

Exclusion criteria

The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals reserves the right to deny or withdraw the use of the Better Life label from certain companies. To this end, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals applies its own policy, including, but not limited to, the following criteria:

Companies

- Activities of a company (UBN/EU registration number/abattoir/egg packing centre/processor/logistics service provider/retail with a processing counter/foodservice) that do not align with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals, such as the keeping of:
 - fur animals for production purposes
 - laying hens in enriched cages and colony systems. The identification code stamped on the egg starts with the digit 3
 - wild animals for production purposes
 - geese and ducks for the production of goose or duck liver
 - endangered species
 - double-muscled beef cattle breeds with a high incidence of caesarean sections
 - and other activities that (may) conflict with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.

- A farm (UBN/EU registration number) where both BLL-certified and non-BLL-certified animals of the same species are kept. With the exception of species for which separation into channels is permitted.

- A farm (UBN/EU registration number) with genetically modified animals.

- An abattoir where unstunned slaughter is carried out.

- Mega-houses
 A farm where animals are kept in a mega-house. A mega-house is defined as one UBN/EU registration number with more than:
 7,551 finishers; 1,266 sows and associated weaned piglets; 600 sows and 3,973 finishers; 10,000 weaned piglets; 253,847 broilers; 120,000 laying hens; 274 dairy cows; 2,000 beef bulls; 2,340 beef cows; 1,320 suckler cows; 2,538 veal calves; 4,459 does and 35,675 weaned meat rabbits.

 (Not to be confused with a mega-farm, which is a livestock farm with livestock houses in multiple locations. The farm as a whole has a very high number of animals. However, the number of animals kept at the various locations is comparable to the numbers kept on regular farms. The discussion about mega-houses concerns the consequences for the economy, landscape, nature, environment, public health and animal welfare. Many of those discussion points are invalid or become less important when it comes to multiple locations.)

- Multi-tier houses
 A farm (UBN/EU registration number) with a barn in which animals are kept on multiple levels/floors/tiers, and which applies for the Better Life label after 01-09-2016, is not eligible for the Better Life label.
 This does not apply to:
 - a farm (UBN/EU registration number) with a barn with more than one level that was already a participant in the Better Life label before 01-09-2016. In case of

new construction or renovation, these companies are not allowed to (additionally) build a barn with more than one level.

- elevated living platforms. Platforms are not included in the definition of multi-tier houses.
- aviary and free-range housing systems (or a combination of both housing systems). Aviary and free-range houses for laying hens where a maximum of two levels are used for keeping animals are exempt from this prohibition on multi-tier houses. This exception applies to both existing and new participants and is in line with provincial regulations.

Processed products

Additives are used in the preparation of meat and meat products. When processing Better Life products, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals allows 5% of other animal products that may be necessary for processing. However, not all animal products are allowed; excluded, even within the 5% non-Better Life animal products are:

- foie gras from ducks
- foie gras from geese
- animal products for which it is not 100% certain that the animal was slaughtered stunned (especially sheep, calf and lamb products)
- horse meat
- poultry/game obtained from hunting or kept (including guinea fowl, pheasant, wild boar, red deer, fallow deer, duck, pigeon, goose, partridge, wild rabbit)
- endangered species such as eel
- products from animals that have been genetically manipulated, cloned or otherwise have come into direct contact with biotechnology
- other animal products that (may) be in conflict with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.