

Animal Welfare Reporting

July 2021

Introduction

Animal welfare is a broad term covering the general health, welfare and wellbeing of animals in the diverse farming systems in our supply chain. It covers all the elements associated with livestock production including housing, grazing, nutrition, disease prevention and control and transport, right through to humane handling and slaughter. It means providing for the animal's physical and mental needs and ensuring that every animal in our supply chain has a life worth living.

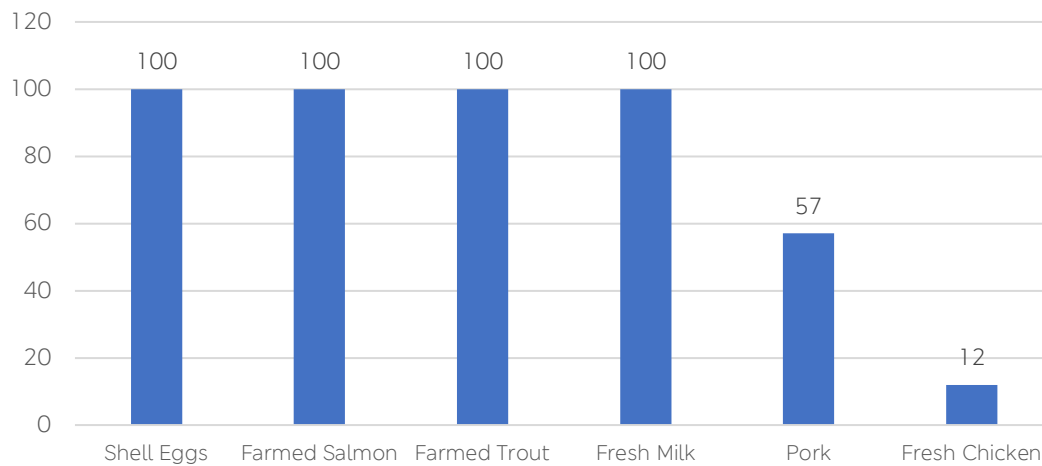
Our goal is to ensure that our suppliers adopt and implement the highest practical and commercially viable standards of farm animal welfare across our supply base and to be able to demonstrate continuous improvement in farm animal health and welfare standards.

As part of our M&S Select Farm Programme, we collect a number of key welfare outcome measures and indicators. We use this to monitor trends, highlight best practice and focus on areas of improvement with our suppliers. We review our outcome measure data and performance as part of our quarterly Governance process. This document provides an overview of our performance on some of the key welfare metrics. More information can be found on our approach to welfare, policies and more detailed species-specific information on our [website](#).

Progress Against Our Animal Welfare Commitments

- We are committed to being leaders in farm animal welfare. In April 2021 we expanded the RSPCA Assured range we sell, meaning we now offer [more RSPCA Assured products](#) than any other retailer. Alongside being the only UK retailer to offer RSPCA Assured milk we carry the RSPCA Assured logo on our shell eggs, pork, farmed salmon and trout and Oakham Gold chicken.
- At M&S we only source free range eggs for both our fresh shell egg and ingredient supply. We have been 100% free range on shell egg since 1997 and for ingredient supply since 2002.
- In 2018, we were the first retailer to sign the Better Chicken Commitment to deliver higher welfare chicken across all our fresh, frozen and ingredient chicken by 2026. In 2020, we launched our higher welfare chicken and announced in July 2021 that all our fresh Oakham chicken will be Oakham Gold by Autumn 2022. In 2020, higher welfare chicken from slow growing breeds was 5.2% of our global chicken supply.
- As of April 2021, 100% of our fresh, frozen and ingredient pork is sourced from Outdoor Bred, free range or organic systems with no confinement farrowing.
- By December 2022 all our continental pork will be sourced from free farrowing systems - currently 21% of our continental pork comes from these systems.

*Proportion of Animals Reared to Independent Higher Welfare Standards**



*This includes RSPCA Assured and Organic standards.

Antibiotic Use

We are actively addressing the use of antibiotic medicines in all our livestock and aquaculture supply chains. Due to increasing concerns regarding the emergence of antimicrobial resistant bacteria affecting human health, and the links to the use of medicines in livestock, we fully support the need to safeguard our antimicrobial medicines and reduce the threat of antibiotic resistance to global human health. We also recognise the importance of responsible veterinary care and the role that antimicrobial use plays in protecting the health and welfare of the animals in our supply.

Our policy for antibiotic usage in M&S-sourced livestock has been developed in consultation with our sustainability advisors, veterinary staff and suppliers. The European Medicines Authority (EMA) have classified antibiotics in terms of their importance to human and animal health. Our definition of critical antibiotics (those that must be restricted in our livestock and aquaculture supply chains) is an antibiotic that is defined as a 'highest priority critically important antimicrobial' by the European Medicines Authority (EMA). These categories include the 3rd and higher generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and colistin. In line with the EMA, we believe these medicines should be particularly safeguarded for use in people.

To view our policy please see [here](#).

	Antimicrobial usage (mg/PCU) 2019	Antimicrobial usage (mg/PCU) 2020	RUMA Target by 2020 (mg/PCU)
Chicken			
Oakham	13.52	13.43	25
Free Range	0.00	0.00	25
Ingredient (UK and EU)	18.95	21.40	25
Oakham Gold		2.27	25
Fresh Pork			
Fresh Pork	26.1*	57.4*	99
Turkey	55.3	36.6	50
Dairy	10.2	8.7**	21
Duck		3.37	25
Trout (hatchery to grow out) (mg/kg)	3.35	2.5	
Egg (% days treated)	1.2	1.4	<1 % days treated
Salmon	0.31	0.00	5

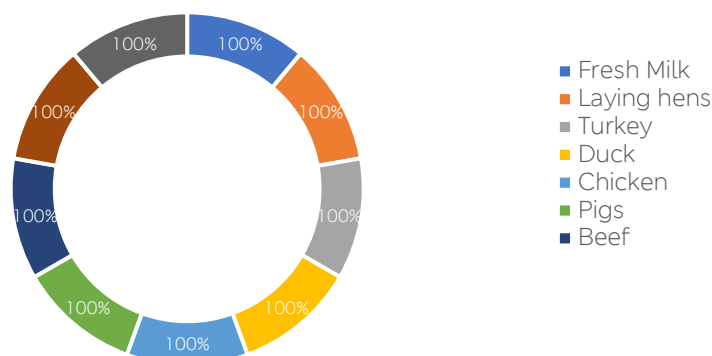
*This was breeder to finisher. Reporting has changed to slaughter pigs only.

**For dairy, antimicrobial usage has decreased (amount and courses). The population corrected unit is 425kg which inflates the usage levels for dairy cattle which are 700kg on average.

Enrichment

We require that appropriate, species-specific environmental enrichment is provided to encourage animals to exhibit positive behaviours and improve the quality of their lives.

