



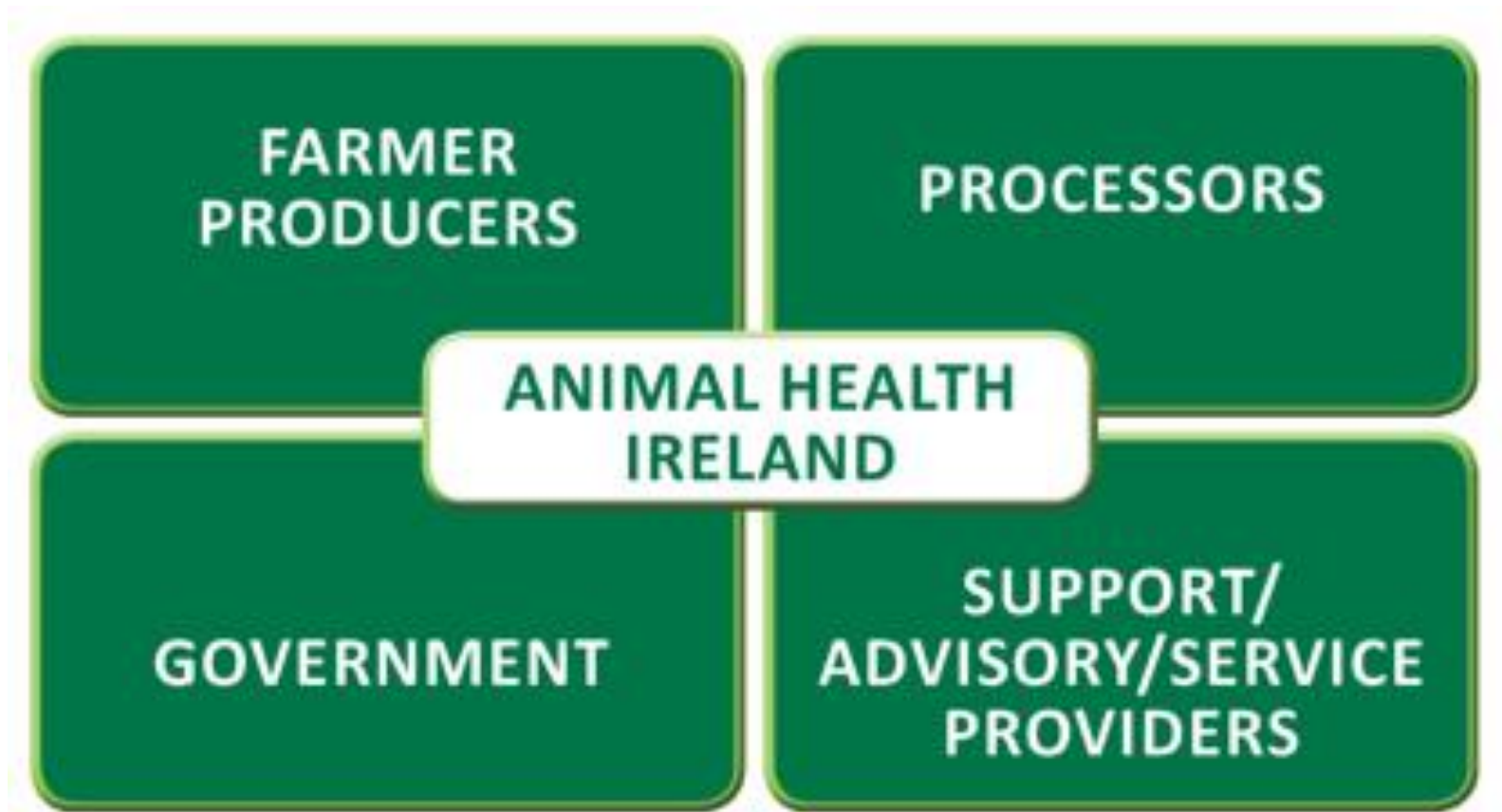
# CellCheck -10 years on



**Milk Quality Workshop**  
Finola McCoy/Michelle McGrath



January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024





“To contribute to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable farming and agri-food sector through improved animal health and welfare”



PROGRAMMES ▾

ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND TRAINING ▾

NEWS & EVENTS ▾

ABOUT ▾



Animal Health Ireland provides the knowledge, education and coordination required to establish effective control programmes for non-regulated diseases of livestock.

