



Policies of UK Supermarkets: Liquid milk

Retailer	Fresh liquid milk stocked	Own brand fresh liquid milk dairy cow standards	Own brand dairy calf standards
<p>ASDA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Tractor • Free Range • Organic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard range – Red Tractor • Organic ✓ Soil Association 	
<p>The Co-operative</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Tractor • Co-op brand • Organic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard range ✓ Commitment to ensure pasture access in the grass growing season (minimum 100 days) ✓ Lameness and Body Condition Scoring ✓ Mastitis and culling rates recorded ✓ Tethering prohibited • Organic ✓ Soil Association 	<p>Commitment, across liquid milk and dairy beef, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No live export ✓ Rearing of calves in higher welfare beef and veal systems ✓ Bedding and fibre provision ✓ Colostrum provision ✓ Group housing of calves
<p>M&S</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Tractor • RSPCA Assured • Organic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard range ✓ Commitment to pasture access in the grass growing season (minimum 100 days) ✓ Lameness and Body Condition Scoring ✓ Mastitis and culling rates recorded ✓ Tethering prohibited ✓ RSPCA Assured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No live export of calves ✓ M&S sells only higher welfare rosé veal

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic ✓ Soil Association and Organic Farmers & Growers 	
Morrisons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Tractor • 'Morrisons For Farmers' brand • Organic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard range - Red Tractor • 'Milk for Farmers' ✓ Pasture access in the grass growing season (minimum 120 days) • Organic ✓ Soil Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Morrisons have a dairy beef scheme which rears calves from the dairy industry for beef
Sainsbury's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Red Tractor standards (not certified) • Organic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard range ✓ Lameness and Body Condition Scoring ✓ Mastitis and culling rates recorded ✓ Tethering prohibited • Organic ✓ Soil Association 	<p>Commitment, across dairy beef and veal, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No live export of calves ✓ No shooting of male dairy calves ✓ Rearing of calves in higher welfare beef and veal systems
Tesco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Tractor • Organic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard range ✓ Lameness and Body Condition Scoring ✓ Mastitis and culling rates recorded ✓ Tethering prohibited • Organic ✓ Soil Association and Organic Farmers & Growers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No live export of calves ✓ Group housing of calves ✓ Bedding and fibre provision ✓ Colostrum provision ✓ Tesco sells British rosé veal using calves from its dairy herd

<p>Waitrose</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Tractor • Waitrose brand • Organic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard range <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pasture access in the grass growing season (minimum 120 days) ✓ Lameness and Body Condition Scoring ✓ Mastitis and culling rates recorded ✓ Tethering prohibited • Organic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Soil Association and Organic Farmers & Growers 	<p>Commitment, across liquid milk, dairy beef and veal, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No live export ✓ Rearing of calves in higher welfare beef and veal systems ✓ Bedding and fibre provision ✓ Colostrum provision
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Overview of standards

Adult Cattle

EU Conventional Dairy Milk Production:

- There is no species-specific legislation protecting dairy cows in the EU – this means dairy cows can be kept in any preferred housing system including permanent indoor housing and/or tethering
- Tail docking is not permitted under EU law but is practiced in some countries, such as the USA
- The use of Bovine Somatotrophin (BST) is prohibited
- The feeding of animal protein is prohibited

UK Conventional Dairy Milk production – As above except for one main addition:

- Dehorning should not be a routine procedure

EU Organic Dairy Milk Production:

- Routine tail docking and dehorning is prohibited
- Indoor space allowance of at least 6m² per cow must be provided
- At least half the indoor flooring must be solid and dry, and floors must be non-slippery
- Bedding must be provided using straw or other suitable material
- At least 60 % of the dry matter in the daily rations of herbivores shall consist of roughage, fresh or dried fodder, or silage. A reduction to 50% for animals in milk production for a maximum period of three months in early lactation is allowed
- Outdoor space allowance (for exercise area, not including pasture) must provide at least 4.5m²/cow
- Access to pasture for grazing must be given whenever conditions allow. In cases where herbivores have access to pasturage during the grazing period and where the winter-housing system gives freedom of movement to the animals, the obligation to provide open air areas during the winter months may be waived

Calves

EU veal and beef production:

- Veal crates are prohibited (housing must allow the calf enough space to turn around)
- Calves must be housed in groups from 8 weeks of age at the latest
- Calves under 6 months cannot be tethered
- Calves over 2 weeks old must be provided with fibrous material and must ensure calves have an average blood haemoglobin level of at least 4.5mmol/l

UK veal and beef production – As above with the addition:

- Individual stalls or pens for calves (except for those isolating sick animals) shall have perforated walls which allow calves to have direct visual and tactile contact
- In groups calves must have a space allowance of at least 1.5m² for each calf (<150 kg) and at least 2m² for each calf (150kg ≤ 200kg) and at least 3m² (≥200kg)
- Calves can be castrated without pain relief with a rubber ring up to 7 days old; bloodless castration (using burdizzos) up to 2 months old and all surgical castration must be performed by a veterinarian using anaesthetic. Only veterinarians may perform castration from 8 weeks old.
- Disbudding should be performed before 2 months old and anaesthetic used. Chemical disbudding is strongly advised against and must be performed before 7 days old.
- Where conducted, supernumerary teats must be removed by a vet if the animal is over 3 months old. Anaesthetic is recommended prior to 3 months old and compulsory after 3 months old.

Certification Schemes

Red Tractor Dairy Assured Standards - in line with UK legislation plus

- Herd health plan that includes records of lameness, mastitis, fertility, metabolic disorders, calf diseases and other diseases and conditions

RSPCA Assured – in line with UK legislation plus

- Pasture access must be given in the grass growing season unless written permission sought for newly calved cows (can be kept in for up to 8 weeks)
- Maximum stocking densities given for indoor housing for both cubicles and straw bedding
- Tethering prohibited
- At least 5% more cubicles than the number of cows must be provided in cubicle systems with suitable bedding material, a loafing area with a minimum space allowance of 6m²/cow in cubicle housing. Minimum space allowance is given for indoor housing for both cubicles and straw bedding.
- Herd health plan that includes records on lameness, mastitis, fertility, metabolic disorders, calf diseases and other diseases and conditions

Soil Association - In line with EU legislation plus

- Herd health plan that includes records on lameness, mastitis, fertility, metabolic disorders, calf diseases and other diseases and conditions
- Use of antibiotic dry cow therapy as a preventative treatment is prohibited
- Cattle to graze fresh forage throughout the grazing season. The total grazing area must be at least 0.27 ha (0.66 acres) per cow per grazing season

- Minimum space allowance is given for indoor housing for both cubicles and straw bedding
- At least 5% more cubicles than cows in cubicle systems with suitable bedding
- Calves must not be weaned off milk until 3 months old

Milk top up

Milk top up occurs when more milk is needed by a retailer than is produced by the group of farmers dedicated to certain standards. It means that there may, in some instances, be the addition of milk from the general milk pool (so that all the milk is mixed together and therefore may come from farms with differing standards). This is usually up to about 5%.