

# Guarantee animal welfare

## Carrefour 2021 Group



1. Background
2. Our aim
3. Summary of objectives
4. Our animal welfare policy
5. The ten priority objectives making up our animal welfare policy
6. Joint initiatives and partnerships





## 1. Background

Throughout the world every year, 70 billion animals are reared to feed humans with meat, milk or eggs<sup>1</sup>. Without a fundamental change in our food patterns, global demand will increase by 25% between 2015 and 2030, driven by population growth, rising disposable incomes and increased daily caloric intakes in developing countries, which account for 70% of global livestock farming<sup>2</sup>.

Given this situation, respecting animals and being mindful of their sensitivity are increasingly important issues for civil society, backed by NGOs (non-governmental organisations) in particular. Among the variety of views expressed, many people are critical of certain farming and slaughter methods because of their

failure to factor in animal welfare needs. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, (FAO), animal welfare is a common good that forms an integral part of the livestock sector's sustainable development. It is linked to food safety and quality, human and animal health, and rural development.

In several countries, particularly in Europe, new consumption patterns are emerging, such as a reduction in the amount of meat consumed, and people choosing to replace meat inputs with vegetable proteins or to switch to products from more animal-friendly farming methods, in line with a more sustainable type of farming. These changes are rapid and involve changes in farming practices.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ciwf.fr/ressources/nos-rapports/bien-etre-animal/sentience-animale/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/w0027e/w0027e.pdf>

## 2. Our aim

Carrefour believes that particular attention should be paid to livestock farming. Animals are considered sentient beings – they can experience emotions, such as fear, and can feel pain. Carrefour has been committed to improving animal welfare in its supply chains for several years. This approach is based in particular on the 'five fundamental freedoms' of animal welfare, adapted to different livestock farming methods:

- **Physiological freedom:** absence of hunger, thirst or malnutrition. Animals must have access to fresh water and adequate food so as to maintain their good health and vigour
- **Environmental freedom:** appropriate housing, absence of climatic or physical stress. Animals must have an appropriate environment including comfortable shelter and places to rest
- **Health-related freedom:** absence of pain, injury or disease. Animals must benefit from prevention, and have access to rapid diagnosis and appropriate treatment
- **Behavioural freedom:** possibility to exhibit normal, species-specific behaviour. Animals must be provided with enough space, an environment appropriate to their needs, and be in contact with other animals
- **Psychological freedom:** absence of fear or anxiety. Farming conditions and practices must not induce psychological suffering in the animals

In order to get the Group and its suppliers of own-brand products to follow guidelines and meet targeted objectives, Carrefour defined an animal welfare policy in 2019. It has adopted a joint approach to developing initiatives and has got the animal sectors involved, focusing on ten priority areas.



### 3. Summary of objectives

The ten priority areas of making up Carrefour’s welfare policy are included in the Group’s purchasing rules. The objectives of the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and Food Transition index for animal welfare are as follows:

Objectives	Deadline	Scope and definitions
Shell eggs (hens): 100% of eggs in their shells sold are to be laid by non-cage-reared hens by 2025 (or 2028 depending on country).	2025 (2028)	G9. Controlled products and national brands. 2028: National brands for Argentina and Brazil.
Eggs as ingredients (hens): 100% of eggs used as ingredients to be laid by non-cage-reared hens by 2025	2025 (2028)	G6. Controlled products. Simpl’ in 2028 (for Italy, Spain, Romania)
Chickens: 50% of Carrefour branded chicken sales are to guarantee compliance with improved animal welfare criteria by 2026	2026	G9. Controlled products. Raw products only.
Slaughterhouses: 100% of slaughterhouses to be audited on animal welfare by 2025	2025	G9. Controlled products. Species: lamb, beef, pork, veal, poultry. Frequency: every three years.
Pigs: BIO & Carrefour Quality Line pork products are to provide improved animal welfare guarantees by 2025	2025	G9. Carrefour Bio and Carrefour Quality Line products. Raw products only.
Cages: Cage-reared animals no longer to be sold by 2025	2025	G9. Controlled products. Raw products: rabbit and quail (animals and eggs).
Horses: 100% of horse meat supplies are to be independently audited or of EU origin by 2025	2025	G9. National brand and controlled products.
Transparency: Each country is to implement a system informing consumers about farming methods used by 2025.	2025	G9. Controlled products. Priority species: veal, pork, beef, meat, beef, milk, eggs, chicken.



