



**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

# Land mobility and expansion

Dr. Frank O'Mara  
Director of Research

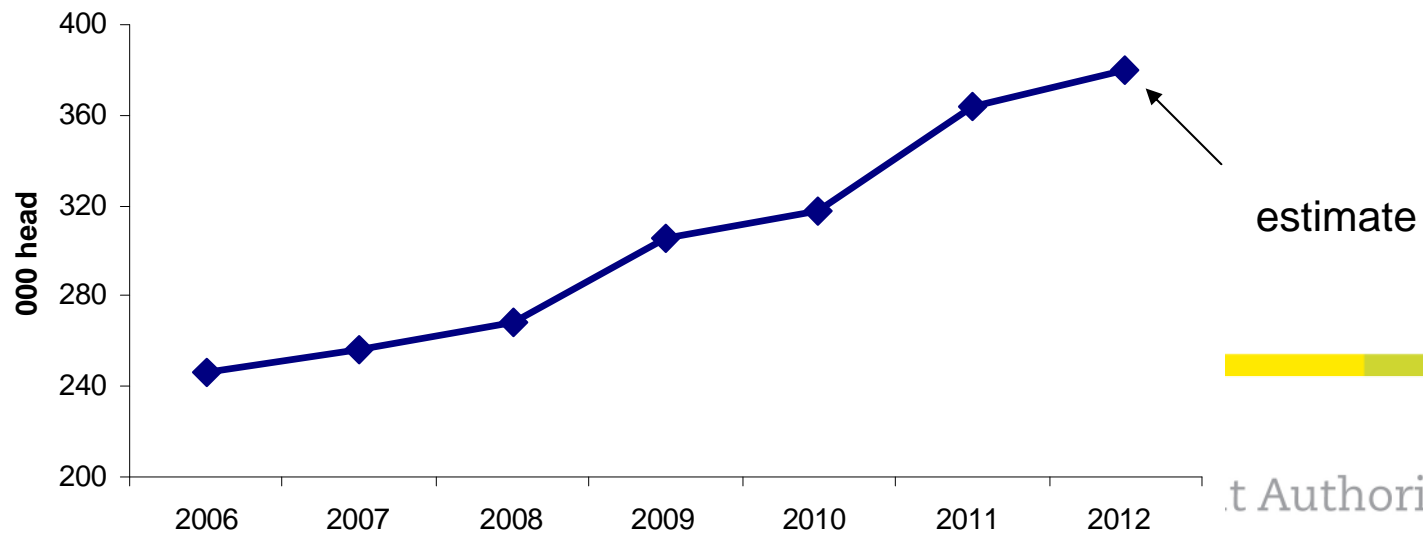
# Ireland has ambitious plans for milk expansion

**Survey of 2,300 suppliers in Glanbia, Lakeland, Connacht Gold, Donegal, Kerry, Bandon, Barryroe, Lisavaird and Drinagh**

- Average stocking rate = 1.74 cows/ha, so considerable scope to carry more cows on existing land base
- 21% of suppliers could cater for more cows with existing housing, 41.5% have other housing that could be converted
- 10% of farmers plan to exit milk production, but 48% plan to expand