Proportion (%) of animals provided with behavioural enrichment

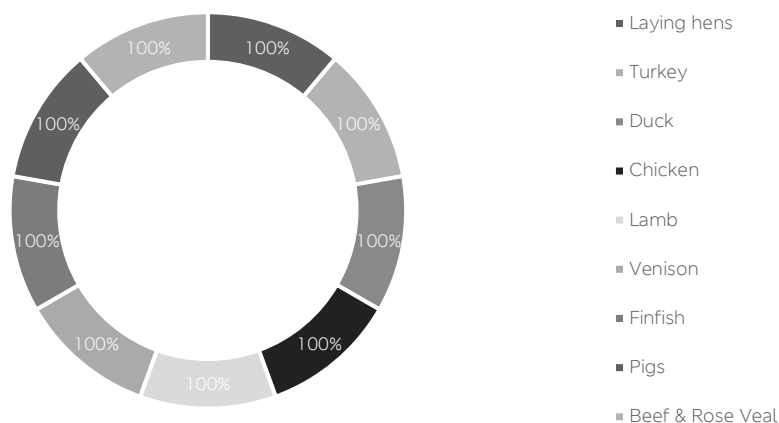


All our dairy cows are provided with cow brushes and loafing areas when they are indoors and none of our cows are permanently housed and must graze for a minimum of 110 days per year. Our chickens and turkeys are provided with pecking objects, play bales and/or perches or perching platforms. All our ducks have access to water troughs to allow for natural preening behaviours. Our laying hens have access to an enriched range area which include trees and artificial shelter to help encourage foraging and ranging. All our beef, lamb and venison are grazed, which we know plays an important role in allowing the expressions of natural behaviours and physical and mental wellbeing. We are currently running projects looking at enrichment with some of our fin fish suppliers.

Pre-slaughter stunning

We require that all the meat, poultry and farmed fish we sell must come from animals that have been humanely slaughtered and pre-slaughter stunned.

Proportion (%) of animals pre-stunned prior to slaughter



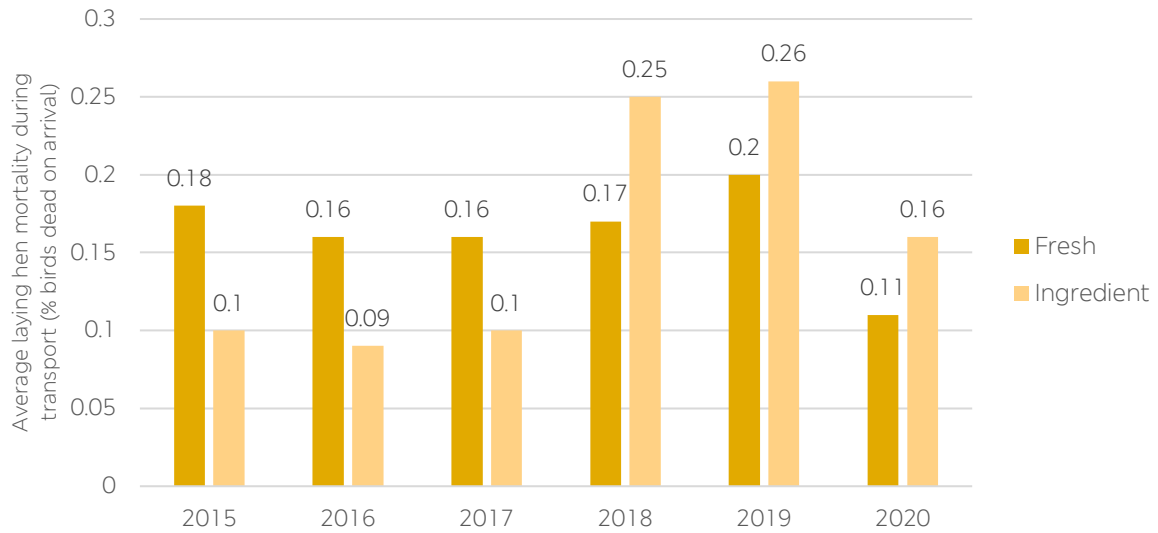
Information on our transport times and slaughter methods for fish can be found [here](#).

Transport Times & Dead-on-Arrival (DOA)

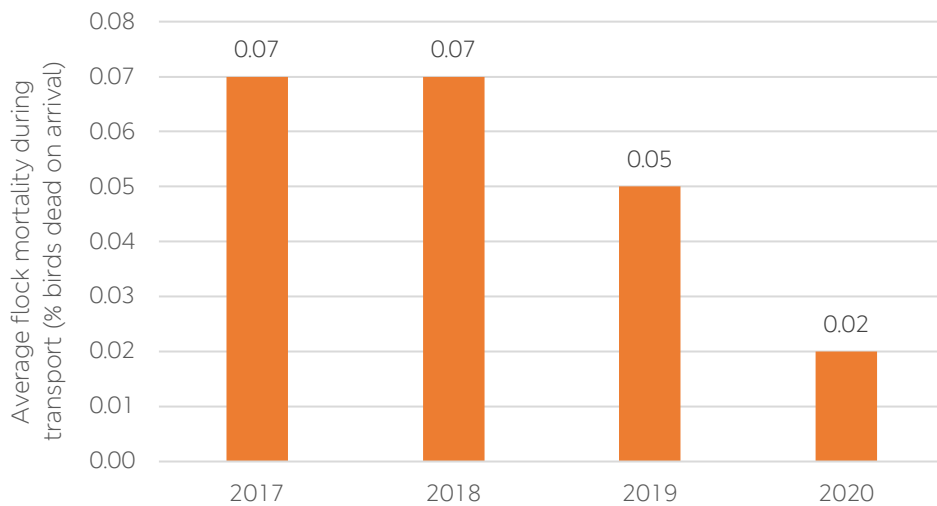
To help protect animal welfare and minimise stress, within our Select Farm sourcing standards we require that all live animal transport is kept to a minimum and that long-distance transport is avoided. Alongside journey times we also record the number of animals which died in transport – known as Dead-on-Arrival (DOAs). DOA levels are low across our supply and should we see any incidences of high DOAs, suppliers are required to investigate and take any suitable corrective actions.

For our beef, lamb (UK and New Zealand) and rose veal, Dead-on-Arrival at our processing plants was 0% for 2020. For 2020 we saw reductions in DOAs in laying hens, chicken and duck and levels remained low in both pork and turkey.

