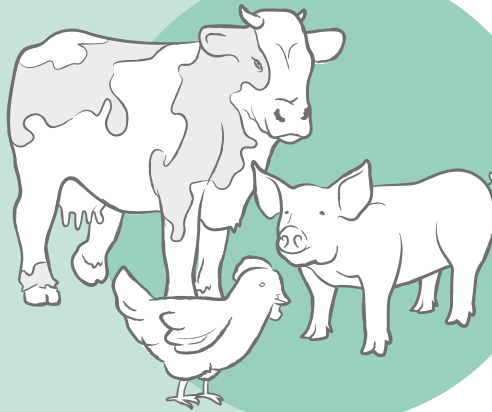
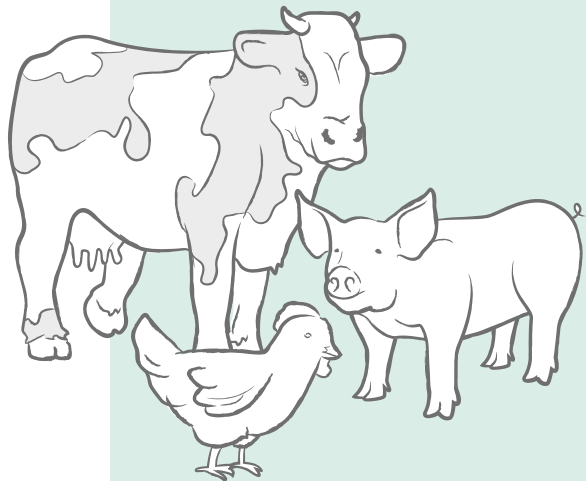


GUIDELINE FOR

Animal Welfare



This guideline presents a binding framework that shows direct and indirect business partners, stakeholders and customers of REWE Group the different requirements the company places on a more sustainable production of products of animal origin.



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I. UNDERSTANDING AND SCOPE

As a leading international trading and tourism company, REWE Group is aware of its special role as an intermediary between manufacturers, service providers and consumers. The production of label products by the REWE Group has an impact on people, animals and the environment. REWE Group's customers expect and should be able to trust that REWE Group, as a trading company, is aware of its responsibility in the products' supply chains and addresses its effects. In its [Guideline for Sustainable Business Practices](#), REWE Group acknowledges its environmental and social responsibility. The values described therein are the foundation for the company's corporate actions.

For REWE Group as a food retailer, produce from livestock farming are of central importance: eggs, milk and meat are not only offered directly as fresh food, they are also used as ingredients or raw material for processed food, convenience products and products beyond the food sector. Animal products constitute an essential part of agricultural production. Aspects such as growing demands on agricultural production as well as higher consumer expectations have become increasingly important.

This guideline presents a binding framework for business partners and stakeholders of REWE Group and defines the demands the company places on a more sustainable production of products of animal origin.

The scope of this guideline covers all private labels products in the fresh meat sector as well as dairy products, eggs, fish and textiles that are sold in Germany by REWE and PENNY. Based on the systematic sustainability commitment described in this guideline, the [PRO PLANET](#) label can be awarded to corresponding products.

In addition to animal welfare, REWE Group is committed to a fair design of the entire supply chain. For this purpose, the company has published the [Guideline on Fairness](#), in which requirements, objectives and measures are presented.

II. MANAGEMENT APPROACH OF REWE GROUP

Through a clear commitment and appropriate measures, REWE Group aims to actively contribute to an improvement of livestock farming.

Sustainability is firmly anchored in REWE Group's corporate strategy. For REWE Group, this means: Promoting more sustainable product ranges and ensuring fair treatment of partners and suppliers, acting in an environmentally and climate-conscious manner, assuming responsibility for its employees and taking responsibility for contributing to a sustainable society.

Within the sustainability strategy of REWE Group, the "Green Products" pillar reunites all activities aimed at bringing sustainability to the purchasing and production processes and thus expand the range of sustainable products. REWE Group's customers expect and should be able to trust that REWE Group, as a trading company, is aware of its responsibility in the supply chain of its private labels and addresses its effects. Within the activities under the "Green Products" pillar, REWE Group would like to fulfil these expectations and has developed a strategy with which the impacts can be identified and evaluated in order to take effective countermeasures.

