



Animal Health and Welfare Report.

2023/24 Reporting Year

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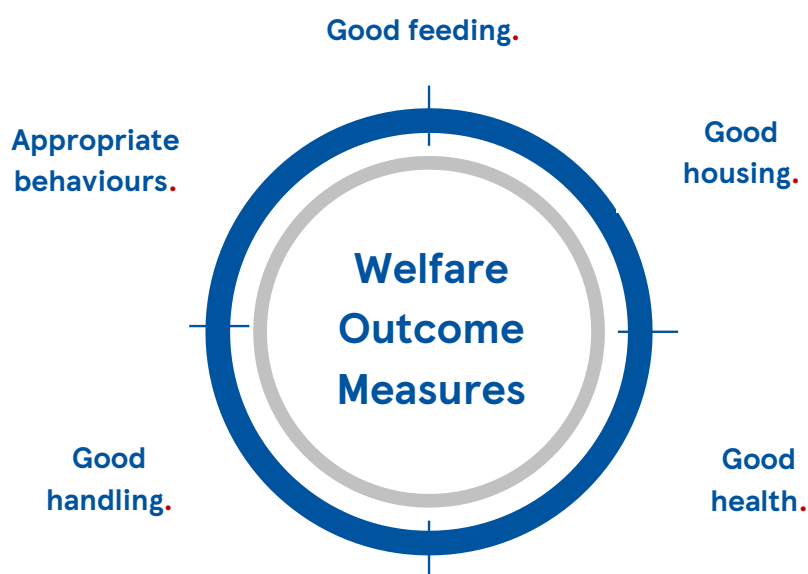
Our position on Animal Health and Welfare.

Rearing livestock well and ensuring high welfare standards apply throughout an animal's life are vital to ensuring high quality products of which we can be proud.

Animal health and welfare is a key component of our wider sustainable farming agenda and is embedded within one of the core pillars of our [Planet Plan](#).

Our approach to Animal Health and Welfare includes:

- Tesco Welfare Approved (TWA) standards, which are species-specific and follow the Five Freedoms proposed by the Farm Animal Welfare Committee, aim to ensure transparency across our supply chains and are designed and regularly reviewed to drive improvement.
- A requirement that all farms must comply with a recognised farm assurance scheme such as Red Tractor, in addition to meeting our TWA requirements.
- A focus on antibiotic usage reduction as part of the Food Industry Initiative on Antimicrobials (FIIA) and in line with our antibiotic use commitments, which include publicly report progress.
- Not supporting, commissioning, or carrying out animal testing on any of our products or the ingredients they contain, and nor do our suppliers on our behalf.



Being transparent about our policies, standards and progress is important

To help us identify animal welfare issues concerning physical, mental, and behavioural wellbeing in our supply chain, we have a system of reporting on animal welfare outcome measures. In 2023/24 we achieved a compliance rate of 96% for Tesco UK and ROI, in terms of complete submissions for each reporting period. Unless otherwise specified the data relates to Own Brand product supplied to Tesco UK (excluding Booker) and ROI.

Welfare outcome measures derived from animal-based indicators are increasingly used by industry to assess welfare impacts. These measures give an indication of how animals are

coping within a particular environment including on farm, during transport and up to and including the point of slaughter. Reporting data is used to evidence compliance with our overarching animal welfare policy requirements, e.g. close confinement, maximum transport times over land and pre-slaughter stunning, that are applicable to all species. These are then supplemented with a range of species-specific measures. Currently this relates to red meat (beef, lamb and venison), pork, poultry (chicken, turkey and duck), laying hens, crustacea (warm water prawns), and fin-fish species (salmon, trout, bass, bream and pangasius) in all farms across our global supply base, applicable to Tesco UK and ROI Own Brand products.

We aim to use data to support our decision-making, recognising the synergy between animal welfare and sustainable production and gaining insight into practices associated with better holistic outcomes.

Animal Welfare Indicators

These indicators are essentially the criteria which have traditionally underpinned the Five Freedoms, but we also take into account the Five Domains model which recognises the impact on both the physical and mental well-being of animals and their standing as sentient beings. We support those management practices that actively promote positive welfare rather than just ensuring an 'absence of negatives'. We actively promote the importance of ensuring management practices allow animals to exhibit positive behaviours as well as ensuring the absence of negative outcomes. A good example of this is the requirement of cattle brushes across all our Tesco Sustainable Dairy Group farms, whereby we require a minimum of one brush to the nearest one hundred cows and the inclusion of pecking objects and perches across our UK broiler supply base.

How do we collect welfare outcome measure data?

[Welfare outcome data is typically submitted by suppliers monthly and/or derived as part of our ongoing programme of independent Tesco Welfare Approved \(TWA\) inspections.](#)

The data allows Tesco to track and trend relative performance within any given sector and monitor individual supplier performance over time. This is pivotal to our supplier engagement and enables us to support improvement and good practice.

Key measures and trends are reported in the rest of the report. Tesco UK accounts for roughly 74% of all Tesco Group product by sales value. These are sector averages for the reporting period March 2023 – February 2024 (across the whole supplying geography). Previously published comparative data is also illustrated for the previous two years. This illustrates our approach to performance monitoring and feedback.

As a consequence of the impact of COVID-19, the two years, up to March 2022 presented exceptional challenges to the supply base as a whole and disrupted both normal processing schedules and established procedures at farm level. There has been a gradual return to a normalised situation, but the impact of exceptional events still poses challenges when interpreting performance. This is reflected in some of the welfare outcome measure trends seen, which have been compounded by sector-specific health challenges such as Avian

Influenza (globally) and African Swine Fever (in central Europe) and commercial events such as the closure of processing facilities.

Farm Assurance

In addition to our Tesco Welfare Approved (TWA) Standards, which applies irrespective of country of origin, as a pre-requisite 100% of farms supplying us must also be certified to an approved independent assurance scheme, which is compliant with ISO 17020 inspection requirements.

All (100%) of our British and Irish farms are assured by either Red Tractor, Quality Meat Scotland, Farm Assured Welsh Lamb, Bord Bia or RSPCA Assured and all imported products are assured to a recognised scheme benchmarked for direct UK equivalence. See below for the Farm Assurance Schemes that Tesco recognise (Table 1).

Table 1: Approved Independent Assurance Schemes Recognised within Tesco Supply Base

Scheme	Sector	Higher Welfare Standard
Aquaculture Stewardship Council	Aquaculture	
Best Aquaculture Practices	Aquaculture	
BEIC – Lion Code	Laying Hens	
BIM Certified Quality Aquaculture	Aquaculture	
Bord Bia Sustainable Quality Assurance Schemes	Beef & Lamb/Poultry & Eggs (Irish)	
British Quality Trout	Trout	
DB Kontrol	Pigs and Poultry (Danish)	
Debio	Aquaculture (Organic)	●
Englandsgrise	Pigs (Danish)	
FAWL	Farm Assured Welsh Lamb	
GenesisGAP Chicken	Poultry	
GenesisGAP Duck	Poultry	
GenesisGAP Pig Standard	Pig	
GlobalGAP	Aquaculture	
Global Smart Livestock Practices**	All	
IAWS – Interporc	Pork	
IKB Kip	Chicken	
IKB Nederlands Varkens (+ Welfare Module)	Pigs	
IKB Varkens (+Welfare Module)	Pigs	
Interporc	Pigs	
Farm First Poultry Standards (Platinum)	Poultry	
Naturland	Aquaculture	
NIFQAS	Pigs, Poultry, Beef & Lamb	
Organic* EU Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and 889/20081	Warm water prawns	●
Organic* Farmers & Growers	All	●
Organic* Food Federation	All	●
Organic* Trust	Trout	●
PAI International Pig Standard	Pigs	
QS (+ Welfare Module for Pigs)	All	
Quality Meats Scotland	All	
Red Tractor	All	
Red Tractor – Enhanced Welfare Module	Chicken	●
RSPCA Assured	All	●
SKAL*	All (organic)	●
Soil Association*	All (organic)	●

*Compliant with Regulation (EU) 2018/848 as of January 2021

**Now adopted for Poultry previously certified to GlobalGap



Close confinement.

The Tesco Animal Welfare Policy states, a commitment to the avoidance of close confinement systems for livestock.

Within the Tesco UK supply base, we continue to make good progress on our cage free commitment with 93% of shell eggs now produced in free-range or barn systems. This is despite significant challenges in overall egg supply exacerbated by the prevalence of Avian Influenza. In addition to our UK position, at Tesco Group level, 77% of shell eggs are now cage free.

Cage free eggs

Our commitment

Tesco has made a commitment to source 100% cage free shell eggs across Own Brand and branded products for Tesco UK, ROI, Booker, and CE by December 2025. For ingredient egg, Tesco has made a commitment to source 100% cage free ingredient egg for Tesco UK (excluding Booker) will be sourced from cage free hens for Own Brand products by December 2025.

The relative proportion of cage-free eggs within each division of Tesco Group is shown in table 2.

Table 2: Proportion of cage-free eggs across Tesco business units

Animal Welfare KPI 2023/24	UK	ROI	CE	Booker
% cage free shell egg	93%	97%	31%	98%
% cage free ingredient egg	47%	33%		

Figure 1: Key species-specific policy commitments

100%...

- ...of own brand finfish across the Tesco Group are either wild caught or farmed in open water systems.
- ...of own brand finished pigs across the Tesco Group are housed in systems which meet or exceed weight specific space requirements and are never restrained or housed individually.
- ...of breeding females (dairy cattle, sows and ewes) within our supply chain for own brand products across the Tesco Group are never tethered during gestation.
- ...of cattle in Tesco Sustainable Dairy and Cheese groups are never housed in fully slatted systems
- ...of sows producing own brand meat across Tesco UK are not confined in stalls during pregnancy at any point post-service.
- ...of our Tesco UK Finest* fresh pork, bacon and gammon is outdoor bred in systems where sows farrow in loose housed (arc) accommodation.
- ...of poultry species (Chicken, Turkey, Duck and Goose) for Tesco own brand products across the Tesco Group are never housed in caged systems and meet or exceed the space requirements as defined in EU/UK legislation.
- ...of own brand beef across Tesco Group are not finished in feedlot (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) systems.
- ...of own brand veal across Tesco Group is not produced in veal crates
- Confinement and associated gavage (forced) feeding practices are not permitted for own brand poultry products across Tesco Group i.e. no production of Foie Gras

Figure 2: Percentage of animals free from specified confinement conditions in Tesco UK and Group (%)



We have continued with our updated outcome measure reporting for the 2023/24 reporting period ensuring continued visibility of both the proportion of units and associated sow numbers adopting conventional farrowing, outdoor farrowing systems and indoor enhanced farrowing systems (where sow and litter are loose housed within 72 hours of farrowing) (Figure 3).

27% of sows in the Tesco UK supply chain (Own Brand) are housed in either free-farrowing (including outdoor farrowing) or enhanced farrowing systems. In addition, as of January 2023, 100% of sows associated with Tesco UK continental pork products, Italian Parma and Spanish Serrano, are housed in an enhanced farrowing system, reflecting the progressive approaches being adopted within our supply chains. As a proportion of indoor production alone, the continued commitment to enhanced farrowing systems now accounts for 20.2% of sows, representing the industry trend towards investment in alternative, enhanced systems (Figure 4).