## 4. Our animal welfare policy

Through this animal welfare policy, the Carrefour group is seeking to respond as effectively as possible to the expectations that society has regarding animal product lines. This improvement process is delivered through continuous improvement initiatives implemented in partnership with all stakeholders involved in these issues.

In all the areas in which work is being done on the animal welfare policy, Carrefour regularly sets up work-

ing groups with stakeholders, NGOs, customers and suppliers to share its animal welfare vision and action plans.

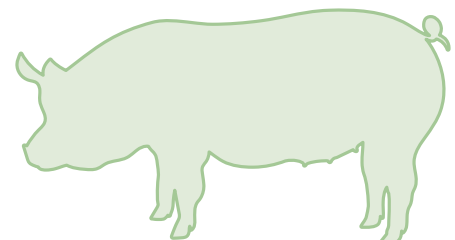
In collaboration with its stakeholders and NGOs with expertise in animal welfare, Carrefour defines its requirements and determines how they should be deployed in its specifications. Progress plans and monitoring mechanisms are also put in place to support changes in production methods.

### 4.1. Scope

The areas underpinning the animal welfare policy involve all of the Group's nine integrated countries<sup>3</sup>

In 2020, countries defined progress plans targeting these ten areas in which work is to be carried out, operationally broken down by species and product category. As a result of this deployment, in 2021 Carrefour started evaluating its performance in relation to eight objectives measured through indicators in all the Group's countries concerned:

- **Shell eggs:** 100% of eggs in their shells sold for controlled products and national brand products are to be from non-cage-reared hens by 2025 (or 2028 depending on the country);
- **Egg ingredients:** 100% of eggs used as ingredients in Carrefour brand products to be laid by non-cage-reared hens by 2025;
- **Non-cage farms:** Stop selling products from other cage-reared animals (rabbits and quails) for Carrefour brand products by 2025;
- **Chickens:** 50% of Carrefour brand chicken sales are to guarantee compliance with improved animal welfare criteria by 2026;
- **Slaughterhouses:** 100% of slaughterhouses delivering raw products controlled by Carrefour are to be audited on animal welfare by 2025;
- **Pigs:** BIO & Carrefour Quality Line pork products are to provide improved animal welfare guarantees by 2025;
- **Cages:** Cage-reared animals no longer to be sold for Carrefour-brand products by 2025;
- **Horses:** 100% of horse meat supplies are to be independently audited or of EU origin by 2025;
- **Transparency:** Each country is to implement a system informing consumers about farming methods used, Carrefour brands to do this by 2025.



<sup>3</sup> Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Spain, France, Italy, Poland, Romania, Taiwan.

## 4.2. Governance and performance assessment

The governance of the Group's animal welfare policy is structured at various levels:

- The animal welfare action plans and performance shall be reviewed by the CSR Committee of the Board of Directors when the annual CSR results are presented.
- A risk and procurement committee has been set up and meets every two months. It analyses the risks arising from Carrefour's sourcing practices and devises strategies for dealing with them, including the animal welfare policy. This committee reports to the general secretariat and is made up of the following departments: audit & risk, CSR, own-brand, merchandise, fresh produce, legal affairs and quality – including an animal welfare coordinator. It defines and disseminates procurement policies and regulations across all countries. The various departments represented on the risk and procurement committee are responsible for enforcing the rules in the countries in which the Carrefour Group operates.
- Performance indicators on animal welfare are defined at Group level. Additional indicators are defined by countries to support implementation of the progress plans.
- To support these changes, animal welfare coordinators have been appointed within the teams for each of Carrefour Group's integrated countries and working groups have been set up. The

quality managers have been trained in this area and Carrefour encourages all stakeholders involved in the production chains to gradually do the same. The Group is also introducing animal welfare issues into audits. Carrefour also supports the self-assessment initiatives put in place by our suppliers.

