcome Measures 2024

Outcome Measure	Laying Hens 2024
Mortality @ 70 weeks	5.69%
Average feather score (0-1)*	0.20
Feather coverage - 1	1.21%
Average age of laying hen flocks at depletion	80 weeks

Monitoring mortality in laying flocks helps identify trends, such as spikes linked to disease challenges. To ensure consistency, mortality is standardised at 70 weeks, removing the influence of flock age at depletion- a factor known to correlate with higher mortality rates. While mortality can vary between production systems (e.g. free range vs barn), data from one of our largest suppliers showed minimal difference. As shown in Figure 1, barn system mortality declined by 0.86% year on year, driven by improved bird health and biosecurity.



Figure 1: % mortality laying hens

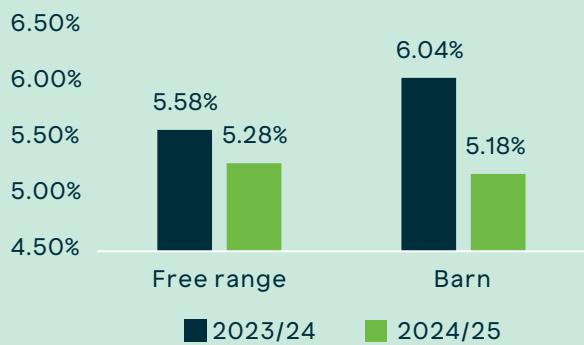
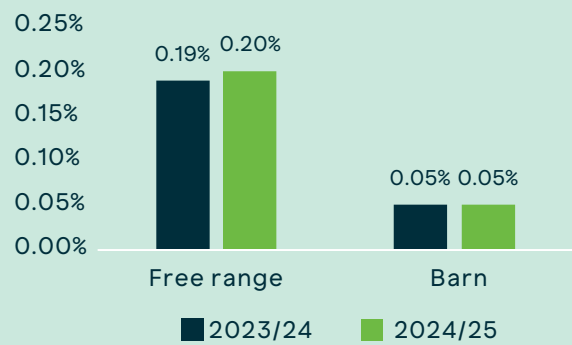


Figure 2: % culls laying hens



Turkey

We work with our Turkey supplier to monitor key welfare outcome measures for Turkey including mortality and pododermatitis. Due to longer rearing period and large size in comparison to broiler chickens, overall mortality and levels of pododermatitis are naturally higher due to the impact on litter conditions. Our turkey supplier is working towards improving pododermatitis levels, by trialling feed additives and alternative diets at their dedicated nutrition facility, while also engaging with industry stakeholders such as British Poultry Council (BPC) to support ongoing improvements.

Table 6: Turkey Outcome Measures 2024

Outcome Measure	Turkey 2024
Mortality	9.53%
Leg culls	1.58%
Pododermatitis	73.56%
Post-mortem inspection rejects	1.21%
Antibiotic usage	26.04mgPCU (RUMA target – 50mg/PCU)

Pigs

Welfare outcome measures we monitor for our UK pig supply chains including tail biting, skin lesions and lameness which are key welfare indicators for pigs. All farms (both UK & EU) are required to have a tail docking reduction plan which includes action to reduce the occurrence of tail biting in pigs. Strategies undertaken to reduce the occurrence of tail biting include optimising animal nutrition and providing environmental enrichment.

Table 7: UK Pork Outcome Measures 2024

Outcome Measure	UK Pigs 2024
Tail bitten pigs	0.41%
Pigs with skin lesions (herneas)	0.53%
Lameness	0.03%
Condemnations	3.3%

Beef cattle & lamb

We use beef and lamb abattoir data to monitor animal health and welfare on farm as well as monitor food quality and safety. Pneumonia and bruising are animal health illnesses which are contracted on farm and bruising can be caused by animal transit or handling. This data is monitored throughout the year to help identify trends and spikes, allowing us to work proactively with our suppliers over any concerns. Seasonal variation and weather can impact the below metrics, for example lambs with a cleanliness score of 3 or above can be more common in winter or periods of wet weather. All metrics for Beef and Lamb report well under industry target thresholds.

Table 8: Beef and UK Lamb Outcome Measures 2024

Outcome Measure	Beef 2024	UK Lamb 2024
Pnenomena	3.11%	1.77%
Brusing	1.06%	0.66%
Liver fluke	2.68%	1.93%
Condemnations	N/A	0.10%
Cleanliness (score 3 or above)	N/A	17.4%
Lameness	0.04%	0.13%

As part of the ASDA Farming Programme, we have the ASDA Beef Group and ASDA Lamb Group. Animal health and welfare are key focuses of these groups, with knowledge exchange events focused on topics such as liver fluke and pneumonia management on farm and preventive health strategies.

Aquatic Animals

Wild caught seafood

We aim to source wild caught fish species from Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified (or those progressing to achieve MSC certification via a fisheries improvement project reporting on fisheryprogress.org). In 2024 94% of wild caught fish sourced for sale in our stores is MSC certified or working toward MSC certification.



Farmed seafood

All farmed fish is assured to either BAP, ASC or Global Gap. Our seafood suppliers continue to work with producers to improve health and welfare for aquaculture species. This includes the use of different options of feed ingredients such as algal derived ingredients to reduce requirement for fish derived products. Asda have also partnered with New England Seafood International (NESI) to introduce humane stunning of sea bass and sea bream for all fish supplied to Asda. We have maximum limits for stocking density specific to key species including Salmon (25kg/m³) and Bass/Bream (15kg/m³).

Prawns

We recognise that decapod crustaceans are sentient animals capable of feeling pain. Working with our suppliers we have made progress with many phasing eyestalk ablation for broodstock out of our prawn and shrimp supply chains. This will continue through 2026 and we aim for all farmed prawns used in ASDA products to be from ablation free broodstock by 2027. More broadly we are also engaging with our suppliers to support the trial and adoption of electrical stunning to help drive improved welfare.

Find out more about our ESG progress and stories at:
corporate.asda.com/agriculture



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