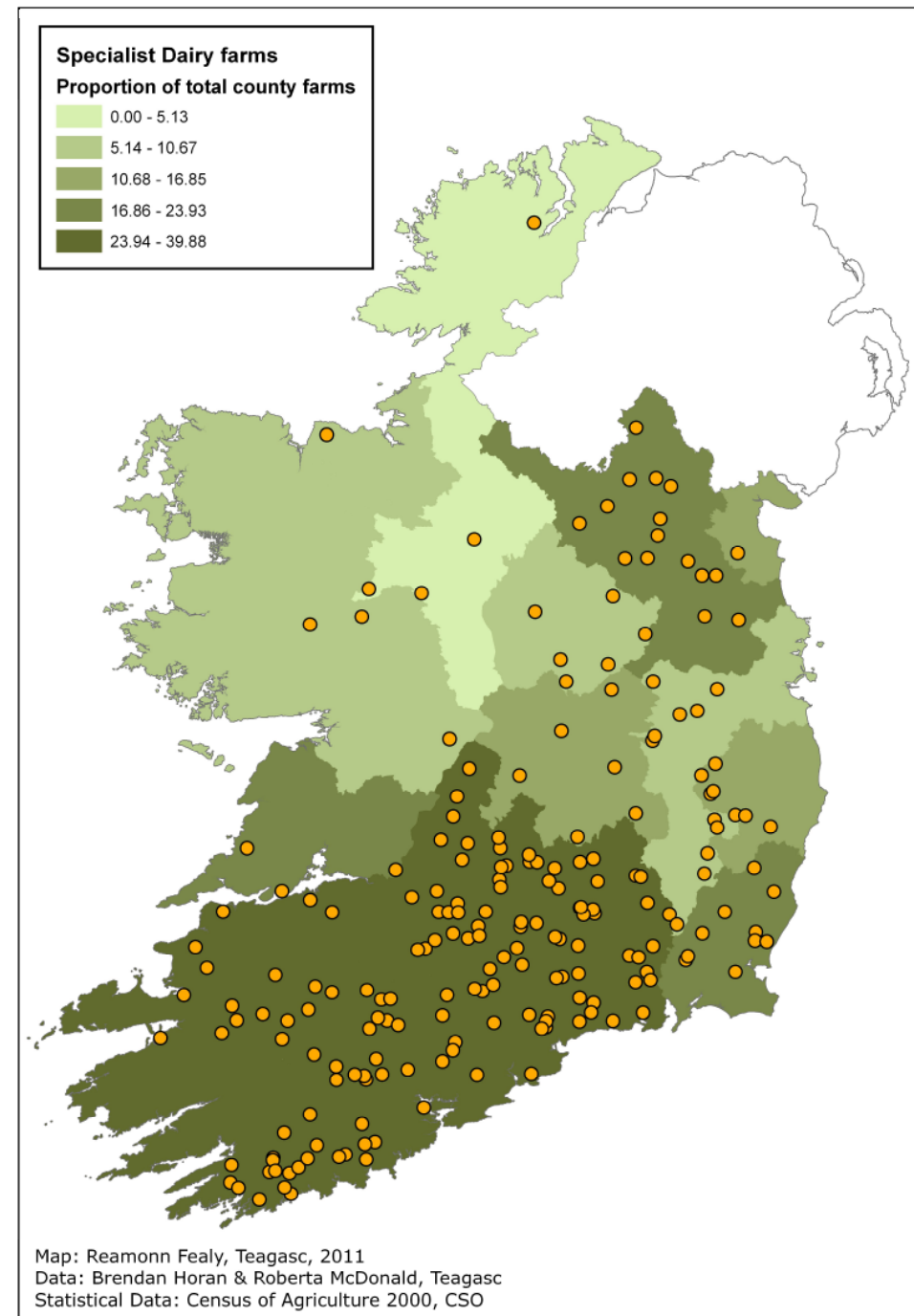


**Dairy heifer calves born**



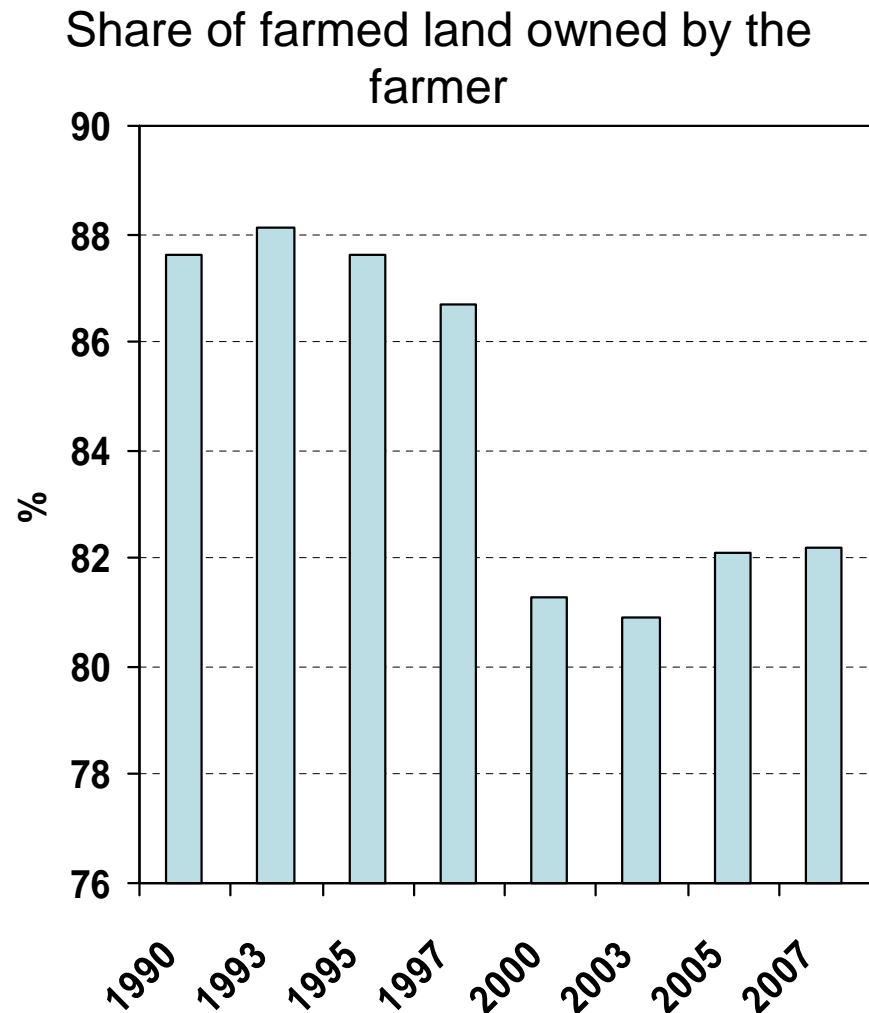
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# Distribution of new entrants to dairying



# Farmed land ownership and sale

- In Ireland most farmland is owned land
- Very little land sold – 0.2%
- 2007: 17.8% was rented-in
- 33% of farms rented in land
- Average of 17.9 ha per farm rented in
- Majority of land rented in is by larger farmers