Figure 3: Percentage of Tesco UK pork supply chain associated with specified farrowing systems (%)

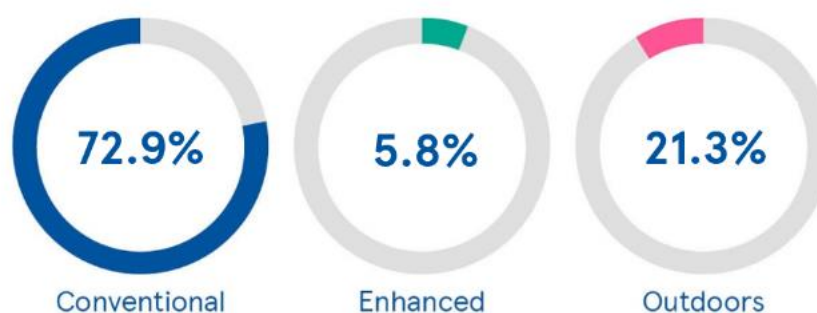
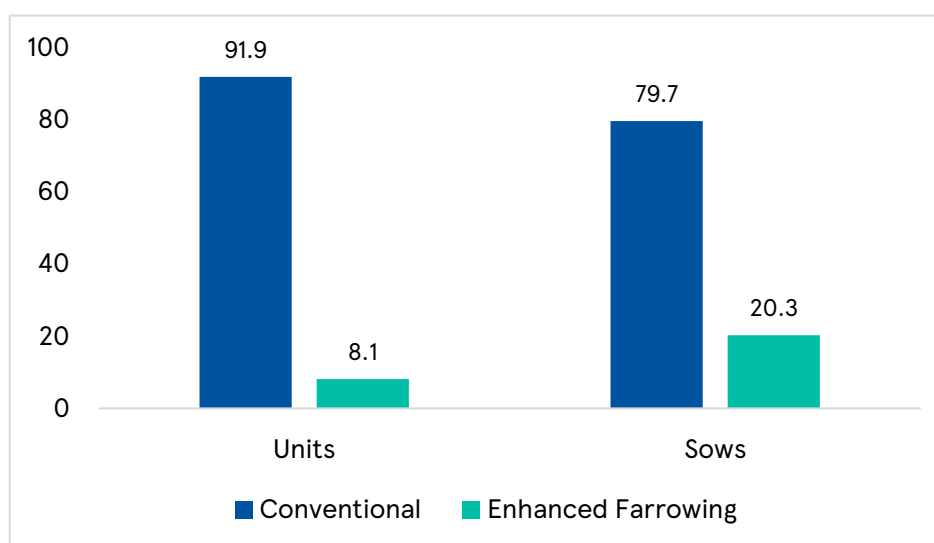


Figure 4: Relative proportion of sows/units per farrowing system for indoor production





Routine physical/surgical interventions.

Tesco encourages farming practices that reduce the need for management mutilations. At present tail docking of dairy cattle, beak trimming in commercial meat chickens, fin clipping of finfish, dubbing of cockerels and mulesing of lambs is not practiced by any producers across any Tesco businesses and geographies (Own Brand) (Table 3). In addition, live plucking for feather and down production is prohibited across Tesco Group.

Table 3: Summary of surgical interventions excluded from Tesco supply base

Procedure	Species/Sector	Tesco Scope	% Free of Mutilation
Tail docking	Dairy Cattle	Group	100%
Mulesing	Lamb	Group	100%
Beak Trimming	Meat Chickens	Group	100%
Beak Trimming	Organic Layers	Group	100%
Dubbing	Breeder Chickens (Cockerels)	UK	100%
Castration	Finished pigs	UK	100%
Teeth Clipping	Finished Pigs	UK & Italy*	100%
Fin Clipping	Finfish	UK	100%

*Pigs sourced from Italy for Parma ham

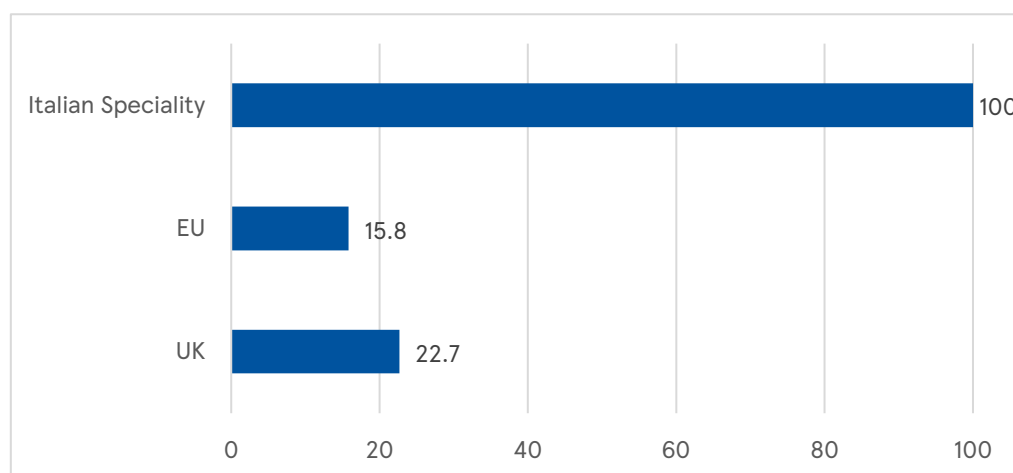
None of our pigs finished in the UK are castrated, 100% of males are entire, and our Dutch and Danish supply chains have committed to increasing the proportion of entire male pigs as part of their overall sustainability strategies. Our Danish supply chains have quadrupled the total number of entire males from 450,000 pigs in 2022 to 1.7 million by the end of 2024. 100% of our Italian finished pigs used in a range of our speciality continental meats for Tesco UK are free from tail docking and tooth clipping. We updated our outcome measure reporting for the 2021/22 reporting period to provide greater visibility on the proportion of pigs within our supply chain that are tail docked which showed that just under a quarter (22.7%) of UK pigs were undocked. Across our entire EU pork supply base for 2023/24 reporting year the figure was 15.8% (Figure 5).

We recognise the complex considerations that underpin the decision to undertake tail docking in pigs i.e. short-term discomfort verses the potential for long term issues associated with tail biting, and we require every supplying farm to have a veterinary endorsed tail biting risk assessment to justify the need for docking where it is being carried out. We will continue to use these data sets as a benchmark to track performance improvements in conjunction with greater visibility and evaluation of risk factors and monitor the impact of other in-country strategies such as the recently announced scheme in Denmark intended to incentivise non-docking.

Tesco encourage farming practices that reduce the need for management mutilations



Figure 5: Proportion of undocked pigs in Italian speciality, EU, and UK supply chains

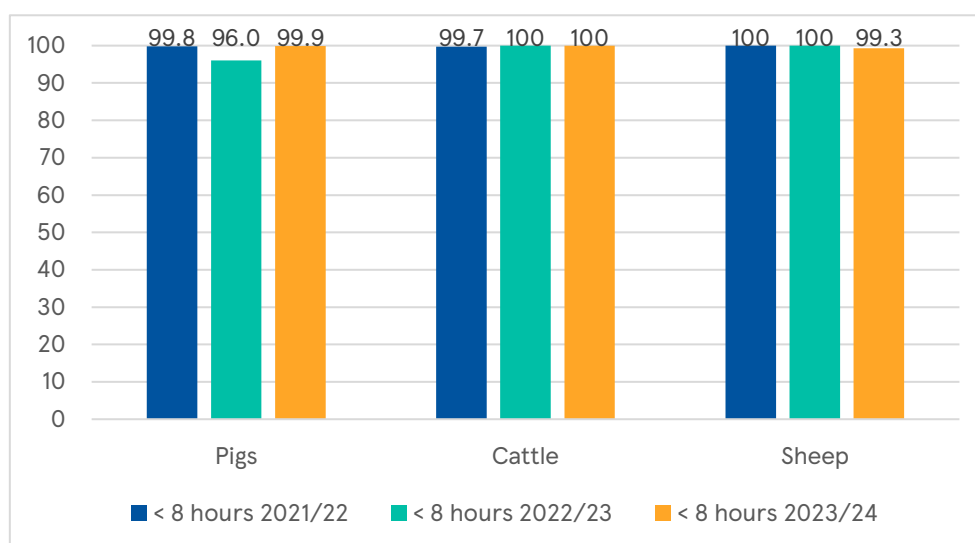




Transport and fitness to travel.

As part of our TWA standards for all species (excluding aquaculture and the transport of laying hens), we require transport times to be limited to eight hours or less and data from all business units (Tesco UK/ROI/CE and Booker) confirm that this policy is adhered to. It is recognised however, that occasions arise that are outside processor or haulier control.

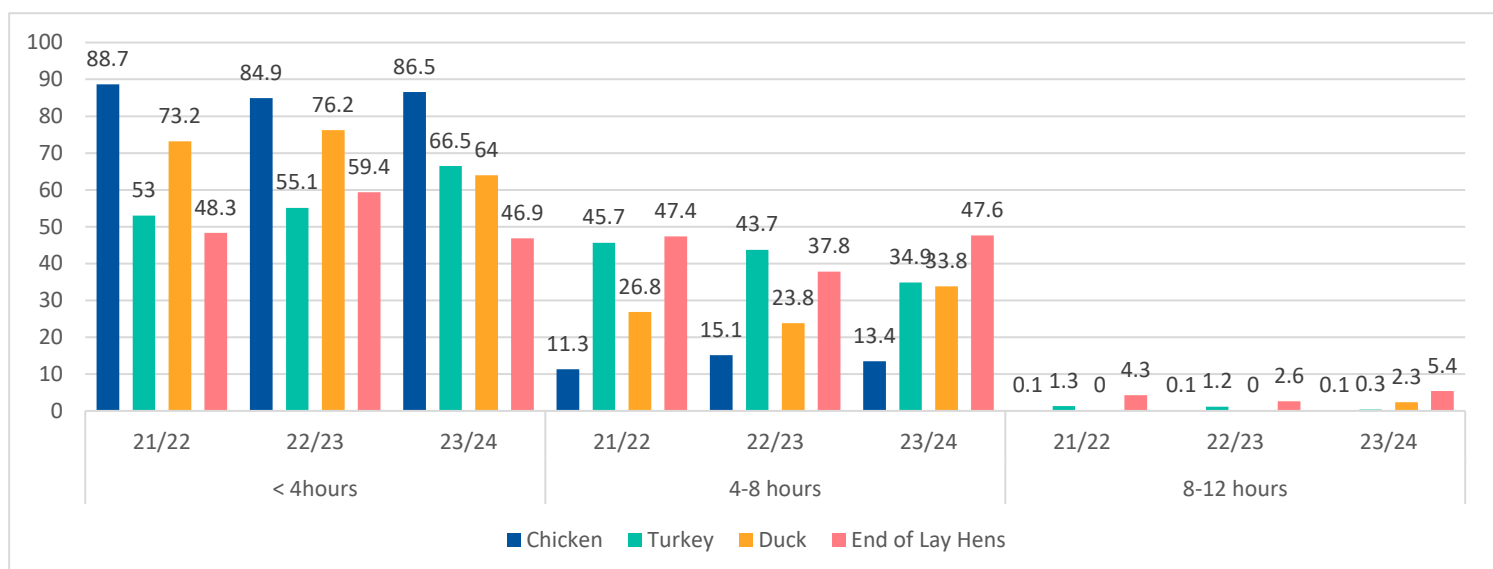
Figure 6: Percentage of transport occasions completed within eight hours for cattle, sheep and pigs for Tesco UK and ROI



100% of all transport occasions are planned to be less than eight hours across the Tesco Group and over 99% of actual farm to slaughter transport times (Own Brand Tesco UK and ROI) are eight hours or less over land (Figure 6). For the minority of unplanned occasions where this is exceeded, we have full visibility of root cause e.g. traffic incident

Additional Outcome Measure reporting was introduced across Tesco UK poultry supply chains in 2021/22 to give a further breakdown of transport times ranges. This shows a consistent position year-on-year, in that majority are completed within four hours (Figure 7) totalling 74.7% of transport occasions across combined poultry species scopes. Shorter transport times are encouraged across our supply chains both from the perspective of animal welfare but also as an important aspect of our overarching decarbonisation strategy.

Figure 7: Percentage of Poultry deliveries (chicken, turkey, duck and end of lay hens) completed within specified time frame for Tesco UK and ROI



Aquatic transport

Transportation of aquatic species poses different challenges. For this reason, Tesco actively encourages the humane slaughter of finfish and crustacea in-situ, at the site of final grow out. 100% of farmed shrimp are slaughtered on farm with zero transport time and are required to not be out of water for greater than 15 seconds. 9% of Tesco UK Own Brand L. vannamei shrimp are harvested using pump systems which minimises handling and time out of water. Where on-farm slaughter is not possible our TWA standards stipulate strict criteria for water quality parameters, such as dissolved oxygen and the associated monitoring required.

Where transport of aquatic animals is necessary, a risk assessment to establish fitness to travel must be conducted and transport times kept to a minimum. Our shrimp farms in the most part will be situated close to hatcheries and transport to farm will be less than eight hours.

Capture, slaughter, and transport of wild aquatic animals, including decapod crustacea, is widely variable depending on species, fishery, vessel type, gear, holding facilities and human interaction. Tesco are committed to better understanding and reducing any negative impact of this part of the supply chain and are actively improving data gathering to identify any further action that is required with an expectation of providing enhanced visibility of reporting in 2024/25. This includes significant revision of outcome measure data requirements for Salmonoids and other finfish species to assess the impact of harvest and transport conditions.