- It is important for Carrefour to raise employees' awareness of the importance of good animal welfare practices. In 2020, training materials all about animal welfare were distributed in France, as well as throughout the Group's integrated countries.



Our animal welfare policy is also assessed by the BBFAW (Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare), a tool for gauging how well world food leaders comply with animal welfare standards. Each year, the BBFAW publishes a report<sup>4</sup> ranking companies according to 6 levels. In 2020, Carrefour was awarded a level 3 in recognition of its performance.



<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bbfaaw.com/media/1942/bbfaaw-report-2020.pdf>

# 5. The ten priority objectives making up our animal welfare policy

## 5.1. Combat antibiotic resistance and ban antibiotic growth promoters and growth hormones

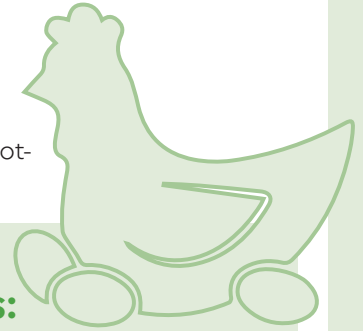
For 30 years, the Group has been working in partnership with its suppliers to create products made from "animals reared without antibiotics" in all of its nine integrated countries.

The Group encourages its product lines to use antibiotics for therapeutic purposes responsibly in order to limit antibiotic resistance, in particular by:

- Prohibiting growth-promoting hormones and antibiotics that deplete animals' physiological capacities and contribute to antibiotic resistance.
- Systematising prevention (rearing study animals, limiting densities, etc.) and vaccines and autovaccines.
- Using alternative medicines (herbal medicine, aromatherapy, etc.).
- Prohibiting the use of human – or next-generation – antibiotics and using antibiotic targeting.
- Introducing product lines featuring animals reared "without antibiotics".

Carrefour is supporting its commercial partners in all integrated countries in implementing pilot projects in order to sell an increasingly complete range of

products made from "animals reared without antibiotics" by 2025.



### Our progress:



For example, in **France**, Carrefour has developed chicken (outdoor and indoor), guinea fowl, salmon, shrimp, pork, veal, laying hen and quail products "reared without antibiotics" over all or part of the breeding period.



In **Brazil** and **Poland**, Carrefour already sells Carrefour Quality Line chickens reared without antibiotics. From February 2022, Carrefour Italy will also stop using antibiotics for Carrefour Quality Line chicken.

## 5.2. Ban cloning and genetically modified animals and seek biological diversity

Carrefour supports the EU's current regulations, which *de facto* exclude genetically modified clones and animals from its supply lines. The Group pays particular attention to the choice of appropriate breeds/strains in terms of growth rates, resistance and origin, and encourages other integrated countries to comply with these regulations.

### Our progress:



In **Brazil**, none of the Carrefour Quality Lines brand suppliers use clones or descendants of clones on their farms.

## 5.3. Transform cage rearing and keep animal confinement to a minimum

Carrefour has launched a global transformation project, working alongside its suppliers, to ensure that all of its Carrefour brand eggs are sourced from alternative cage-free farms. This commitment is already effective in Italy, Belgium and France. It will then take effect in 2025 for Brazil, Argentina, Taiwan, Poland, Spain and Romania. It will then be extended to all eggs sold in shops – all own and national brands – and to transformed products across the G6.

At the end of 2021, Carrefour France also committed to phasing out the purchase of quail eggs from farms that use cage-rearing methods for its Carrefour brand.

### Our goals:

- 100% of eggs in their shells sold for controlled products and national brand products are to be laid by non-cage-reared hens by 2025 (or 2028 depending on the country)
- Egg ingredients: 100% of eggs used as ingredients in Carrefour brand products to be from non-cage-reared hens by 2025

### Our progress:



Carrefour **Taiwan** received a **Golden Egg Trophy**, awarded by NGO **CIWF** (Compassion In World Farming) in recognition of its commitments to rearing animals outside cages. The retailer has pledged to switch to eggs exclusively from hens reared outside of cages for its own brand and national brands by 2025. This will apply to eggs used in ingredients for Carrefour own-brand transformed products by 2028.

