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## **NEW REPORT SHOWS FOOD COMPANIES STRUGGLE TO MATCH AMBITION WITH ACTION ON FARM ANIMAL WELFARE**

*Latest [BBFAW](#) report ranks 149 leading food companies on animal welfare performance - informing \$3 trillion investor coalition.*

- Latest report from the [Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare \(BBFAW\)](#) ranks **Greggs, Marks & Spencer, Premier Foods** and **Waitrose** as top global performers.
- Five companies: **Asda** (Bellis Topco Ltd), **ALDI** (ALDI South Group), **Cranswick PLC**, **Hilton Food Group** and **LDC Groupe** – improved their Impact Rating this year.
- **Decreasing reliance on cages: 71%** of companies with eggs in their supply chains are reporting progress toward achieving cage-free eggs, *up from 67% in 2024*. Targets to phase out farrowing crates for sows also rise - from 9% to **13%** of companies this year.
- **Ambition-action gap:** However, results show many companies are failing to live up to their commitments. While **96** companies have set a cage-free target for laying hens, **only 17 (18%)** of these companies report that 100% of their eggs are cage-free.

(Paris, 05 May 2026). The latest [Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare \(BBFAW\)](#), released today, shows strong levels of commitment to higher farm animal welfare standards are in place across the world's largest food companies, but the pace of implementation remains slow across global supply chains.

BBFAW is the world's leading annual assessment of the food industry's farm animal welfare policies, practices and performance, assessing 149 global food companies. The programme is supported by partners **Compassion in World Farming** and **FOUR PAWS**.

The food companies with the highest overall ranking this year (achieving 'Tier 2') are **Marks & Spencer, Premier Foods, Waitrose and Greggs PLC**, with **eight** companies moving up one tier. [A full table of results is included in notes to editor.](#)

This year's benchmark results demonstrate significant levels of commitment to farm animal welfare and some encouraging progress including:

- **69%** of companies with eggs in their supply chains (96 of 139 companies) have targets to eliminate cages for laying hens.
- **71%** of companies with eggs in their supply chains (98 of 139 companies) are reporting progress toward achieving cage-free eggs, **up from 67% in 2024**
- **15%** of companies with eggs in their supply chains (21 of 139 companies) now source at least some eggs from supply chains where male chicks are not culled at one day-old, **up from 9%** last year.
- **13%** of companies with pigs in their supply chains (17 of 136 companies) have targets to phase out farrowing crates (metal enclosures that prevent sows from turning around), **up from 9%** last year.

In total, 8 companies moved up one tier this year: **Amazon/Whole Foods Market, Asda (Bellis Topco Ltd), Groupe Casino, Hilton Food Group, Maple leaf Foods, MBRF, New Hope Liuhe, WH Group.**

While 11 companies fell by one tier: **Arla Foods, Campbell Soup Company, Danish Crown, Darden Restaurants, General Mills Inc, JD Wetherspoon, Migros-Genossenschafts-Bund, Premium Food Group, Sysco Corporation, Unilever NV, Woolworths Limited**

### Slow pace of implementation

This year's results mark the third since BBFAW introduced its more stringent Impact Rating (from 'A' to 'F') which assesses whether the company is delivering meaningful welfare improvements on the ground - such as using cage-free or lower stocking density systems. The results highlight some improving companies, but also that much more needs to be done to increase standards globally:

- The three companies with the highest Impact Rating ('B') this year were **Fonterra, Marks & Spencer** and **Premier Foods**.
- Five companies – **Asda** (Bellis Topco Ltd), **ALDI** (ALDI South Group), **Cranswick PLC, Hilton Food Group** and **LDC Groupe** – improved their Impact Rating this year.
- For a second consecutive year, **almost 90%** of companies (135 companies) received the lowest Impact Ratings of 'E' or 'F' – indicating limited or no evidence of putting higher welfare commitments in place for farm animals on the ground in their operations and/or supply chains.