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# Prioritisation of activities:





Preventive Veterinary Medicine

Volume 95, Issues 3–4, 1 July 2010, Pages 198–207



Setting priorities for non-regulatory animal health in Ireland: Results from an expert Policy Delphi study and a farmer priority identification survey

[Simon J. More](#)<sup>a, d</sup>  , [Ken McKenzie](#)<sup>b</sup>, [Joe O'Flaherty](#)<sup>c</sup>, [Michael L. Doherty](#)<sup>d</sup>,  
[Andrew R. Cromie](#)<sup>e</sup>, [Mike J. Magan](#)<sup>f</sup>

- Cost
- Impact
- International perception
- Impediments to market access



# Decline in milk quality since 2000?







**"It's confusing when I get different advice....who's right?"**

**"There's no coordinated approach"**

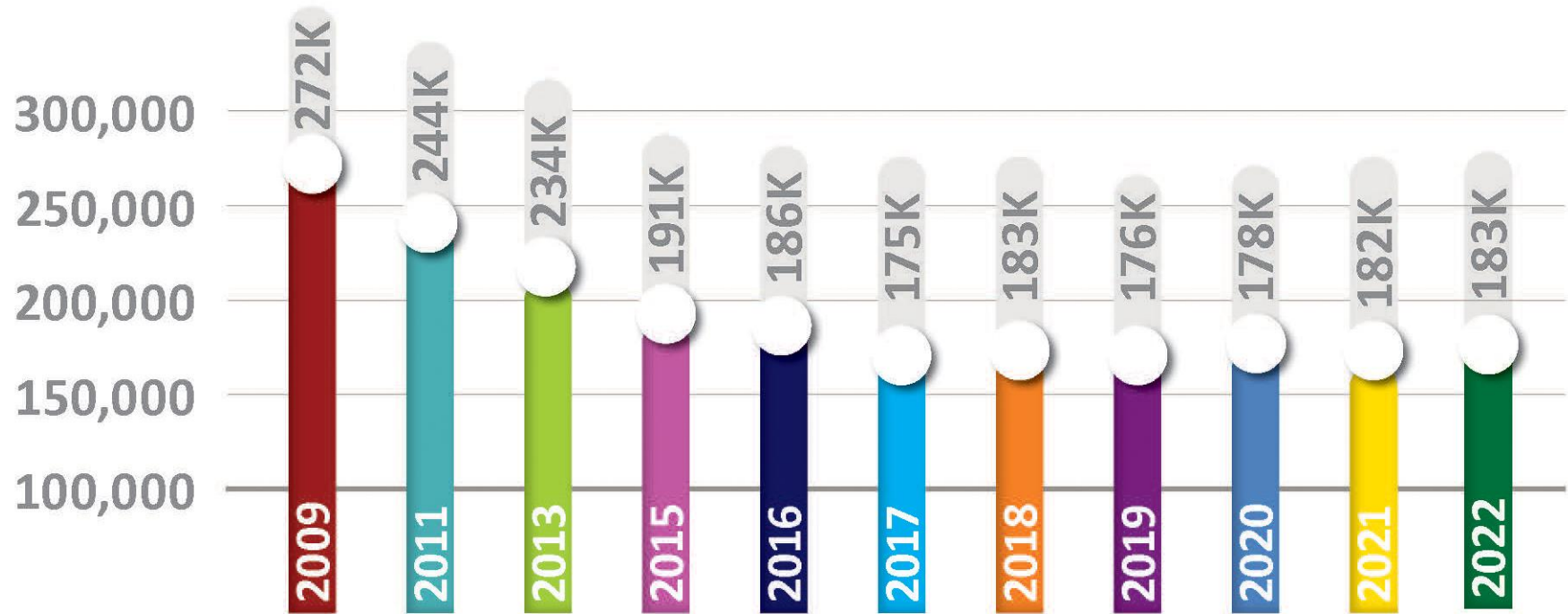
**"....nothing I do seems to work...."**