CIWF is an NGO that promotes farming practices that give consideration to animal welfare. It strives to find alternatives to industrial livestock rearing methods. Several Carrefour Group countries (France, Belgium, Poland, Taiwan) are working with CIWF to monitor their animal welfare progress plans.

Since 2007, Golden Eggs have been awarded to companies and public organisations which use (or for companies only, which commit to using within five years) eggs or egg products laid by hens reared outside cages<sup>5</sup>.

Performance indicators in France	2019	2020	2021	Change (2020/2021)	Target
<b>Eggs in shells</b> - Share of turnover generated by controlled products laid by hens reared using non-cage farming methods (as a percentage)	39.4%	71.1%	77%	5.9 pts	100% by 2025 (2028 depending on country)
<b>Eggs in shells</b> – Share of turnover generated by national brand products laid by hens reared using non-cage farming methods (as a percentage)	-	76.8%	77.5%	0.7 pt	100% by 2025 (2028 depending on country)
<b>Eggs as ingredients</b> – Share of Carrefour brand products containing eggs laid by hens reared using non-cage farming methods as ingredients	-	New	51.2%	-	100% by 2025

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.agrociwf.fr/trophees/les-%C5%93ufs-dor/>

## Our goals:

- Cage-reared animals no longer to be sold for Carrefour-brand products by 2025 (rabbits and quails)

## Our progress:

In France, quail eggs marketed under the Carrefour brand are made by uncaged birds that are reared in aviaries, so that they are able to behave as they would in the wild. Rabbits reared in cages (Carrefour brand) will no longer be sold from the end of 2023 onwards.

## 5.4. Keep stress to a minimum during transportation and slaughter

Carrefour's animal welfare policy stipulates that the animals must be slaughtered after short a transport time as possible (under eight hours in countries where this is possible), and under satisfactory conditions (density, temperature, transfer methods, etc.).

Best available techniques and technologies should be used to reduce stress and avoid pain during transport and slaughter.

Stunning and control prior to slaughter ensure a painless death – such techniques must be applied to the majority of our own-brand supplies.


Conducting audits of the Group's partner slaughterhouses implementing video surveillance are key objectives for the coming years.


## Our goals:


- 100% of slaughterhouses delivering raw products controlled by Carrefour are to be audited on animal welfare by 2025

## Our progress:

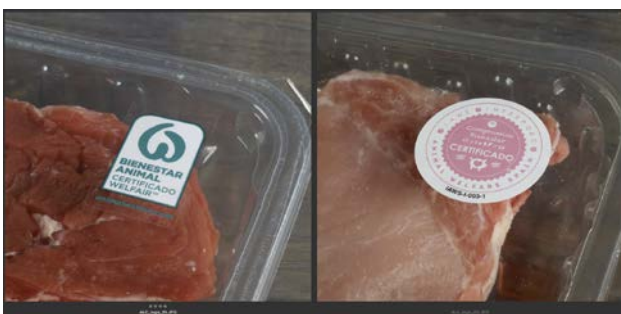
### Audits:

 **France:** To ensure animal protection at the slaughterhouse and good transport conditions, audits are carried out periodically for all animal species (once or three times a year, depending on the case) by independent qualified auditors. Carrefour uses methodology co-developed with the OABA (an organisation founded to ensure animal welfare on farms) or equivalent approaches such as the approach developed by the AEBEA (animal welfare label association) for chickens, or the INTERBEV analysis (national confederation of livestock breeders) for cattle.

 **Argentina:** 100% of Carrefour brand beef slaughterhouses are audited and assessed on the basis of animal welfare criteria by independent auditors.