The benchmark also shows where companies are slow to implement animal welfare commitments. For example:

- Of the 96 companies that have set a cage-free target for laying hens, only 33 of these targets are universal in scope, covering all products and geographies; and **only 17** of these 96 companies have succeeded in eliminating cages from 100% of their supply chain.
- Of the 39 companies committed to the Better Chicken Commitment – an NGO-developed set of welfare requirements for broiler chickens – **only 4** report that a substantial portion of their supply chain meets its three core requirements of lower stocking densities, slower-growing breeds and humane slaughter.

### Nicky Amos, Executive Director of the BBFAW said:

*"This year's benchmark results show that while many companies have set a course for a food system that is more compassionate, resilient and fit for the future, progress remains slow. That puts not just farm animals at risk, but also consumers and investors.*

*"Public ambition on animal welfare issues like cage free eggs is strong, but the BBFAW research shows few companies translate that into comprehensive action across global food supply chains. Leading companies' efforts need to be backed by effective policy and market incentives that reward those businesses delivering higher standards of farm animal welfare."*

### Philip LyMBERG, Global CEO of Compassion in World Farming International, said:

*"Phasing out cages is a vital first step toward transforming our food system, and companies with cage-free commitments now have a real opportunity to turn those promises into meaningful progress — progress that will deliver better lives for millions of animals.*

*"Industrial agriculture has pushed natural systems to their limits, but by moving away from factory farming, companies can help restore soils, protect water, reduce antibiotic use, cut emissions, and support biodiversity.*

*“The wellbeing of animals, people, and the planet is deeply interconnected, and a One Health approach recognises that improving animal welfare strengthens the foundations of our shared future. It’s a strategic investment in long-term sustainability and when companies act for animals, they help safeguard the future for us all.”*

**Luciana D’Abramo, Chief Programme Officer at FOUR PAWS, said:**

*“Animals are sentient beings, and we owe them not only a better life, but recognition that their wellbeing is inseparable from human health, food security, and the future of our planet. Yet millions of animals are still trapped in cages, unable to move freely or express even their most basic natural behaviours. While many companies have pledged to go cage-free, progress remains slow – only 18% have fully delivered. For these animals, every delay means another day of needless suffering.*

*“Consumers and investors increasingly expect food systems that treat animals with respect while protecting people and the planet. The leaders in the benchmark demonstrate that this balance is achievable. There is no such thing as a sustainable food system without animal welfare – this means fewer farmed animals in better systems and a real shift to alternative proteins.”*

**Robert-Alexandre Poujade, ESG analyst, biodiversity lead at BNP Paribas Asset Management - a founding signatory to the BBFAW Investor Collaboration and Global Investor Statement - said:**

*“As long-term investors in the food sector we recognise how important higher standards of farm animal welfare are to managing material risks like environmental degradation and antibiotic resistance. This year’s BBFAW research shows encouraging signs such as a decreasing reliance on cages for hens and sows. But the research also raises concerns that many of the world’s largest food companies are failing to match animal welfare commitments with the action required. Both consumers and investors will be encouraging a faster pace of implementation on issues such as lower stocking densities to help improve the resilience of our global food supply.”*

**Other findings in this year’s BBFAW include:**

- **French** and **Brazilian** companies demonstrated the strongest improvement in 2025. French companies in particular advanced broiler welfare commitments. **UK** companies are the best overall country performers.
- **Latin America** companies outperformed Asian, European and North American companies on farm animal welfare performance for the first time. The region includes some of the world’s largest meat producers like MBRF, Minerva and JBS.
- **Asia Pacific** is the poorest performing region, with nearly all companies in the bottom two tiers. **43%** (9 companies) of Asia Pacific companies have not published an overarching animal welfare policy (15% globally).
- **North America** companies are the second poorest performers overall and have the lowest scores of all the regions on Farm Animal Welfare Performance Impact.
- **Protein transition:** UK companies achieved an average score of 29% for their efforts to reduce reliance on animal-sourced foods, compared to a global average of 11%. Three UK firms (**Hilton Food Group, Waitrose** and **Greggs PLC**) rank highest for producing protein transition products and policies as a pathway to mitigate welfare, environmental and climate risk.
- **Antibiotics:** Only 40% of companies (60 companies) have commitments in place to end prophylactic and routine metaphylactic antibiotic use – despite the risk of surging antibiotic resistance.
- **Other species and issue specific results:**

