



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Ireland's Livestock Sector and the CAP Strategic Plan

**The CAP in all its Member States conference
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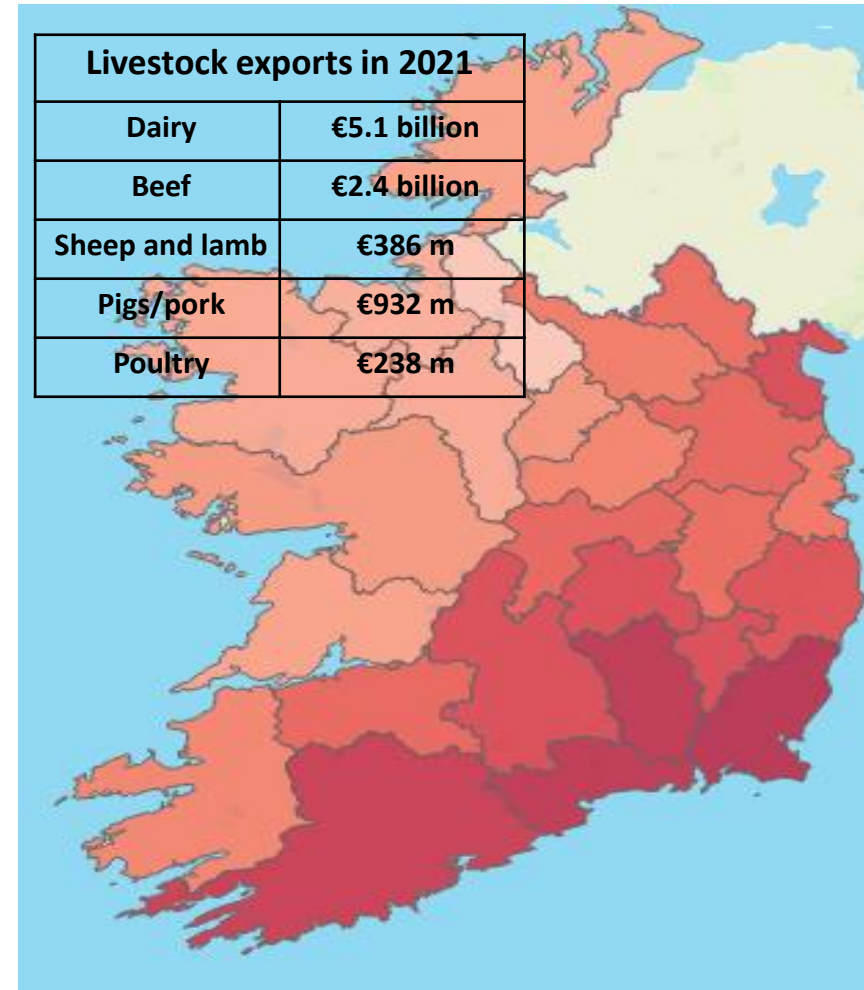
Irish Context



- Overview:
- No. of farmers: 129,000
- Predominantly grass-based (circa. 7% arable/tillage area) & outdoor livestock systems
- Agri-food accounts for 9.5% of goods exported,
- 170,000 employed (7.1% of total employment)
- €15 bn + agri-food exports

- Livestock profile:
- Dominant ruminant profile
- => Climate change mitigation challenges
- Twin threats from both agricultural intensification (dairy, etc) and extensification/abandonment
- => Threats to Biodiversity, Water quality

- Outlook?
- Dairy currently positive with good economic returns
- Economic viability very challenging for beef, sheep, pigs & poultry
- => Generational renewal challenge



Darker areas = higher stocking rate

Key Policy Drivers



- Climate Action Plan 2021 – *25% GHGs reduction target for agri-sector*
- Nitrates Action Programme – *addressing water quality*
- National Afforestation Programme
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Prioritised Action Framework for Natura
 - *- improve status of protected habitats and species*
- Irish government declared “national biodiversity and climate emergency”
- Food Vision 2030 – *stakeholder strategy to increase economic and environmental sustainability of our food production systems*
- CAP Strategic Plan – *range of voluntary measures to assist sector challenges*

CAP Pillar I interventions	€ m	% Share of P I budget
Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS)	3,643	61
Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers (CIS-YF)	178	3
Complementary Redistributive Income Support for Sustainability (CRISS)	593	10
Eco-Scheme	1,483	25
Protein Aid	35	0.6
Sectoral Interventions Fruit, Vegetable & Apiculture	45.3	0.8
Total Pillar 1	5,977	100

BISS and CRISS



- New average BISS payment ~ €158/ha
- Partial Convergence Model for payment entitlements (PE)
 - => PE value minimum of 85% by 2026, in equal steps
- All entitlement values will fall into a range from ~€130-285 by 2026
- • Capping/reduction of payments over €60,000 by 85% (over €100,000 by 100%)
 - => an effective cap of €66,000
- CRISS : €119 m per annum or 10% of total annual budget
 - => €43 /ha on first 30 ha only