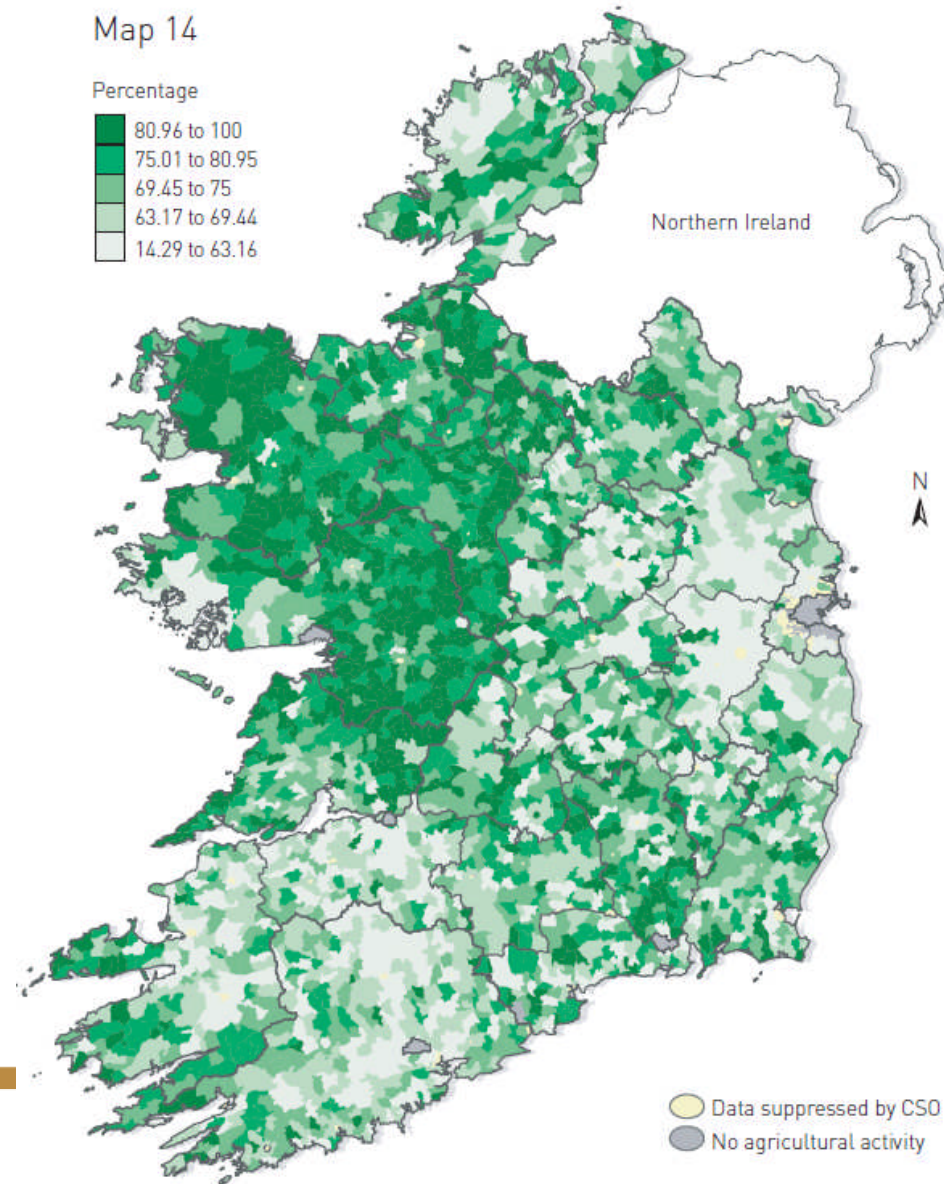
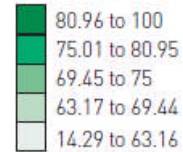


