

Our standards - Game

Frequently asked questions

Q: Where does M&S game come from?

A: All M&S game comes from a single game supplier, Yorkshire Game, who source and work closely with selected, known estates across northern England and the Scottish Borders.

Q: What game products does M&S offer?

A: We offer a range of game products throughout the game season. The range includes grouse, pheasant, partridge, wood pigeon and wild rabbit.

Q: To what standards is M&S game procured?

A: Game management is an integral part of estate and farm management throughout the UK. We only source from suppliers we know and trust. It is our requirement that estates operate to the industry's Code of Good Shooting Practice and the Defra Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Game Birds (www.defra.gov.uk).

Q: Is game farmed?

A: The grouse, rabbit and wood pigeon that we source is wild. Pheasant and partridge are reared on estates before they are released into the wild. The welfare of the birds during the rearing phase is governed by the requirements of the Code of Practice mentioned above. The estates which our game supplier procures from adhere to these codes of practice.

Q: When is game available?

A: Game is a seasonal product protected by law to ensure that during the breeding season, and while the hen birds are rearing their young, no shooting takes place. The season varies depending on the species of bird. For details of the shooting seasons see www.basc.org.uk.

Q: What type of shot is used for Marks & Spencer game products?

A: There are a number of regulations governing the use and type of shot dependent on the game species and the geographical area of a shoot. Traditionally shot would have been made of lead but today there are many alternative materials that can be used. All type of shot, including lead will be used on the estates where our game is sourced. Whilst every effort is made to remove all shot, due to the nature of the product it may contain shot and so we clearly label all game products to alert customers that it 'may contain shot'.

Q: What is done to ensure the conservation of other wildlife species on the estates where M&S game is sourced?

A: We work with our supplier to ensure that they source from estates which protect and enhance natural habitats for a bio-diverse landscape. As a minimum they ensure that all estates comply with legislation. A key success factor in protecting high conservation habitats is ensuring that they are recognised as adding value to rural communities. This is why we believe that sourcing game from well managed estates is an important contributor to encouraging and supporting a bio-diverse landscape in which wildlife can thrive. We are committed to work closely with these estates to improve estate management as part of our Farming for the Future programme.

Find out more at <http://plana.marksandspencer.com>