Tesco does not support the sale of live aquatic animals in stores and does not sell live aquatic animals in any stores across our Group. Additionally, within the TWA standard we require that all handling of farmed aquatic animals is carried out by persons trained in aquatic animal welfare including species-specific considerations and compliance to this requirement is audited. Fasting prior to transport is considered an important factor to mitigate poor water quality in transit which is itself a stressor. However, excessive fast times can impact on aquatic animal welfare therefore, we require that these are kept to a minimum and only implemented under the guidance of a veterinarian. 100% of farmed salmon smolts are free from fasting >72 hours prior to sea transfer. 100% of farmed salmon are fasted <72 hours prior to handling events, excluding harvest (Figure 8). We are aware of and support industry efforts to make improvements in this area such as Seafish best practice guidance for industry initiatives and the crustacean industry welfare hub.

Figure 8: Percentage of salmon fasted for <72 hours prior to key management events (%)

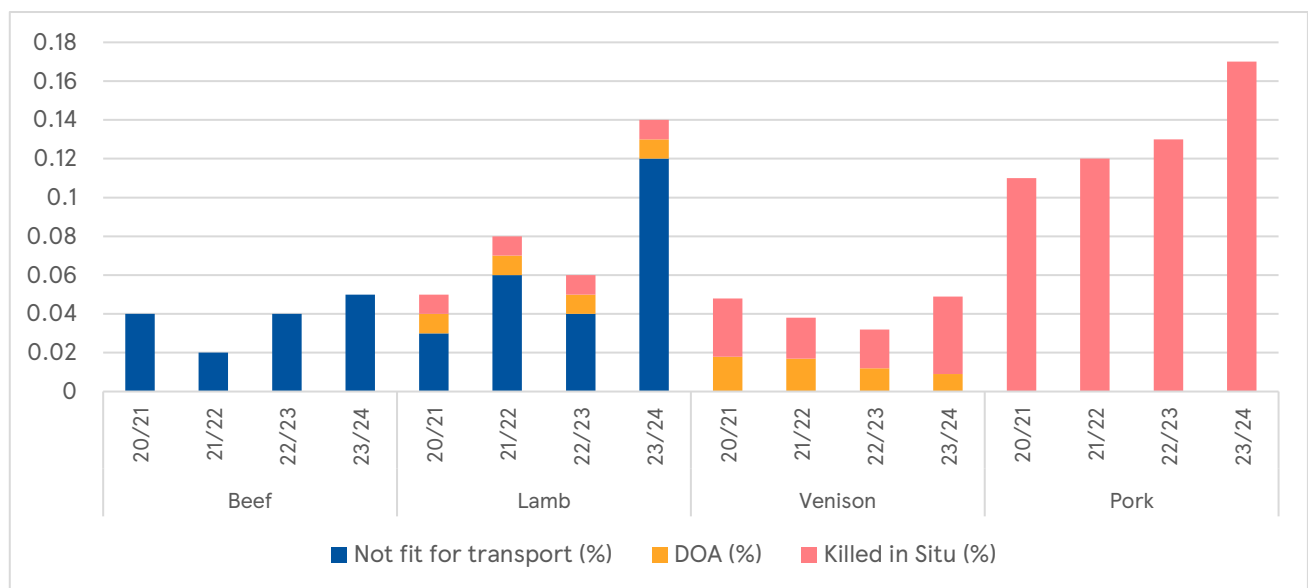


Red Meat transport

The cumulative proportion of animals considered not fit for transport, dead on arrival or requiring euthanasia is recorded and monitored to look for seasonal trends, impact of weather conditions etc (Figure 9).

Inter-site variation is a significant aspect which we work with suppliers to understand and address as necessary. Where there has been an apparent increase in total average in any sector this is reviewed further.

Figure 9: Combined percentage of casualty animals (cattle, sheep, venison, pigs) in Tesco UK and ROI (%)

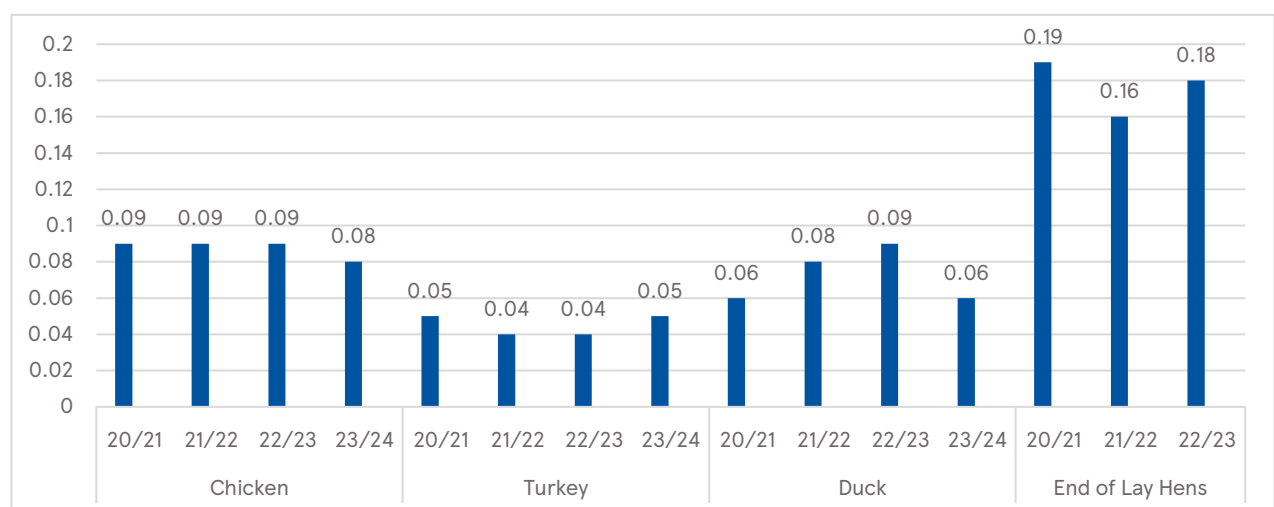


Poultry transport

Logistically the only measure of transportation fitness to travel that is possible in poultry species is the in-transit mortality or dead-on-arrival figure (Figure 10).

Overall levels across the broiler (chicken) supply base have remained comparatively static since 2020. Factors contributing to lower levels of dead on arrival across the poultry sector are key however, as in addition to welfare considerations, mortality has an impact on net sustainability of production which we continue to work with suppliers to reduce.

Figure 10: Percentage in-transit mortality (Poultry species) for Tesco UK and ROI





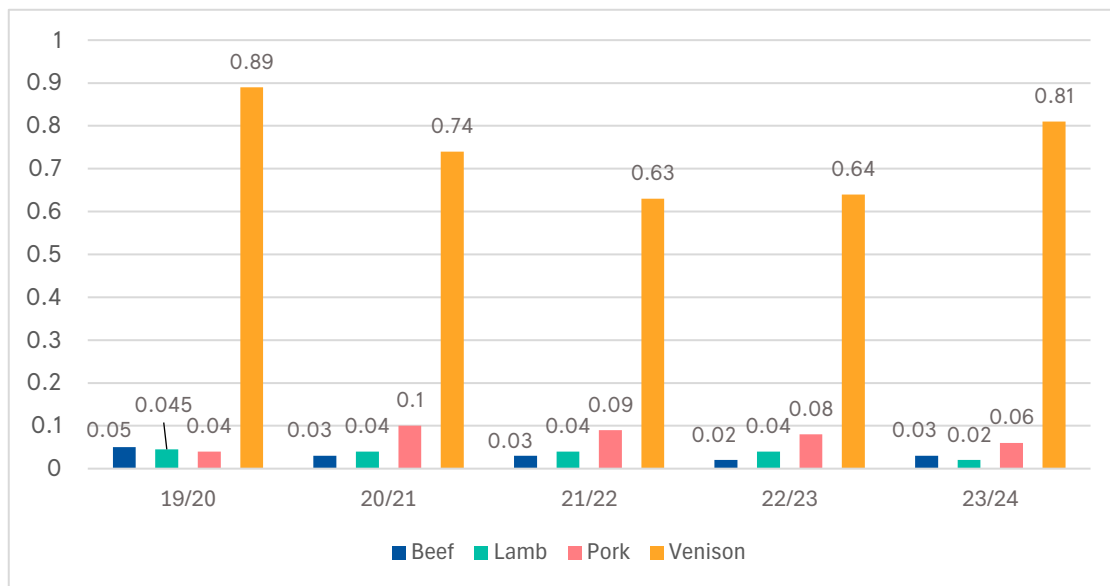
Animal handling.

Red Meat

It is recognised that loading and unloading animals onto livestock vehicles can be inherently stressful and as such Tesco require that unloading is assessed and subsequently verified as part of the independent third-party inspection process (both from live observation and historic CCTV footage). Slips and falls were monitored for cattle and pigs until 2022. However, numbers reported for cattle were both negligible and static and in 2022 the decision was taken to amend outcome measures for cattle and sheep to remove the requirement to report slips as an unloading metric but instead focus on falls and postmortem inspection data.

The percentage of falls across the livestock supply base has been comparatively stable for the last four years (Figure 11). Accuracy and consistency of reporting is being aided by an increasing number of suppliers adopting AI technology to automate the process. The higher numbers seen across the venison supply chain are still low (<1%) but reflect the handling challenges of moving a larger, undomesticated species.

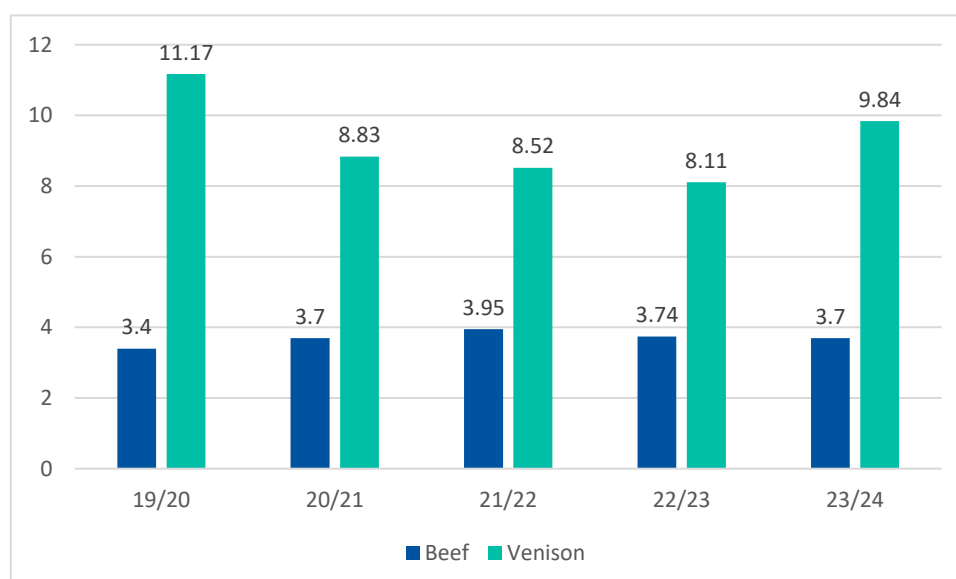
Figure 11: Percentage of falls during transport unloading (beef, lamb, pork, venison) for Tesco UK and ROI



Goad use

Goad use is prohibited across the Tesco Group for veal, lamb, and finished pigs. It is permitted (subject to strict conditions of use) for beef and venison, where the size of the animal and the safety of personnel must be considered when trying to ensure animals are moved with least overall intervention and net welfare impact. Where goad use is high and/or accompanied by other welfare indicators such as bruising, Tesco would require handling facilities and practices to be reviewed to resolve any issues. Comparative data sets indicate a consistent (and low) level of goad use in cattle and a trend reduction in use across the venison supply chain over the last 4 years (Figure 12).