 **Spain:** On 1 January 2022, Carrefour Spain introduced an animal welfare certification system for all fresh meat of national origin sold under Carrefour brands. Two certificates are featured on the packaging:

- the Welfair certificate for chickens, turkeys, quails, oxen, rabbits and lambs
- the "Compromiso bienestar animal" certificate for pork





All suppliers of fresh meat under the Carrefour Spain brand are audited every three years at each stage of the supply chain (breeding, transport, slaughter) by independent qualified auditors.

### Video control in slaughterhouses:

- France: All slaughterhouses have been asked by Carrefour to integrate video monitoring at sensitive stages of the process. Having such a system in place is now vital before a new slaughterhouse can be listed.
- Spain: Carrefour becomes the first retailer in Spain to ask all of its suppliers to fit cameras in their slaughterhouses.

### Stunning before slaughter:

- Meat sold under the Carrefour Quality Line, Re-flets de France and Carrefour Bio brands is obtained from animals that are systematically stunned before being slaughtered.
- By the end of 2025, compulsory stunning will be imposed on all industrial consumer sales units of Carrefour-branded raw products, irrespective of animal species.
- Eventually, all Carrefour brand chicken suppliers in France, Belgium and Poland will switch to gas stunning.
- For the Carrefour Halal brand, reversible stunning or pain relief methods are used for chickens, rabbits, turkeys and beef.

### Transport to slaughter sites:

- In France, Carrefour Quality Line specifications also include obligations ensuring respect for animal welfare during transport to the slaughter sites. Since 100% of this meat is of French origin, the majority of animals have transport times to the slaughterhouse of less than eight hours.
- Belgium: Carrefour Quality Line chickens and pigs have slaughterhouse transport times of under two hours.

Performance indicators	2019	2020	2021	Change (2020/2021)	Target
Slaughter – Share of Carrefour's slaughterhouse suppliers audited in accordance with animal welfare standards	-	New	46%	-	100% by 2025
Share of Carrefour's slaughterhouse suppliers in France audited in accordance with animal welfare standards (as a total percentage since 2019)	-	87%	93%	6 pts	-
Number of slaughterhouses supplying Carrefour in France	-	84	93	10.7%	-

## 5.5. Limit controversial practices and systematically optimise pain management

Carrefour undertakes to work with its partners on finding a technically and economically acceptable alternative to the practice of mutilation, in particular: castration, dehorning, caudectomy and beak trimming. If these practices are maintained, pain

management should be complete (anesthesia or analgesia). For pig breeding, Carrefour also encourages its suppliers to test different alternatives to surgical castration, such as breeding uncastrated males or using immuno-castration.

## Our progress:



**France:** Since December 2020, Carrefour has been using a spectrophotometric technique (based on colour analysis) for in-ovo selection of laying hens used to produce Carrefour Quality Line eggs. This is in partnership with Loué, and is a first in France. Thanks to this non-invasive technology, laying hens can be selected before they hatch, thus avoiding the need to kill male chicks once they are born. As soon as a concerted solution that can be industrialised has been identified, Carrefour will commit to rolling out in-ovo sexing to all eggs sold under the Carrefour brand.



Amélie Legrand, Head of Agri-Food Affairs at CIWF France says: "CIWF welcomes this innovative initiative by Carrefour and its partner Loué that involves testing and in-ovo sexing so there is no need to kill male chicks once they have hatched. We will continue to monitor these trials with great interest and will share any recommendations we may have on any progress points identified"<sup>6</sup>.



**Italy:** The Carrefour group wants to be a driving force in promoting good breeding practices. For example, Carrefour Italy has worked with CIWF (Compassion in World Farming) on producing an animal welfare charter for Carrefour Quality Line pork, certified by the third-party organisation KIWA, which involves the systematic use of anaesthesia during castration. A ban on tail docking and grinding of teeth.



**Brazil:** Carrefour Brazil has pledged that all of its own-brand products will come from pig farms that do not perform live castration on male piglets by 2025.



**Argentina, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Poland:** beak trimming is not practised on Carrefour Quality Line laying hens.



**France:** Regarding the castration of piglets, the percentage of uncastrated pigs was 34% in France and 35% across the whole Carrefour group (figures for 2020).