Fragmentation (2 or more parcels) is a big issue, particularly west of Shannon

Fragmented farms\*  
as percentage of total 2000

Map 14

Percentage

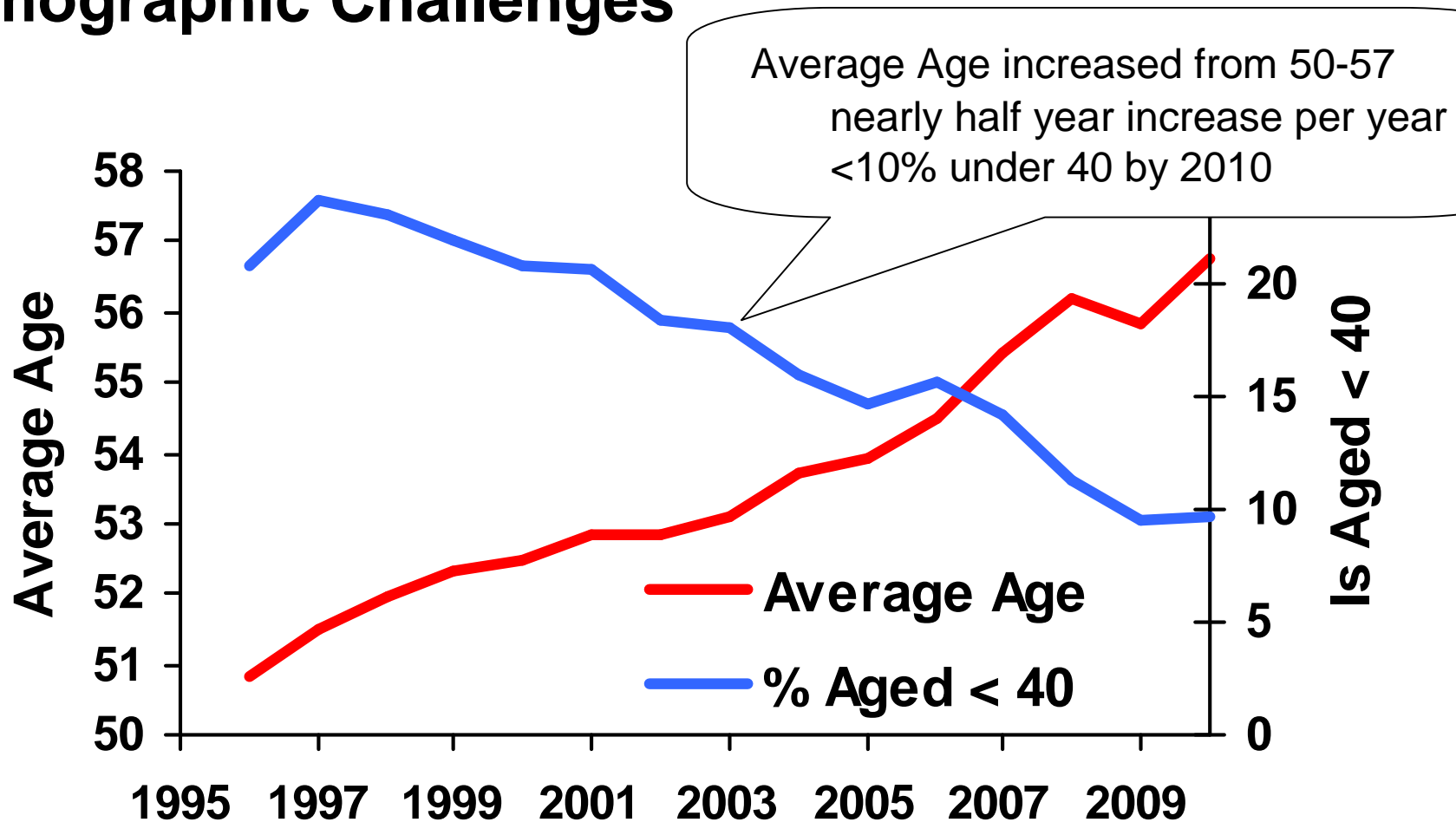


● Data suppressed by CSO  
● No agricultural activity

0 25 50  