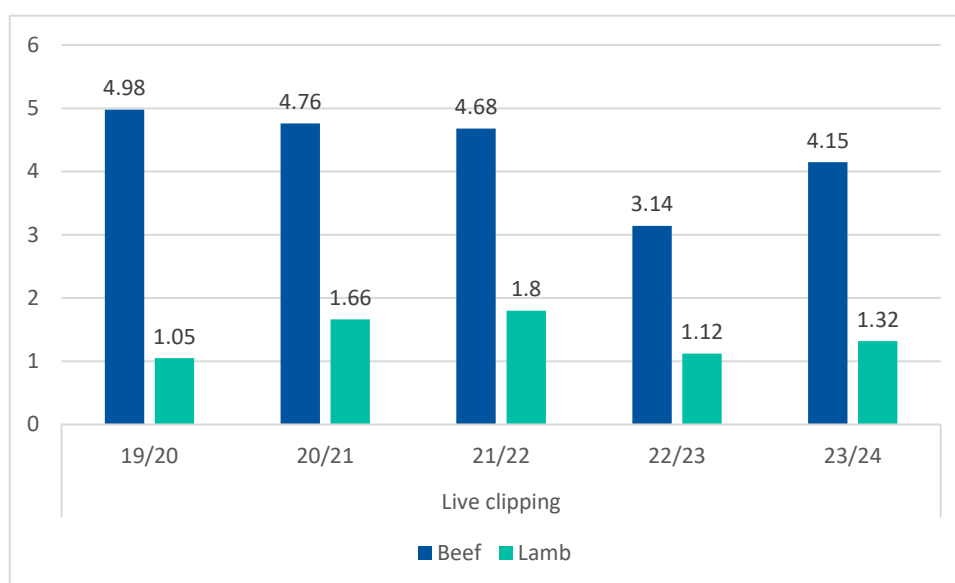
Figure 12: Percentage use of handling aids (Proportion of beef and venison requiring goad use) for Tesco UK and ROI



Live clipping

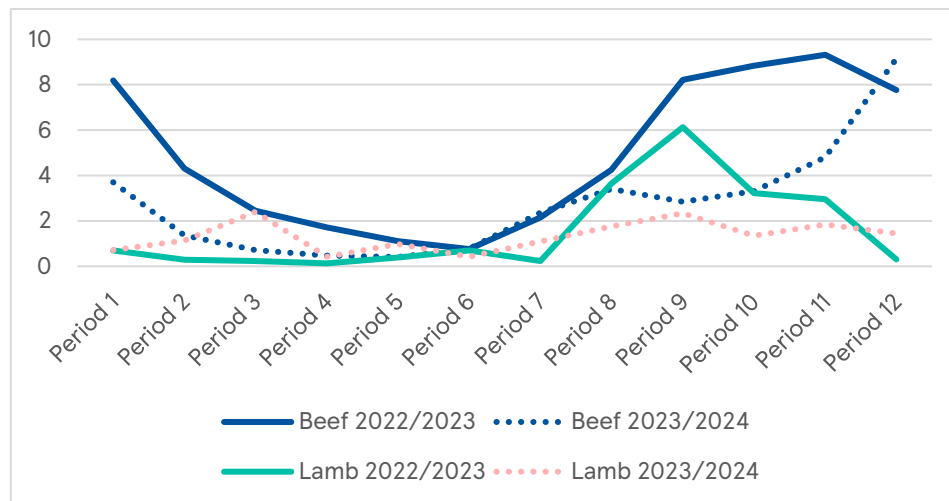
There is an expectation that animals are presented to processing plants at point of unloading in a clean and healthy condition. This is both a measure of animal welfare and a food safety requirement. There are occasions however, where the fleece or hide of an animal is heavily soiled on arrival and some degree of clipping is required. Live clipping is discouraged as it is another handling procedure requiring animal restraint and as such the incidence must be reported. Figures for beef are higher than for lamb but the relative incidence is now broadly static for lamb, with a slight increase seen for beef in the 2023/24 reporting cycle due to extended periods of wet weather (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Percentage of animals (beef & lamb) live clipped at slaughter intake for Tesco UK and ROI



Variation tends to be a function of environment (location, housing type and seasonality), geography (high rainfall) and season (autumn/winter) generating periods where live clipping is far more likely compared to the rest of the production year, as illustrated by trend graph (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Seasonal variation in percentage incidence of live clipping (beef & lamb) for Tesco UK and ROI (%)





Slaughter.

The Tesco Group Animal Welfare Policy requires that all livestock species are pre-stunned in accordance with European regulatory requirements (Regulation 1099/2009 EC).

There is 100% pre-slaughter stunning of all terrestrial and finfish species supplying all own label products for Tesco Group (Figure 15).

Figure 15: The percentage of animals pre-slaughter stunned across Tesco Group (Own Brand (%))

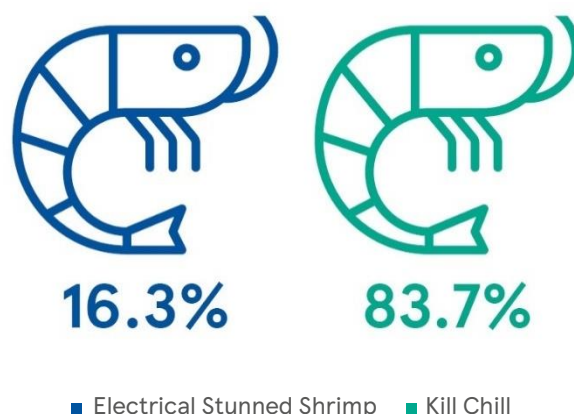


We do however, in a small number of stores, sell branded meat or host concessions that sell un-stunned halal and kosher meat. This is to serve customers who specifically wish to purchase un-stunned meat. This meat is clearly labelled Halal or Kosher, so that our customers are able to make informed choices. At least 99% of animals destined for Tesco Group (Own Brand and branded) are stunned before slaughter and this position remains consistent across reporting periods.

While there is currently no statutory requirement for fish to adhere to prescribed methods of stun and slaughter, 100% of Own Brand salmon, trout, sea bass, sea bream and pangasius across Tesco Group are slaughtered to industry best practice, such as electrical stunning or automated percussive stunning prior to slaughter. Methods such as chill-kill or gill cut without prior stunning are explicitly prohibited.

Tesco supports academic and industry advances in this area and will encourage uptake when a proven humane method is available. Currently 16.3% of warm water prawns are electrically stunned (Figure 16).

Figure 16: The percentage of warm water prawns (Tesco UK and ROI) stunned by stated method



In crustacea, our recently published [Tesco Farmed Decapod Crustacean Welfare Policy](#) covers practices applied during capture, on-board holding/sorting, landing, storage, transport, slaughter and the general handling of farmed decapod crustaceans.

In poultry it is still the case that the majority (85.4%) of birds processed across Tesco Group are stunned using biphasic or inert gas Controlled Atmosphere Systems (CAS) (Figure 17). This is also the case for our pig supply chain with 96% of pigs processed across Tesco Group being stunned using CAS (Figure 18).

Tesco supports initiatives to develop commercially viable alternatives to the use of high concentration carbon dioxide during stunning as long as they ensure the same handling benefits and guarantee of irrecoverable stun. We are committed to using an alternative to high concentration carbon dioxide once a suitable replacement becomes available.

Figure 17: Percentage of poultry stunned by stated method (Electrical Verses Biphasic or Inert Controlled Atmosphere Systems) for Tesco UK and ROI

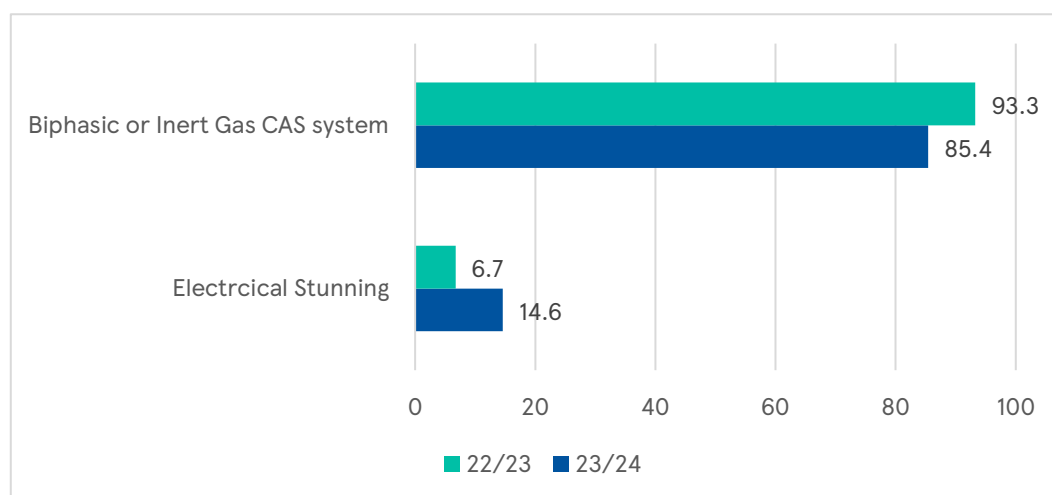
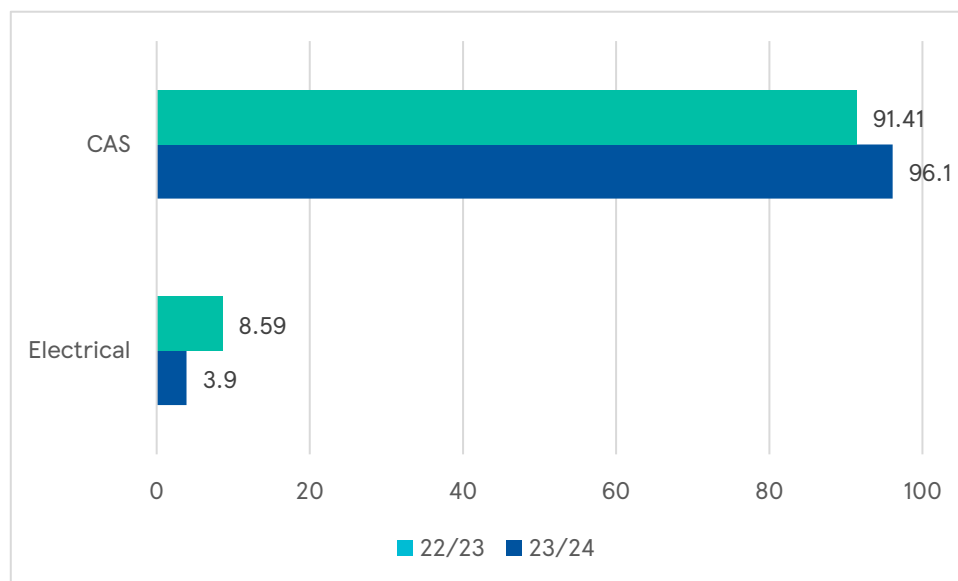


Figure 18: Percentage of pigs stunned by stated method (Electrical Verses Controlled Atmosphere Systems) for Tesco UK



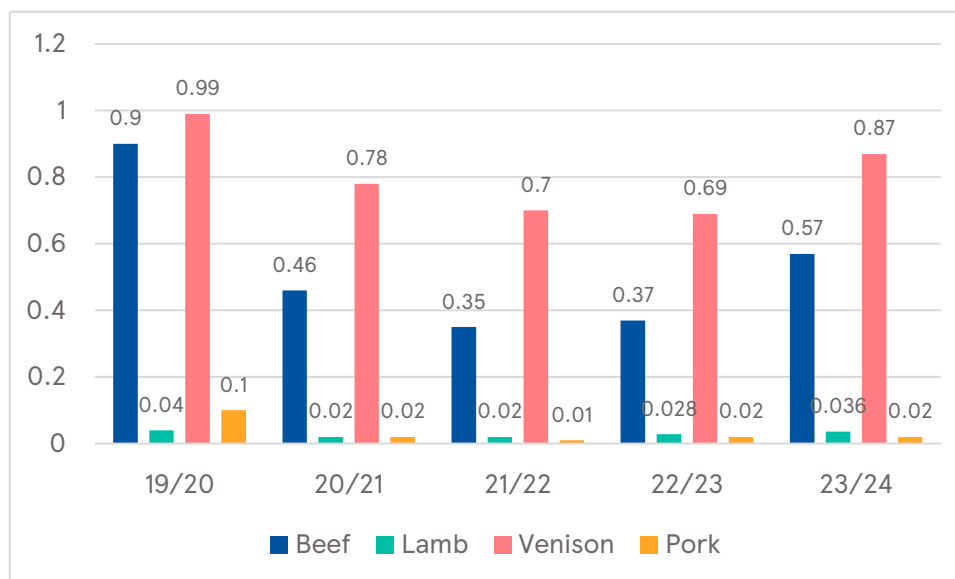
Secondary stunning

In addition to requiring that all species are pre-slaughter stunned we recognise that the effectiveness and consistency of stunning is crucial to animal welfare during the slaughter process.

We favour the use of methods that result in an irrecoverable stun (stun-kill) such as Controlled Atmosphere Stunning (CAS) systems used in the majority of our pig and poultry supply chains. We recognise the debate in relation to the use of Carbon Dioxide in CAS systems for pigs but in the absence of commercially viable, scientifically validated alternatives, Outcome Measure data continues to illustrate the net benefits of the system (relative to electrical stunning) in terms of effectiveness of primary stun. Where electrical or percussive systems are used then our suppliers report on the percentage of animals that require a secondary or 'back-up' stun.