The strategy is implemented through a comprehensive management approach that also defines the principles and instruments for carrying out the measures. All levels of the management approach are oriented towards three defined fields of action:

- Environment
- People
- Animals

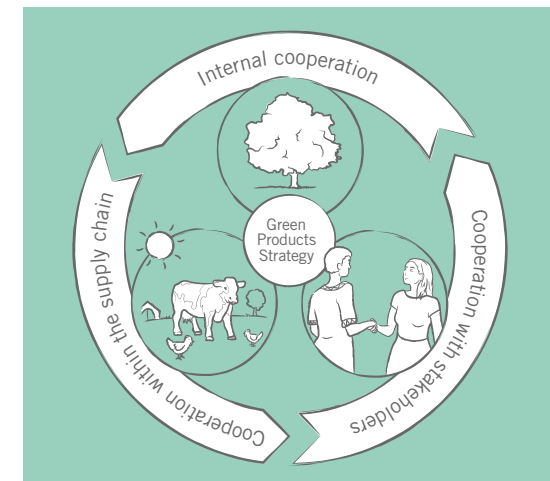


Figure 1: Management approach and fields of action of the "Green products" pillar

These fields of action are dealt with on three levels, which form the management approach:

2.1 Internal management

The aim is to further integrate sustainable procurement into REWE Group's purchasing processes in order to take sustainability aspects into account in every purchasing decision. The company then lays the foundation for concrete activities through strategic and organisational projects. REWE Group contributes, for example, to internal awareness by providing risk analyses and briefings, coordinating binding targets with the purchasing departments providing training on sustainability topics. Internal reporting enables the continuous further development within the individual sustainability topics. External communication creates transparency vis-à-vis stakeholders.

2.2 Supply chain management

Risks in the supply chain are allocated to the three areas environment, people and animals. REWE Group addresses the sustainability risks that arise with regard to these fields of action in the supply chain in a targeted manner through systematic supply chain management which is characterised by close cooperation with suppliers and commitment at the production site and raw material production level. As a first step, REWE Group's supply management increases, where required, transparency along the supply chain for the private label products. This allows risks to be identified and avoided more easily or addressed directly. Moreover, we promote the integration of sustainability as part of supplier evaluation and create concrete rules to implement sustainability throughout the supply chain by raising awareness and obliging contractual partners. As far as this is laid down in the specifications, these rules are also an integral part of the supplier contracts and are checked by REWE Group's Sustainability Department in the purchasing process.

However, REWE Group relies on individual measures and sustainability projects for supplier development. For example, training programmes aim to reduce effects along the supply chain in a targeted manner. Existing systems are used in audits and, above all, in training courses to combine our efforts with those of our partners and to achieve improvements together.

2.3 Stakeholder Management

The challenges for dealing with sustainability risks in the production of private label products are often rooted in global trading structures and influenced by political and social conditions. Good stakeholder management is therefore an important starting point for identifying the relevant topics and implementing the sustainability strategy. REWE Group engages in a continuous exchange with stakeholders such as the Sustainability Advisory Board. REWE Group also organises regular dialogue events. Other important elements include participation in external events, multi-stakeholder forums, industry initiatives, partnerships, commitment to the further development of sustainability standards and monitoring relevant developments at political, regulatory and scientific level.

REWE Group works with various non-governmental organisations to ensure and further develop animal welfare standards. These organisations include ProVieh, the Albert Schweitzer Foundation and the animal welfare organisation VIER PFOTEN (FOUR PAWS).

III. COOPERATION WITH INITIATIVES AND STANDARDS

In the livestock sector, REWE Group is involved in national and international initiatives and cooperates with various standards, which are briefly presented below:

“Für Mehr Tierschutz”: The animal welfare label “Für Mehr Tierschutz” (for more animal welfare) of the German Animal Welfare Association labels products of animal origin whose production complies with high animal welfare standards. These standards have been established to meet the needs and demands of animals in agriculture on their housing environment and go far beyond existing legal requirements. The label comprises the two requirement levels basic and premium. Both levels are based on binding requirements considering husbandry, transport and slaughter. The animal welfare label marks, among others, pasture-grazed milk and fresh milk sold by REWE Group.

EU organic logo: The logo identifies products from organic agriculture that have been produced in accordance with the guidelines of the EU Eco-Regulation. In organic farming, animal husbandry is characterised not only by improved environmental protection, but also by the fact that animals are provided with more opportunities for a natural behaviour, starting with the inspection of feed and extending to the inspection of farms.

Animal Welfare Initiative: As a founding member of the Animal Welfare Initiative, REWE Group is committed to increasing animal welfare standards throughout the industry. The alliance of representatives from agriculture, the meat industry and the food trade pursues the goal of a more animal-friendly meat production. The participating companies in the German food retail sector finance the additional expenses for animal welfare measures that go beyond statutory provisions. REWE Group considers itself responsible for the continuous further development of this standard.

