

PRESS RELEASE  
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## **MIND THE PERFORMANCE GAP: THE DISCONNECT BETWEEN CORPORATE POLICIES AND PERFORMANCE ON FARM ANIMAL WELFARE**

**BBFAW recognises Co-op Group (Switzerland), Cranswick, Marks & Spencer, Noble Foods and Waitrose as global leaders on farm animal welfare.**

Launched today, the seventh annual Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare, backed by Compassion in World Farming and World Animal Protection, confirms Coop Group (Switzerland), Cranswick, Marks & Spencer, Noble Foods and Waitrose as global leaders on farm animal welfare. However, while many of the 150 companies covered by the Benchmark, have now adopted farm animal welfare policies and implemented farm animal management systems, the majority provide little or no information on their farm animal welfare performance.

Commenting on the overall findings, Nicky Amos, Executive Director of BBFAW noted: "Company practice continues to show consistent year on year improvement. For example, 53% of companies now have explicit board or senior management oversight of farm animal welfare and 71% have published formal improvement objectives for farm animal welfare. However, these encouraging findings on management processes are not matched by performance; for example, while just over half of companies report on the proportion of animals that are free from close confinement, only one in four companies covered by the Benchmark provides any information on the proportion of animals that are stunned prior to slaughter and only one in five companies reports on the live animal transport times."

Dr Rory Sullivan, Expert Advisor to BBFAW noted: "Investors need to have confidence that companies are delivering the outcomes that they aspire to, in terms of improved farm animal welfare and in terms of better business risk management. The Benchmark exposes the gap between policies and performance, highlighting those companies whose governance processes work effectively and those whose governance processes are not fit for purpose in a world where farm animal welfare is an increasingly important driver of business value."

Philip Lymbery, CEO at Compassion in World Farming commented: "The Benchmark and the investors supporting it have played a key role in keeping farm animal welfare firmly on the corporate agenda. As this year's report shows, we need to ensure that this attention delivers real and concrete benefits for animals farmed for food."

Steve McIvor, CEO World Animal Protection commented: "The Benchmark is a long-term change initiative. One of the most significant findings in this year's report is that, of the 55 food companies that have been continuously included in the Benchmark since 2012, 17 (31%) have moved up one Tier, 20 (36%) have moved up two Tiers and 8 (15%) have moved up three Tiers. These improvements are even more striking given the tightening of the Benchmark criteria and the increased emphasis on performance reporting and impact over this time."

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## Notes to Editors

1. The Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare (BBFAW) is the globally recognised investor framework for assessing the quality of companies' practices, processes and performance on farm animal welfare.
2. The Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare, founded in 2012, is supported by its founding partners the leading animal welfare organisations, Compassion in World Farming and World Animal Protection.
3. BBFAW provides an annual, independent assessment of farm animal welfare management and performance in global food companies. It enables investors, companies, NGOs and other stakeholders to understand corporate practice and performance on farm animal welfare. More information on the programme can be found at [www.bbfaw.com](http://www.bbfaw.com)
4. Through the annual benchmark, extensive engagement programmes with investors and with companies, and the production of guidance and other materials for companies and investors, BBFAW has driven higher farm animal welfare standards across the world's leading food businesses.
5. The 2018 Benchmark covers 150 companies across 23 countries. The companies represent three primary food business sectors: (a) food retailers and wholesalers; (b) restaurants and bars (a category that includes many of the food service providers), and (c) food producers and manufacturers. The list includes listed and non-listed companies.
6. Companies were measured on their approach to managing farm animal welfare in four areas: (1) Management Commitment and Policy, (2) Governance and Policy Implementation, (3) Leadership and Innovation, and (4) Performance Reporting and Impact.
7. In line with the BBFAW's objective to drive improvements in the welfare of animals farmed for food, the weighting of the performance reporting and impact questions in the 2018 Benchmark was increased to 35% of the total score (up from 24% in 2017).
8. Company assessments were based on information published by companies on the date of their assessments. All companies were assessed during the period from 1st August to 30 September 2018.
9. The company-by-company results are presented in Attachment 1 to this release.
10. Cranswick, Coop Group (Switzerland), Marks & Spencer and Waitrose retain their Tier 1 position, while Cargill, The Co-operative Food (UK), Greggs, Tesco and Unilever have retained their Tier 2 position.
11. In the 2018 Benchmark, 19 companies have moved up at least one tier on BBFAW's six tier assessment framework. These companies include Casino, Chipotle Mexican Grill, CP Foods, Dunkin' Brands, Groupe Auchan, Groupe Danone, Kraft Heinz, Les Mousquetaires, Groupe Lactalis, LDC, Lidl, Noble Foods, Publix Super Markets, Vion Food Group, Wesfarmers, Whitbread, Wm Morrison, Gruppo Veronesi and Yum! Brands
12. In the 2018 Benchmark, 12 companies have dropped one tier. These are: Ahold Delhaize, BRF, Danish Crown, Dean Foods, General Mills, JBS, Kaufland, McDonald's, Migros, Subway, Sysco Corp and Walmart.
13. For further information and images, please contact: [secretariat@bbfaw.com](mailto:secretariat@bbfaw.com)