

Müller UK & Ireland Soy Roadmap



In September 2022, Müller UK & Ireland became a signatory of the UK Soy Manifesto, a collective industry commitment to work together to ensure all physical shipments of soy to the UK are deforestation and conversion-free by 2025. This roadmap details why we want to achieve that commitment, and the steps we'll take to do so.



What is soy and why do we use it?

The soybean is a species of legume widely grown for its edible bean, which has numerous uses. Some food uses include products such as tofu and soy sauce, however most of the world's soy is used in animal feed¹. The global production of soy has grown rapidly: from 27 million tonnes in 1961, to more than 373 million tonnes in 2020².

Over 75% of the world's soy production is processed into soymeal³ and used as a protein supplement for farmed animal feed due to its rich content of essential amino acids, vitamins, and folic acid, as well as being a good source of fibre, potassium, and key antioxidants.



27m tonne in 1961

373m tonne in 2020

Why we're committing to sustainable soy

Commodity expansion and shifting agriculture are considered key drivers of global deforestation and conversion of native vegetation in extensive regions of South American soy-producing countries.

A recent study showed that, after beef, soybean was the major driver of deforestation in Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay between 2005 and 2013 and, in 2019, approximately 68% of the soy imported into the UK came from these three countries⁴.

A commitment to sustainable soy has four main aims:

-  Halting deforestation
-  Protecting other natural ecosystems
-  Respecting human rights
-  Supporting livelihoods



¹2016-01-28-agricultural-commodities-brack-glover-wellesley.pdf (chathamhouse.org)
²FAOSTAT
³https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-10/WWF-UK_Retailers_Soy_Policies_October2019.pdf
⁴Deforestation displaced: trade in forest-risk commodities and the prospects for a global forest transition - IOPscience

Müller UK & Ireland Soy Roadmap

In order to meet our commitment to sustainable soy, the Müller UK & Ireland Soy Roadmap encompasses four key areas:

Origin and evidence disclosure:

Improve data collection from our suppliers to enable monitoring of soy usage and sourcing

Wider industry change:

Direct engagement of traders and feed manufacturers

Sustainable livestock diets:

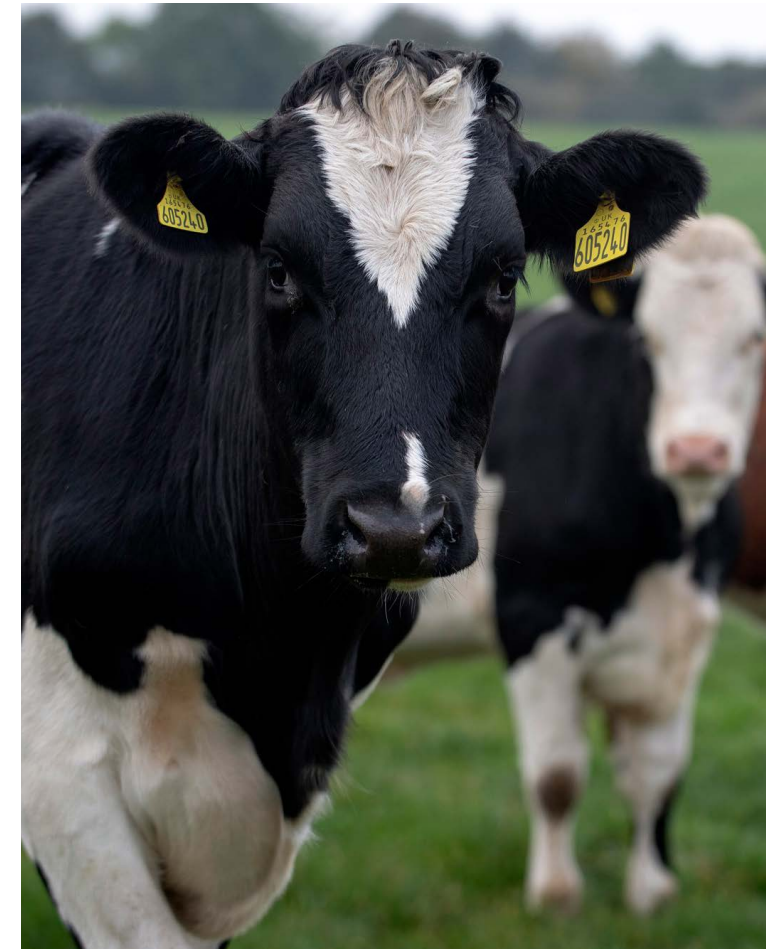
Continuing to work with suppliers to encourage reduction of soy on farm, alongside encouraging use of deforestation and conversion-free soy

Advocacy:

Committing to the UK Soy Manifesto

Wider industry change

Müller UK & Ireland buys raw milk from 1,300 farms across the UK. Around 99% of the Müller Direct supplying farms are part of 'Müller Advantage', a programme which provides supplying farmers with the tools and support they need to address a range of issues which we know are important for our consumers and customers. In turn, farmers receive a higher price per litre of milk purchased. This programme allows us to gather data on how many of our suppliers are using soy products and where these have been purchased. In order to achieve our 2025 goal, we'll continue to discuss our soy policy with supplying farmers and feed suppliers, advocating the benefits of sustainable soy, and ensuring we're on target for a deforestation and conversion-free soy future.



Origin and evidence disclosure

The data we have at the moment allows us to establish which suppliers are using soy, but not how much.

We have developed and planned an extensive data collection schedule for our Müller Advantage supplying farmers which will be implemented over 2023. We will collect detail on the amount of soy used and how much of it is sustainably sourced, and use this information to assess support requirements.

Sustainable livestock diets

By increasing the quality of home-grown forage, farmers can reduce the reliance on purchased feed. As part of the Müller Advantage programme, we regularly discuss the benefits of home-grown forage and support our suppliers to work towards moving away from purchased feed. We will continue to support suppliers, deliver additional training, and encourage the use of alternatives or deforestation and conversion-free soy.

Advocacy

Müller UK & Ireland has become a signatory of the UK Soy Manifesto, a collective industry commitment to work together to ensure all physical shipments of soy to the UK are deforestation and conversion-free by 2025. We have created a road map with a commitment to a deforestation and conversion-free cut-off date of January 2020, and will work with suppliers and feed providers to ensure we achieve our 2025 goal.