Kilometres

\* Farms with two or more parcels of land

# Demographic Challenges



Source: Teagasc NFS

# Improving land availability

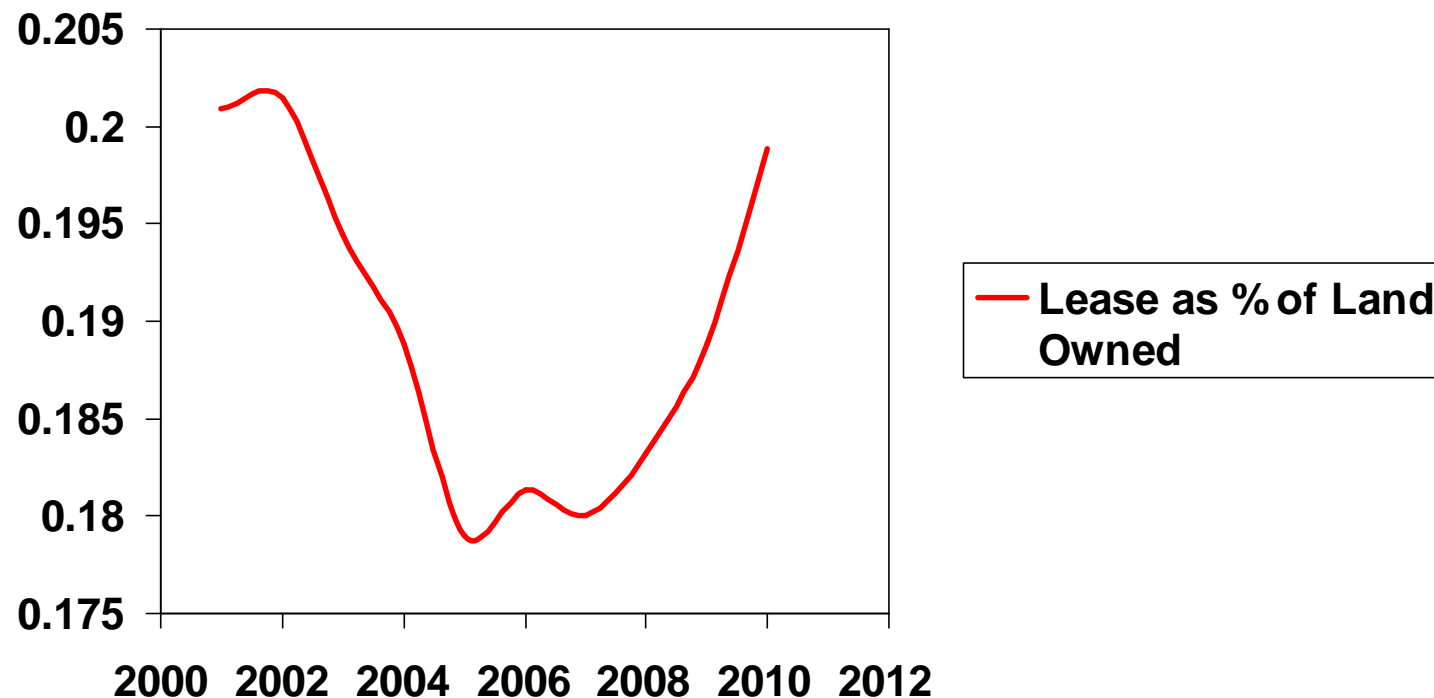
1. Increase land renting
2. Land improvement – drainage
3. Collaborative farming



