

ANNOUNCEMENT

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BMO GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT (EMEA) JOINS GLOBAL COLLABORATION ON FARM ANIMAL WELFARE

BMO Global Asset Management (EMEA) has become the latest institutional investor to join an international collaborative initiative aimed at encouraging major global food companies to strengthen their management systems and processes on farm animal welfare.

BMO Global Asset Management (EMEA) joins eighteen major institutional investors – including Aviva Investors, BNP Paribas Investment Partners, Schroders and Walden Asset Management – who are already working with the Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare to encourage major global food companies to strengthen their farm animal welfare approaches.

The collaborative engagement builds on the Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare's annual review of how 90 of the world's leading food companies are managing and reporting their farm animal welfare practices. The participating investors, who have a combined total of over one trillion pounds in assets under management, are encouraging the low ranking companies in the Benchmark to improve their farm animal welfare policies, practices and reporting. They are also commending the high ranking companies for their performance in the Benchmark.

Programme Director, Nicky Amos commented: *"With major investors from the UK, the USA, Australia, the Netherlands, France and Canada participating in this initiative, it is increasingly clear that farm animal welfare is a sustainability issue that is of global relevance to institutional investors"*.

Dr Rory Sullivan, Expert Adviser to the Benchmark added: *"This collaboration, the first global investor engagement programme focused specifically on farm animal welfare, provides a practical mechanism for investors to translate their interest in farm animal welfare into real action. It explicitly identifies each company's strengths and weaknesses, provides a clear engagement framework for investors and, uniquely, allows the participating investors to track the effectiveness of their engagement efforts"*.

Notes:

1. The participating investors are: ACTIAM, Australian Ethical Investment, Aviva Investors, BNP Paribas Investment Partners, the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, Collier Capital, EdenTree Investment Management, Epworth Investment Management, NEI Investments, Nelson Capital Management, Rathbone Greenbank Investments, Royal London Asset Management (RLAM), Robeco, Schroders, The Sustainability Group (part of Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge), Trillium Asset Management, Triodos Bank and Walden Asset Management.
2. The Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare (BBFAW) is the first global measure of farm animal welfare management, policy commitment and disclosure in food companies. It is designed for use by investors, companies, NGOs and other stakeholders interested in understanding the relative performance of food companies in this area. More information on the programme can be found at www.bbfaw.com.
3. In total, 90 companies were included in the 2014 assessment. The companies represent three primary food business sectors: (a) food retailers and wholesalers; (b) restaurants and bars (including food service providers), and (c) food producers and manufacturers. The list includes listed and non-listed companies (private companies, partnerships and co-operatives).
4. The Benchmark is supported by Compassion in World Farming, World Animal Protection and Collier Capital.

The **Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare** is designed to help drive higher farm animal welfare standards in the world's leading food businesses. It is the first global measure of animal welfare standards in food companies and is designed for use by investors, companies, NGOs and other interested stakeholders.

For more information, go to www.bbfaw.com or contact the Programme Director, Nicky Amos: nicky@nicky-amos.co.uk.