## 5.6. Request proper nutrition

Animals must have access to fresh, clean water. They must have easy access to healthy food, that is appropriate for their species, age and nutritional requirements. Their diet must be good for their health and should keep them in vigorous condition.

These are all among the minimum requirements for products sold under the Carrefour Quality Line brand, and are thus audited in all of the countries in which the Group operates.



The ten priority objectives making up our animal welfare policy

## 5.7. Require health monitoring

Farms must be regularly monitored by a veterinarian and/or by inspectors. Any animal that appears ill or injured must receive treatment immediately, in accordance with the regulations in force governing the use of medicines. Animal euthanasia must be conducted in accordance with specific protocols to reduce irreversible suffering. Euthanasia of healthy animals is prohibited.

These requirements will gradually be integrated into the specifications for Carrefour Quality Line products and will thus be audited in all of the countries in which the Group operates.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.agrociwf.fr/actualites/2020/02/carrefour-et-loue-testent-le-sexage-in-ovo-en-vue-de-mettre-fin-a-lelimination-des-poussins-m%C3%A2les>

## 5.8. Ban animal testing (cosmetics, drugs and cleaning products)

In Europe, as required by the regulations in force, Carrefour does not accept any cosmetic finished products that have been tested on animals. The Group wishes to extend this practice to all its integrated countries for cosmetics, maintenance and drug products, as far as possible.

### Our progress:



**Brazil:** Cosmetics and cleaning products sold under the Carrefour brand are not tested on animals.



**Argentina:** By 2022, Carrefour Argentina will analyse the animal welfare practices of its suppliers to ensure they meet this objective. A number of vegan products sold under the Carrefour brand will be developed – such as solid shampoos and conditioners, black soap and toothpaste.

## 5.9. Ban materials of animal origin not derived from livestock whose primary purpose is to produce food

For all own-brand products sold in the Group's countries, Carrefour only purchases products the leather, feathers and wool of which are a byproduct of the food industry. For example:

- Carrefour brand clothing does not use animal fur (the quality department may allow certain exceptions if the animal fur is from animals that are reared and consumed in the country in which they are sold) or wool from Angora rabbits.

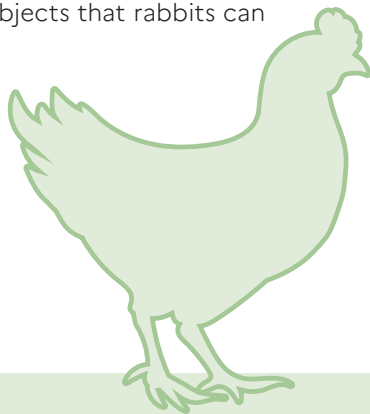
- The Group prohibits the collection of feathers and down from live animals
- All the cashmere used in TEX-branded products is from a traceable quality line which guarantees animal welfare

Thus, Carrefour does not sell zebra, kangaroo or crocodile meat for use in any of brands (Carrefour brands and national brands) in any of the Group's integrated countries.



## 5.10. Improve comfort through the living environment

Carrefour encourages its supply lines to create living environments for outdoor or open-air access. The Group also encourages its partners to install fixtures that will allow animals to behave in a natural manner within enhanced living environments (such as natural light sources, perches for chickens, materials that can be manipulated for pigs, outdoor access courses or winter gardens, objects that rabbits can chew, etc.).



### Our goals:

50% of Carrefour brand chicken sales are to guarantee compliance with improved animal welfare criteria by 2026, namely;

- Density less than or equal to 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Access to natural light (minimum 50 lm)
- Access to perches (minimum 2m of perches per 1000 chickens)
- Intermediate or slow growing strains (validated by the Better Chicken Commitment)

### Our progress:

#### Better Chicken Commitment (BCC):



**France:** Carrefour France bolstered its specifications by joining the Better Chicken Commitment in February 2020. The group has thus pledged to meet all criteria<sup>10</sup> by 2026 for all of its retailer brands sold in France – and that also includes low-price chicken.