# Rented land as a % of owned land

There has been an increase in land renting in recent years

Policy and incentives can have an impact



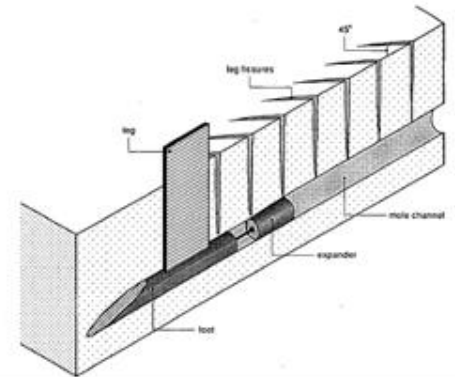
# Land improvement

One third of lowland soils are wet – need drainage

Little new drainage done in past 2 decades  
– some deterioration of old drains

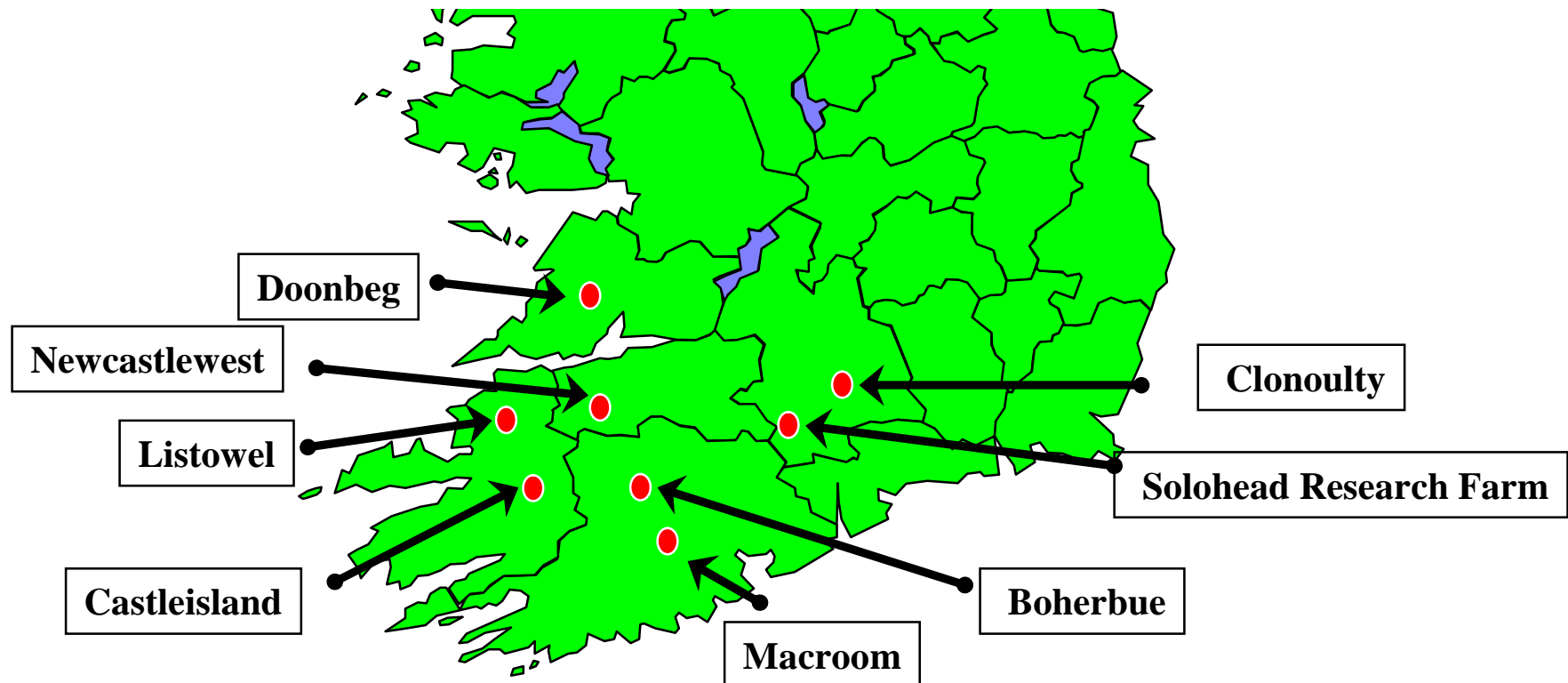
Renewed interest in drainage among farmers

Teagasc has initiated a Heavy Soils Programme in collaboration with industry and farmers



# Heavy Soils Programme

Is a collaborative project between Teagasc Advisory and Research working with Kerry Agribusiness, Tipperary Co-op and Dairygold Co-op and seven participating dairy farmers on heavy soils with the aim to increase farm profitability



# Objectives Heavy Soils Programme

1. To demonstrate financially profitably milk production
2. To increase the adoption of key technologies: grassland management, land improvement, high EBI genetics and financial planning
3. To improve farm infrastructures in order to increase farm profitability
4. To inform dairy farmers on heavy soils about benefits of and innovation with regards to land drainage



**Over 1,500 farmers attended the Teagasc open day on Solohead Research Farm, Tipperary which focussed on farming on wet land & land drainage**