Coupled support



- Protein Aid Scheme
 - - €35 m or €7m per annum
 - (> double current annual allocation)
 - - Peas, Beans, Lupins, soya
 - + protein / cereal crop mixes at half payment rate

- × No VCS livestock schemes

Eco-scheme



- ✓ 1 scheme with a list of 8 annual practices delivering various environmental benefits
- ✓ Applicable to all farm types
- ✓ Min. two agricultural practices to qualify for Eco-Scheme payment – “enhanced” options counting as two actions
- Payment rate depending on uptake i.e. €66 /ha if all 129,000 farmers apply

Eco-schemes practices 1 - 4



1. Space for Nature (Non-productive areas and landscape features)

Increasing requirement of land devoted under GAEC 8 to 7%. (GAEC 8, 4% NPFs not limited to arable farmers)

Enhanced Option: *Increasing to 10%*

2. Extensive Livestock Production

Maximum stocking rate of 1.4LU/ha for the calendar year.

Enhanced Option: *max. stocking rate of 1.2 LU*

Minimum stocking rate requirements similar to ANC (0.10LU/ha).

3. Limiting Chemical Nitrogen Usage

Stocking rate band as per table will be

based on previous year's data.

Tillage farmers will have limit of 139 kgs N/ha.

4. Planting of Native Trees/Hedgerows

A minimum planting rate of 3 native trees OR 1 metre of hedgerow per eligible hectare per annum.

Enhanced Option: *where above amounts are doubled/combined*

Grassland stocking rate in 2022 (kgs organic nitrogen per ha)	Max permitted application of chemical Nitrogen in 2023 (kgs per ha)
<90	73
91-130	89
131-170	165
171-210	240
>210	214

Eco-scheme practices 5 - 8



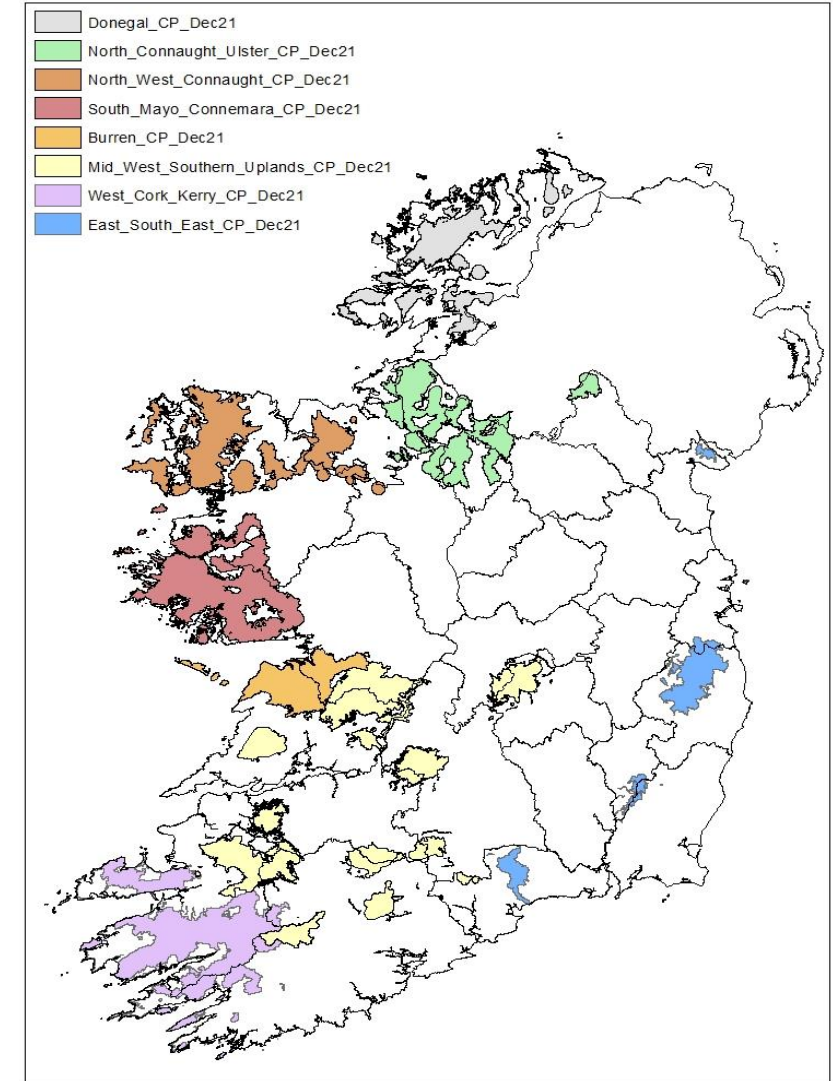
- **5. Use of GPS Controlled Spreader and/or Sprayer**
- *Application of chemical fertiliser (compound or liquid) and/or plant protection products with GPS machines.*
- **6. Soil Sampling & Appropriate Liming**
- *Soil sampling and apply lime in accordance with the soil test results where appropriate.*
- (only available as an Eco-Scheme action every 3 years).
- **7. Planting a Break Crop**
- *Planting of a break crop (beans, peas, OSR or Oats or any combination of these crops) on at least 20% of the arable area.*
- **8. Planting a Multi-Species Sward**
- *Plant a multi-species sward (grass/clover/other herbage mixes) on at least 7 % of eligible hectares in the year the action is selected.*

