

Our vision for responsible sourcing...



We face many global challenges. As well as caring about food being safe, nutritious and affordable, consumers also want assurances that there are no negative impacts to people, animals or the environment caused by the way their food is produced.

Through our responsible sourcing policy, First 4 Milk, we are committed to playing our part in producing healthy, nutritious and safe food, whilst preserving and enhancing the environment and protecting the people and animals involved in our supply chain for the long term.

Our activity

Our responsible sourcing activity can be separated into three core themes:



People

Building social capital

Our co-operative structure and values are all about building social capital by creating a sense of belonging so that we achieve more together. This includes:

- Next Generation programme - 20% of member businesses involved
- Actively promote consumer engagement (e.g. Open Farm Sunday, school visits)
- Staff training and development
- Community activity and fundraising
- Health and safety
- Ethical treatment of people
- Delivering a sustainable future for members



Animals

A life worth living

Cows are at the beginning of our supply chain and their health and wellbeing is key to our success. Healthy cows live longer and require fewer resources to produce milk. We believe our cows deserve a life worth living, and our initiatives in this area include:

- Animal health and welfare plans
- Launch of an automated health and welfare index by end of 2020
- Johne's disease control plans - 100% of farmers by 2020
- Antibiotic stewardship - usage below RUMA target by 2020
- Annual farm business reviews



Earth

Protecting the planet

We only have one planet, and we all share the responsibility for protecting and enhancing the environment we live and work in, whilst reducing the use of natural resources. Our initiatives in this area include:

- Targeting annual 3% relative reduction in energy and water use at processing sites (65% relative reduction in CO₂e, 40% relative reduction in energy, 30% relative reduction in water use by 2025 against 2008 baseline)
- Protecting watercourses by offsetting factory nitrate, phosphate and sediment production by 2022 and achieving a 40% relative reduction in food waste by 2025 (vs 2008)
- Eliminating direct waste to landfill
- Enhancing the natural habitat
- Taking a key role in developing Landscape Enterprise Networks