**"it's costing me lots of money .....tubes, penalties, dumping milk...."**



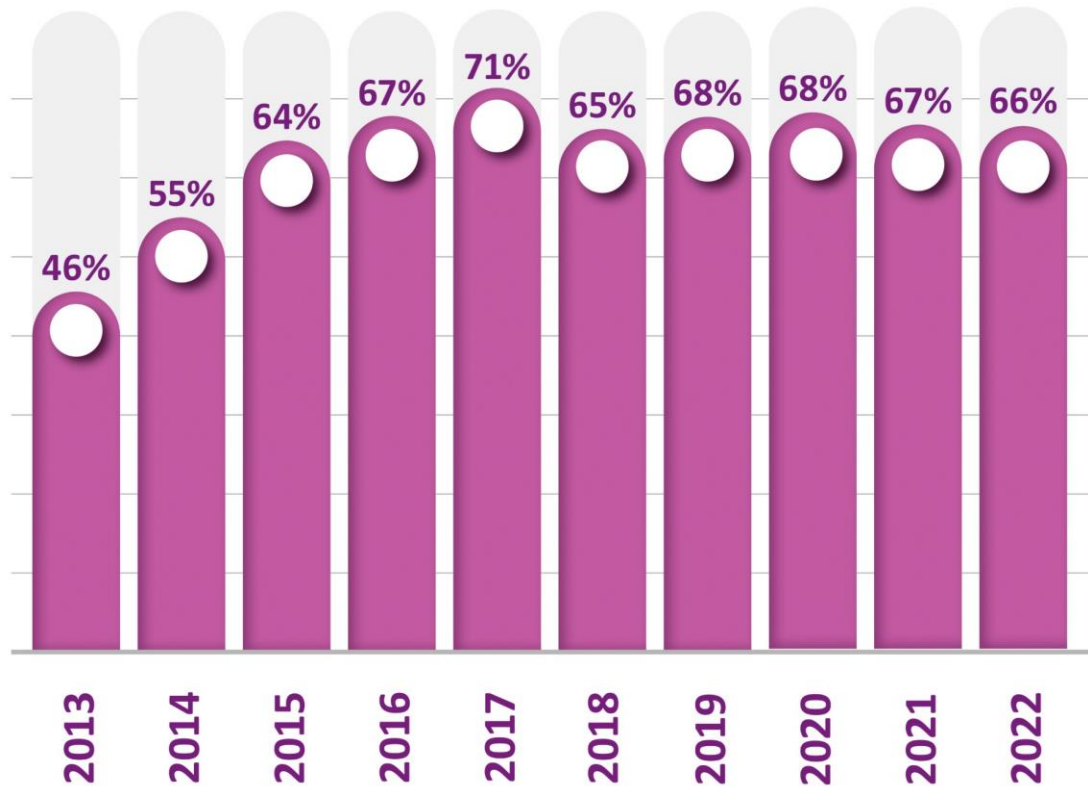


# National Average Bulk Tank SCC



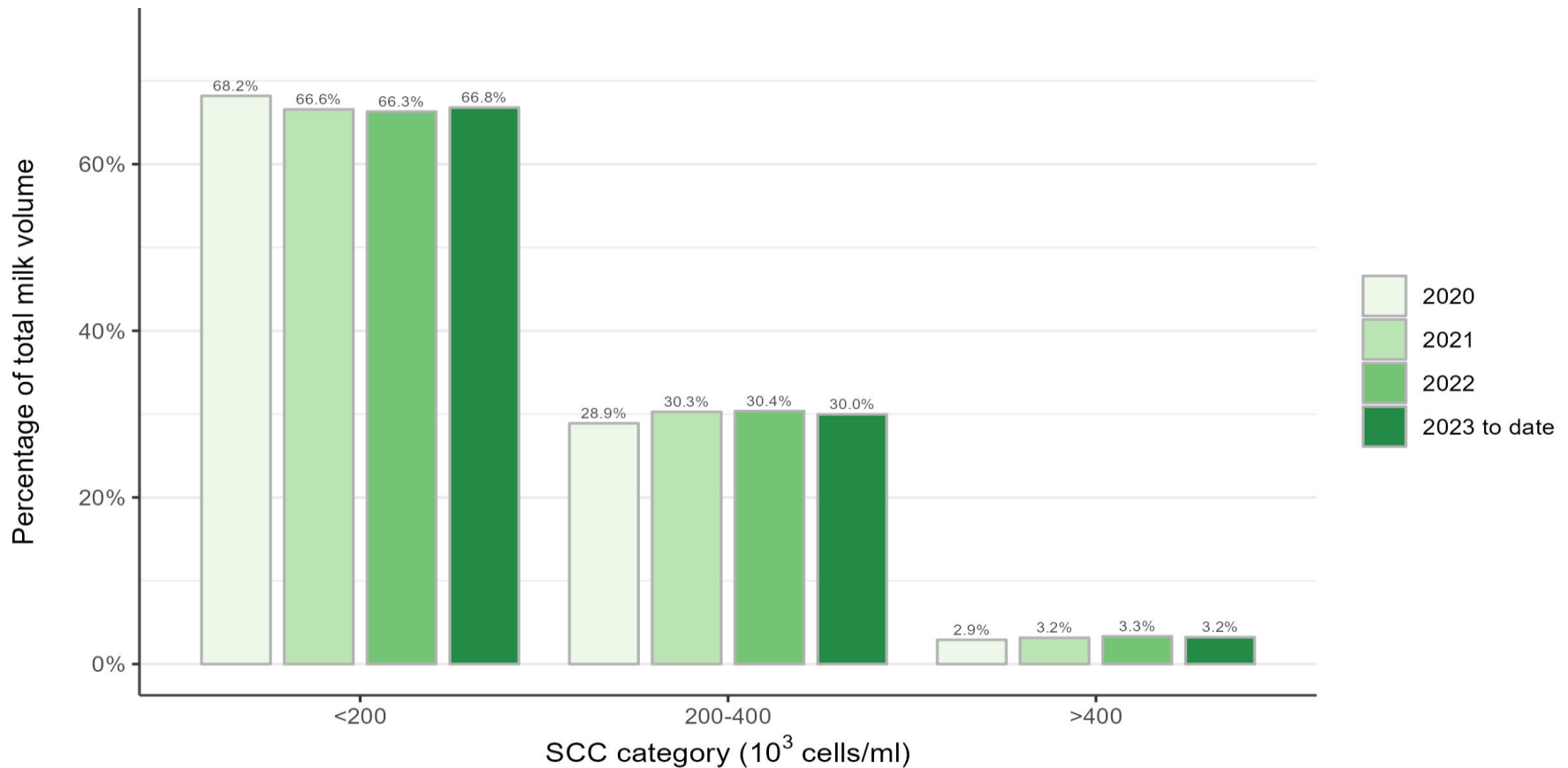
# Proportion of milk volume with an SCC <200K

VOLUME <200K





# Distribution of annual milk volume SCC:





# Industry-agreed targets...by 2025:

## 1. SCC target:

- 80% of milk supplied <200K
- 75% of milk supplied in T1 (Jan-Apr) <200K.