Naturland: The organic cultivation association Naturland is committed to the holistic principles of a sustainable cultivation: ecological, future-oriented and fair. These principles are focussed on the protection of the natural basis of life, biodiversity and the climate as well as animal welfare. It defines strict guidelines for the cultivation of organic food for its members. These guidelines go beyond the legal requirements of the EU-Eco-regulation. Since 2009, the REWE sales line has been engaged in a close partnership with Naturland. Therefore, many REWE Bio products fulfil stricter requirements than stipulated in the EU-Eco-regulation; in the fresh meat area of REWE Bio, only Naturland goods are offered.

PRO WEIDELAND Deutsche Weidecharta GmbH and Stichting Weidegang: In Germany, the label “PRO WEIDELAND” is awarded based on five criteria relating to grazing, food supply, animal protection, natural resources and GMO-free feeding. In order to ensure the significance of the label, inspections are carried out by certified external companies. In the Netherlands, the Initiative Stichting Weidegang awards the equivalent label “WEIDEMELK”. REWE Group uses both labels to mark its private label products and aims to have all pasture-grazed milk products certified by these external standard-setting bodies in the future.

PRO PLANET Label: With the PRO PLANET label, REWE Group has developed a reliable guidance for consumers. The label is used to mark meat, dairy products and eggs, among others. As part of the PRO PLANET label awarding process, REWE Group aims to analyse and systematically reduce problems in the value chain. A clearly regulated awarding process, accompanied by an independent Sustainability Advisory Board, ensures that the PRO PLANET label stands for effective improvements. Thus, the label enables a conscious purchase decision based on comprehensive information and helps to promote more sustainable consumption across the board.

Qualität und Sicherheit GmbH (QA): The quality assurance system by QA covers all production and trade levels of meat and meat products. Quality assurance starts with the control of animal feed and is continued in the livestock farms. Production and trade stages are also subject to inspections up to the counters of the grocery stores. For those areas that are controlled by the system (beef, pork, turkey and chicken), REWE Group only sells meat and meat products with a corresponding QA certification.

Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e. V. (VLOG): REWE Group supports the label “Ohne Gentechnik” (GMO-free) by VLOG (association for food without genetic engineering) for food that is produced without the use of genetic engineering. For further information on REWE Group’s policy on soy, see [Guideline for Soy in Animal Feed](#).

In general, we reject the use of genetically modified livestock and its breeding.

Verein für kontrollierte alternative Tierhaltungsformen e. V. (KAT): The goal of KAT (association for controlled alternative forms of animal husbandry) is to ensure the traceability and proof of origin of barn and free-range eggs and from organic farming. In Germany, the private labels of REWE Group’s sales lines REWE and PENNY only offer barn and free-range eggs that meet the requirements of KAT. To this end, it can be ensured that REWE and PENNY only sell eggs from animals without debeaking. In addition, the trading group is involved in working groups on the rearing of male chicks and on the housing of pullets. We are committed to gradually reducing the stocking density of pullets to 18 animals / sqm by mid-2024.

Labelling of husbandry conditions

The four-stage labelling of animal husbandry methods for REWE Group’s fresh private label products is meanwhile used by the entire industry and serves to clearly indicate the husbandry conditions. The four levels for pigs, chickens, turkeys, young bulls / oxen, heifers, veal calves and beef cows are:



This husbandry method meets the legal requirements or complies with the QA or an equivalent standard.



This husbandry method provides more space for the animals and exposure to the outdoor climate.



The husbandry conditions meet higher animal welfare standards, e.g. at least 10 per cent more space indoors and provision of manipulable material.



The animals have even more space and must have free-range access. Organic meat is classified in this level.

For further information see: www.haltungsform.de

In the long term, REWE Group aims to ensure that all private label fresh meat products originating from beef, pork and poultry are classified at least in level 2 of the labelling of animal husbandry methods, and to double the existing proportion of products classified in level 3 and 4*.

*as far as economically sensible and feasible in regulatory terms

REWE Group also supports the introduction of a cross-sectoral mandatory state-owned animal welfare label.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY OF REWE GROUP

Livestock farming must continue to offer prospects for agriculture in rural areas. This is the only way to preserve cultural landscapes and living spaces that, in addition to their function as places for food production, are of high importance for society, for example as leisure and recreational areas. In livestock farming, the different requirements for animal welfare, environmental and climate protection, resource efficiency, food safety and profitability must be considered equally in order to achieve a more sustainable production of animal products.