- o **Dairy cows:** 21% of companies with dairy cows in their supply chains (29 of 141 companies), have set time-bound targets to eliminate tethering (where cows are bound to a single spot and cannot roam).
- o **Pigs:** 11% of companies with pigs in their supply chains (15 of 136 companies) have set time-bound targets to end the use of gestation crates/sow stalls, up from 9% in 2024. 13% of companies have public targets to phase out farrowing crates, up from 9% last year.
- o **Salmon:** 25% of farmed salmon companies report that at least some salmon are stun-killed, up from 23% in 2024
- o **Close confinement:** 74% of companies have a commitment to ending close confinement, down from 77% last year
- o **Humane slaughter:** 53% of companies have a commitment to ensure humane stunning and slaughter, down from 56% last year.
- o **Long-term improvements:** Overall average scores in 2025 have remained at 18% for a second year, rising from 16% in 2022. The number of companies with the lowest (F) Impact Rating continued to fall for the third consecutive year, declining from 129 companies in 2022, to 122 in 2024, and 120 this year

The full report is available [here](#)

#### Notes to editor

- For further information, or for interviews with BBFAW spokespeople, or companies assessed, please contact:
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#### Methodology

- Company assessments were based on information published by companies on the date of their assessments – which were undertaken during the period from October to November 2025.
- BBFAW is the globally recognised investor framework for assessing the quality of companies' practices, processes and performance on farm animal welfare. Companies were assessed on their approach to managing farm animal welfare across 51 criteria and 5 pillars: (1) Policy Commitments, (2) Governance and Management, (3) Targets (4) Performance Impact; and (5) Reducing Reliance on animal sourced foods. Note that in 2025 the merger of Marfrig and BRF - evaluated as a single entity MBRF – reduced total companies assessed from 150 to 149. This year also saw the introduction of a new question assessing commitments to end the use of breeds with low welfare potential.
- The Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare will be moving to a biennial cycle, so the next report is due to be published in Spring 2028.

#### Investor collaboration

- BBFAW is supported by a coalition of 32 institutional investors, managing over \$3 trillion in assets, who participate in the Global Investor Collaboration on Farm Animal Welfare and will engage with the companies in the year ahead to drive improvement. The coalition includes investors such as Aberdeen, Aviva Investors and Handelsbanken Fonder with a [full list of participants online](#).