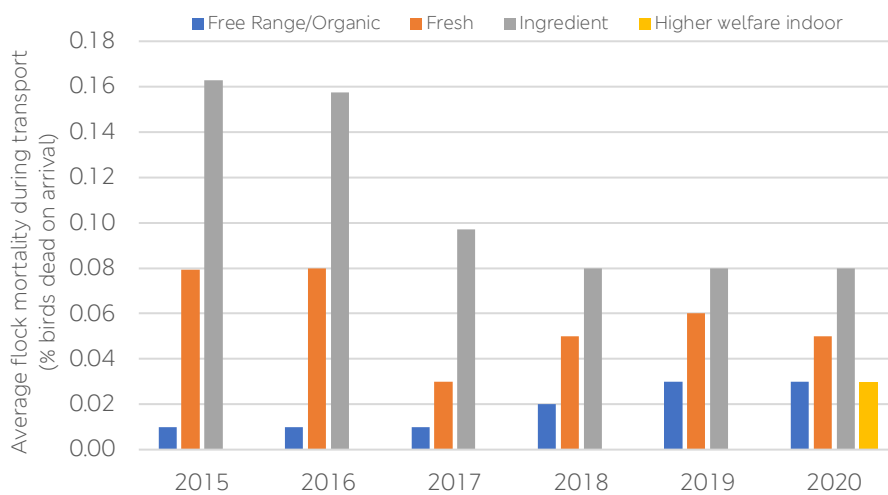
Laying Hens



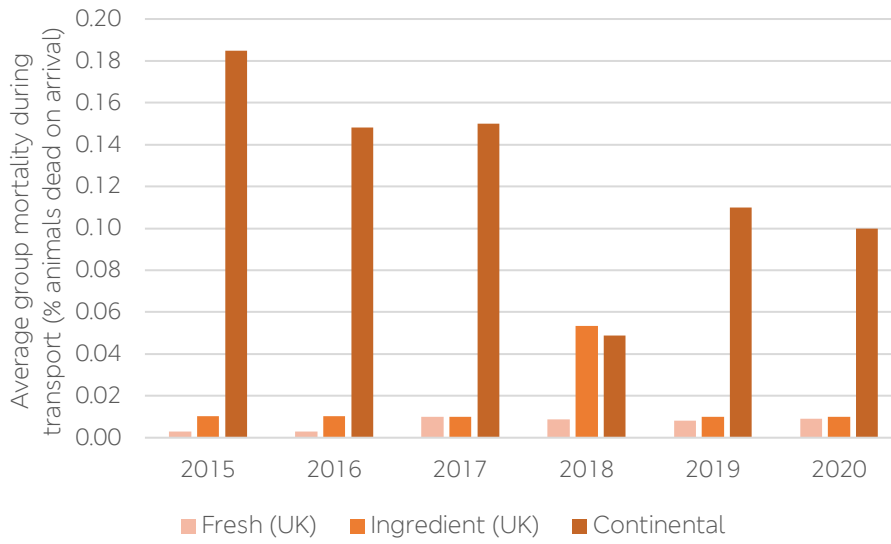
Turkey



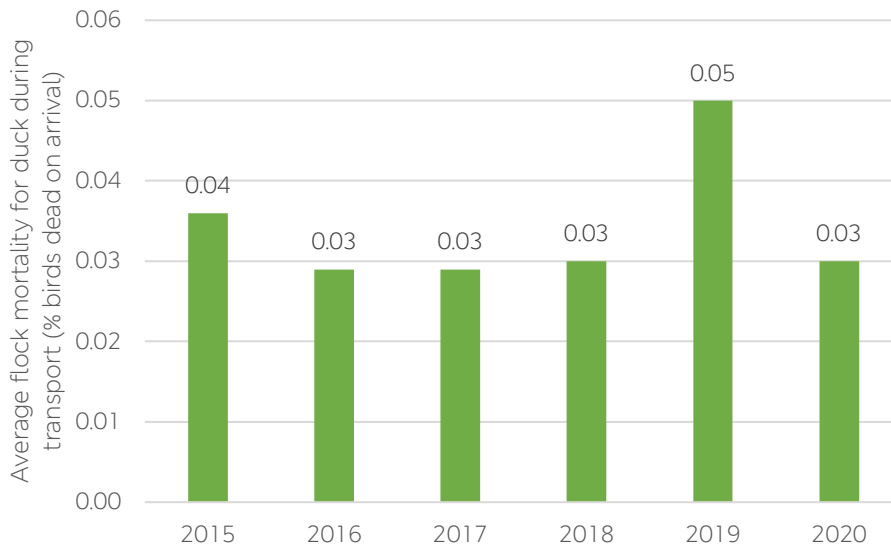
Chicken



Pork



Duck



Dairy – Fresh Milk

We launched the M&S Milk Scheme in 1999. We developed the principle of the scheme in collaboration with the farmers who supplied our milk, resulting in a dedicated pool of farmers paid using a mechanism that delivered a long-term stable milk price. In 2004, we developed the scheme further by introducing our ‘payment pledge’ and since then it has evolved into the industry’s leading dairy scheme. Alongside all our fresh milk farms being RSPCA Assured, all our farms receive an enhanced Health and Welfare assessment, undertaken by our independent vet, aimed at driving continuous improvement and best practice. The results are shared and benchmarked allowing farmer to understand their performance against others in the pool. We are very proud of the results our farmers are achieving.

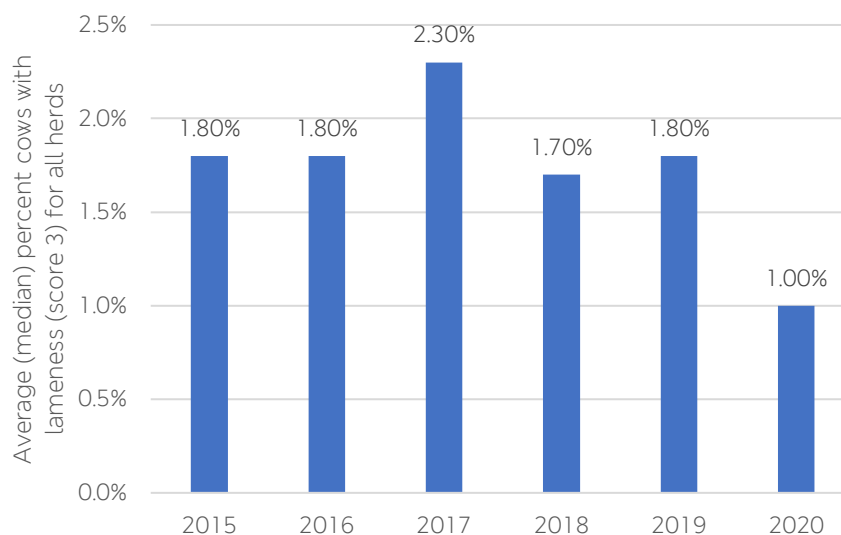
Key Points for our Dairy Pool

- 100% of our cows have access to pasture for more than 4-5 hours per day
- 100% of our cows have access to cow brushes and loafing areas
- 100% of our calves are provided with enrichment from week 6
- 100% of our dairy cows are free from tail docking
- None of our animals across all herds are routinely dehorned
- All our calves are group housed from no later than 21 days after birth

Performance

2020 was a challenging year for dairy producers with the conditions brought about by COVID (staff isolating and disruption to contractor services), Brexit (loss of European labour) and the extremes of (wet autumn, cold spring, hot summer) weather. Despite the challenges, the milk pool has achieved strong performance. This year, with increased milk demand, we’ve added new entrants to the dairy pool, who have performed well, but this has resulted in some variability in the data. Some farms have left the pool.

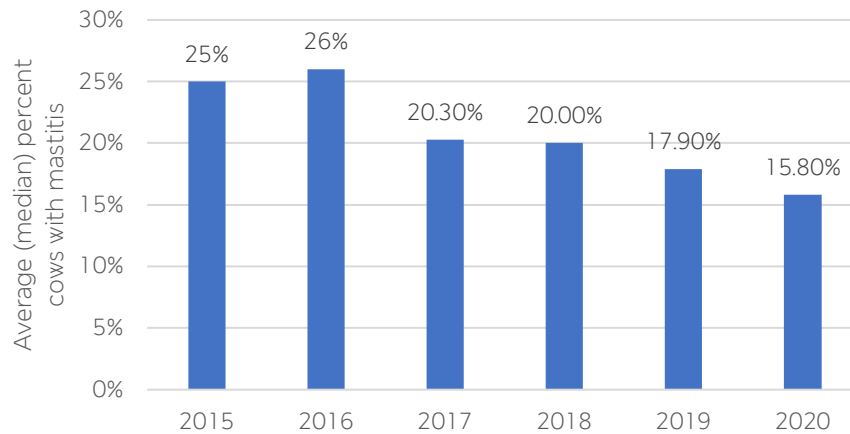
Mobility



Mobility shows continued improvement. Climatic conditions have been very challenging, but cows and farmers have coped. There was very little spring grass and then we went into some

