



We are committed to working with our farming partners across all species to improve the health and welfare of farmed animals as well as addressing environmental and ethical issues within the supply chain.

We never purchase dairy products on the open market and all of the milk and cream we source for use in our product range is **100% British**.

All of our supplying farms are certified to **Red Tractor Standard**, and along with our farming partners our aim is to improve animal welfare through the monitoring of herd health and husbandry. Through regular meetings with key suppliers we actively monitor industry issues and assist in driving best practice and improved farming methods.

A Livestock Health Plan to proactively manage and improve health and welfare of dairy cows must be established and implemented by all farmers supplying Noble Foods. As part of this, records of animal health and performance must be maintained and reviewed regularly and an annual herd health and performance review must be undertaken by a veterinary practitioner. Key herd health indicators and welfare outcome measures (WOM's) that we review and which are monitored within the Red Tractor scheme are;

- Lameness
- Mastitis
- Culling rate (and reasons)
- Involuntary culls (excluding TB reactors)
- Calf mortality. (0 – 24hrs and 24hrs to 42 days)

Non-compliance

All suppliers must notify us of any audit failures or compliance issues and proven or investigated breaches in legislation or welfare standards. Once notified we review on a case by case basis and put into place, with our suppliers, an appropriate management action plan.

Training

All staff within our supply farms, full and part time and including family members, must be fully trained and competent to carry out their daily activities. Our partners provide technical advice and workshops to farmers, to ensure that they remain compliant and animal welfare is safeguarded at all times.





We recognise the link between irresponsible use of antimicrobial medicine and the increase in antibiotic resistance. Our focus is on preventing the need for antimicrobial intervention, by improving the overall health status on our supplying farms. As a general principle we do not permit the routine prophylactic use of antimicrobials but we do recognise, as indicated in the RUMA guidelines, that controlled intervention may be required on a clinically-assessed risk basis to prevent the outbreak and spread of disease and to safeguard animal welfare. Medicine records must provide an annual collation of total antibiotic used either by a vet from prescription data or completed by a farmer from medicine records. An annual review of antibiotics used must be undertaken by a vet. For farm to farm sales, animals under statutory withdrawal periods for medicines must be accompanied by a withdrawal period declaration.

Growth Promoters

100% of the dairy cattle within our supply chain are free from any form of growth promoting substances. The use of artificial substances specifically to promote abnormal muscle growth or higher yields is not allowed in the Noble Foods supply chain.

Pre-slaughter stunning

100% of all the dairy cattle within our supply chain are pre-slaughter stunned. All abattoirs and processing plants used by our suppliers are required to work to the standards laid down the Humane Slaughter Association in their Codes of Practice.

CCTV

All of our abattoirs have CCTV at critical welfare points such as at unloading, lairage, stun and slaughter to ensure our welfare standards are met and good welfare is maintained.

Genetics, Engineering

100% of all the dairy cattle within the Noble Foods supply chain are not genetically modified or cloned. Animal Cloning is an assisted reproductive technology that allows farmers to replicate their best animals. We do not permit the use of genetically modified animals, either through genetic engineering or cloning.

Routine Mutilations

100% of the dairy cows in our supply base are free from tail docking. Tail docking is not permitted in England Scotland and Wales and is governed by The Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 (similar in Scotland and Wales)



99.5% of dairy cows in our supply base are free from tethering. The farms still using tethered systems are small older farms only affecting a very small number of cows. These farms are being gradually phased out and replaced by newer more modern systems of production.

Any farms still using tethered systems must be managed appropriately and comply with additional standards outlined below;

- All-year-round tethering is not permitted
- Untethered exercise is provided daily for routinely tethered cattle
- Routinely tethered cattle are untethered prior to calving (cattle may be tethered during calving where intervention is necessary)
- Tethers do not cause pain and allow livestock sufficient space to lie down, rise without difficulty, stand in a natural position, stretch and groom without hindrance
- Halters/ collars/ head chains do not tighten and are made of non-abrasive materials

