

Evaluating food-feed competition in Ireland's dairy sector



Introduction

- ✓ Feed-food competition occurs when land suited for human food is used for animal feed that is lower yielding
- ✓ The Land Use Ratio examines if a livestock system contributes to feed-food competition

Feed conversion efficiency of Ireland's dairy

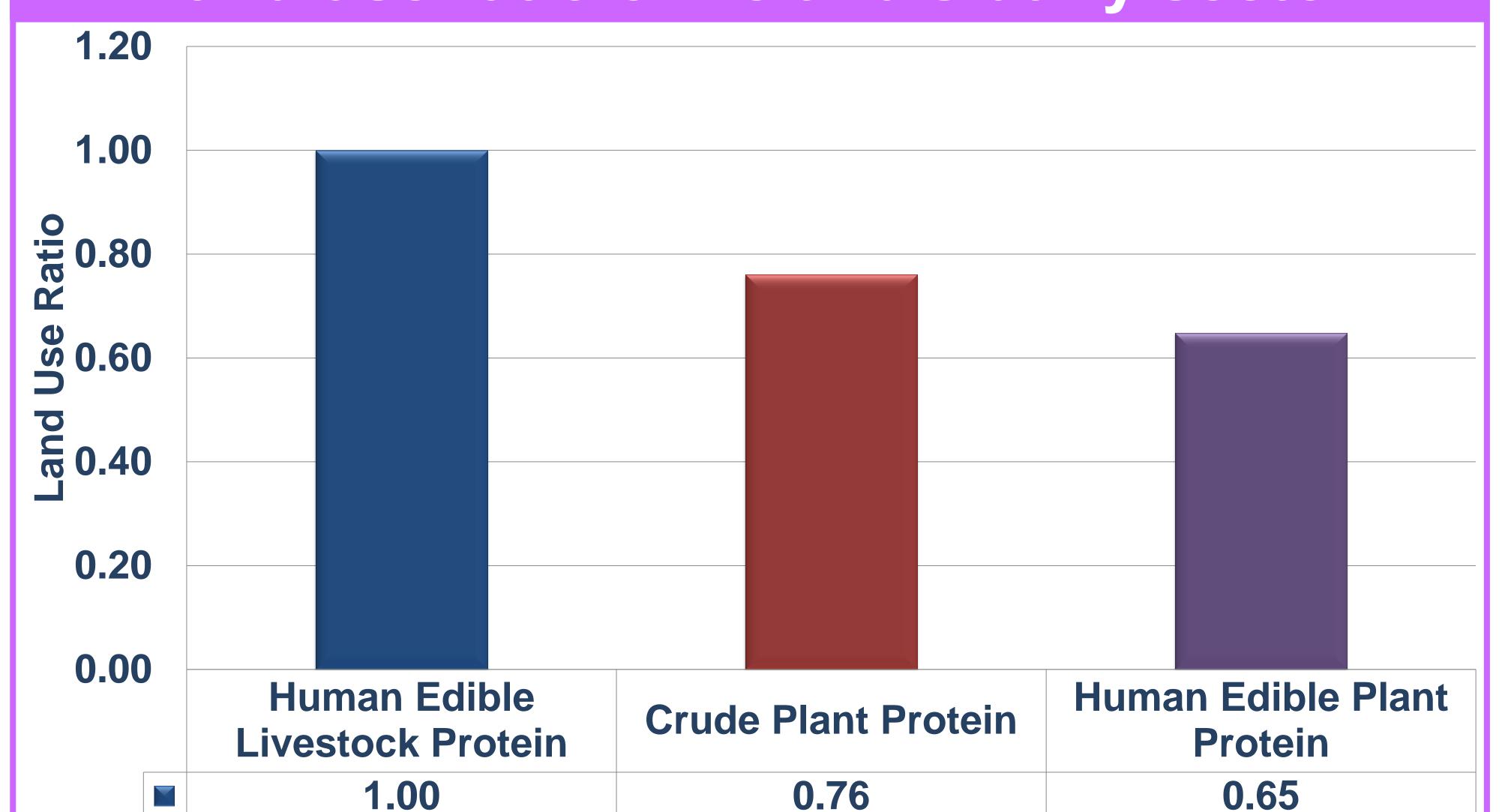
Location Human edible protein conversion ratio

Global grass based dairy 1:2.6

Global maize based dairy 1:1

Irish grass based dairy 1:4.9





Purpose of the land use ratio

- ✓ Feed Conversion Efficiency doesn't consider potential protein foregone
- ✓ LUR compares the current animal protein against the potential plant protein production from that land area
- ✓ Including both local and international land areas

Take home messages

- ✓ Ireland's dairy system does not cause feed-food competition
- ✓ Ireland's current dairy sector is more protein efficient than its global competitors