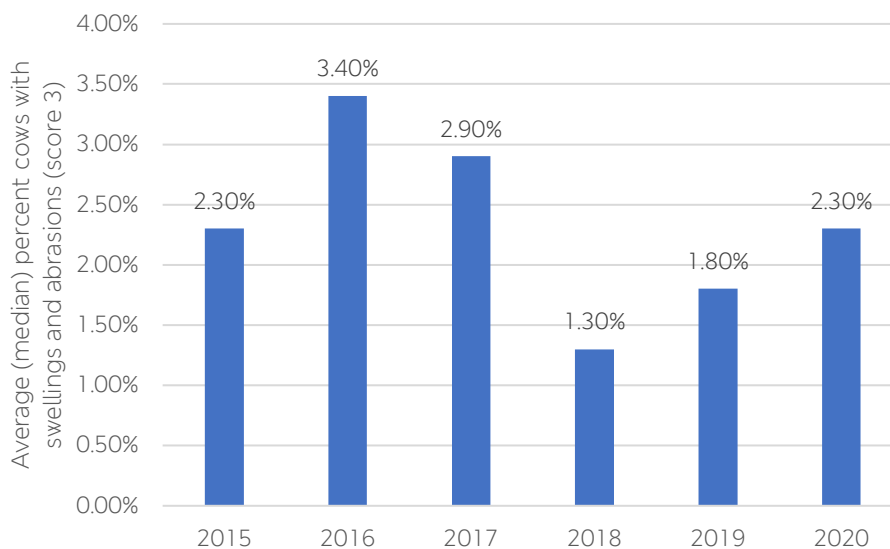
early summer heat, and this can increase the risks for cow lameness (thinner digital cushion followed by increased standing times).

Udder health



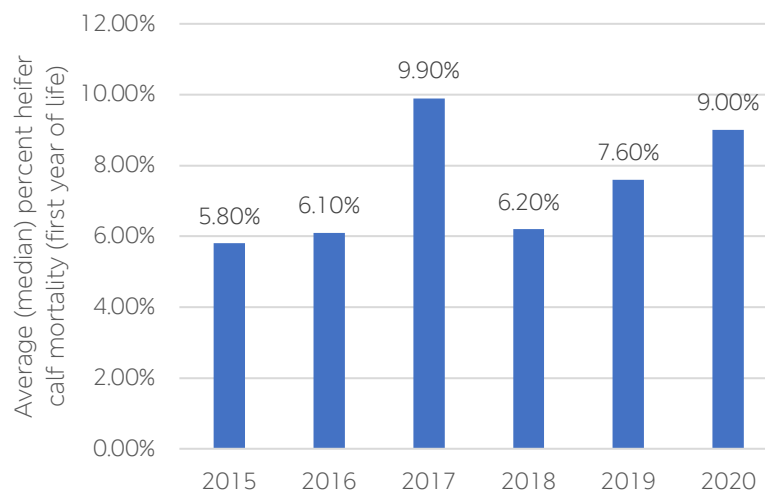
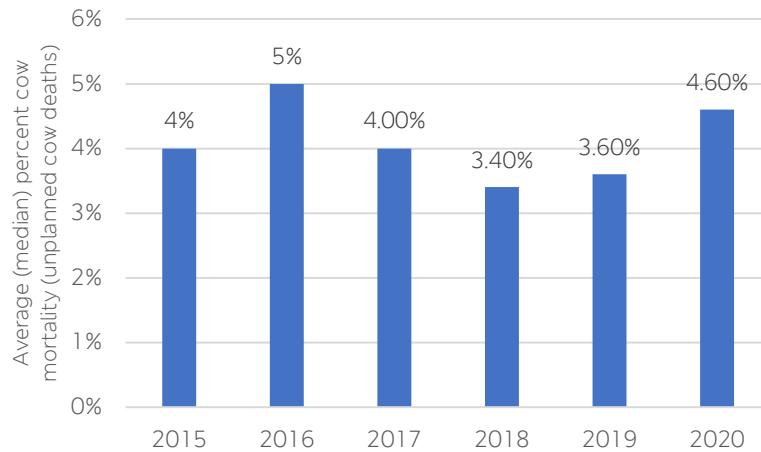
Udder health shows continued improvement. This year was particularly difficult with disrupted antibiotic supply meaning preferred treatments were not always available. However, that has not translated to problems for cow cure rates.

Cow comfort



Cow comfort indicators have risen slightly. The sustainability of bedding supply was a massive issue for some producers, with supplies of sawdust running out at various times. Nonetheless, the rise in cow comfort indicators was small.

Mortality



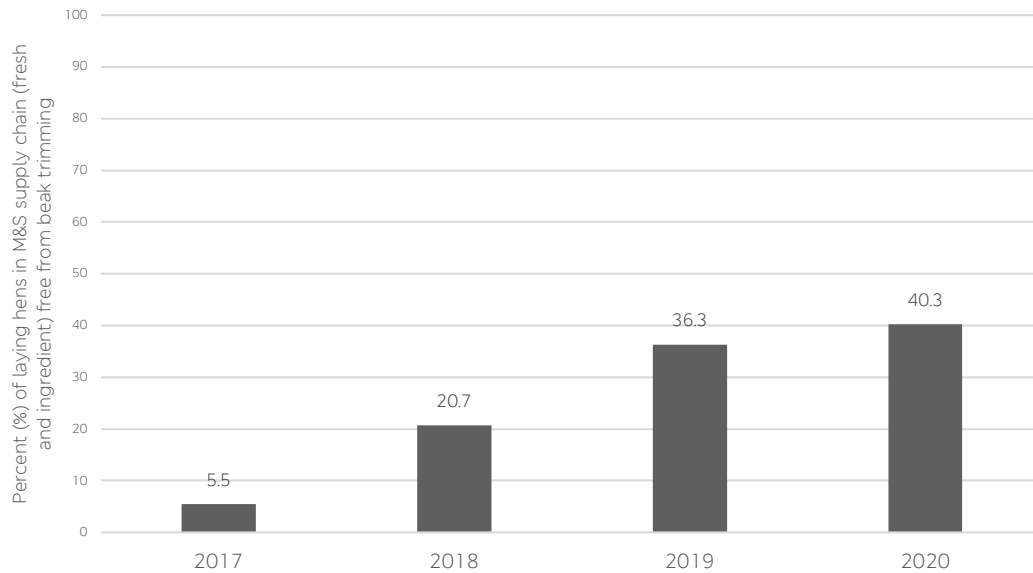
Cow mortality has risen. This parameter is a not straightforward to assess, as it can also be a marker of compassion, with farmers undertaking a level of humane euthanasia if and when it is required.

Calf mortality – this has risen, which again, may reflect the challenges with maintaining a safe working team. We have seen some Mycoplasma outbreaks, which has increased mortality rates on certain farms.

Laying hens

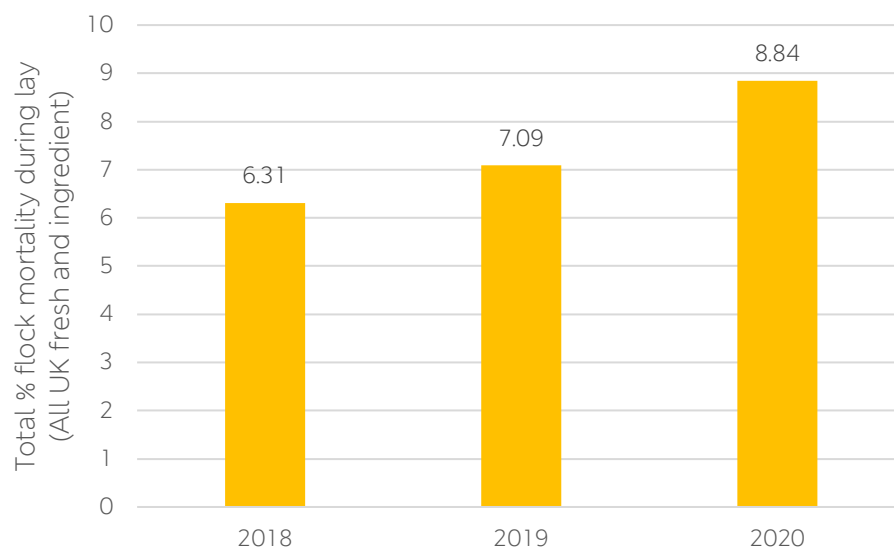
Global Performance - Beak-trimming

The number of birds within our global egg supply chain (fresh shell egg and ingredient) free from beak trimming continues to increase and this is one of the areas we are focusing on with our egg suppliers.



