

## **Animal health and welfare policy**

Associated British Foods is a diversified international food, ingredients and retail group with operations across Europe, southern Africa, the Americas, Asia and Australia. We are a decentralised business split into five business segments: Grocery; Sugar; Agriculture; Ingredients; and Retail. Such diversity means that our operations are widespread and our supply chains are far-reaching and complex.

The Chief Executive of each business within the group has authority for that business and reports directly to the Group Chief Executive. It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive of each business to ensure that their business is compliant with both relevant legislation and any group policies.

We believe in the importance of high animal health and welfare standards within modern agricultural systems, and follow our broader approach to corporate responsibility: each of our businesses identifies whether animal health and welfare is a focus area and, if it is, ensures that it invests its resources into specified priority areas.

Only a small number of our businesses have direct involvement with animals, although several purchase eggs, dairy products and sell products into the livestock industry. Where animal health and welfare is a relevant topic, we are guided in our thinking by the internationally recognised Five Freedoms outlined below:

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.

As a minimum standard our businesses adhere to all relevant and applicable local and international legislation regarding farm animal health and welfare, and require our suppliers to do the same.

### **Cage-free eggs**

Whilst only some of our businesses purchase eggs, of which a percentage are already sourced from cage-free hens, we are committed to increasing this volume. We listen to our customers and supply information about the different egg types we offer. We are committed to sourcing 100% cage-free eggs for our UK grocery brands by 2025. Similarly, our George Weston Foods business in Australia and New Zealand is committed to transitioning to 100% cage-free eggs for its brands and products by 2025. We are also looking at our operations outside these regions and will look to make progressive steps to address these geographies.

### **Pigs/Pork**

Our owned piggeries in Australia have been sow stall free since 2010, with directly owned and supplier owned piggeries in Australia certified by the Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance (APIQ) Program to comply with the Model Code of Practice to the Welfare of Animals. APIQ provides a framework for pork producers to demonstrate good practices for food safety, traceability, animal welfare and biosecurity. For additional information visit [www.apiq.com.au/](http://www.apiq.com.au/). Pork which we source from overseas suppliers in Europe and North America is produced at least to the minimum regulatory standards in those regions. Suppliers are regularly audited and expected to undertake continuous improvement in welfare standards.

### **Animal Testing**

We do not conduct, support or condone the use of animal testing that is not required for food or feed safety or quality by law. We avoid the use of animal testing wherever possible; do not maintain any testing facilities; and animal testing is not permitted on any of our Primark cosmetic products, as certified by the Leaping Bunny programme. We use a wide range of non-animal approaches to assess the safety of our products for consumers.

Some governments test our products on animals as part of their regulatory requirements. Where governmental agencies require animal testing to demonstrate safety or quality, studies are completed by accredited third-party facilities that follow proper animal welfare guidelines. Feed ingredient and compound feed product efficacy trials are run on commercial farms and/or in strict scientifically controlled conditions, often within Universities and Research Establishments, which are governed by rigorous welfare and ethics codes and approval committees.