## 2. MR target:

- From 2021, increase of 15 percentage points p.a., for 2 years and 5% increase p.a. thereafter
- Increase the average number of recordings per annum from 4.5 to 6, by 2025.

## 3. Data collection target:

- 30% of dairy farmers recording mastitis treatments online
- 75% of dairy farmers recording dry cow treatments online

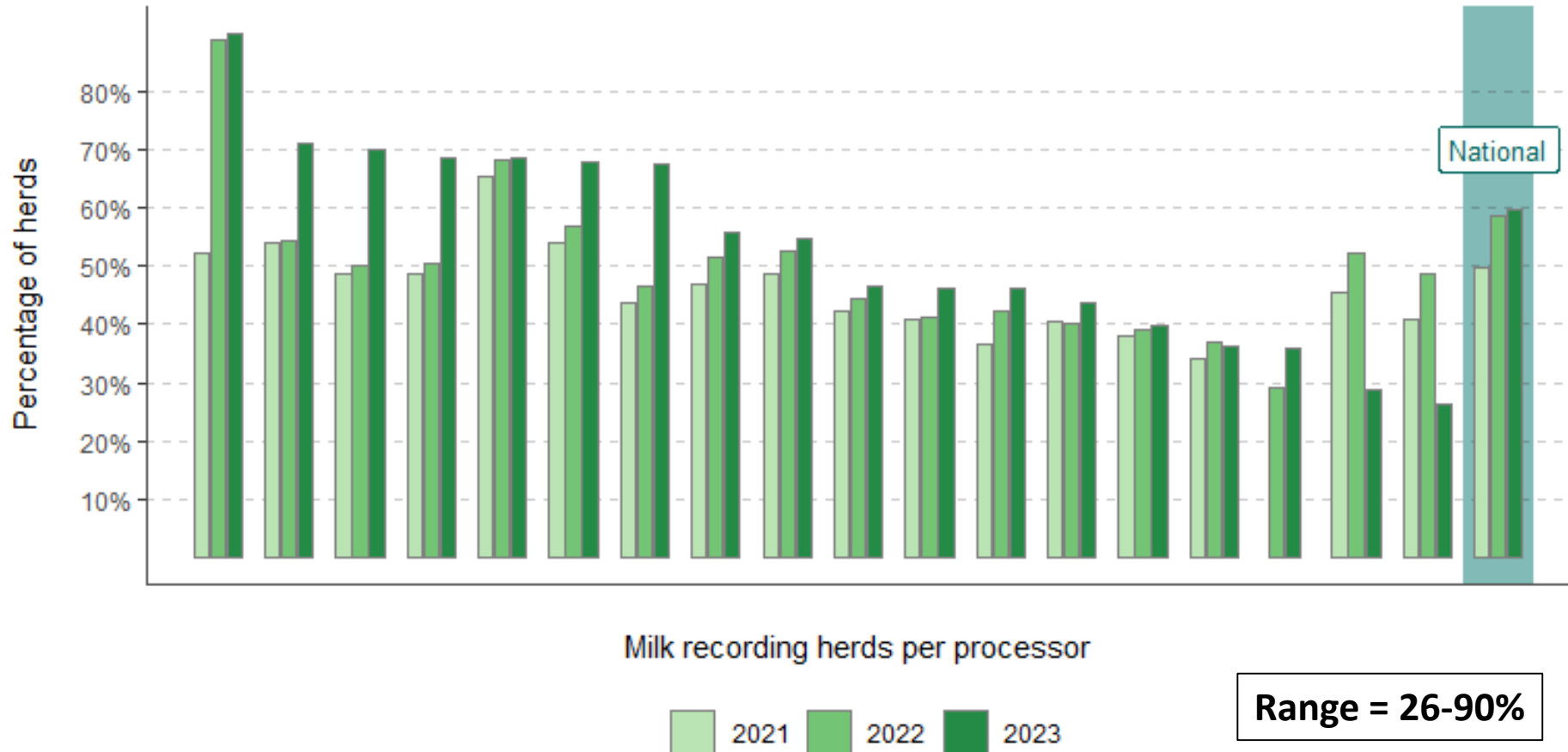


## Milk recording engagement:

	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Herds recorded</b>	43.5%	49.7%	58.6%	60%
<b>Cows recorded</b>	57%	67.5%	76.5%	81%
<b>Recordings within 30 days</b>	26%	30.6%	28.3%	26.7%**
<b>Recordings within 60 days</b>	56%	68.7%	64%	61%***
<b>Average no. of herd tests per lactation</b>	4.5(*4.7)	4.6 (*4.7)	4.2 (*4.6)	4.2 (*4.3)

- \* in herds with >1 recording
- \*\***26.4%** in herds with > 1 recording
- \*\*\***60.3%** in herds with > 1 recording

# Percentage of herds milk recording - anon





## Herds recording treatments online:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Dry cow treatments</b>	3668	4135	4846	6803	7176 (44%)	5411 (32%)
<b>Mastitis treatments</b>	154	194	235	251	227 (1.4%)	2644 (16%)