Mortality

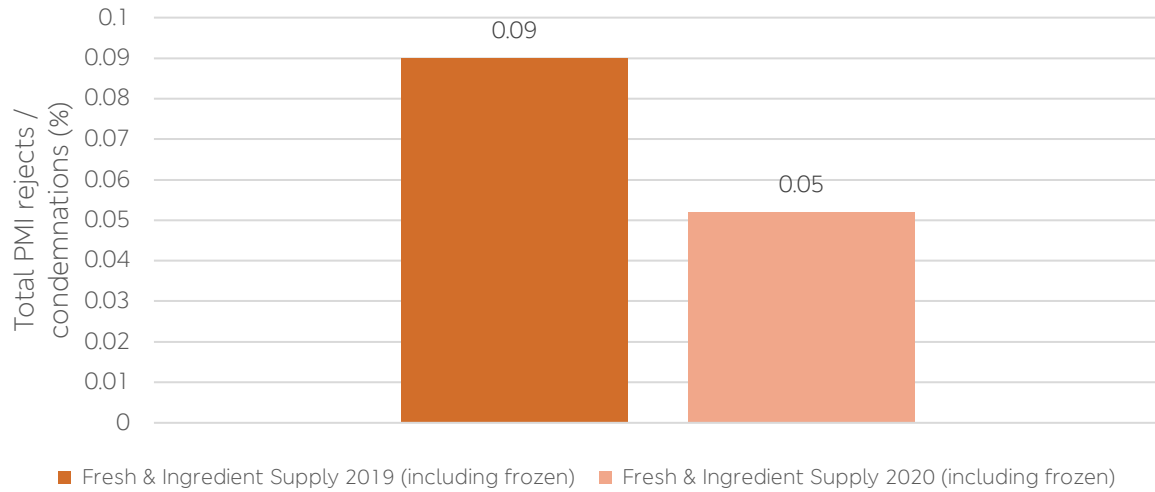
Although the total percentage mortality in our free-range laying flocks has increased, there has been a corresponding increase in slaughter age – meaning that our suppliers are keeping birds for longer. The data shown is based on mortality at depopulation and has not been corrected to mortality at 72 weeks, so we would expect total mortality to be showing as higher.



Turkey

All our Oakham turkeys are grown at reduced stocking densities or are free range or organic. The number of rejects recorded at slaughter have reduced in 2020 to 0.05%.

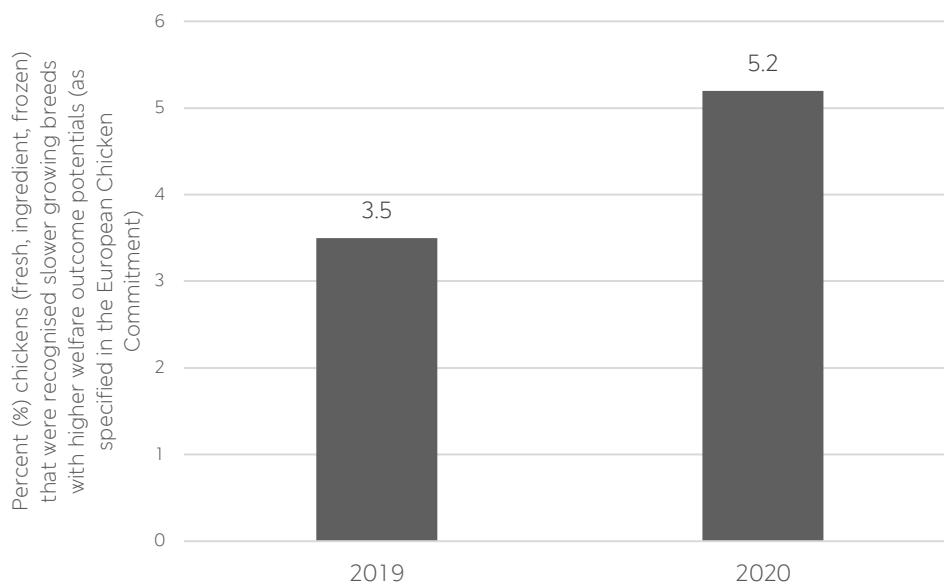
Disease



Chicken

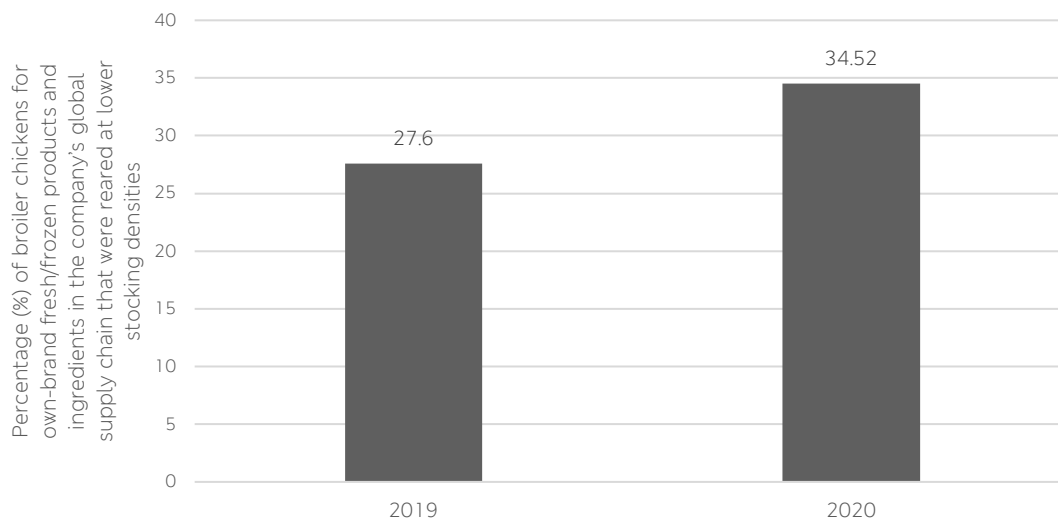
Use of Slow-growing Breeds

The amount of slow-growing chicken breeds within our supply chain has increased, making up 5.2% of our global supply and 12% of our fresh supply. We introduced our higher welfare Oakham Gold bird in 2020. We are increasing the production of these birds over 2021 and 2022 to ensure that all our fresh chicken will be produced to RSPCA Assured higher welfare standards by autumn 2022. This is the first milestone towards us delivering our commitment for all our chicken, whether fresh or ingredient, to come from slow-growing, higher welfare flocks by 2026.



Stocking Densities of 30kg/m² or less

All our Oakham, Oakham Gold, Free Range and Organic birds are grown to stocking densities of 30kg/m² or less. As we increase production of our higher welfare bird this number should continue to increase.