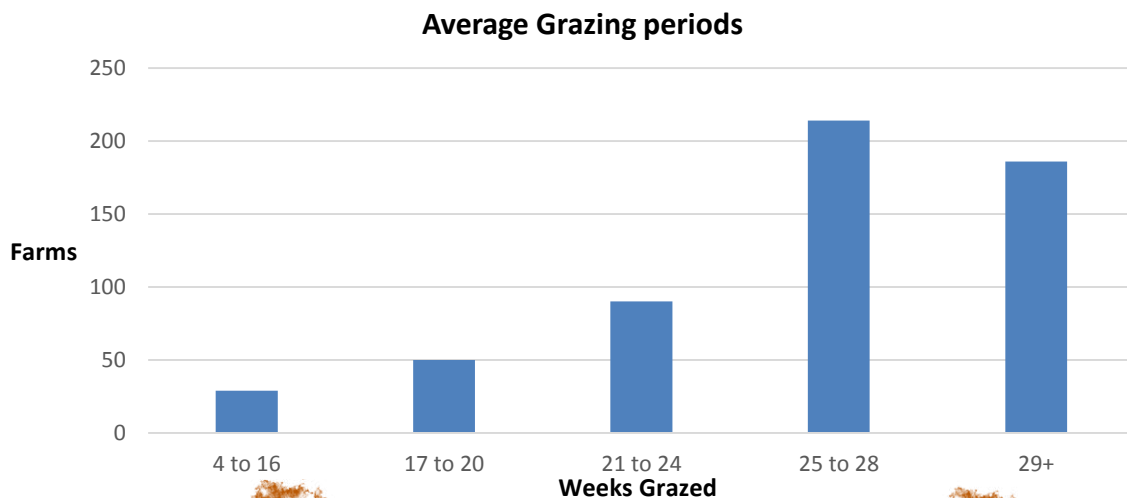
Measure	Loose housed only	Cubicles only	Loose housed and cubicles	Cubicles with slatted passage	Loose housed, cubicles with slatted passage	Tethers
Number	27	243	355	3	3	3
Percentage	4.3	38.2	56	0.5	0.5	0.5

Sample size >30,000 cows

Grazing

95% of our supplying herds graze for more than 2 months per annum.

Graphs showing current distribution of supplying herds by number of weeks graze.

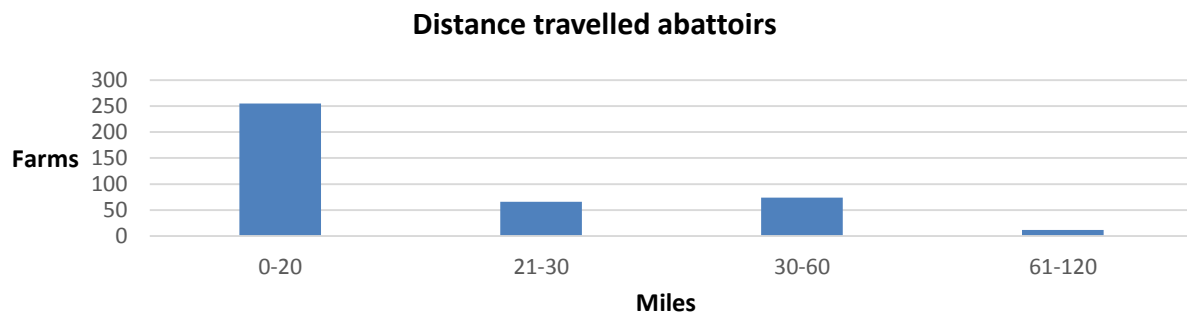
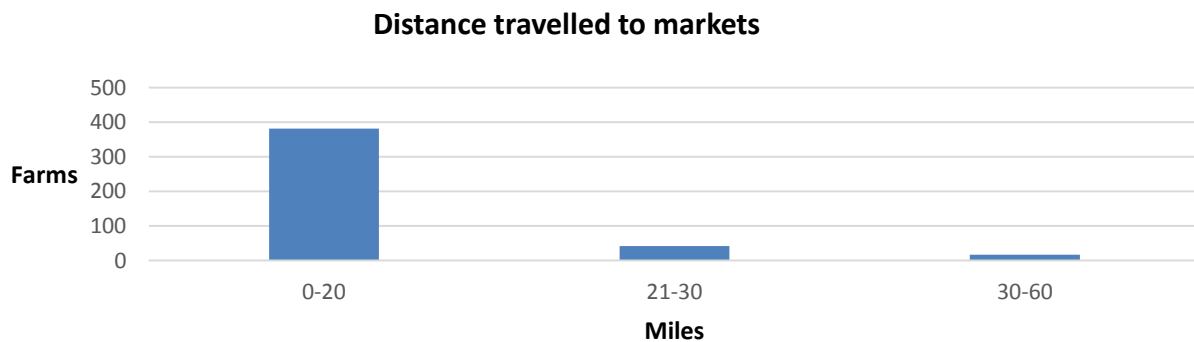




We ensure our supply base keep live animal transportation to a minimum and avoid unnecessary long distance travel.

100% of all dairy cows supplying Noble Foods are transported within the 8 hour specified limit prior to slaughter or sale.

Distribution of distance for livestock transported to markets and abattoirs (miles)



Herd health and welfare monitoring

In order to give an overall idea of herd health and milk quality somatic cell counts (SCC) are constantly monitored across all the supplying farms. Somatic cell counts are simply a measure of the number of cells in the milk; the higher the somatic cell count the greater the chance that the cow is suffering from mastitis. Uninfected cows often have a milk SCC of <100 000/ml, and almost always have a SCC <200 000. The same applies to bulk milk SCC - on average, the higher the SCC the higher the proportion of infected cows in the milking herd. With good mastitis control, the bulk milk SCC should be below 200 000.

Our average Somatic Cell count across the whole supply base is 177,000/ml

Other useful links

Dairy UK - <https://www.milk.co.uk/>

