Animal Welfare 2023 Progress Report

Farm animal welfare has been a core sustainable agriculture indicator for Unilever for many years. It is also part of our [Sustainable Agriculture Code (SAC)](#) which we launched in 2010.

The table below shows the change in performance on animal welfare measures over time. All percentages are based on total global volumes of all livestock products purchased for use in Unilever products for the calendar year shown.

		2018 (% global volume)	2019 (% global volume)	2020 (% global volume)	2021 (% global volume)	2022 (% global volume)
1	Sustainable dairy	75	78	79	64	74
2	Proportion from animals free from confinement	17	33	65	60	73
	• Laying Hens	-	65	68	72	72
	• Dairy cows	-	28	67	59	75
	• Broilers	-	0.1	0.2	1.7	8.5
	• Pigs	-	0.1	0	58	70
	• Beef cattle	-	0.5	0.5	-	-
3	Proportion of animals provided with effective species-specific enriched environments	-	44	44	45	45
	• Laying Hens	-	65	68	72	72
	• Dairy cows	-	43	39	41	41
	• Broiler chickens	-	0.2	0.2	1.7	18
	• Pigs	-	8	7	58	66
	• Beef cattle	-	0.5	0.5	-	-
4	Cage free eggs	64	65	68	72	72
5	Proportion pork from sow-stall free supply	90	48	52	58	66
6	Proportion of milk from non-tethered dairy cows	10	28	67	59	75
7	Proportion of dairy cows free from tail docking	84	83	88	100	100
8	Proportion of animals subject to	40	31	28	66	73

	pre-slaughter stunning					
9	Proportion of broiler chickens raised at 30kg/m^2 or less in EU and US	-	0.2	0.2	1.7	20
10	Proportion of chicken meat from strains of birds with improved welfare outcomes in EU and US	-	0.2	0.2	1.7	20

Explanation of trends

Below we provide details on progress in 2022 against each metric reported in the table above. The numbers in brackets (e.g., Q20) correspond with specific questions in the Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare.

1. Progress on sustainable dairy

We achieved 74% sustainably sourced dairy in 2022, an increase of 10% versus the prior year with sustainable dairy volumes impacted due to the acquisition of Horlicks in India which did not have supplier contracts in place to deliver sustainably sourced dairy. In 2022 our US suppliers were compliant with the Unilever Sustainable Agricultural Code, and we are back on track with our sustainable dairy volumes. Our focus in the coming years is to achieve more sustainably sourced dairy volumes in India and Turkey.

2. Progress on close confinement (Q20)

Across all species combined, 73% of total global volumes of purchased animal products were from systems free from confinement in 2022, an increase of 13% versus 2021. This was largely due to improved traceability back to farm level which means we have better traceability of the housing systems of animals in close confinement. More information on eggs can be found in 4. below.

3. Progress on proportion of animals provided with effective species-specific enriched environments (Q21)

In 2022, 45% of our meat sourcing was from effective species-specific enriched environments. We have seen an improvement for pigs and broiler chickens due to our 2025 Better Chicken Commitment, and we expect this figure to improve in the near future. However, because the volume of meat in these two categories is small, we have seen no impact on overall performance compared to 2021.

Our definitions of 'an enriched environment' for each species are as follows:

Species	Requirements for Environmental Enrichments
Laying hens	Perches, nest boxes, litter and scratching areas

Dairy cows	Cow brushes, grazing, shelter and shade
Meat pigs	Loose bedding and manipulable materials
Sows	Nesting materials
Meat chickens	Natural light, perches and pecking substrates
Beef cattle	Shelter/shade outdoors and forage/comfortable bedding indoors

4. Progress in cage free eggs (Q28)

We met our end 2020 deadline for achieving 100% cage-free eggs in Europe and North America and are working towards our 100% global 2025 target. In 2022, 72% of total global volumes of purchased eggs were from cage-free systems, versus 72% in 2021. We have not been able to increase the percentage cage free sourced eggs due to significant shortages of eggs in the market as a result of widespread Avian Flu and the increase of feedstock costs. This has meant that farmers have been reluctant to invest in new farms due to high uncertainty in the market.

This figure includes all egg products purchased, including shell, liquid and powered egg. The focus in the coming years will be on Latin America and Asia. We partner with Global Food Partners to develop local roadmaps with our suppliers. The table below shows our performance in 2022 and the roadmap by region to deliver our 2025 cage free egg commitment. The figures include all egg products purchased, including shell, liquid and powered egg.

Region	2022	2023	2024	2025
Africa	100%	100%	100%	100%
Europe	100%	100%	100%	100%
Latin America	19%	30%	38%	100%
North America	100%	100%	100%	100%
Middle East & Turkey	4%	10%	27%	100%
Asia and Oceania	7%	10%	27%	100%
Total	72%	75%	79%	100%

5. Change in proportion of pork from sow-stall free supply (Q29)

There was a slight increase in the proportion of pork from sow-stall free supply, from 58% in 2021 to 66% in 2022, due to an increase in the proportion of our pork meat originating from Europe, where we have a sow-stall free supply chain. Pork volumes used by Unilever remain relatively small.

6. Proportion of milk from non-tethered dairy cows (Q30)

The proportion of dairy products we buy from non-tethered dairy cows in 2020 was at 67%. A detailed review of our supply chains and changes in sourcing strategy resulted in an increase in the percentage of milk coming from non-tethered dairy cows to 75% in 2022.

7. Proportion of dairy cows free from tail docking (Q34)

In 2021 we made a commitment to make our dairy supply chains free from tail docking. This resulted in 100% of our dairy products coming from dairy supply chains that have banned tail docking in 2021 and 2022.

8. Proportion of animals subject to pre-slaughter stunning (Q36)

In 2022 the proportion of animals who we know are subject to pre-slaughter stunning was 73%, an increase of 7% versus 2021. This was achieved through improved supplier engagement and reporting at a country level on the occurrence of pre-slaughter stunning.

9. Proportion of broiler chickens raised at 30kg/m^2 or less

The percentage of broilers raised in housing systems with 30 kg/m^2 or less increased to 20% in 2022. This increase can be explained by the inclusion of our Unox brand's volumes into our Better Chicken Commitment. These volumes were previous left out as the factory was in transition to a third-party manufacturing arrangement. This requirement is part of our Better Chicken Commitment for Europe and the US. In 2023 we expect to achieve around 50% for Europe and 40% for the US.

10. Proportion of chicken meat from strains of birds with improved welfare outcomes

The percentage of broilers that had improved welfare outcomes increased to 20% in 2022. The increase can be explained by the inclusion of our Unox brand's volumes into our Better Chicken Commitment. These volumes were previous left out as the factory was in transition to a third-party manufacturing arrangement. This requirement is part of our Better Chicken Commitment for Europe and the US. In 2023 we expect to achieve around 50% for Europe and 40% for the US.