#### Full table of results

- See below



Full table

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5	Tier 6
Leadership	Integral to business strategy	Established but work to be done	Making progress on implementation	On the business agenda but limited evidence of implementation	No evidence on the business agenda
0	4	8	18	59	60
	Greggs PLC (C) ↑ Marks & Spencer PLC (B) ↑ Premier Foods PLC (B) ↑ Waitrose (C) ↑ Hilton Food Group ↑ (D) ↑ MBRF ↑ (D) ↑ Minerva Foods (D) ↑ Noble Foods (D) ↑	Co-op UK (C) ↑ Cranswick PLC (C) ↑ Fonterra (B) ↑ Groupe Danone SA (C) ↑ Compass Group PLC (F) ↑ MBRF ↑ (D) ↑ Minerva Foods (D) ↑ Noble Foods (D) ↑	ALDI SOUTH Group (D) ↑ Barilla SpA (C) ↑ Bellis Topco Ltd./Asda ↑ (E) ↑ Casino Guichard-Perrachon SA ↑ (F) ↑ Compass Group PLC (F) ↑ Danish Crown AmbA ↓ (D) ↓ Groupe Lactalis (E) ↑ Hershey Co (E) ↑ J Sainsbury PLC (D) ↑ LDC Groupe (E) ↑ Les Mousquetaires (E) ↑ Maple Leaf Foods ↑ (E) ↑ Migros-Genossenschafts-Bund ↓ (D) ↓ Mitchells & Butlers PLC (F) ↑ TerraNova Group (E) ↑ Tesco PLC (E) ↑ Whitbread PLC (E) ↑ Wm Morrison Supermarkets PLC ↓ (E) ↓	(The) Kroger Company (E) ↑ 2 Sisters Food Group (Boparan Holdings Ltd) (F) ↑ Agro Super (E) ↑ Ahold Delhaize (E) ↑ ALDI Einkauf SE & Co. oHG (ALDI Nord) (F) ↑ Amazon/Whole Foods Market ↑ (E) ↑ Aramark Corporation (E) ↑ Arla Foods Ltd ↑ (D) ↓ Bimbo (E) ↑ Cargill (F) ↑ Carrefour SA (E) ↑ Charoen Pokphand Foods (F) ↑ Chipotle Mexican Grill (E) ↑ Coles Group (E) ↑ Colnity (E) ↑ ConAgra (E) ↑ Coop Group (Switzerland)/Coop Genossenschaft (E) ↑ Cooperativa Central Aurora Alimentos (E) ↑ Cooperative U Enseigne (E) ↑ Cooperi Arc Atlantique (E) ↑ Cremonini SpA (E) ↑ E.Lectec (E) ↑ EDEKA Group (E) ↑ Eilar Group (E) ↑ Elo Group (E) ↑ Ferrero Group (E) ↑ Gruppo Veronesi (E) ↑ Hormel Foods Corporation (E) ↑ ICA Gruppen AB (E) ↑ IKEA (Inter IKEA Group) (E) ↑ JBS SA (E) ↑ JD Wetherspoon PLC ↓ (E) ↓ Jeronimo Martins (E) ↑ Kraft Heinz Company (E) ↑ McDonald's Corporation (E) ↑ METRO AG (E) ↑ Metro Inc (E) ↑ Mawi ASA (E) ↑ Nestlé SA (E) ↑ New Hope Liuhe Co Ltd ↑ (E) ↑ OSI Group (E) ↑ Papa John's Pizza (E) ↑ Perdue Farms (E) ↑ Plukon Food Group (E) ↑ Restaurant Brands International (E) ↑ REWE Group (E) ↑ Royal FrieslandCampina (E) ↑ Saputo Inc (E) ↑ Schwarz Gruppe (E) ↑ Sodexo (E) ↑ SSP Group (E) ↑ The Cheesecake Factory (E) ↑ Tyson Foods Inc (E) ↑ Unilever NV ↓ (E) ↓ Vion Food Group (E) ↑ Wayne-Sanderson Farms (E) ↑ WH Group Ltd ↑ (E) ↑ Woolworths Limited ↓ (E) ↓ Yum! Brands Inc (E) ↑	Aeon Group (E) ↑ Albertsons (E) ↑ Alimentation Couche-Tard (E) ↑ Avolta AG (previously Autogrill) (E) ↑ Beijing Dabeinong Technology Group Co., Ltd. (E) ↑ BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings (E) ↑ Bloomin' Brands Inc (E) ↑ C&S Wholesale (E) ↑ Campbell Soup Company ↓ (E) ↓ Camst - La Ristorazione Italiana Soc. Coop. ARL (E) ↑ Cencosud (E) ↑ Chick-fil-A (E) ↑ China Resources Vanguard (E) ↑ China Yurun Group Limited (E) ↑ CKE Restaurants (E) ↑ Conad Consorzio Nazionale (E) ↑ Cooke Seafood Inc (E) ↑ Coop Italia (E) ↑ Costco Wholesale Corporation (E) ↑ Cracker Barrel (E) ↑ Dairy Farmers of America (E) ↑ Darden Restaurants PLC ↓ (E) ↓ Dico's/Ting Hain Intl Group (E) ↑ Dina Polska SA (E) ↑ Domino's Pizza Inc (E) ↑ Empire Company/Sobey's (E) ↑ Gategroup Holding AG (E) ↑ General Mills Inc ↓ (E) ↓ H E Butt Company (E) ↑ Habib's (E) ↑ Industrias Bachoco (E) ↑ JAB Holding Company (E) ↑ Kerry Group (E) ↑ Lianhua Supermarket Holdings Co (E) ↑ Loblaw Companies Limited (E) ↑ Mars Inc (E) ↑ Maruha Nichiro (E) ↑ Meiji Holdings (E) ↑ Mercadona SA (E) ↑ Mondelēz International (E) ↑ Müller UTM (E) ↑ Nippon Ham (E) ↑ Premium Food Group ↓ (E) ↓ Publix Super Markets Inc (E) ↑ Reark Capital (Inspire Brands, Subway et al.) (E) ↑ Seaboard Corp (E) ↑ Seven & i Holdings (E) ↑ Spar Holding AG (E) ↑ Starbucks Corporation (E) ↑ Sysco Corporation ↓ (E) ↓ Target Corporation (E) ↑ UNFI (E) ↑ US Foods (E) ↑ Walmart Inc (E) ↑ Wendy's Company (The) (E) ↑ Wens Foodstuff Group (E) ↑ Yili Group (E) ↑ Yonghui Superstores Co Ltd (E) ↑ Yum China Holdings (E) ↑ Zhongpin Inc (Huayu Holdings) (E) ↑

