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The Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare

Consultation on 2022 Benchmark
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Consultation on 2022 Benchmark

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01

Introduction



Background to the Consultation

Following the first decade of annual BBFAW benchmark cycles, the BBFAW Partners decided in early 2022 that it was necessary to pause the annual assessment cycle in order to conduct a thorough revision of the assessment criteria.

The main aims of the review were to:

- Strengthen the emphasis on Performance Impact
- Align the BBFAW with key welfare issues
- Introduce a new focus area assessing company commitments to reduce reliance on animal-sourced foods.

2022 Consultation Process

In preparation for the postponed 2022 Benchmark company assessments, which are to be conducted in April and May 2023, the BBFAW is inviting comments on four areas:

1. The scope of companies to be covered by the Benchmark.
2. Changes to the weighting of the assessment pillars.
3. Changes to the assessment criteria.
4. The usefulness of the Benchmark and associated report.

The consultation will run from 24th January to 14th February 2023.

02

Company scope



2022 Company Scope

There are a number of proposed changes to the company scope, including the removal of three companies and the addition of five new companies. The 2022 Benchmark will continue to cover 150 companies.

Proposed changes:

- **Lidl Stiftung & Co KG** and **Kaufland** – currently assessed separately – are to be assessed under the parent company **Schwarz Unternehmens Treuhand KG**.
- **Cargill** and Continental Grains acquired **Sanderson Farms** in July 2022. Sanderson Farms will therefore be assessed as part of **Cargill**.
- One Producer and Manufacturer, **Chuying Agro-Pastoral Group**, and two Restaurants and Bars, **Umoe Gruppen** and **CNHLS** will be removed due to relatively small market revenue.

2022 Company Scope

Proposed new additions:

- **Spar Holding AG** – international group of retailers and wholesalers operating in 45 countries.
- **Metro Inc** – third largest Canadian retailer after Loblaw and Sobey's.
- **Yili Group** – Chinese dairy company that is one of the largest in Asia.
- **Beijing Dabeinong Technology Group Co., Ltd.** – a leading Chinese pig producer.
- **Yum China Holdings** – one of the largest restaurant groups in China and globally. Yum China Holdings is distinct from Yum! Brands, the restaurant group domiciled in the USA which is already included in the company scope.

Do you agree with the changes to the companies to be included in the 2022 Benchmark?

03

Changes to the Weighting of the Assessment Pillars



Changes to the Weighting of the Assessment Pillars

Proposed changes

The 2022 Benchmark will be divided into five pillars.

Pillar	2022 Weighting	2021 Weighting
Farm Animal Welfare Policy Commitments 2021: Management Commitment	15%	22%
Farm Animal Welfare Governance and Management 2021: Governance and Management	14%	24%
Farm Animal Welfare Targets 2021: Innovation and Leadership	7%	N/A
Farm Animal Welfare Performance Impact 2021: Performance Reporting and Impact	55%	45%
Animal-Sourced Foods	9%	N/A

04

Changes to the Assessment Criteria



Changes to Assessment Criteria

Proposed changes – Farm Animal Welfare Policy Commitments

- New questions have been added within the Farm Animal Welfare Policy Commitments pillar on whether companies have commitments to:
 - ending the use of high-performance breeds (new Q10);
 - not produce or sell foie gras (new Q11);
 - ending the use of other inhumane practices (new Q12), including the culling of day-old male chicks in egg supply chains; cow-calf separation; fully-slatted flooring; and live plucking or live harvesting for geese.
- The question on whether companies have a clear commitment to ending the prophylactic use of antibiotics has been expanded to also cover metaphylactic use (group treatment of a group of animals when some of them are showing signs of disease).
- Two questions which previously featured as part of the Management Commitment section have been removed (Q6 and Q7 in 2021).

