

September 2021



Agricultural Welfare Statement

Avara Foods is fully committed to the Health and Welfare of all of the animals in our care, throughout all areas of the UK. It is our moral responsibility and an important business issue that applies to every animal in our supply chain. Our animal husbandry is of the highest priority, and welfare outcomes are continually monitored and challenged.

We have established an overarching welfare policy, and supporting standards, that apply to all our birds. These standards contain the provision of species- and generation-appropriate environmental enrichment.

In practice, good welfare means:

- Understanding the individual needs of each species and making sure they are met.
- Monitoring the tell-tale signs of good welfare.
- Taking immediate action if standards have not been met.
- Demanding continual improvement from the teams charged with their care.

We focus on welfare outcomes that can be objectively observed and measured. To deliver this our standards exceed UK legislative requirements by a significant margin, by adopting “Red Tractor” standards alongside our customers’ stringent requirements and additional standards that we believe are appropriate.

These standards are available and implemented on all of our agriculture sites by teams that are specifically trained in poultry welfare, including appropriate methods of on-farm culling of sick or injured individuals. These teams receive day-to-day support from a wealth of experience, comprising poultry technical managers, regional and area poultry managers.

To ensure that our welfare standards continue to develop, we utilise additional expertise, including our own veterinary surgeon and independent vets. We regularly engage with welfare scientists working in academic and practical surroundings, and with welfare NGOs to ensure that our welfare standards are grounded in science and an understanding of the birds’ needs.

To ensure transparency, we are committed to publishing our Key Welfare Indicator targets, and our performance against those targets on an annual basis, in our Welfare Report.

Adherence to our standards is a contractual requirement and is monitored by an internal, but autonomous, audit team and through Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are aligned to bird welfare. Results from both these approaches are regularly reviewed, including by members of the Avara Foods Executive Team. Should any instance of non-compliance with either the policy or standards be identified, we will undertake thorough investigations with the potential for corrective measures and disciplinary action if necessary.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andy Dawkins'.

Andy Dawkins
CEO, Avara Foods