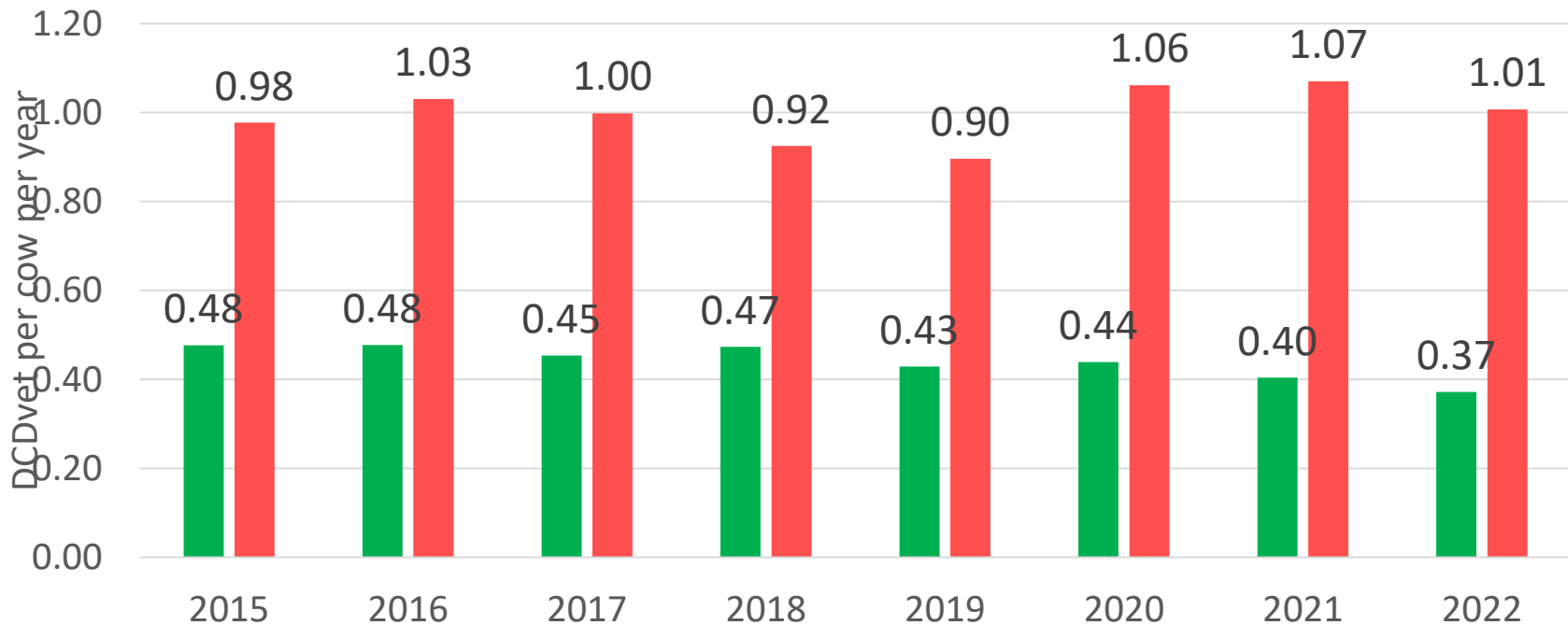




# Estimated antimicrobial usage:

- Based on sales figures of antibiotic intramammary tubes
- DCDvet (Defined Course Dose) per cow per year calculated-allows for comparison between years, and with other countries that use the same metric