Changes to Assessment Criteria

Proposed changes – Farm Animal Welfare Governance and Management

- A new sub-question (new Q19a) has been added to assess whether companies describe how they use welfare outcome measures to inform continuous improvement in their operations or supply chain.
- This question is looking for descriptions of how welfare outcome measures are used, for example to help drive continuous improvement or as indicators for corrective action.
- Two questions focused on objectives and targets which previously featured as part of the Governance and Management section have been removed (Q13 and Q14 in 2021).

Changes to Assessment Criteria

Proposed changes – Farm Animal Welfare Targets

- New questions have been added within the new Farm Animal Welfare Targets pillar on whether companies (with relevant species) have clear, time-bound targets for:
 - ending the use of cages (battery and enriched/colony) for laying hens (new Q24);
 - achieving the requirements of the Better Chicken Commitment/European Chicken Commitment (new Q25);
 - ending the use of gestation/sow stalls for sows, throughout pregnancy and during the observation period (new Q26);
 - ending the use of farrowing crates for sows (new Q27); and
 - ending the use of tethering for dairy cows (new Q28).

Do you agree with the proposal to add new questions on whether companies have clear, time-bound targets for specific welfare improvements for laying hens, broiler chickens, pigs and dairy cows?

Changes to Assessment Criteria

Proposed changes – Farm Animal Welfare Performance Impact

- Addition of questions on **beef cattle** and **farmed salmon**, in addition to laying hens, broiler chickens, pigs and dairy cattle, with three questions per species.
- The two Performance Impact questions on maximum transport times and pre-slaughter stunning (for all species) have been retained from 2021.
- The scoring of the Performance Impact questions has been adjusted, to make the points scale exponential rather than linear.
- The six Performance Reporting questions (Q20-25 in 2021) have been removed.

Percentage Impact (Progress) Reported	2022 Points Scale	2021 Points Scale
1-20%	1	1
21-40%	2	3
41-60%	3	5
61-80%	5	7
81-98%	7	9
99-100%	10	10

Do you agree with the proposal to add new species-specific Performance Impact questions, covering beef cattle and farmed salmon, in addition to laying hens, broiler chickens, pigs and dairy cattle (resulting in three questions per species)?

Changes to Assessment Criteria

Proposed changes – Animal Sourced Foods

- Eight new questions have been introduced, with questions under each pillar of the assessment. For the purposes of weighting within the overall score, these questions are grouped within one *Animal-Sourced Foods* pillar.

The questions will assess the following:

- a company's acknowledgement of the need to reduce reliance on animal-sourced foods as a business issue (new Q13);
- policies on reducing reliance on animal-sourced foods (new Q14);
- explanations of the policy scope (new Q15);
- board/senior management and operational responsibility for reducing reliance on animal-sourced foods (new Q22);
- customer communications and awareness-raising activities (new Q23);
- time-bound targets for reducing reliance on animal-sourced foods (new Q29);
- reporting on volumes of animal-sourced foods by type (meat, dairy, fish, eggs) (new Q50);
- reporting on progress towards its targets for reducing reliance on animal-sourced foods (new Q51).

Do you agree with the proposal to introduce the eight new questions on reducing reliance on animal-sourced foods?

05

Wider Benchmark Revisions

- The proposed BBFAW 2022 assessment criteria contain 51 questions with a maximum of 435 points available. **It will not be possible to compare company scores across the 2021 and 2022 assessment criteria.**
- BBFAW is seeking feedback on how to communicate the benchmark results.
 - One option being considered is to *not* publish a named ranking of companies following the 2022 company assessments.



How to respond further to the 2021 Consultation by the deadline of 14 February 2023:

- **Written responses:** Template response form available from www.bbfaw.com/publications.
- **Verbal responses:** Calls between the BBFaw Secretariat and investment-related organisations, food companies and other stakeholders can be scheduled via email: secretariat@bbfaw.com.
- All comments received will be treated in strict confidence.



2023-24 Timeline



06

Q&A



Thank you for
participating.

For more information visit
www.bbfaw.com

Or email
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