Photos: O'Gorman photography

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# Collaborative farming

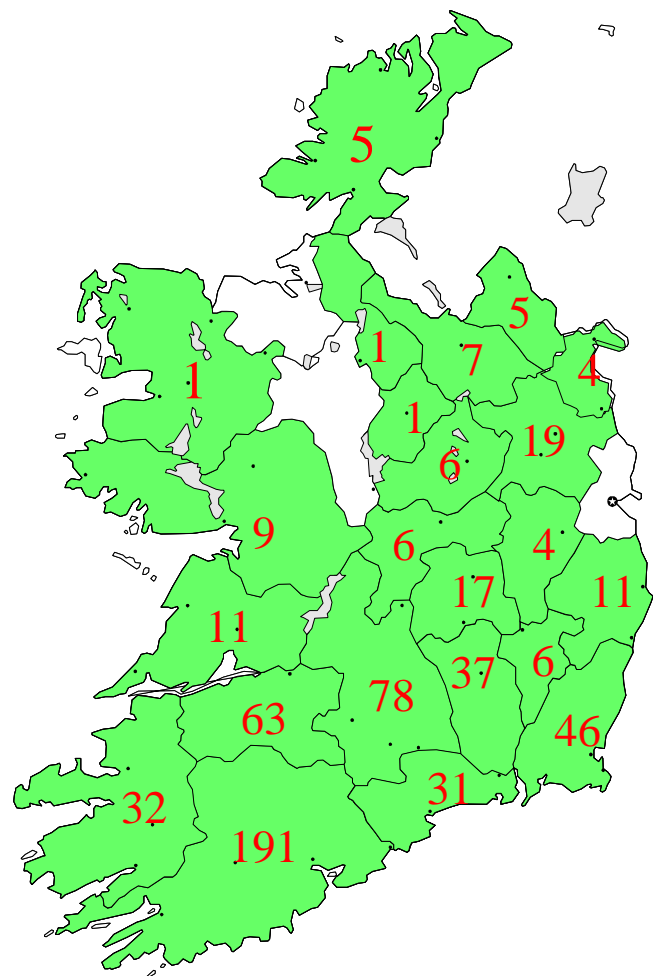
- Facilitating access of better farmers to have an input into the farming of more land
- Providing a vehicle to encourage landowners to come together to achieve scale
- Overcoming farm fragmentation

Milk partnerships

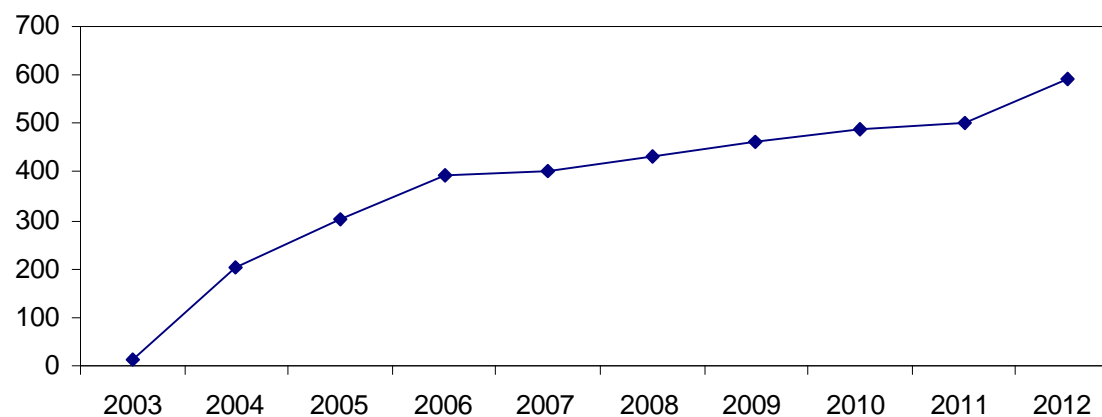
Heifer rearing

Share farming

# Location of milk production partnerships



Cumulative number of milk partnerships



# Teagasc action plan to increase collaborative farming arrangements

*This will involve: Promotion of arrangements such as partnerships, share farming, contract rearing, cow leasing & land leasing*

- Regional public seminars were held
- All local advisory staff are being provided with in-service training
- A suite of national & local activities to promote collaborative arrangements
- Establishment of 6 regional advisor based units to focus on promotion, facilitating of a detailed understanding amongst farmers & to facilitate farmer engagement



# Obstacles to Collaboration

*Extensive development of collaborative farming arrangements in Ireland is dependant on removal of current obstacles*

The main financial obstacles are:

- Reduction of payments under Modulation & the Disadvantage Area Payments to farmers as a consequence of entering into partnerships
- Access of New Entrants to National Reserve
- Extension of partnerships to non-dairy farmers