Mortality

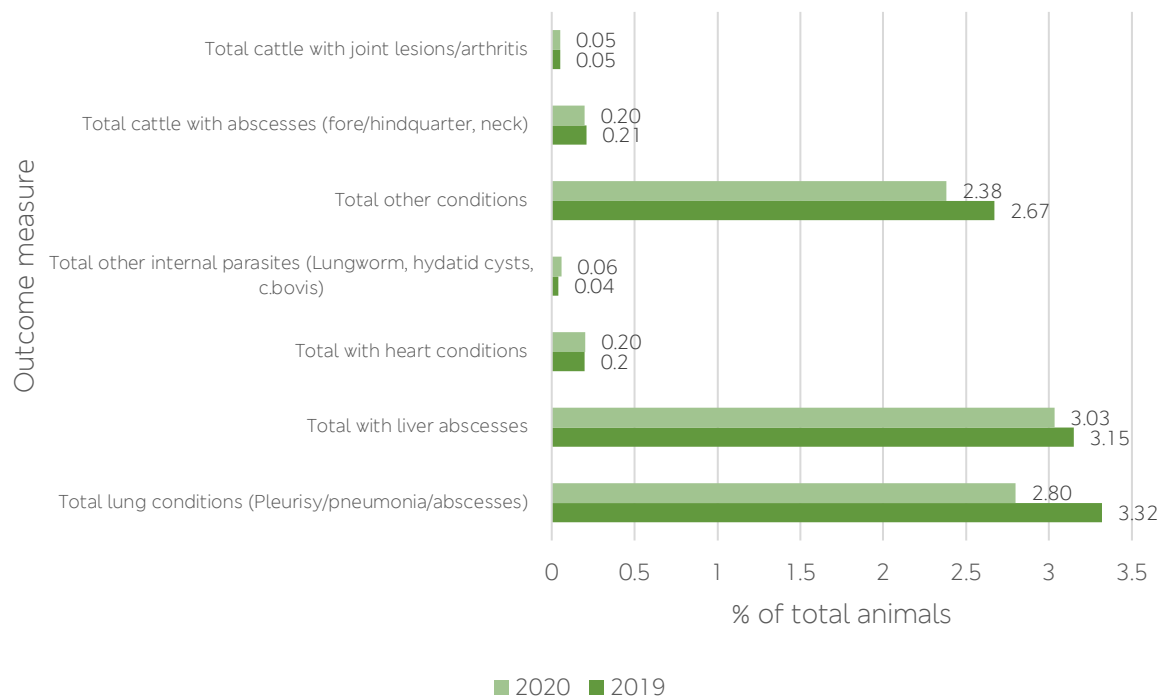
Mortality across all our chicken has reduced this year. It is important to note that the figure includes all culls. While we do have a target in place for mortality, we want to make sure that our farmers are not discouraged from culling birds that may require it for welfare reasons. When we look at our mortality figures we do so alongside the other metrics we record, as we know that changes in one can influence performance in another. In 2020, we saw a very small increase in overall antibiotic usage from 18.38 mg/PCU in 2019, to 20.49mg/PCU in 2020), however, we have seen reductions in overall pododermatitis, hock marking and PMI rejects. This may be because of decreased health challenges, as our farmers further increased their biosecurity in response to avian influenza challenges.

	Total mortality, including culls (%) 2019	Total mortality, including culls (%) 2020
Oakham	5.15	4.42
Free Range & Organic	7.60	4.70
Ingredient (UK and EU)	4.77	4.65
Oakham Gold		2.39

Beef & Rose Veal

Disease, Injury & Liveability

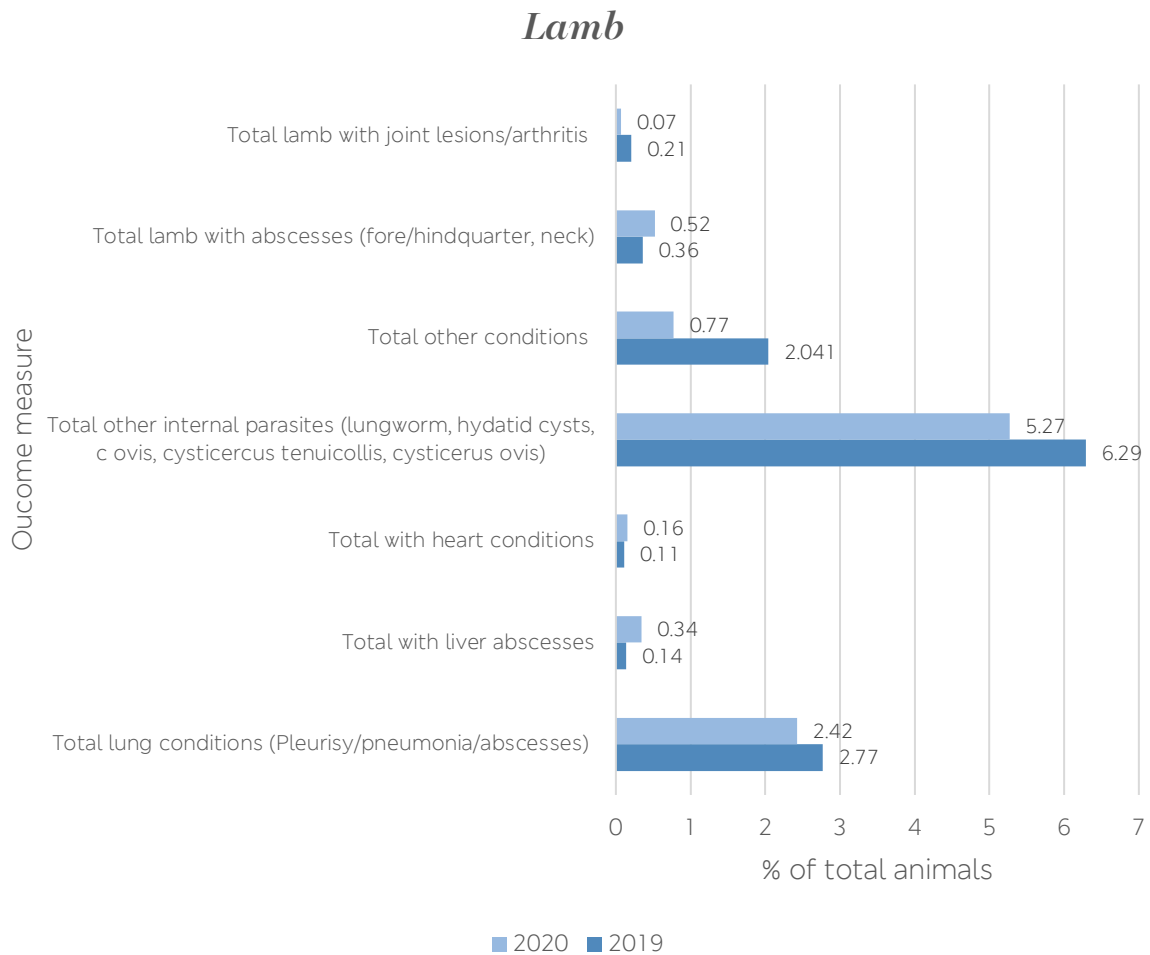
We collect a range of measures at slaughter for our beef and rose veal animals. In 2020, we saw a reduction across most of our outcome measures reported at abattoir. Through the work with our processors and Select Farms we had hoped for a greater reduction in liver abscesses, however, with the weather against us in a wet autumn, there was a limit in our improvement. We hope to improve performance again in 2021.