The higher figures seen in our beef and venison supply chains reflect a proportion of 'health and safety' stuns to minimise spontaneous post-stun movement. In 2022, differentiation of secondary stuns in terms of 'health and safety' as opposed to 'stun failure' has been included in reporting requirements to provide absolute visibility and better cross-species comparative data.

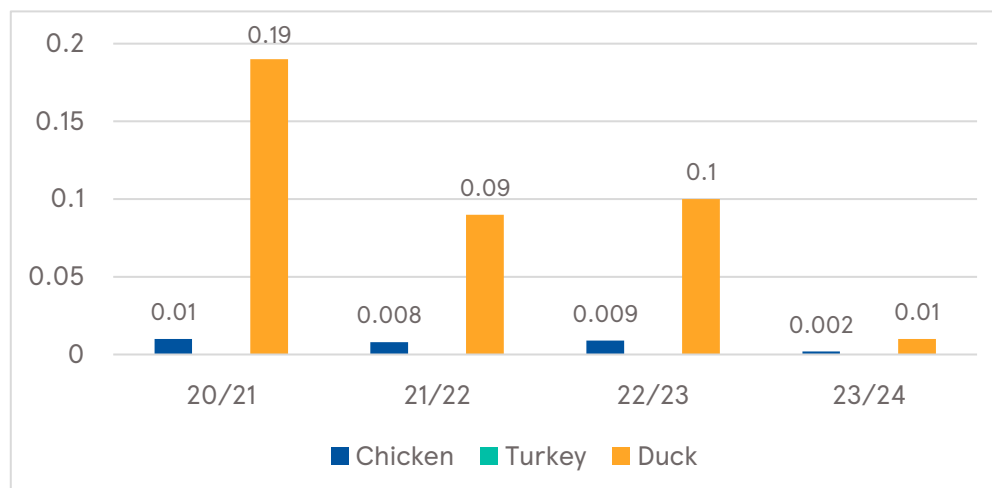
Figure 19: Percentage Incidence of Red Meat Animals (beef, lamb, venison, pork) requiring secondary stunning for Tesco UK



Electrically stunned poultry may show some post stun responsiveness in a minority of cases. Similarly, where a bird misses the automated neck cut, a manual back up will be used to ensure that 100% of birds are effectively stunned and slaughtered. Both these parameters are carefully monitored to ensure animals are insensible throughout (Figure 20).

Tesco promotes the use of CAS systems that induce an irrecoverable stun-kill. These systems are widely used in broiler and turkey supply chains (hence the lower values for responsiveness post stun). However, duck physiology makes the application of CAS systems more difficult, and the higher responsiveness figure is associated with the necessary use of electrical stunning systems. There has nevertheless been a significant reduction in post-stun responsiveness within the duck supply chain.

Figure 20: Percentage Incidence of poultry (chicken, turkey, duck) requiring secondary stunning for Tesco UK and ROI



We are committed to trialling suitable methods of improved stunning when they become commercially available across all species sectors.



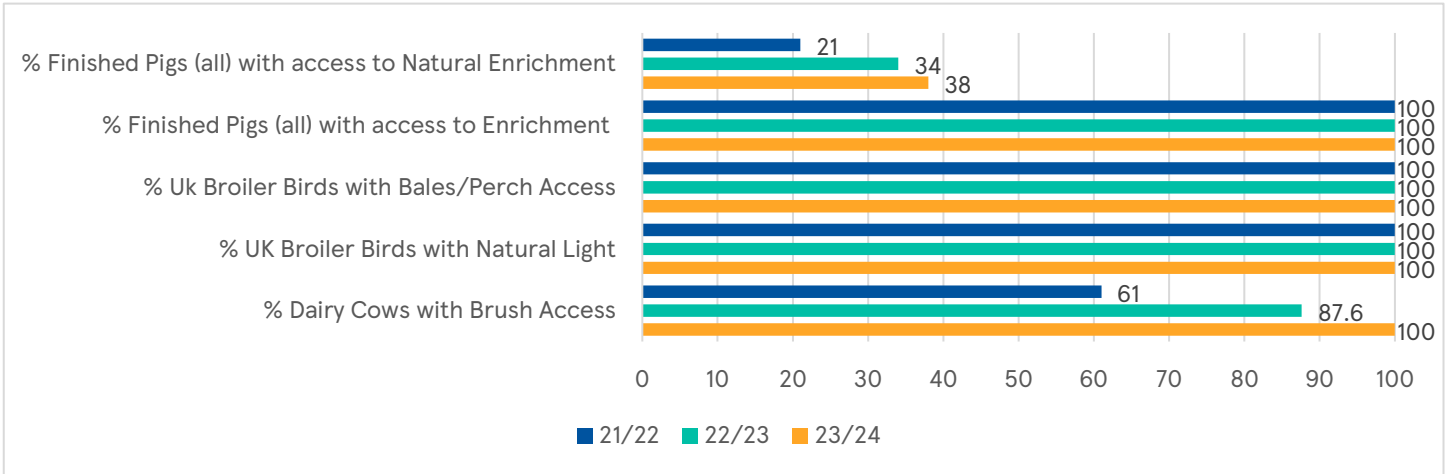


Cross-species enrichment.

The provision of an environment that supports the display of a range of natural behaviours is crucial to the mental and physical well-being of animals.

Figure 21 gives an overview of some of the enrichment types used across our supply chain.

Figure 21: Percentage provision of enrichment by species type supplying Tesco UK and ROI



Animal enrichment must satisfy key characteristics to be considered optimal. Where this cannot be achieved through the provision of a single substrate, e.g. straw, then a variety of different enrichment types must be provided which collectively meet behavioural needs. 100% of all pigs supplied into Own Brand product across Tesco Group are provided with enrichment and all of our Finest* pork is finished in straw-based systems satisfying the criteria for optimal enrichment at each life stage. Additionally, all of our pork sourced from Germany for Tesco UK is provided with natural enrichment sources such as straw, hay, shavings or wood, reflecting in-country legislative requirements. Other examples include the requirement of cattle brushes across all our Tesco Sustainable Dairy Group farms, and the inclusion of pecking objects and perches across our UK broiler supply base.

Enhanced welfare systems

Tesco UK introduced a 'Room to Roam' chicken range, in addition to the existing higher welfare offerings of Finest* Free Range chicken and Organic chicken. 'Room to Roam' systems use a slower growing bird, which have a maximum stocking density of 30kg/m² or below. The change will mean that the birds will have 20% more space provided than the industry standard of 38kg/m². Within the Tesco UK global supply base, 17% of broiler chicken comes from birds raised at or below stocking densities of 30kg/m² (Figure 22), and 4% from slower-growing breeds (Figure 23).

Within Salmon organic accounts for 0.6% so would equate to the proportion stocked at 10kg/m³ or lower.

Figure 22: Percentage of broiler birds stocked at 30kg/m² or below for Tesco UK (%)

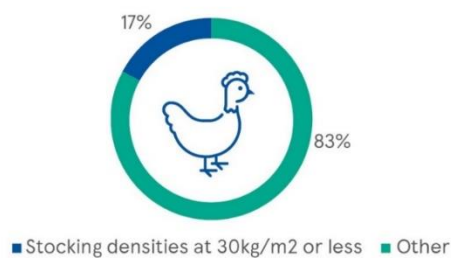
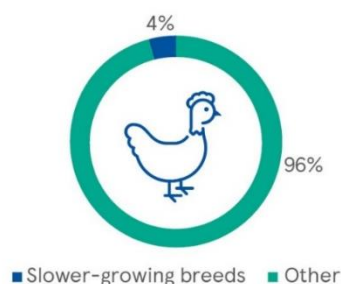


Figure 23: Percentage of Tesco UK broiler chicken sourced from slower-growing breeds (%)







Species Deep Dive.

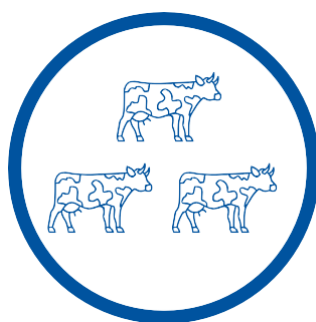
Dairy cattle

Members of the Tesco Sustainable Dairy Group (TSDG) and Sustainable Cheese Group (TCG) are independently assessed at farm level to track and trend performance against key welfare outcome measures and targets.

[Our TSDG farmers supply all of our liquid fresh milk into Tesco UK](#)

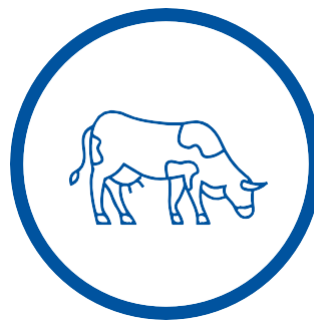
There is a high proportion of farms meeting compliance targets, indicating that key management considerations such as nutrition, housing and health care are consistently being met. It is encouraging that despite targets being increased year on year, the proportion of TSDG producers meeting those targets has remained mostly unchanged (Figure 24) indicating relative improvement. In addition to this we can verify that 0% of TSDG and TCG animals are housed in fully slatted systems. In addition, as part of the TSDG & TCG Tesco Welfare Approved standard, cattle cannot be tethered at any point of life.

Table 4: TSDG welfare outcome measures



Mobility (lameness)

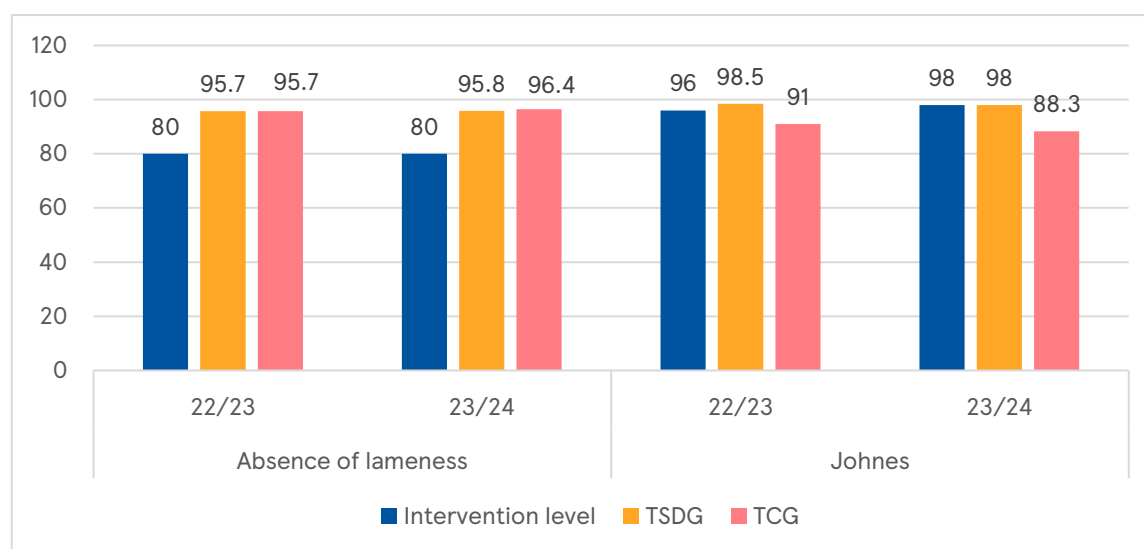
Herd average <20%



Johnes Disease

100% of farms with Johnes disease
not present in 98% of herd

Figure 24: Proportion of TSDG and TCG dairy farms meeting compliance targets 2022/23 & 2023/24 (%)



Poultry

Mortality

Mortality is the measure of those animals that die or are euthanased on farm as a consequence of disease or injury. Mortality levels vary with species and external factors such as seasonal fluctuation, health challenges and a range of environmental conditions, which in turn can be a consequence of geography. Understandably, it is a key measure of on-farm welfare across our global poultry supply base and one which is closely monitored. Mortality data is also reviewed within the context of antibiotic trends. The Tesco Antibiotic Commitments emphasise responsible use (and specifically no prophylactic or routine metaphylaxis), but this must not be at the expense of bird welfare.

