



more than meat

Raw Material Animal Welfare Policy

Kepak Group is committed to providing the highest levels of quality and animal welfare. At Kepak Group, we work with many Cattle, Sheep and Pig farmers across Ireland to source the highest quality, best tasting products for our customer base. Animal welfare on our supplier farms is paramount and better management and care for livestock can improve livestock productivity and food quality, which benefits all parties in the supply chain.

Animal welfare is important to us as customers expect great products and also expect us to take animal welfare seriously. By having strong relationships with our farmer suppliers and using expertise in agriculture and animal welfare we can ensure the cattle, sheep and pigs we source are from the highest quality farms, are sustainable and ultimately we are producing the best products for our customers.

With the growth in our value-add business comes an increase in volume of product sourced from outside our direct farm supply chain. In 2018, Kepak set up a cross functional team dedicated to ensuring we maintain the same standards from our suppliers as from our own sites. Our responsible sourcing team will focus on all non-livestock purchasing, extending from meat and food products into packaging and consumables. This is achieved through a key focus on supply chain integrity and product quality while ensuring animal welfare standards are met and our supply chains are kept free from deforestation and modern slavery. We are currently reviewing all customer requirements to align ourselves with our customers own sustainability targets around responsible sourcing.

Kepak is dedicated to purchasing responsibly. We are committed to sourcing from sustainable and ethical suppliers and work with dedicated suppliers who share our commitments on animal welfare. Most of Kepak's raw materials are sourced directly from farms. Therefore, Kepak engage closely with our suppliers to promote best practice in farming.

Our Raw Material & Traded Goods Animal Welfare Policy has been developed to ensure our suppliers are meeting the high standards that exist in our primary processing supply chain. Kepak Group's Animal Welfare policies and Agricultural Initiatives form part of "Kepak Core" which is Kepak Group's corporate sustainability blueprint.

A photograph of a white lamb standing in a field of dry straw. The lamb is looking towards the camera. The straw is golden-brown and scattered around the lamb.

**HIGHEST
LEVELS OF
ANIMAL
WELFARE**

IT IS OUR POLICY

Products purchased

Products purchased outside of our direct farm supply chain are as follows; Beef, Lamb, Pork, Chicken, Turkey, Fish, Duck and Venison.



All purchased raw materials and traded goods are subject to supplier approval, quality checks and full traceability through the supply chain.



Suppliers must show that they have internal processes in place to ensure the implementation of animal welfare policy.



Suppliers must show that internal processes relating to animal welfare policy have been assigned to specific individuals/committees.



OUR MINIMUM STANDARDS

Five Freedoms

All farms should follow the 5 freedoms concept that underpins animal welfare practices at farm level:

- 1 Freedom from Hunger & Thirst; Livestock should have ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
- 2 Freedom from discomfort; by providing an appropriate environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- 3 Freedom from pain, injury and disease; by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- 4 Freedom to express (most) normal behavior; by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
- 5 Freedom from fear and distress; by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering



LIVESTOCK STANDARDS

- We do not permit the use of animal welfare or husbandry systems that are illegal
- All proteins must have complete traceability and be assured under a relevant QA scheme.
- Suppliers should ensure live animal transportation is kept to a minimum and long distances are avoided. We believe that live animals should never be transported for more than eight hours (from loading to unloading).



- Close confinement for livestock should be avoided at all times. This includes:

- Sow Stalls
- Farrowing crates
- Single Penning
- Battery Cages
- Tethering of animals
- Veal Crates
- Concentrated animal feeding operations
- Force feeding
- High stocking densities

- Genetically modified or cloned animals or their progeny should not be used.
- We believe that the use of growth promoting substances should be avoided at all times.
- Using routine antibiotics for prophylactic purposes should be minimized and, ideally, avoided.
- Routine mutilations (including teeth clipping, tail docking, dehorning, branding, castration by knife, de-budding, mulesing, beak trimming and de-snooding) should be avoided. Where certain practices are unavoidable (eg. Disbudding of cattle) suppliers must use best practice procedures.
- All animals should be stunned prior to slaughter. In the case of fish, we believe fish should be rendered insensible prior to slaughter.
- All farmers and those involved in the handling of livestock must be appropriately trained and competent to care for animals.