In Germany and in all other relevant countries that are potential suppliers for raw materials of animal origin for REWE Group, there are framework conditions to regulate the methods of livestock husbandry. REWE Group only accepts partners in their supply chains that fully meet the relevant national applicable legal requirements.

REWE Group strives to achieve that:

- breeding methods meet the demands of livestock in terms of “animal welfare”. This requires that special emphasis is placed on the holistic view of the breeding goals in consideration of the biology and the ethology of the respective species;
- husbandry and management systems of farm animals from birth to slaughter are adapted as best as possible to the needs of the animals and the (behavioural) physiological requirements of the respective species;
- improved animal health and hygiene standards help to minimise the use of medicines while increasing animal welfare;
- no painful interventions are carried out on animals, as an indicator that the husbandry and management systems have been adapted to the animal welfare-related requirements;
- livestock farming as an expression of sustainability in practice and a functioning circular economy (animal husbandry, feeding, farm management) will become more area-based in the future. As a result of the broader distribution of livestock farming in rural areas (instead of concentrating on a few, intensive livestock farming regions), the negative nutrient balances and their negative impact on the environment due to the disproportionate introduction of organic residues into the soil can be reduced;

- livestock husbandry guarantees a species-appropriate feeding on a broad basis of regional supply. In addition to adapting the form and composition of the feed to the nutritional and physiological peculiarities of the respective animal species and avoiding food competition with humans, this also implies the supply of protein feed from alternative sources instead of genetically modified soy from overseas.

Apart from that, REWE Group follows the widely spread concept of “Five measures and animal protection goals”. Derived from the “Five Freedoms” which were developed and formalised by the UK Farm Animal Welfare Committee, it corresponds to the current state of science and provides for extensions in accordance with new scientific findings:

Measures	Animal Protection Goals
Positive mental experiences: Provide safe, suitable and species-appropriate opportunities for positive experiences	Promote various forms of well-being, comfort, interest, self-confidence and the sense of control
Good ambient conditions: Provide shade/shelter or appropriate housing, good air quality and comfortable resting zones	Reduce discomfort and distress to a minimum and promote the thermal, physical and other well-being
Good health: Prevent or quickly diagnose and treat diseases and injuries and promote a good muscle tone, posture and cardiorespiratory function	Reduce short breath, nausea, pain and other aversive experiences to a minimum and promote well-being through physical fitness, vitality, strength and well-coordinated physical activities
Good nutrition: Provide easy access to fresh water and a diet designed to maintain full health and vitality	Reduce thirst and hunger to a minimum and design the feeding procedure as a positive experience
Appropriate behaviour: Provide sufficient space, proper facilities, company of the animals' own kind and appropriately varying husbandry conditions	Reduce threats and unpleasant behavioural restrictions to a minimum and encourage participation in beneficial activities

V. FOCUS TOPICS

REWE Group has defined three cross-species focus topics that are relevant to its own business. The central part is a holistic view of the individual focus topics and the management.

5.1 Husbandry Conditions

Appropriate and animal-friendly husbandry systems for healthy and vital animals

The husbandry environment and conditions are decisive for the well-being of farm animals. REWE Group is committed to adapting the husbandry and management systems of farm animals as best as possible to the animals' needs from birth to slaughter and to meet the behavioural physiological demands of each species.

5.2 Animal Integrity

No painful interventions on animals

In livestock farming, the animals are often adapted to the system conditions: In order to prevent animals from injuring themselves and each other, interventions are often carried out on the animal. REWE Group works to refrain from these painful procedures in the long term to ensure the integrity of the animals.

5.3 Breeding Methods and Breed

Breeding methods for more animal welfare

In order to produce the greatest possible amount of meat, milk and eggs, breeding is continuously being optimised - often at the expense of farm animals. REWE Group works on long-term approaches to breeding methods and breeds that are targeted to better animal welfare and thus to improve the overall situation.

Based on these focus topics, REWE Group has developed a large number of measures and objectives:

We are committed to
**species-
appropriate and
animal-friendly**
husbandry systems.

VI. MEASURES AND OBJECTIVES

As a food retailer, REWE Group takes its responsibility for more animal welfare very seriously. Together with the relevant business partners, the associated agricultural holdings and other stakeholders, REWE Group pursues and controls the goals of this guideline and continues to further develop its measures.