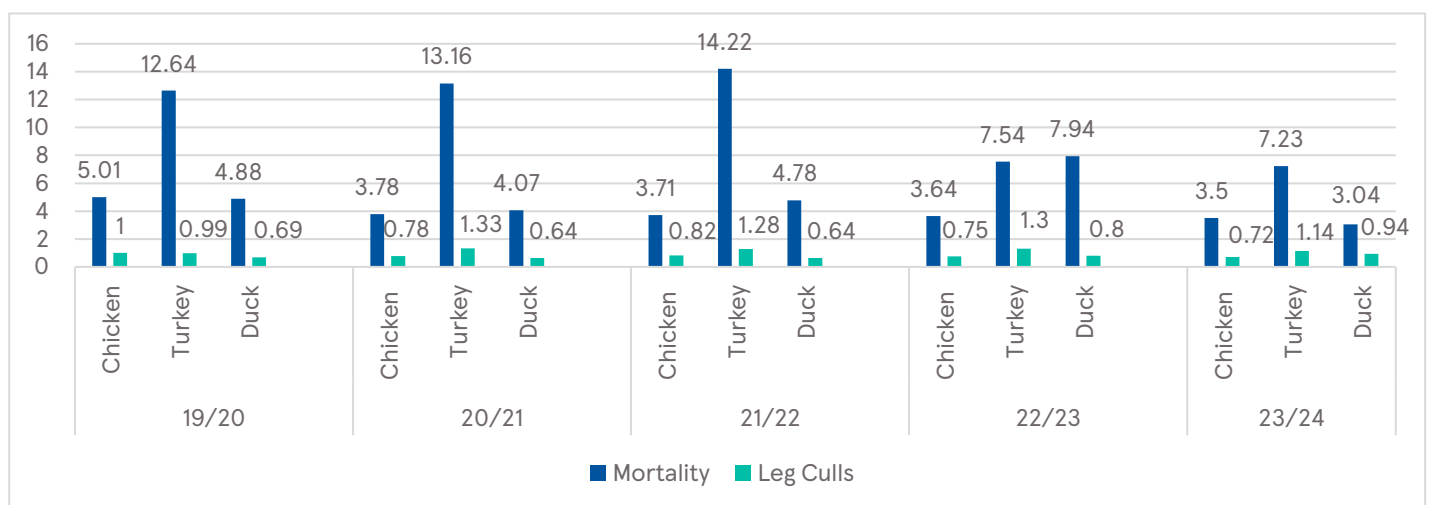
By tracking, trending and correlating mortality and antibiotic data we can ensure there isn't a restriction in use of antibiotics at the expense of bird health.

Leg culls associated with leg weakness

A specific data sub-set within mortality figures relates to the proportion of birds requiring culling for reasons associated with leg weakness. The percentage of birds culled for leg issues is consistent across species and is fairly static and remains proportional with any changes in absolute mortality levels. It also indicates that sites take a proactive approach to managing bird mobility.

Overall, there have been reductions in mortality and rate of leg culls in both chicken and duck supply chains (Figure 25). Following challenges in 2022/23 where there has been an increase in both metrics within the turkey supply chain, industry wide challenges appear to have resolved with a concomitant reduction in leg culls and mortality which has continued throughout 2024 to date.

Figure 25: Percentage mortality and incidence of leg culls within Tesco UK and ROI poultry (chicken, turkey, duck) supply chains



Lesions

Tesco is committed to housing systems and environmental management that ensure the occurrence of foot pad lesions (pododermatitis) in chickens, ducks and turkeys, leg lesions (hock burn) in chickens and breast blisters in turkeys are minimised. Tesco liaise with individual suppliers and communicate evidence of good practice and associated on farm management where individual suppliers are achieving significantly lower figures than the average.

Tesco does not recognise the incidence of an acceptable level of pododermatitis (Figure 26) or hock burn (Figure 27) and unlike many scoring systems which only report on the presence of more severe lesions. The Tesco figures represent absolute values, for example, where there is any indication of contact redness or abrasion, however minimal. There has been a relative reduction in pododermatitis in broiler chickens but this average includes considerable geographic variation. It has long been known that the levels of pododermatitis are higher in the UK and Northern Europe compared to Thailand.



Figure 26: Percentage incidence of pododermatitis within Tesco UK and ROI poultry supply chains (chicken, turkey & duck)

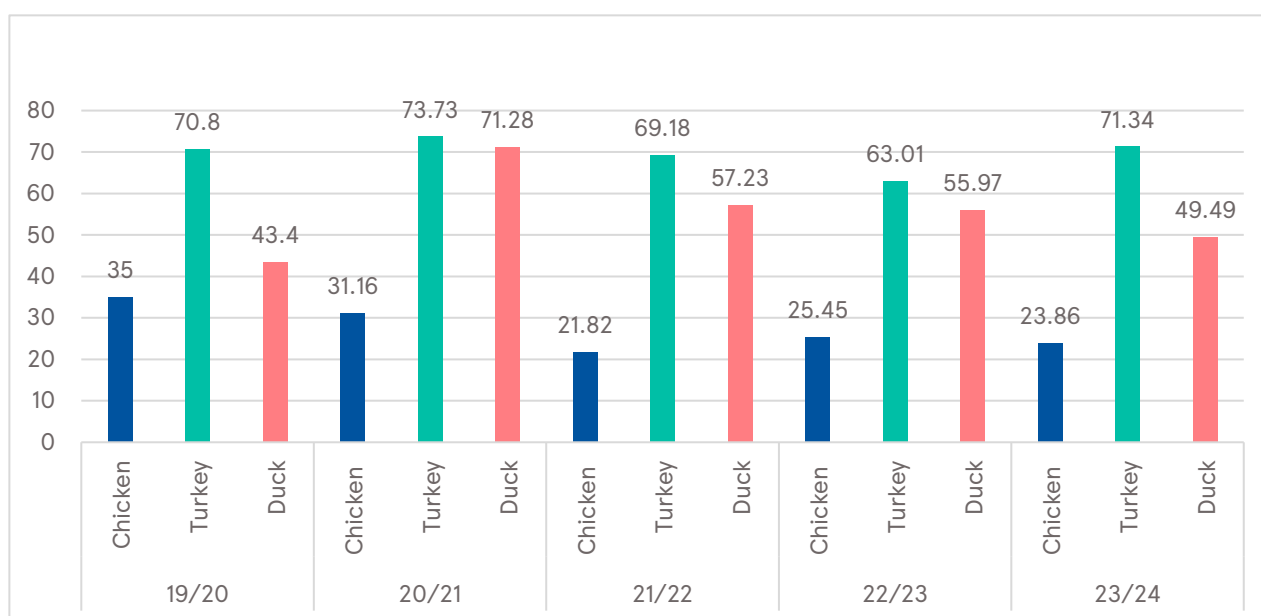
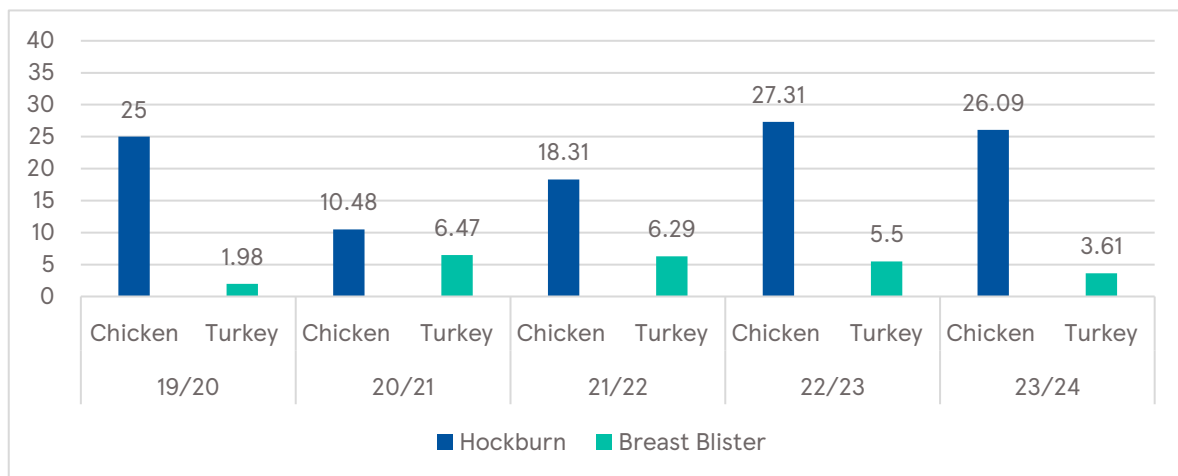


Figure 27: Percentage Incidence of Hockburn (chicken) and Breast Blister (turkey) within Tesco UK and ROI Poultry supply chains



Laying Hens

We continue to transition our laying hen supply chain to cage-free egg production but additionally, are also supporting the move towards a higher proportion of white birds (and white eggs) rather than an exclusively brown flocks. Anecdotally, white birds appear more resilient with a positive impact on outcome measures such as mortality and average flock age.

Mortality

As with other poultry species Tesco collates mortality information in relation to commercial laying flocks. This is to understand seasonal trends and those factors which may result in bird losses, specifically disease challenge. Flock age at depletion (i.e. 'end of lay') will inevitably impact total mortality and so we ask suppliers to report a standardised figure at 70 weeks (Figure 28), a final figure and average flock age (Figure 29) in order to better assess relative performance. The data sets confirm that the increase in end-of-lay mortality rates is correlated with a similar increase in average flock age.

Figure 28: Percentage mortality at 70 weeks and end of lay by method of production for Tesco UK and ROI

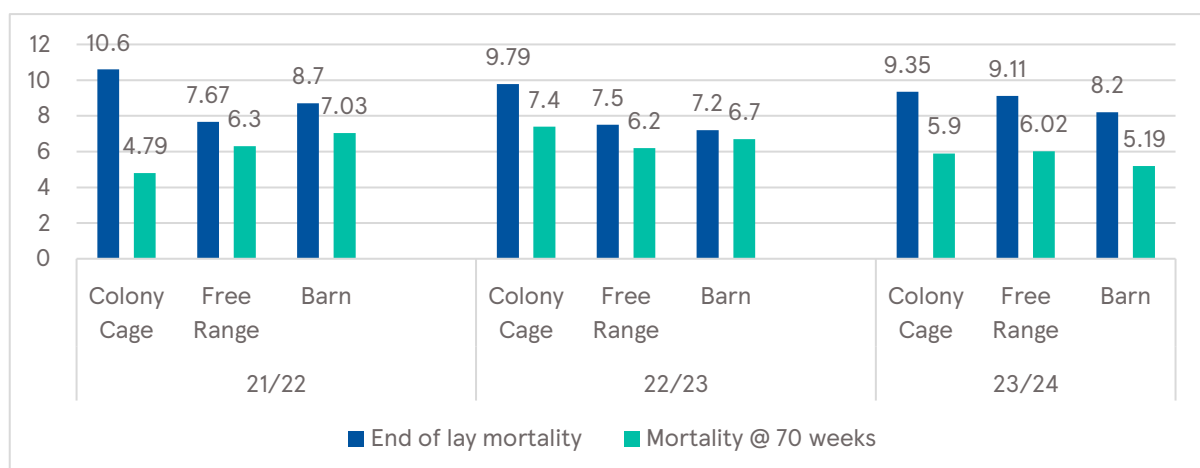
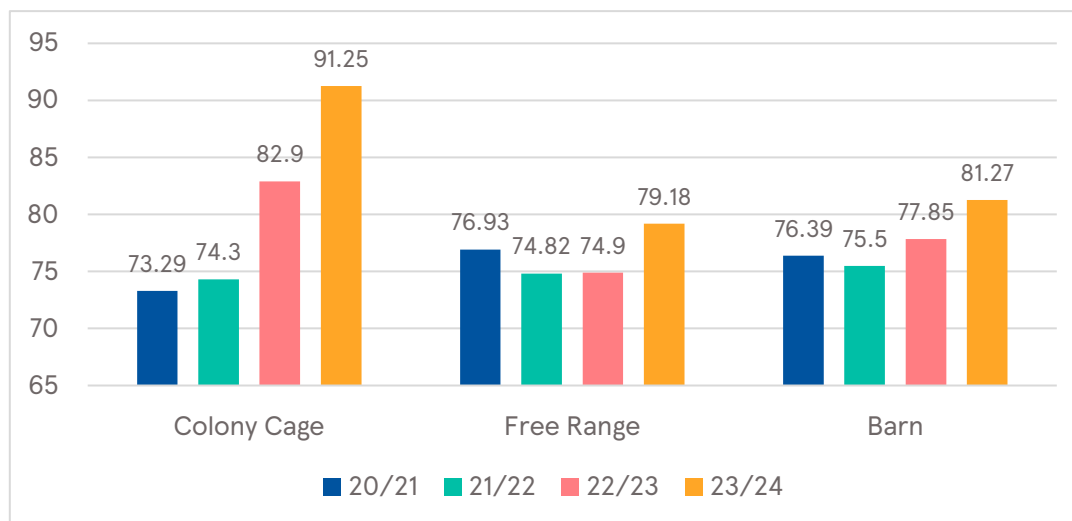


