

Food procurement policy

The veterinary profession's first responsibility is to advocate for the best interests of animals and ensure as many kept animals as possible have a good life and a humane death.

BVA recognises the importance of markets, informed and concerned consumers, and socially responsible retailers and caterers in creating demand and financial viability for high standards of animal welfare in food production.

BVA also recognises good animal welfare as an essential element and objective of sustainable development.

BVA supports these principles through the following procurement commitments:

Animal welfare

- Eggs – British and free range ([RSPCA Assured](#) whenever possible)
- Beef and lamb – British ([Red Tractor](#))
- Chicken – British (Red Tractor) and free range and/or RSPCA Assured
- Pork and other meat from pigs – British (Red Tractor) and either free range, outdoor reared or outdoor bred (all RSPCA Assured whenever possible).
- Farmed fish – British and RSPCA Assured
- Milk/dairy – British (Red Tractor; RSPCA Assured when available)

As well as assuring higher welfare standards during an animal's life, all of the above certifications assure that animals are stunned before slaughter, which is essential to ensure a humane death.

Sustainable harvest

- Fish (if not farmed) – [Marine Stewardship Council](#) assured

Other sustainability objectives

Food sourced in accordance with the following principles and assured by the following schemes is sought whenever possible:

- Seasonal and local
- Tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, fruit – [Rainforest Alliance](#) or [Fairtrade](#)

BVA also minimises and recycles waste whenever possible.

Guide to essential and desirable procurement attributes

Food type	Procurement attribute	Essential	When available
Eggs	British (Lion Mark)	•	
	Free range	•	
	RSPCA Assured		•
Beef and lamb	British (Red Tractor)	•	
Chicken	British (Red Tractor)	•	
	Free range	•	
	RSPCA Assured		•
Pork and other meat from pigs	British (Red Tractor)	•	
	Free range <i>or</i> Outdoor reared <i>or</i> Outdoor bred	•	
	RSPCA Assured		•
Farmed fish	British	•	
	RSPCA Assured	•	
Milk/dairy	British (Red Tractor)	•	
	RSPCA Assured		•
Fish (if not farmed)	Marine Stewardship Council assured	•	
Tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, fruit	Rainforest Alliance		•
	Fairtrade		•
All food	Seasonal		•
	Local		•