**Poland:** In May 2021, Carrefour Poland became the first Polish retailer to join the European Chicken Commitment, extending the scope of Carrefour's February 2020 commitment in France. By 2026, all own-brand products (fresh, frozen and products containing more than 50% chicken) will meet all the European Chicken Commitment criteria.



**Belgium:** By 2026, 100% of the fresh and frozen chicken sold by Carrefour Belgium will meet the Better Chicken Commitment animal welfare criteria.

#### Commitment to the AEBEA:

In France, as part of our commitment to the AEBEA, all our chickens sold under Carrefour brands are gradually getting more comfortable environments: perches and pecking supports are being added, while density is being decreased and more natural light is being used.

**ChickenTrack** is designed to encourage companies that have signed up to the Better Chicken Commitment to report clearly and transparently on the progress they are making with their supply lines.



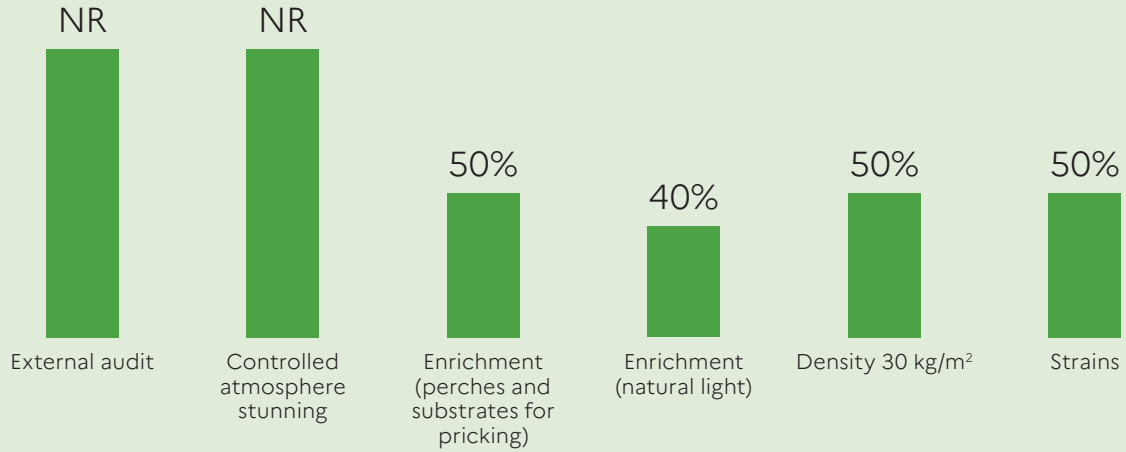
In its 2021 European report<sup>11</sup>, Carrefour France is listed as the French brand that has made the most progress as far as meeting the Better Chicken Commitment criteria is concerned.

<sup>7</sup> <https://betterchickencommitment.com/en/policy/>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.ciwf.org.uk/media/7448202/ciwf-rapport-europeen-chickentrack-2021.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*195m9zt\\*\\_ga\\*MTQ0ND-A00TMyNi4xNjM4ODMwMMDU1\\*\\_ga\\_QHTMX95D1M\\*MTYzOTAwMjM2NC4yLjEuMTYzOTAwMzQwNC4w](https://www.ciwf.org.uk/media/7448202/ciwf-rapport-europeen-chickentrack-2021.pdf?_gl=1*195m9zt*_ga*MTQ0ND-A00TMyNi4xNjM4ODMwMMDU1*_ga_QHTMX95D1M*MTYzOTAwMjM2NC4yLjEuMTYzOTAwMzQwNC4w)

## REPORTING BY VOLUME MEETING ALL BCC CRITERIA (2021 CHICKEN TRACK REPORT)

(percentage of volumes meeting each criterion)  
Carrefour France



\* NR: no reporting on this criterion

**Note:** Despite the lack of reporting for this criterion in the ChickenTrack, all farms in France that meet the BCC criteria are audited by qualified independent auditors, as part of the animal welfare labelling initiative.