REWE Group supports cross-industry animal welfare standards and certification systems. In committees, the group works on the constant improvement of existing standards with regard to animal health, natural behaviour, species-appropriate husbandry conditions and the integrity of the animal (see p. 12).

REWE Group pursues various approaches to minimise problem areas for different types of farm animals and continuously tries to develop and support alternatives for important hotspots or problems with regard to animal welfare for the respective livestock species. Defined goals provide information about what REWE Group wants to achieve in the area of animal welfare for each farm.

We support cross-industry
**animal welfare
standards
and
certification
systems.**

6.1 Poultry

Broiler

Broiler chicks hatch in conventional incubators with several thousand eggs within a so-called hatching window - this can take up to 36 hours.

The incubator is not opened before all chicks have hatched. Until then, the animals often have no access to food, water or light. Due to dehydration, early hatching chicks lose up to ten per cent of their body weight. Additional stress is caused within the traditional sorting locks and counting devices, where the chicks are automatically freed from egg shells and transferred to the transport boxes. In order to counter this problem, REWE Group is the first food retailer in Germany to use early feeding: The newly hatched chicks automatically slide to the lower floor in two-tier brooders. There they have sufficient light, air and space to move freely and to drink water access feed immediately after hatching. The early care,



optimal climate control and sufficient space and light help prevent developmental disorders - all chicks get a smoother and more vital start to life. Loss rates can thus be significantly reduced.

In addition, there are permissible stocking densities for the keeping of broiler chickens - however, the high stocking densities leave little room for the animals to exhibit their natural behaviour without restrictions. This may result in behavioural disorders and diseases. REWE Group's private label range of fresh chicken in the self-service area meets the requirements of the Animal Welfare Initiative, which among other things offers the chickens more space.

Electric stunning is used to ensure that the animal loses consciousness and thus no longer perceive pain. However, if the anaesthetic device is not optimally set, the chickens sometimes experience a painful surge of electricity and muscle cramps, without losing consciousness.

With CO₂ stunning, on the other hand, a quantity of gas is slowly increased - making it a gentler alternative to electric stunning.

REWE Group's PRO PLANET label marks fresh chicken meat from animals that have been anaesthetised by CO₂.

In addition, REWE Group only sells private label fresh meat from chickens that are fed GMO-free.

Objective: REWE Group has set itself the objective to constantly expand the concept of early feeding.

Layer Hens

In conventional farming of layer hens, male chicks are usually killed immediately after hatching, as they do not lay eggs or put on meat quickly enough. In order to end this chick killing practice, REWE Group uses a new technique: During the so-called endocrinological examination, a laser is used to create a small hole in the shell of the hatching egg, and liquid is sampled which is used to determine the sex of the chick. The male hatching eggs are then sorted out, and the female eggs are returned to the incubator. After 21 days of breeding, virtually only female chicks hatch. The basic research on this technique was carried out by the Leipzig University. In order to put this technique into practice, REWE Group founded the joint venture SELEGGT together with a Dutch technology company.

REWE Group's requirement to only trade eggs from layer hens with untrimmed beaks constitutes a major challenge because it may aggravate the consequences of behavioural problems such as feather pecking and cannibalism. More intensive care and the provision of manipulable materials such as straw bales make it easier for farmers to rear layer hens with uncut beaks. Farmers also receive advice on how to optimise their management. In addition, the brands SPITZ & BUBE (REWE) and HERZ BUBE (PENNY) ensure that the beaks of the layer hens are not shortened, but also that the male chicks are reared as well. PENNY offers barn eggs, REWE also sells free range-eggs and from organic farming. The eggs are offered in all participating stores throughout Germany. Agricultural holdings that rear the male chicks are also visited by external consultants up to two times during the rearing period. This way, it can be ensured that the animals are reared in accordance with REWE Group's own "Bruderhähne" criteria for male chicks. These criteria include, for example, that they receive manipulable material, are fed GMO-free and are fattened at least twice as long as a conventional broiler. The meat of the SPITZ & BUBE hens and their "brothers" in line with the "Bruderhähne" project, the meat of is used for the REWE Beste Wahl Chicken Fricassee.

In 2012, REWE Group decided to no longer use eggs from cage-rearing or from rearing in small groups for the production of processed products.

For the production of our eggs of the brands SPITZ & BUBE (REWE) and HERZ BUBE (PENNY), we refrain from beaking and rear the male chicks as well.