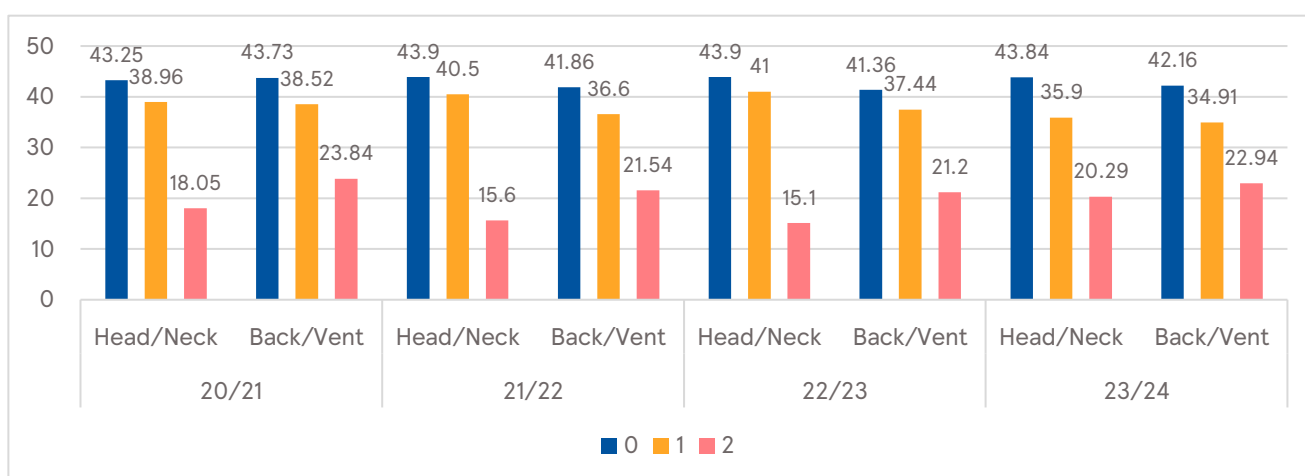
Figure 29: Average flock age by method of production for Tesco UK and ROI



Feather Coverage

Tesco recognises the impact that injurious pecking behaviours have in laying hen flocks and encourages the implementation of strategies as outlined by the Bristol University FeatherWel initiative to minimise occurrence. Feather coverage is assessed and scored in all commercial egg laying flocks supplying into Tesco UK and ROI from 40 weeks of age. This enables producers to monitor conditions or behaviours that may result in feather loss and respond accordingly. A score of 0 indicates complete feather coverage, while a score of 2 indicates a degree of feather loss. Most birds retain all or most of their feather coverage whilst in lay and only a minority of flocks have evidence of agonistic behaviours. Feather scores have remained broadly consistent between 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 reporting periods suggesting a broad consistency of management approach and bird health status across the supply base as a whole (Figure 30).

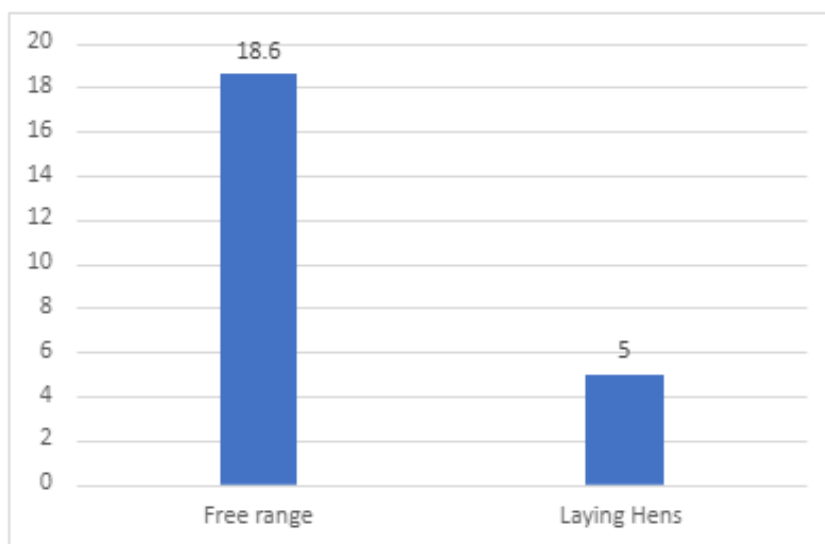
Figure 30: Feather coverage in laying hens in Tesco UK and ROI (%)



Beak treatment

As part of the Tesco commitment towards the avoidance of routine physical interventions, we collect detailed information on both the instances and method of beak treatment (Figure 31). Beak treatment should be avoided but where required methods must minimise bird discomfort. All birds either receive no beak treatment (score 1) or are treated at day old in the hatchery (score 2). No birds are beak treated on farm (score 3) or because of emergency intervention (score 4). In 2023/24 approximately 18.6% of free-range flocks were not beak treated (Score 1). Across the Tesco Group, approximately 5% of laying hens are free from beak treatment.

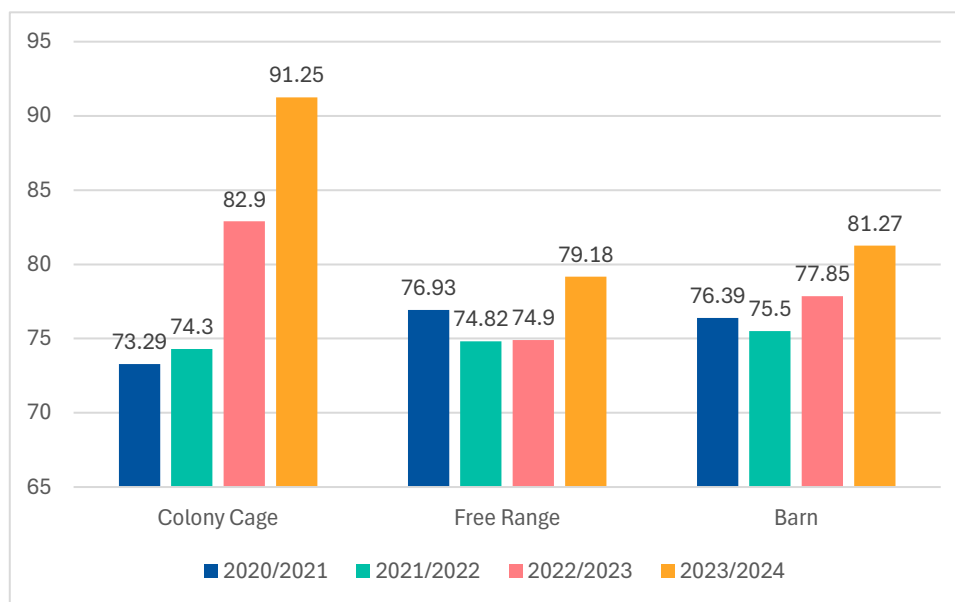
Figure 31: Associated score 1s from beak treatment in free range flocks and laying hens (Tesco Group)



Mortality – laying hens

As with other poultry species Tesco collates mortality information in relation to commercial laying flocks. This is to understand seasonal trends and those factors which may result in bird losses, specifically disease challenge. However, there are several ongoing changes within the egg supply base which have impacted on reporting metrics. As the proportion of colony cage production decreases and the proportion of barn production increases (consistent with progress on Tesco cage-free commitment) we have asked suppliers to report each method of production separately.

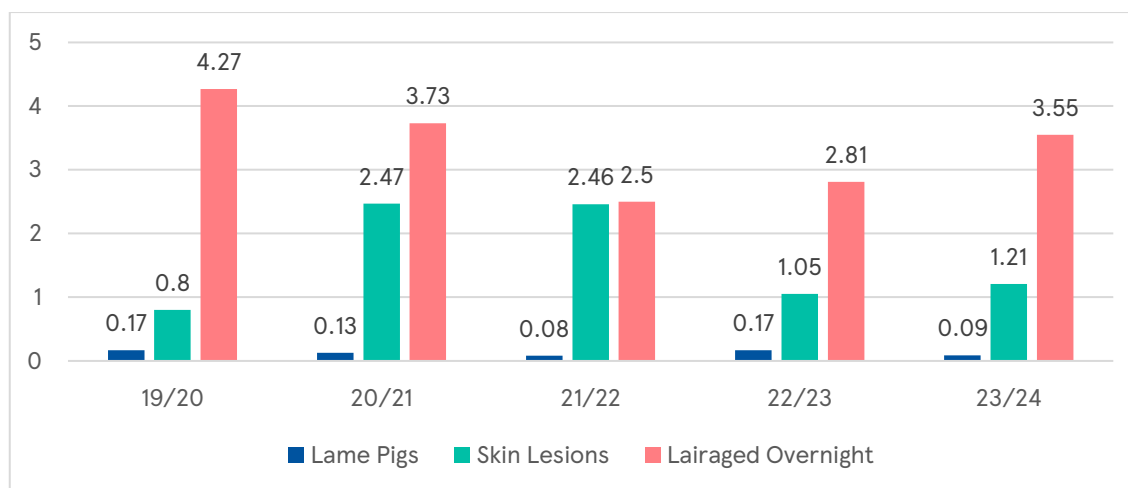
Figure 32: Average age of laying hen flocks at depletion supplying into Tesco UK and ROI (%)



Pigs

Lameness is recognised as a key welfare indicator in pigs and reflects historic housing and handling conditions. Skin lesions or ‘fight damage’ can arise due to mixing unfamiliar groups of pigs or pigs being held in unfamiliar surroundings. We require that pigs are kept in farm groups during transport and lairage and that the time which pigs are held in the lairage is minimised. All processing sites now consistently ensure that minimum numbers are held overnight and don’t exceed 25% on any individual occasion. Pig welfare post-transit is further monitored by assessment of lameness and skin damage; the levels of which are consistently low across our supply base (Figure 33) indicating housing and transit handling are to a good standard.

Figure 33: Percentage incidence of Pork outcome measures for Tesco UK

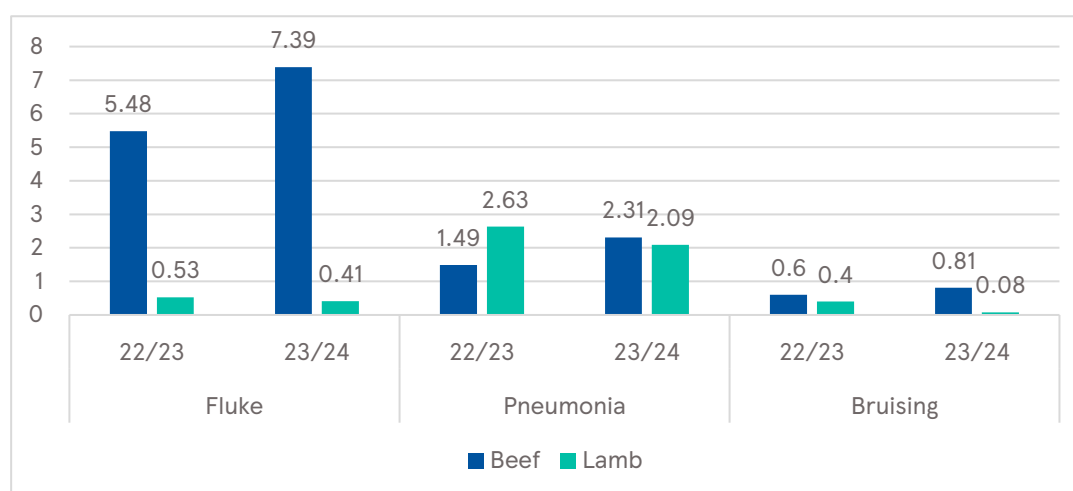


There has been a year-on-year reduction in the incidence of lame pigs. The slight trend increase in the number of pigs held overnight may reflect the impact of recent site closures but nevertheless the figure remains well below the Tesco threshold target of 25%. The reasons behind the increase in skin lesions during 2020/21, which persisted into 2021/22, remain unclear. However, the data shows that levels have since returned to approximately those seen in 2019, despite some slight year-on-year fluctuations. Overall, this suggests a net downward trend in skin lesions over the past two years.

Beef Cattle & Lamb

Postmortem inspection data is of increasing value in terms of providing an overview of animal experience on farm (e.g. incidence of pneumonia/liver fluke) and/or transit and handling (e.g. bruising). These metrics were introduced into the Tesco Outcome Measures programme for cattle and sheep in 2022 and results for 2023/24 (Figure 34) indicate a reduction in incidence of all condemnations for lamb, while conversely, we have seen a marginal increase in beef.