Lamb

Disease, Injury & Liveability

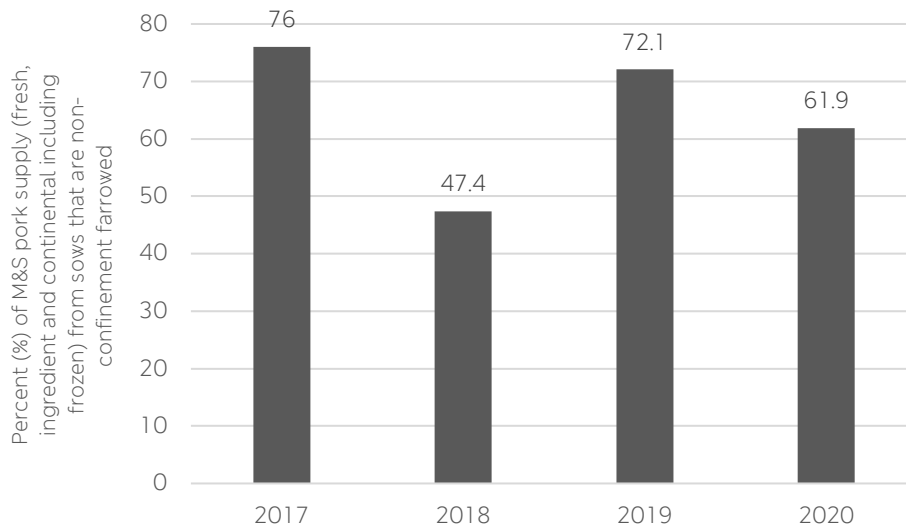
As already mentioned, the weather was challenging in 2020, however the overall welfare performance on farm for lamb showed an improvement vs 2019, as outlined below.



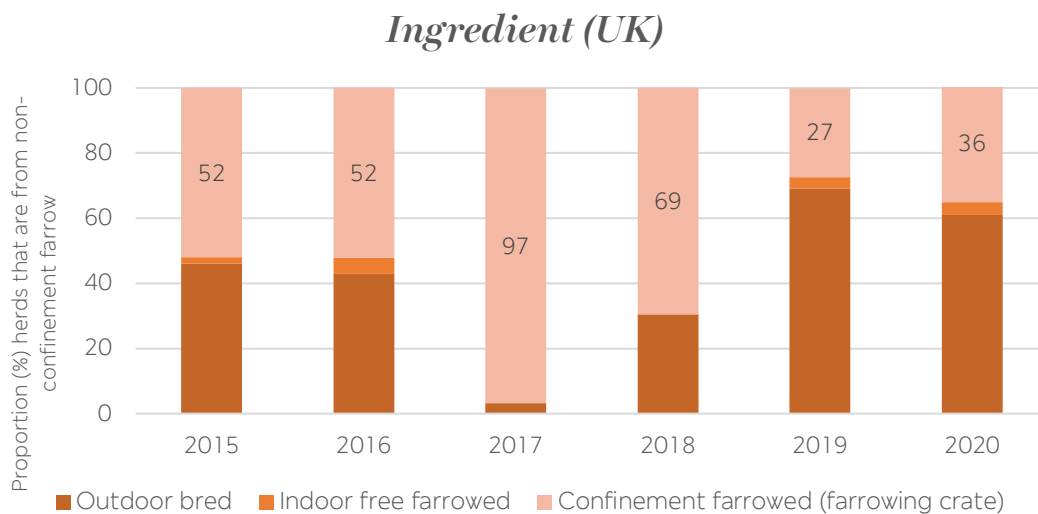
Pigs

Non-confinement farrowing

In 2020, we saw a decrease in the amount of non-confinement farrowed animals with our supply chain across fresh, ingredient and continental pork. This was linked to changes in supply volume, however since April 2021 all our fresh and ingredient pork is now outdoor bred, free range or organic.

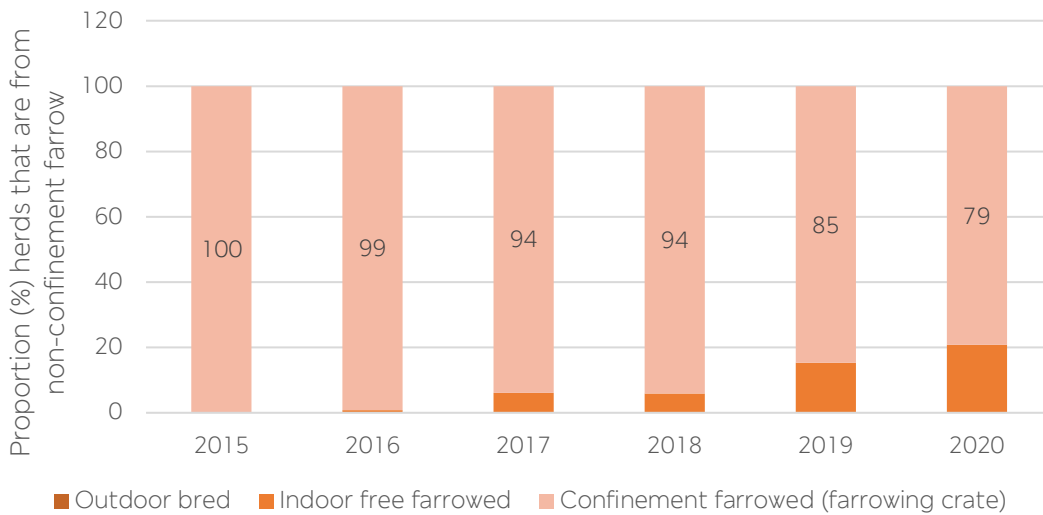


The graph below shows the proportion of non-confinement farrowing in our ingredient supply chain until December 2020.



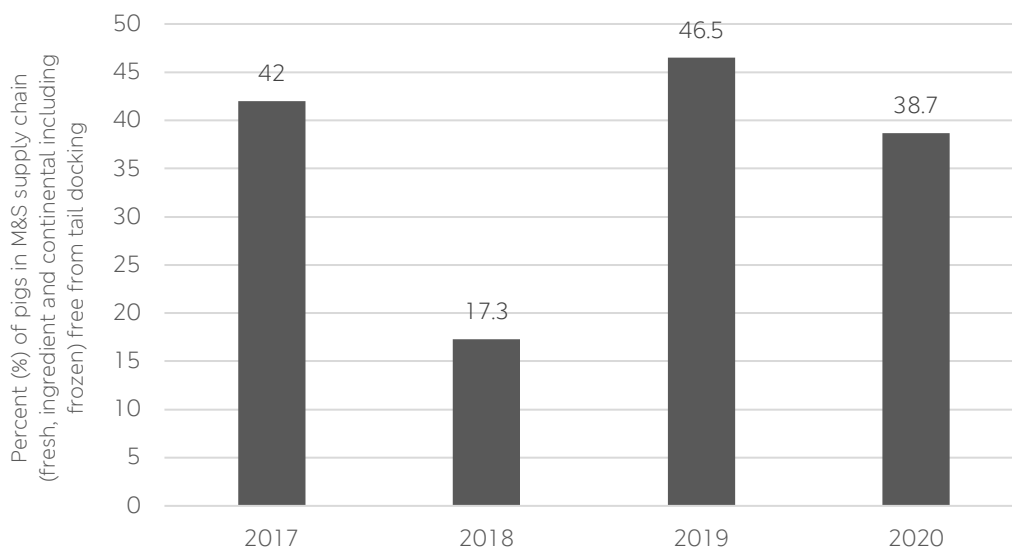
In our continental pork supply chains, we have seen the proportion of animals which are free farrowed increasing year on year since 2017. This number will continue to increase and by December 2022 all our continental meat supply will be sourced from free farrowing systems.