Scientific Cooperation for more Animal Welfare in the Husbandry of Layer Hens

In order to improve the overall situation of layer hens, REWE Group works together with the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences. Experts for layer hens conduct annual visits to agricultural holdings. These serve not only for control purposes, but in particular also for advising farmers on the handling of unbeaked layer hens. Seminars are offered to teach practical skills in order to resolve the causes of behavioural disorders. This also includes the prevention of feather and mutual pecking in unbeaked animals. It is important to identify potential risk factors and take effective countermeasures in a timely manner. In addition to the optimal management for a good handling of pullets and layer hens, the participants also learn how to best promote and maintain the health of their animals. The seminars use the so-called "train the trainer" approach: It promotes independent action, creates awareness of the problem and enables the participants to pass on their knowledge to other employees. The Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences also supports farmers with individual advisory offers directly on their own farm.

Objectives: REWE Group aims to offer 100 per cent of the organic eggs in the REWE sales line from production sites that rear male broilers on the basis of "Bruderhähne" criteria by the end of March 2020. This ensures that no male chicks are killed in the production of REWE organic eggs.

REWE Group has set itself the goal to cease the trade with fresh eggs produced by caged hens in all its foreign subsidiaries by the end of 2025.

Our aim is to offer 100 per cent of our organic eggs from the REWE sales line from farms that meet "Bruderhähne" criteria.

Quail

In Germany, there are no clear legal regulations for rearing of quail eggs. Therefore, there are no minimum requirements regarding the husbandry conditions of the animals. Quails are thus often reared in small cages with wire floors without bedding or free-range area. The REWE and PENNY sales lines only use quail eggs from "free to fly" range systems for their private label range of products. This form of husbandry ensures that the quail have free access to a range that is adapted to their natural habitat, enabling them to peck, scratch, sand bath and fly freely. The feed is GMO-free. In addition, this standard refrains from beaking, unnecessary transport of live animals over more than 50 kilometres, and rears the male chicks.

Turkey

Organic turkey production partially relies on high-performance animals which grow rapidly and show a high percentage of breast meat. This form of breed is associated with malpositioning of the legs, inflammations of the foot pad, and other things. In addition, these high-performance breeds cannot be fattened exclusively with organic feed. A natural fertilisation is no longer possible, and the animals make little use of their free-range access. The husbandry of organic turkey places high demands on the management. Even the smallest mistakes, such as variations in feeding or draught in the stables, can have a negative impact on the health and behaviour of the animals. This can cause a rapid increase of mortality. In order to avoid the rearing of high-performance animals, REWE Group has developed its own alternative organic turkey breed together with its suppliers which is characterised by a special robustness and vitality. This breed grows more slowly than high-performance animals and is adapted to organic feeding. In addition, cocks as well as hens can be reared enabling natural fertilisation. The animals use the free-range access intensively. REWE Group already deploys the alternative turkey breed for its organic fresh meat products to a great extent.

Moreover, the range of private label fresh turkey meat products in the self-service section complies with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Initiative.

Objective: REWE Group pursues to offer the alternative turkey breed in all organic fresh meat products of REWE and PENNY private labels.

Source: https://www.proplanta.de/Agrar-Nachrichten/Tier/Wachteleier-Produzent-soll-gegen-Tierschutzgesetz-verstossen-haben_article1554861481.html
<https://www.ndr.de/fernsehen/sendungen/markt/Wachteleier-Kritik-von-Tierschuetzern,markt12888.html>



Geese and ducks

Force-feeding is a very extreme form of goose farming. Despite the EU recommendation to stop this cruel production method, it is still permitted in France and Hungary. Moreover, the feathers are often plucked from live geese and ducks for use in the textile industry. After that, the animals are processed to meat. REWE Group foregoes the trade with goose and duck meat originating from production sites with live-plucking and force-feeding. Our purchase team goes by the “POSITIVE LIST of geese producers” of the animal welfare organisation VIER PFOTEN (FOUR PAWS). Moreover, REWE Group does not sell foie gras products.

Barbary duck

Barbary ducks, or Muscovy ducks, are usually kept on gridded floors without bedding. This leads to malpositioning of the legs, lesions and inflammations of the foot pad. The animals get water from nipple drinkers, which makes plumage care impossible. In order to farm Muscovy ducks in a very confined space, the upper beaks and claws are often shortened without stunning. When purchasing Barbary duck meat, REWE Group follows the Lower Saxony Barbary Duck Agreement. Based on scientific findings, this agreement defines standards for the farming of Barbary ducks. It stipulates an age-adjusted water supply to ensure proper plumage care as well as bedding and manipulable materials in order to avoid the cruel procedure of debeaking. At the same time, the lack of a health control programme makes it necessary to reduce the stocking density significantly.

