

## Route map for moving to better chicken

This paper outlines the broad trajectory required to transition UK intensive poultry production onto an agroecological footing. It offers headlines only, recognising that such a transition is complex, but provides a map of some the interdependencies and implications of such a transition.

	2021	2024	2027	2030
<b>UK per capita consumption of poultry meat</b>	25.5kg per year (75% from UK source). Consumption needs to peak this year.	Levels of imports reduce with improved carcass utilisation. 20kg per year with 85% from UK source.	16kg per year with 95% from the UK.	Consumption of chicken meat 12.75kg per year (35g per day), in line with the TFYA UK study, with 100% UK sourcing
<b>UK Production of broilers</b>	1 billion birds per year produced in the UK. 375 million imported for carcass balance. Approximately 15% of total demand has signed up to the better bird commitment for 2026 <sup>1</sup> (1% broilers are organic, 3% RSPCA and 13% free range).	1,200 million birds required 250 million birds imported  Increase in commitment to BCC birds to 25% total by 2026. Research conducted into how best to feed these slower growing birds using lower quality protein sources as well as insect meal. Parent stock expansion of slower growing birds ready for 2026.	820 million UK birds (161 million slower growing birds, 644 million conventional birds) + 125 million imported. Slower growing birds require more space (+ 30% more space), but total shed space less than 2021 UK space requirement due to reduction in bird numbers. Broiler breed expansion required to produce enough day - old chicks for 20% of the market to be BCC. <sup>2</sup> There will be enough chicken housing for this volume of production	687 million birds needed with no imports. If all birds are slower growing, then existing housing stock sufficient.
<b>Broiler diet (Protein)</b>	Around 23% of UK poultry diet is made up of soya (all imported and some from deforestation). This amounts to 850,000 tonnes for UK production and 300,000 tonnes to feed poultry which the UK imports.	800,000 tonnes soya required in UK, 200,000 tonnes for imported birds with no substitution with other ingredients. Main change could be introduction of insect meal to reduce soy use.	830,000 tonnes needed but as diet research is carried out, use of soya for poultry diets could reduce to some 15% of total diet with peas, beans and insect meal making up the difference. 618,000 tonnes soya required 109,000 tonnes insect and pulse protein. It is theoretically possible to grow soya on around 550,000 ha in England. If it proves financially feasible to grow soybeans in the UK (research being initiated by SA), then soy could replace	All UK broiler feed protein requirements met from UK and EU production sources. 687000 tonnes soya or equivalent required if 100% slow grown (626,000 if 50% slow grown).

<sup>1</sup> BCC could increase the cost of chicken production as food conversion efficiency is poorer, but they can eat lower quality food (peas/ beans replacing a portion of the soya) and mortality is lower and health better.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nfuonline.com/nfu-online/sectors/poultry/adas-final-report-18-october/>

			oil seed rape as a break crop and could produce up to 600,000 tonnes of soy.	
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2030</b>
<b>Broiler diet (Cereals)</b>	There is no mechanism for measuring the level of agroecological cereal production in the UK. ADAS report sets out the assumptions for growing agroecological cereals. Current requirements are for 2.84 million tonnes of cereals. 355,700 ha required as well as 1 million tonnes (150000ha) for imported birds- which may be maize fed.	Increased availability of agroecologically produced cereals (needs supply chain collaboration or hypothecated feed supply chain to value this product). 2.66 million tonnes required. 332,844ha required in UK, (380,000 if 30% agroecological) as well as 689,000 tonnes for imported birds (100,000ha).	Greater interest in peas and beans for poultry diets, following nutrition research leads to greater interest in more agroecological farming which increases the supply of arable crops produced agroecologically – will need some form of verification as well as supply chain development. Wheat required is 2.4million tonnes 303,000ha (or 350,000ha agroecological. Imports still use 344,000 tonnes(50,000ha).	If all produced agroecologically. 2.30 million tonnes required, and 287,847 ha required.
<b>Planning permission</b>	Counties such as Shropshire have brought in very strict conditions on additional ammonia emissions which is limiting additional development. The Soil Association is campaigning for a moratorium on new IPUs.	Assume no new IPUs.	Assume no new IPUs.	Assume no new IPUs.
<b>Farm position re net zero</b>	Unknown. UK agriculture produces around 10% of overall UK emissions.			30% farms achieved net zero through emissions reductions from transition to agroecological farming (-30%) and tree planting/ bio energy sources.
<b>Just transition for farmers</b>	1,092 IPUs in 2020. Support for transition to agroecological farming and repurposing of housing.	Support or advice needed to repurpose sheds to accommodate slower growing birds. Support for transition to agroecological farming.	Support or advice needed to repurpose sheds to accommodate slower growing birds. Support needed to change use of sheds and/ or change farming enterprise Mainstream support for agroecological farming in ELM	Support needed to change use of sheds and/ or change farming enterprise Mainstream support for agroecological farming in ELM
<b>Reducing UK demand for poultry meat</b>	Little effort at government level going into reducing demand for poultry meat	Public procurement and retailers support dietary change.	Public procurement and retailers support dietary change.	Public procurement and retailers support dietary change.