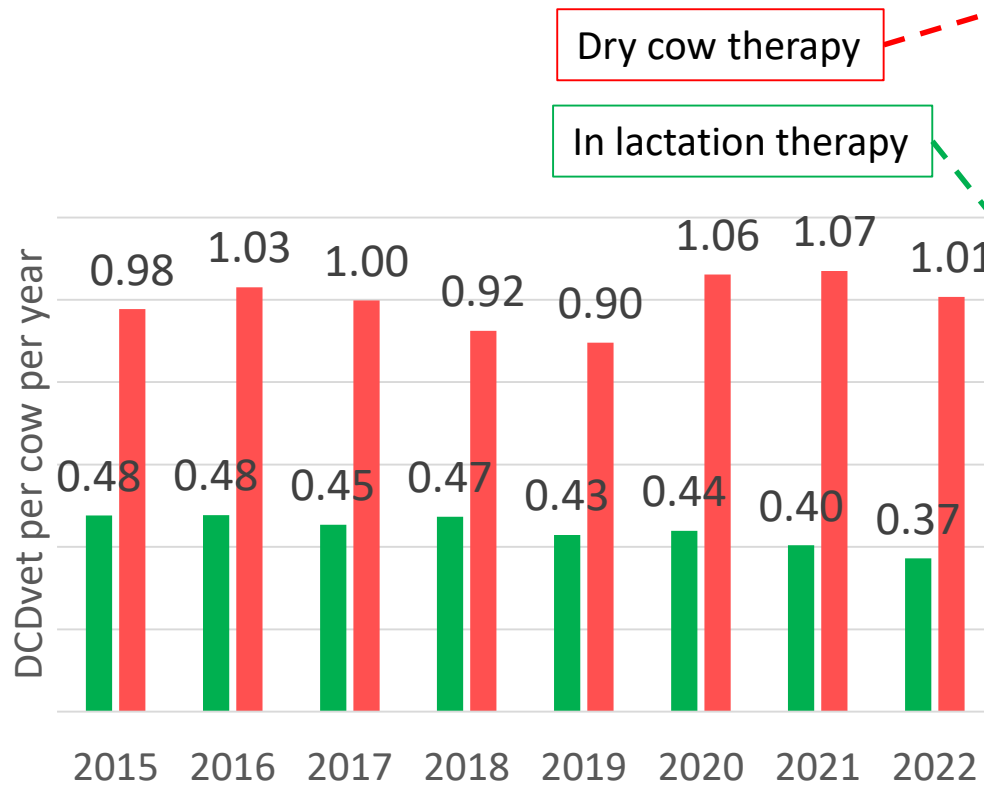
# Estimated treatment rate



■ In lactation antimicrobials DCDvet per cow per year

■ Dry cow antimicrobials DCDvet per cow per year (Using new formula for cows eligible for DCT)