6.2 Ruminants

Feeder cattle

In conventional (open box) stables, a fully grown bull has on average 2.7 sqm of space. The low-stimulus environment and the confined space increase the risk of injuries of the animals. The hard floors can also lead to injuries and pressure ulcers. Manure and urine accumulate under the slatted concrete floor so that the animals are exposed to harmful gases such as ammonia. As a consequence, they can suffer from respiratory diseases.

REWE Group offers beef from exclusive feeder cattle programmes such as Château Boeuf. The husbandry criteria of some of these programmes go beyond the typical standards in Germany such as straw in the stable and free-range access of mother cows and their calves to pastures during summer. Some of these programmes even provide the cattle with twice as much space as in conventional German feeder cattle stables.

Milk cows

Tethering, which was common until a few years ago, has recently been criticised because of the animals' low freedom of movement and significant restrictions in the social behaviour of the animals. Especially in Southern Germany, many smaller dairy farms use tethering. However, this concerns only existing stable farms. Apart from that, cattle are often dehorned in order to prevent injuries and reduce the risk of accidents for humans. Calves under the age of six weeks are given a sedative and pain killers only. A local anaesthetic is not required by law. In Germany and other European countries, even pregnant cows are sometimes slaughtered.

REWE Group is currently working on a strategy on the topic of animal welfare in dairy farming. The focus of this strategy are considerations on how to deal with farms that use tethering since this form of husbandry shall be foregone in the medium and long term. At the same time, the regional and socio-economic conditions must be taken into account. Moreover, REWE Group promotes better conditions in dairy farming that significantly exceed the statutory requirements with the help of various certifications and thus contributes to the implementation of higher standards in livestock farming in the long run.

The banning of tethering is ensured by the **animal welfare label of the German Animal Welfare Association** for example. The label also ensures that cattle are not dehorned but that the husbandry concepts are adjusted to the animals instead and it promotes the breeding of hornless breeds.

If animals are dehorned, it is ensured that this is done under local anaesthesia by a vet. The REWE sales line offers pasture-grazed milk and fresh milk with the animal welfare label under the private label REWE Beste Wahl.

In addition to the label of the German Animal Welfare Association, the pasture-grazed milk of the private label REWE Beste Wahl also bears the **PRO WEIDELAND Label**. It ensures the compliance with binding sustainability and animal welfare criteria for the production and sale of pasture-grazed dairy products. The certified pasture-grazed milk comes from cows that spend at least six hours a day on more than 120 days per year on pastures. Apart from the feed from pastures, only GMO-free feed is used. This also benefits the environment: Where pasture grazing is used, pastures are maintained in their characteristic form which constitutes a natural habitat for numerous plants and animals.

Objectives: REWE Group's goal in Germany is to support the ban of the tethering of cattle in the milk production in order to improve the husbandry conditions.

By the end of 2020, 100 per cent of the pasture-grazed milk sold by REWE Group will be certified with the animal welfare label of the German Animal Welfare Association (basic or premium level).

In addition, REWE Group aims at ensuring that, by the end of 2020, 100 per cent of all dairy products made from milk (butter, cheese, yoghurt, drinking milk) are certified according to an independent standard for pasture rearing (PRO WEIDELAND (Germany), WEIDEMELK (Netherlands) or premium level of animal welfare label of the German Animal Welfare Association.



Buffalos

For the production of buffalo mozzarella a cow must give birth to one calf each year. In economic terms, rearing male calves is uninteresting for farmers since the male calves are neither suitable for the production of dairy products nor for fattening. The compliance with statutory requirements for farming male calves must therefore be particularly controlled. REWE Group and its suppliers have agreed on the compliance of the minimum requirements in buffalo farming in accordance with the provisions of the animal welfare organisation FOUR PAWS by contract. These provisions exceed the statutory requirements by stipulating the access to mud baths and water spray systems, for example, and apply not only to private label products, but also to a large extent to industrial label products.

6.3 Pigs

The castration of young male piglets without anaesthesia is still permitted in Germany until the end of 2020. Piglets are often castrated to eliminate the unpleasant boar odour. However, according to latest scientific findings, this leads to strong pain and suffering of the animals. Years ago, REWE Group already formulated the goal for their private labels in Germany of only selling fresh pork meat from pigs not castrated without anaesthesia.