Figure 34: Percentage occurrence of postmortem conditions in beef and lamb supplied into Tesco UK and ROI



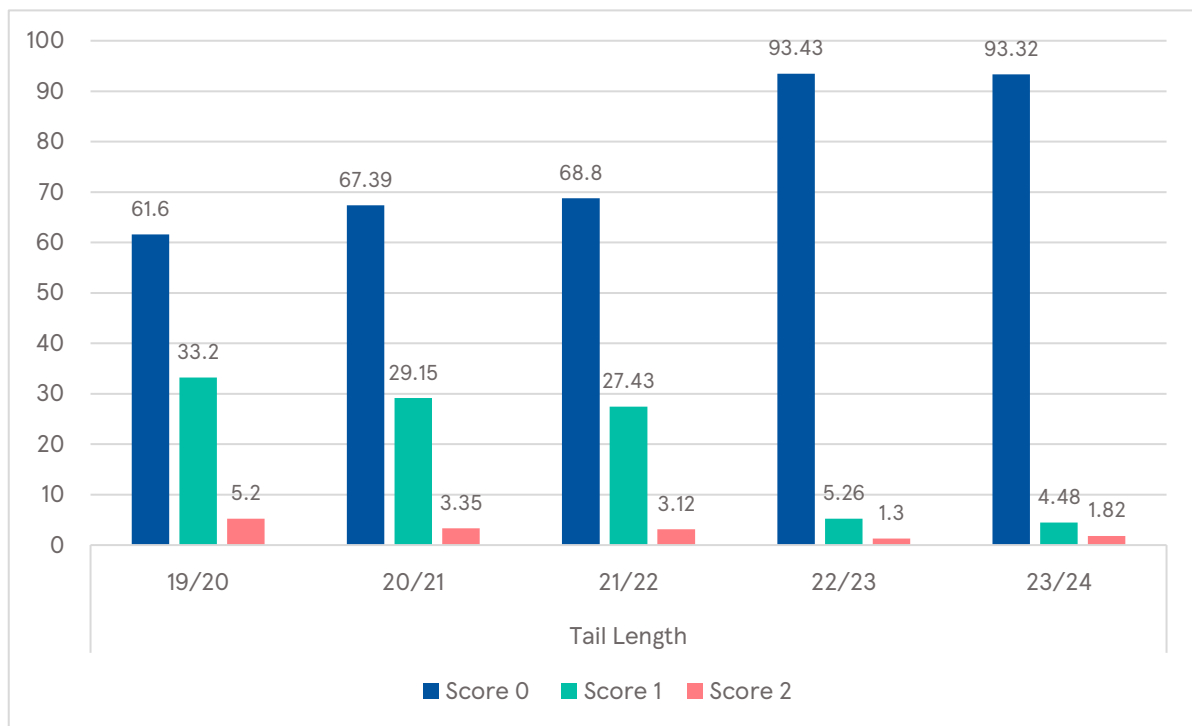
There are distinct regional observations in the incidence of fluke and it is notable that incidence is much greater in beef than sheep (reflecting relative age at slaughter and seasonal influence of fluke exposure). Bruising occurs infrequently in both.

Lamb

Wherever possible we support a move away from processes such as tail docking and castration. However, this must be balanced against the potential welfare impact of associated welfare challenges in a pasture-based system, such as 'fly strike'. Given the relationship between tail length and discomfort associated with the docking process (the longer the tail the less the impact) we actively monitor tail length and prohibit short docking (score 2) and require the maximum possible length to remain (score 0) while still retaining the long-term management benefits of docking where strictly necessary.

Across the supply base, there has been a proportional year-on-year increase in the number of animals with tail score 0 (long dock or no dock) (Figure 35). Score 2 has been exclusively associated with the New Zealand supply base and reflects the challenges in highly extensive systems where mulesing is absolutely prohibited. There has however been a very significant improvement in docking length specifically across the New Zealand supply base in the last 2 years and this has driven the increase of over 25% in score 0. Score 2 is now negligible.

Figure 35: Percentage occurrence of tail scores in lamb supply to Tesco UK and ROI





Aquatic Animals

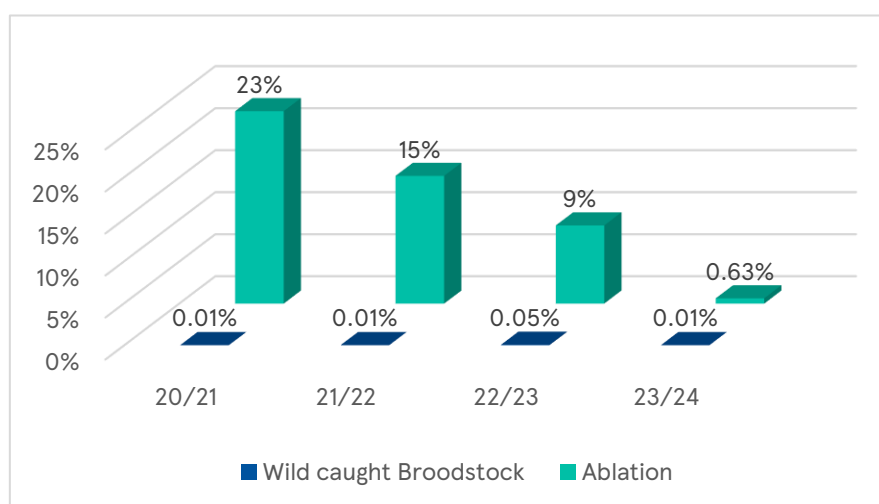
Shrimp

Tesco introduced farm welfare standards in shrimp in 2014. These cover requirements for welfare of shrimp at the hatchery, during transport, farming and harvest. There has been significant progress towards our commitment of 100% ablation free within our Tesco UK supply chain by 2026 with 100% of shrimp from Central America already ablation free. Other regions are moving toward this target with 18% of broodstock ablation free in Thailand and 45% in Indonesia.

Wild caught broodstock is a minimal percentage of the total (in 2023/24 less than 1%) and is associated with *Panueus Monodon* (Giant Tiger Shrimp) production in extensive systems. There is no ablation of wild caught broodstock.

In August 2024 Tesco published a revised decapod crustacean policy, addressing welfare and sustainability considerations in farmed species and developed in alignment with the Aquatic Life Institute. This was heralded by the wider industry as a “groundbreaking policy to improve animal welfare of farmed decapod crustaceans, setting new industry standards”

Figure 36: Shrimp broodstock welfare indicators (%)





Innovation.

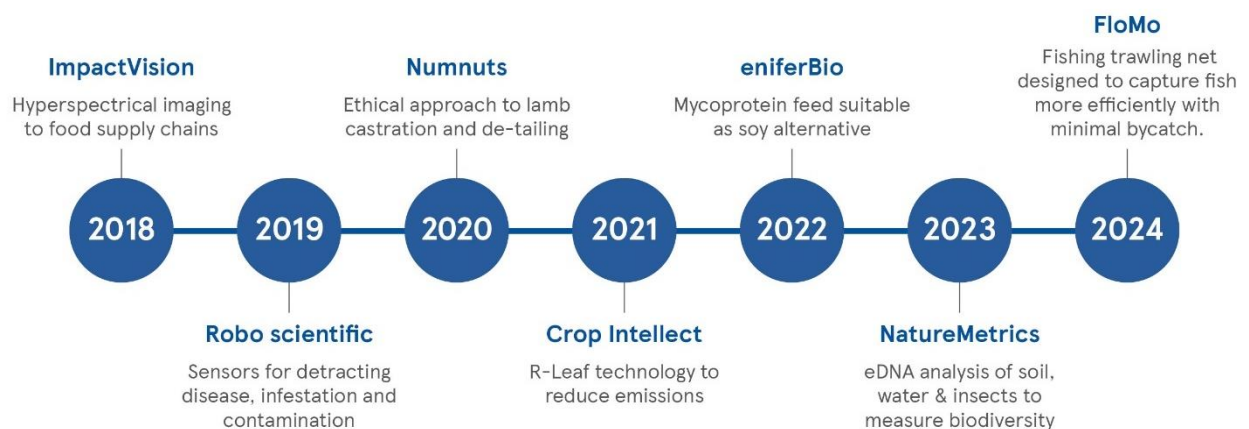
We believe innovation, research and development are integral to ensuring our supply chains are efficient, safe, responsible, and sustainable. The key focus of Tesco supported research and development in agriculture is to ensure there is direct positive impact at a farm level including improvements in animal health and welfare.

Enabling innovation sits across a number of key workstreams including our Tesco Sustainable Farming Groups, supporting Government Innovation Centres, working closely with our innovative suppliers through the Tesco R&D Committee, and our flagship event, the Agri T-Jam.

Agri T-Jam

We held our first Agri T-Jam in 2018. It has the ambition of helping to make a positive difference within our supply chains on the key challenges facing the agricultural sector. Exciting agri-tech companies with solutions to some of our current and future challenges and opportunities, get the chance to pitch their technologies to us, our supply chain partners,

and investors. Novel approaches to addressing health and welfare issues are one of the priority criteria. Past T-Jam winners, as well as several finalists, have gone on to set up trials in our supply base. Crop Intellect who won the 2021 T-Jam are now part of Tesco's low-carbon fertiliser trial, which is a large-scale commercial field trial with five major fresh produce suppliers. The 2023 winner, Nature Metrics, converts complex eDNA analysis of soil, water and insect data into simple metrics which can be viewed through its Nature Intelligence Platform, allowing users to comprehensively report on biodiversity improvement in their supply chain. The 2024 winner, FloMo, provides a trawling technology that monitors fishing nets in real-time to optimise performance and promote sustainable fishing.



Government Innovation Centres

We actively support UK Government initiatives that foster collaboration between the food industry and academic researchers to transform the productivity of the UK livestock sector. As a member of the Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock (CIEL), we are contributing to its development through participation in key management boards. CIEL, along with Crop Health and Protection (CHAP) and the Agricultural Engineering Precision Innovation Centre (Agri-EPI), has now merged to form a unified entity, enhancing innovation across agriculture. We continue to prioritize livestock health and welfare, while also partnering with the Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC) and maintaining representation in the BBSRC Animal Welfare Research Network (AWRN).



Celebrating success in our supply chain.

In 2022, we received recognition from Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) for leading the way in crustacean welfare through introduction of a humane slaughter system for Whiteleg Shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) into commercial practice. This year (2024) we established our commitment to farmed decapod welfare through the publication of our Farmed Decapod Crustacean Welfare Policy

We are proud to be a principal sponsor of Open Farm Sunday and want to help our customers understand how their food is produced, from the experts who produce it. Every year, we support suppliers and farmers who welcome the public to their farms – both virtually and in person – to educate them on food production standards, particularly animal health and welfare and sustainable farming practices.

The Fair For Farmers Guarantee is another way that we communicate the great work of our producers, tell the story of our food and show customers how our farmers meet our welfare standards and care for their cows. This is communicated on every single bottle of fresh milk.

In order to increase the customer reach of higher welfare standards, we announced in mid-June, that by the first half of 2025, 100% of our fresh chicken will be produced with 20% more space than the industry standard, allowing them additional room to express their natural behaviours.

Additionally, we showcase the commitment and best practice of our suppliers and the care shown to animals through our Tesco communication channels, including social media (Instagram, Linked In), our PLC website, and our Tesco Magazine.

Alongside these customer facing initiatives, we also have representation on other key industry welfare initiatives, such as CIWF stakeholder roundtable on alternative farrowing systems for pigs and we are actively collating first hand case study material on commercially viable options other than traditional farrowing systems.

Example publications

[AWRN 2023: Animal Welfare Science and Society](#)

Exploring The Motivation Of A UK Retail Beef Sustainable Farming Group To Implement Preventative Health And Welfare Strategies

[AWSELVA Conference 2023: The Economics of Animal Welfare in Financially Challenging Times](#)

Reframing Welfare metrics as Farm Gate Losses

HSA International Conference: Livestock Welfare during Transport, Marketing & Slaughter
2022 The Assessment Of Dry Electric Stunning As A Commercial Method For The Humane Dispatch Of Farmed White Leg Shrimp (*Litopenaeus Vannaemi*) (2022)

Hutchings C, B Green, J Kirkpatrick and FG Roberts (2020) Ventilation attributes: Impact on litter quality and associated bird welfare outcome measures P23 Recent Advances in Animal Welfare Science VII