### Our goals:

BIO & Carrefour Quality Line pork products are to provide improved animal welfare guarantees by 2025, namely:

- Reduced sow containment time
- Access to natural light
- Enrichment of the environment (with manipulable materials that meet animal needs)
- Reduced density
- No more live castration (zero castration is preferred, otherwise effective pain management)

### Our progress:



In collaboration with World Animal Protection, Carrefour **Brazil** has created a differentiated production chain that is more respectful of animals for three-quarters of the pork sold in its stores. So by December 2022, 100% of sows will transition to group pregnancy, meaning no more than 28 days spent in a cage, and using ear notches to identify pigs will be banned. Immuno-castration will replace surgical castration by December 2025.

## Our goals:

- Each country is to implement a system informing consumers about farming methods used, Carrefour brands to do this by 2025.

## Our progress:



France:

At the beginning of 2020, Carrefour announced that it had joined the AEBEA to provide consumers with clear and systematic information about livestock rearing methods and animal welfare. This applies to its whole range of own-brand fresh chicken. This means that all chickens sold under Carrefour brands are gradually getting more comfortable environments: perches and pecking supports are being added, while density is being decreased and more natural light is being used. Independent external audits are also carried out to ensure that the labeling criteria are met.

Starting from 2020, the first labelled products were free-range Carrefour Quality Line Auvergne farmhouse chicken with the score of A (superior).

At the end of 2020, chicken coop-reared Carrefour chickens were labeled with a level C (quite good). Thanks to this transformation, 10 million chickens per year will get to enjoy living conditions that represent a significant improvement in animal welfare.



Finally, farmhouse chicken sold under the Carrefour Bio and Re-Flots de France brands will be required to reach level A by the end of 2022.



Animal welfare labelling<sup>12</sup> is managed by the AEBEA, which was created in 2017 when several NGOs (CIWF, LFDA, OABA) grouped together with the Casino Group. The aim of the initiative is to create a system so that consumers know what living conditions the animal from which the products in store are derived enjoyed during its lifetime, from birth through to slaughter, as well as breeding and transport. The ultimate aim is to develop a standardised labelling system for information about animal welfare and protection – to be implemented nationally in the medium term and at European level in the longer term.

### 5 levels of assessment have been established:

- 3 levels (A, B and C) for showcasing initiatives demonstrating a significant improvement in animal welfare
- 2 levels (D and E) so that stakeholders can gradually be part of the initiative



<sup>9</sup> <http://www.etiquettebienetreanimal.fr/>

## 6. Joint initiatives and partnerships

### France:

- Carrefour has the slaughterhouses supplying its brands audited in accordance with the animal protection standards established by the specialist association, Œuvre d'assistance aux bêtes d'abattoirs (OABA). To implement this project, Carrefour has signed an agreement with the OABA.
- Carrefour has joined the LIT Ouesterel ("Ouest territoires d'élevage" regional innovation laboratory). The association brings together more than forty players in the agricultural and agri-food sectors: research, teaching, chambers of agriculture, cooperatives and industrialists, distributors, animal protection associations such as Welfarm, LFDA and OABA. LIT Ouesterel is supported by the regions of Brittany, Normandy and Pays de la Loire, and its work is spearheaded by the Institut national de la recherche agronomique (national institute of agronomic research), along with other specialised institutes.

Within the framework of joint initiatives with Carrefour, co-development and innovation workshops on animal welfare can be organised, so that livestock farming and the needs of society can be reconciled.

- Carrefour also joined the AEBEA in 2020 so as to provide consumers with labelling about livestock rearing methods and animal welfare. This applies to its whole range of own-brand fresh chicken.
- Finally, Carrefour is working with the Welfarm, CIWF and OABA associations on defining and monitoring policies and progress plans.

### Other countries:

- In Brazil, Carrefour works with World Animal Protection.
- In Romania, Italy and Poland, Carrefour works with CIWF.
- In Taiwan, Carrefour works with NGOs CIWF and EAST.
- In Spain, Carrefour has worked with the NGO Equalia on setting up cameras in slaughterhouses.



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