### About the partners

**The Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare (BBFAW):** BBFAW is the leading global measure of farm animal welfare management, policy commitment, performance and disclosure in food companies. It enables investors, companies, NGOs and other stakeholders to understand corporate practice and performance on farm animal welfare, and it drives – directly and through the efforts of others – corporate improvements in the welfare of animals reared for food. The BBFAW Secretariat maintains the Global Investor Statement on Farm Animal Welfare and convenes the Global Investor Collaboration on Farm Animal Welfare, a collaborative engagement between major institutional investors and food companies on the issue of farm animal welfare. The programme is supported by Compassion in World Farming and FOUR PAWS, who provide technical expertise, guidance, funding and practical resources, alongside supporting the assessed food businesses with training, programmatic expertise and consultancy engagement. More information on the programme can be found at [www.bbfaw.com](http://www.bbfaw.com)

**Compassion in World Farming:** Compassion in World Farming is the leading international farm animal welfare organisation dedicated to ending factory farming and reshaping the food system to benefit the lives of animals, people, and the health of the planet. Through campaigning, lobbying for legislative change, and positive engagement with the global food industry, we seek to influence key decision makers that shape, make and fund the food system. Through our Food Business programme, we work in partnership with leading food companies to drive transformational change for farm animal welfare, reduce the reliance on animal sourced foods and encourage a shift to regenerative farming practices. [www.ciwf.org](http://www.ciwf.org)

**FOUR PAWS** is the global animal welfare organisation for animals under direct human influence, which reveals suffering, rescues animals in need and protects them. Founded in 1988 in Vienna by Heli Dugler and friends, the organisation advocates for a world where humans treat animals with respect, empathy and understanding. The sustainable campaigns and projects of FOUR PAWS focus on companion animals including stray dogs and cats, farm animals and wild animals – such as bears, big cats and orangutans – kept in inappropriate conditions as well as in disaster and conflict zones. With offices in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, France, Germany, Kosovo, the Netherlands, Switzerland, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, the UK, the USA and Vietnam as well as 13 wild animal sanctuaries and cooperation projects across the globe, FOUR PAWS provides rapid help and long-term solutions. [www.four-paws.org](http://www.four-paws.org)

More information on the programme can be found at [www.bbfaw.com](http://www.bbfaw.com)