CAP Pillar II Interventions	€ m	% Share of P II budget
Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC)	1,250	32
Agri-environment climate measure (AECM)	1,522	39
Straw Incorporation Measure	50	1.3
Organic Farming Scheme	256	6.6
On-farm investments (+ RDP transitional €340m)	100	2.6
Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme	260	6.7
European Innovation Partnerships (EIP-AGRI)	36	0.9
Knowledge Transfer Groups	71	1.8
Dairy Beef Welfare Scheme	25	0.6
Sheep Improvement Scheme	100	2.6
LEADER	180	4.7
Other including, technical assistance	12	0.3
Total Pillar 2	3,862	100

AECM – new delivery framework



- Single national agri-environment
 - climate measure with
 - (i) general measure/actions
 - (ii) Co-operation measure
 - targeted in 8 high-priority geographic areas
 - + additional bespoke farm/landscape measures
 - + local co-operation team
- Actions for both extensive & intensive farms
- Using hybrid quality-based payment system



AECM: Quality/Results-Based Payment Approach



- Payments linked to biodiversity/habitat quality
- Higher quality
 - = Higher Payment level
- Scorecards to assess ecological and hydrological integrity
- Supporting extensive livestock grazing systems



Areas of Natural Constraints



- €250 m per annum
- Min. stocking level of 0.10 Livestock units on grassland
- 4 payment categories representing different constraint levels:
 - Offshore island land: €250 / ha \leq 20 ha, €170 / ha between 20 and 34 ha,
 - and €70 for area between 34 - 40 ha.
 - Category 1: €148 / ha \leq 12 ha, €112 / ha between 12 and 34 ha
 - Category 2: €111 / ha \leq 10 ha, €104 / ha between 10 and 30 ha
 - Category 3: €93 / ha \leq 8 ha, €88.25 / ha between 8 and 30 ha
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Organic Farming Scheme



- Ambitious target to more than triple UAA to 7.5% from base of 2%
- Budget of €256m: 5 – fold increase in funding
- Organic strategy - Stakeholder forum
- Established
- Target all sectors - dairy, livestock, tillage, horticulture



Sucker Carbon Efficiency Programme



- €260m budget allocation
- Building on success of Beef Data Genomics Programme
 - - Est. cumulative impact 1.6 MT of CO₂ eq. (2015-2030)
- Supporting lower emissions farming
- Actions: Replacement Strategy standard, Genotyping herd, Weighing, Data recording
- Long-term genetic and environmental gains
- Rate: €225/ha for first 15 hectares and €180 /ha > 15ha
 - €150 /cow first 10 cows and €120/cow thereafter



Dairy Beef Welfare Scheme

- €25m budget
- Improve welfare/viability of dairy-beef calves
- High Dairy/Beef Index bulls for breeding
- Rate: €20 per calf, up to a maximum of 40 animals

• Sheep Improvement Scheme

- €100m budget
- Farmer to select 2 actions from a range of actions such as:
- Lameness control, mineral supplementation, parasite controls, genotyping, scanning, data recording



Knowledge Transfer Programme

- Budget €71m
- Support for targeted advice by KT facilitators
- Set-up of KT groups across the sectors: beef, dairy, sheep etc
- Topics such as:
 - *Biodiversity, Climate mitigation/adaptation, water quality*
 - *Health and safety*
 - *Farm management*
 - *Grassland, soil management*
 - *Animal health and welfare*
- Rates: €750 per farmer, €500 per farmer to KT facilitator

Summary



- Livestock systems predominate Irish production systems
- Multiple drivers for change: environmental, markets/profitability, Nature Directives, Climate action plan and Nitrates Directive
- Significant role for CAP in supporting farmers to address these challenges:
 - ✓ Basic Income Support for Sustainability
 - ✓ New Eco-scheme
 - ✓ Higher impact Pillar II interventions: range of AECMs to address specific environmental and welfare challenges
 - ✓ Investments for modernisation of holdings
 - ✓ Ireland's commitment underlined by the additional 60% national co-funding under Pillar II, with overall support of €9.8 bn across both pillars



• Thank you