



# ABP UK

## Soya Position Statement.

As one of Europe's leading food processors, we provide quality beef and lamb to thousands of customers across the world and work with a network of over 35,000 farmers.

With sixty years of industry experience, we have developed a reputation for quality, efficiency, and innovation. These values run throughout the ABP Food Group portfolio and have been essential in making sure that we are able to deliver exactly what our customers need.

### **Soy use in cattle and sheep diets**

At ABP UK, we are committed to supporting efforts that will eliminate carbon emissions, biodiversity loss and social and ethical issues that are driven by illegal deforestation and conversion by some soy producers. Use of soy in Western European cattle and sheep diets remains small and the coproducts used in feed rations are not driving demand for soy or plantings in at-risk regions. We remain committed, however, to supporting further progress in concert with UK industry actions to significantly improve the sustainability of soy. 65.1 % of the UK's direct soy imports are now verified deforestation and conversion free (vDCF) (AIC, July 2023). We believe that further progress is required and that each actor in the UK supply chain has a part to play.

Soy can be a beneficial inclusion within the feed ration, either as a good source of digestible fibre or as a high-quality protein source that can be purchased as a single ingredient or as part of a 'blend' or 'pellet'. ABP UK do not source animal feed, except for certain units in our own integrated supply chains where we have taken steps to remove soy from rearing rations. We do, however, work with our wider farmer suppliers and feed companies to raise awareness and identify opportunities for further progress. The following considerations are important to positively influence change in the supply of soy to the farm gate:

- Farmers buy their feed based on their animals' nutritional needs, which can vary within and between seasons and production cycles. Feed companies supplying livestock farmers may formulate cattle and sheep diets using a 'least-cost formulation'.
- Ingredients are chosen based on nutritional quality, protein percentage and cost so both quantity and source of soy can change regularly with limited visibility to the farmer.
- The bulk transport of soy means the segregation of product from accredited sources at significant scale is currently unachievable. This means that UK feed manufacturers cannot guarantee consignments they receive are vDCF when supplying UK farmers. In trading terms, the whole UK market is not currently significant enough to leverage segregation in global bulk transport. UK farmers would express concerns that additional requirements, costs or substitutions could lead to illegally produced soy being imported as animal proteins and products produced in third countries instead.

ABP appreciate the value of collective industry action to make progress and ABP UK remain committed signatories of the UK Soy Manifesto, which includes the commitment to a deforestation and conversion cut off date of January 2020. We also participate in the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soy and the supporting Beef and Lamb Working Group through the UK Sustainable Commodities Initiative, the UK Cattle Sustainability Platform and the European Roundtable for Beef Sustainability. As members of these initiatives we hope to be able to influence and support collective progress at a company and national level. Our commitment to supporting the delivery of EUDR compliance will encompass other aspects of legality and protection of human rights.

We publicly report on our soy usage, through the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soy, the UK Soy Manifesto, via our company website and to our customers through platforms such as 3Keel.

## **Making the difference**

Last Updated November 2024 - Version 6.0



# ABP UK

## Soya Position Statement.

### ABP UK's timebound commitments



By 2019 all soya will be removed from ABP's own integrated supply chain, Blade Farming UK, calf rearing ration  
- This requirement is embedded in the Blade calf rearing ration specification



By 2021 ABP UK will work with our UK retail customers to meet their time-bound commitments on purchasing RTRS soya credits  
- ABP UK are signatories of the UK Soy Manifesto, participate in the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soy and the supporting Beef and Lamb Working Group through the UK Sustainable Commodities Initiative, the UK Cattle Sustainability Platform and the European Roundtable for Beef Sustainability. Our retail customers also participate in these discussions  
- We are in continual discussion with our customers to understand their requirements and ensure we meet their commitments, purchasing credits as requested



By 2021 ABP UK will be an active member of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soy and the supporting Beef & Lamb Working Group, participating in the publicly available annual reporting  
- ABP UK recognise the value of collaborative action and continue to be an active participant within the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soy, inclusive of beef and lamb focussed discussions



ABP UK will work with feed companies and shippers to move towards the goal of 100% physically verified deforestation and conversion free supply chains by 2025  
- ABP UK have been involved in the UK Soy Manifesto conversations, supporting engagement with shippers and feed companies  
- ABP UK have long standing agricultural industry relationships, allowing us to converse with all supply chain actors. These relationships facilitate continual evaluation and an increase of our company knowledge  
- ABP UK gather information from all of our supplying farmers on an annual basis, inclusive of feed details. This gives us visibility of all feed suppliers used within our beef and lamb supply base. We can utilise this list to engage feed suppliers and understand potential uptake of the upcoming AIC feed standard



ABP UK will work with our UK producers to raise awareness of unsustainable soy in the supply chain and share knowledge about taking steps to reduce or remove unsustainable soy from cattle and sheep diets  
- ABP UK gather information from all of our supplying farmers on an annual basis, inclusive of specific soy questions. By asking these questions of our farmers we are encouraging them to consider the ingredients included in their feed and the sustainability credentials of these ingredients



ABP UK will only process Farm Assured cattle and sheep and will support the adoption of responsible sourcing standards within Farm Assurance to ensure all of our supply chain are working towards the goal of sustainable soy  
- ABP UK continue to only process Farm Assured livestock. This ensures all of our supplying farmers are audited by a third party

ABP UK will review the soya policy annually to determine suitability and amendments, if required, to ensure progress is being made

### Making the difference

Last Updated November 2024 - Version 6.0