In order to achieve this goal, REWE Group accepts all alternative methods as permitted by legal standards since 2015. These methods include boar fattening without castration, boar fattening with vaccination and castration under general anaesthesia.

The curly tails of the piglets are often shortened in order to prevent the piglets from hurting each other. This procedure is also done without anaesthesia. REWE Group promotes farming without docking off the curly tail and supports projects in order to implement this animal-friendly measure in the long run.

Keeping animals on slatted concrete floors does not stimulate them at all so that they cannot follow their exploratory instincts. This is where REWE Group supports innovative systems such as the Xaletto principle which enable the pigs to root and explore the straw-bedded stable.

We promote farming
without docking
the curly tail.

Objective: REWE Group is pursuing the goal to mark pork meat with the label of the Animal Welfare Initiative to be able to identify it 100 per cent in accordance with the criteria of the Animal Welfare Initiative.

6.4 Rabbits

Rabbits are kept in very small cages for meat production. This massively restricts the animals' freedom of movement and natural behaviour. This form of husbandry leads to serious health conditions and behavioural disorders. REWE Group exclusively sells rabbit meat from barn-reared animals which provides significantly more space and manipulable materials than in cage-rearing. We were able to achieve this goal in cooperation with the animal welfare organisation FOUR PAWS.

6.5 Fish

Traditional fishing methods may take several hours or even days. The landing and release of fish from nets or hooks frequently results in injuries. The animals often suffocate, are gutted, filleted or frozen alive. Unwanted bycatch is usually thrown back into the sea dead or injured. Apart from the protection of stocks, selective fishing methods are important for animal welfare. In pole and line fishing, for example, fish are spared unnecessarily long suffering compared to fishing with large nets.

In aquacultures, animals are often kept at high densities, which can lead to increased stress, greater risk of injury and higher susceptibility to disease and facilitate the spread of parasites. As a preventive measure fish are often given medication. Taking the fish out of the water, transporting and also killing are associated with pain, stress and the risk of injury. In aquacultures the REWE Group is committed to ensure that transport is as stress-free as possible. In unavoidable cases, medication may be used to protect the animals. REWE Group demands compliance with recognised sustainability standards for aquaculture, which also take animal welfare aspects into account. For example, the company works together with the standard setters to integrate aspects that are not or insufficiently covered into the standards or to tighten the standard requirements with regard to animal welfare. As the animal welfare criteria are higher in Germany than in many other countries, REWE Group also relies on regional products from local aquacultures.

In order to depict the requirements in a specific and transparent way, REWE Group has published a [Guideline for Fish, Crustaceans and Molluscs](#).



6.6 Regional Meat Production Programmes with Added Animal Welfare

In the course of the Regional Meat Production Programmes, REWE Group improves husbandry systems including programmes for pigs, cattle and poultry. The impact of these pilot projects goes beyond the region.

Regionality means that animals are born, raised and slaughtered in regions nearby. This results in short transport routes and less stress. In addition, the feed is regional and GMO-free. Animal husbandry meets at least the requirements of the Animal Welfare Initiative, giving the animals more space and manipulable material. Sometimes, even higher requirements are met, e.g. for straw pork.

6.7 Textiles and Shoes

REWE Group aims to avoid painful procedures on livestock, where possible, and rejects procedures and husbandry conditions that contradict generally accepted standards of animal welfare. REWE Group sets binding requirements on husbandry conditions, in particular regarding problematic procedures for the production of animal materials, and it completely rules out the use of specific animal materials.

- No use of real fur
- No use of angora wool
- No use of mohair
- No use of down or feathers from live plucking and obligation to prove by a suitable certificate

- No use of merino wool and no mulesing
- The “Five Freedoms” of the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) also apply to sheep farming (see page 11).
- No use of components of exotic or protected animals such as crocodiles or snakes.

In addition to this list, REWE Group uses leather alternatives, if a conversion is possible.

In its [Guideline for more Sustainable Textiles](#) REWE Group specifies its requirements with view to the manufacturing of apparel, home textiles and footwear.

VII. INSPECTIONS AND PENALTIES

In order to achieve improvements in livestock husbandry, REWE Group is committed to extensive and regular inspections. In addition to existing audits, REWE Group also conducts its own audits and cross-audits with independent institutions - in agricultural holdings, in slaughterhouses and in processing plants.

In the event of intentional gross disregard of the values described herein, REWE Group reserves the right to impose penalties or to terminate the business relationship.

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The dialogue on the topic of animal welfare is of great importance to us. Please contact us with suggestions and questions at: nachhaltigkeit@rewe-group.com

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