Continental (fresh & ingredient)



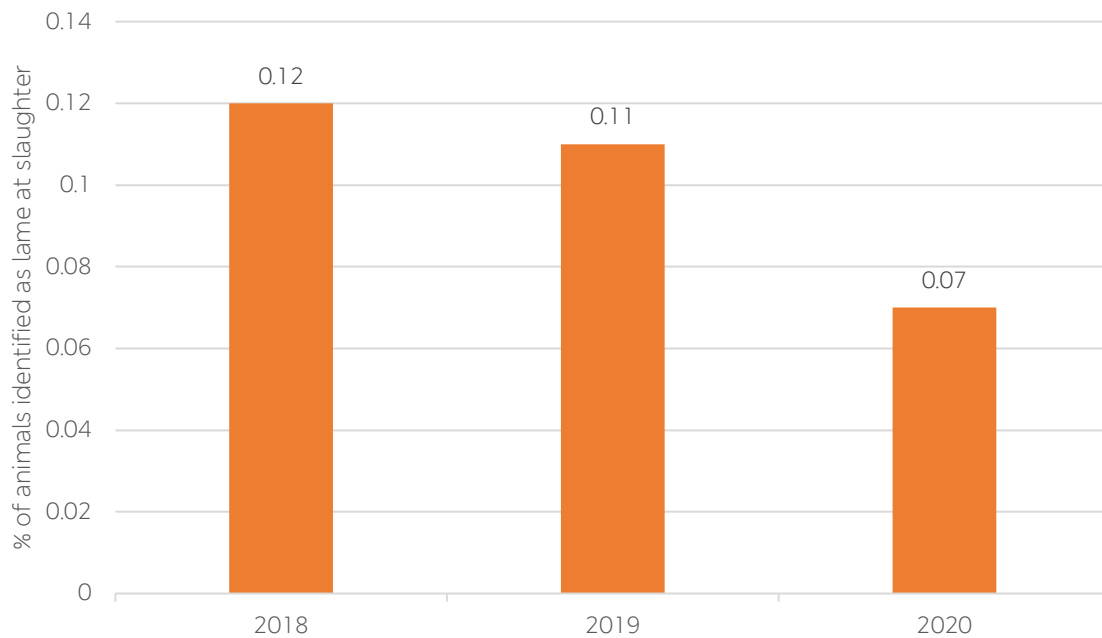
Pigs free from tail docking

Within our global supply chain for pork the number of pigs free from tail docking declined in 2020, linked to the changes in supply volumes. However, with the move to 100% Outdoor Bred across fresh and ingredient supply in RSPCA Assured systems from April 2021 this number should significantly improve in our 2021 reporting.



Lameness at Slaughter

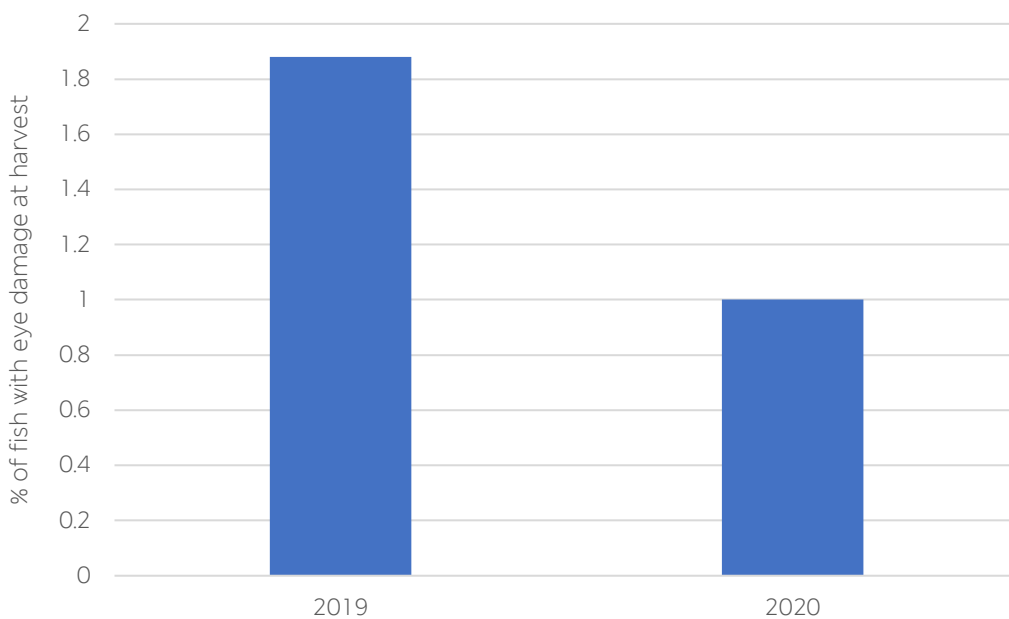
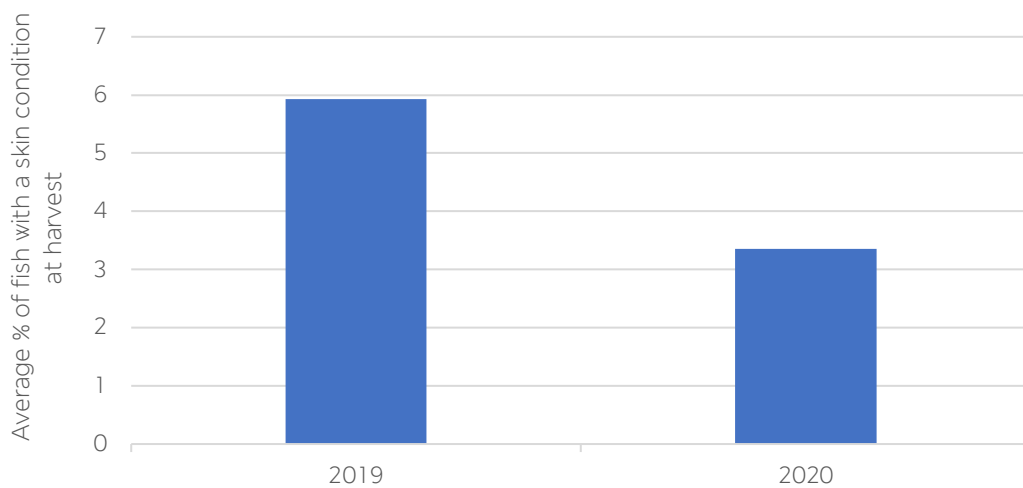
The number of pigs within our global supply that are identified as lame at slaughter has shown a steady decline. Levels were 0.07% in 2020. This coincides with a reduction in the percentage of joint lesions and arthritis being reported across our supply. At the same time, we have seen an increase in animals housed in straw bedded systems.



Fish

Salmon

All our salmon is RSPCA Assured. As part of their veterinary health and welfare plans, our salmon farmers monitor several different conditions. Skin condition and eye damage at harvest are two examples of these. We have seen a reduction in both these measures in 2020, which are outcomes linked to the environment or fish husbandry. Results of this monitoring are regularly discussed with a veterinary surgeon and the veterinary health and welfare plan updated and acted on accordingly.



Seawater trout

Like our Salmon, all our trout is RSPCA Assured. As part of their veterinary health and welfare plans our trout farmers monitor several different conditions. Skin condition and deformations are two examples of these. We have seen a reduction in both these measures in 2020. Results of this monitoring are regularly discussed with a veterinary surgeon and the veterinary health and welfare plan updated and acted on accordingly.