# How does Ireland compare?



■ In lactation antimicrobials DCDvet per cow per year

## Dry cow therapy

*IE: 1.07*

*NL: 0.30 (2017)*

*DK: 0.31 (2020)*

*UK: 0.55 (2011-15)*

## In lactation therapy

*IE: 0.37*

*NL: 0.22 (2017)*

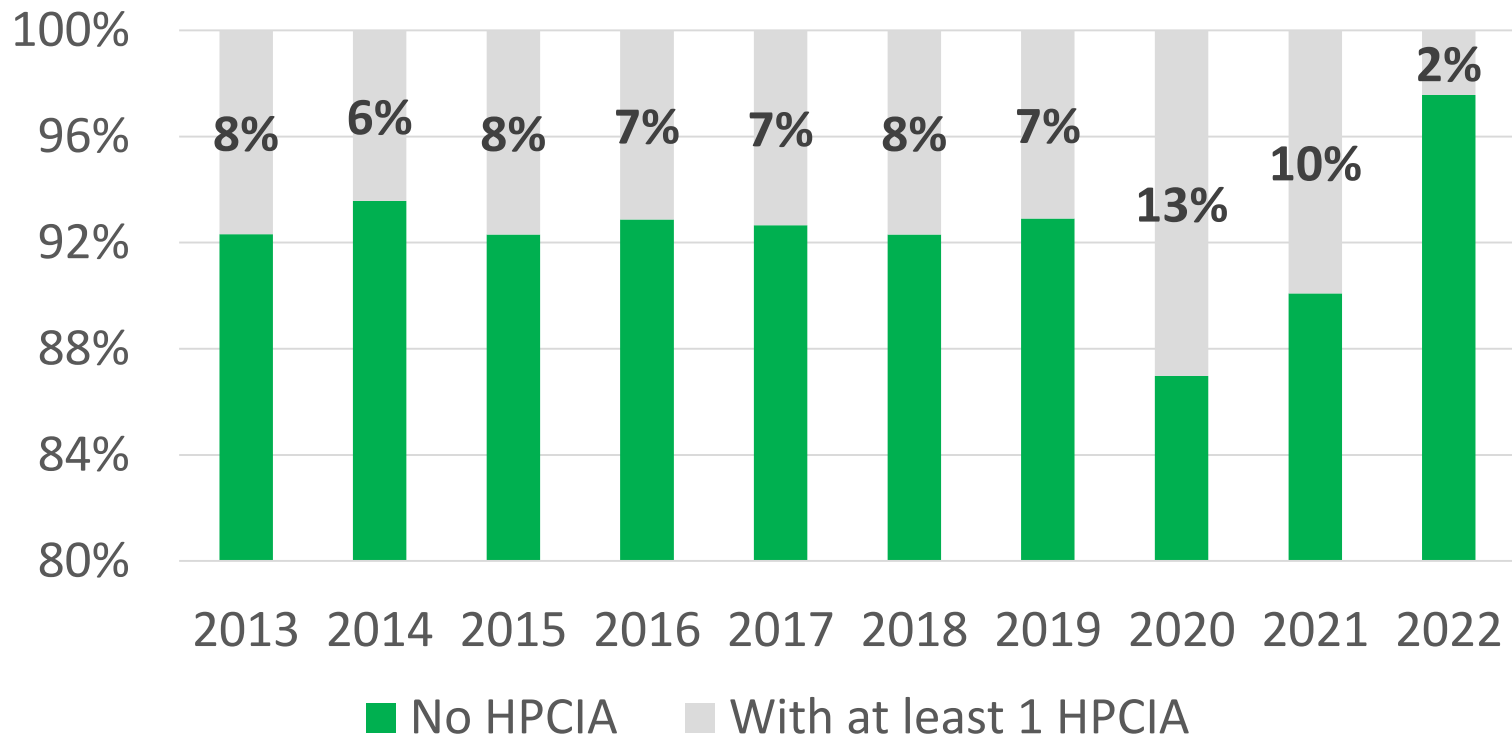
*DK: 0.25 (2020)*

*UK: 0.59 (2011-15)*



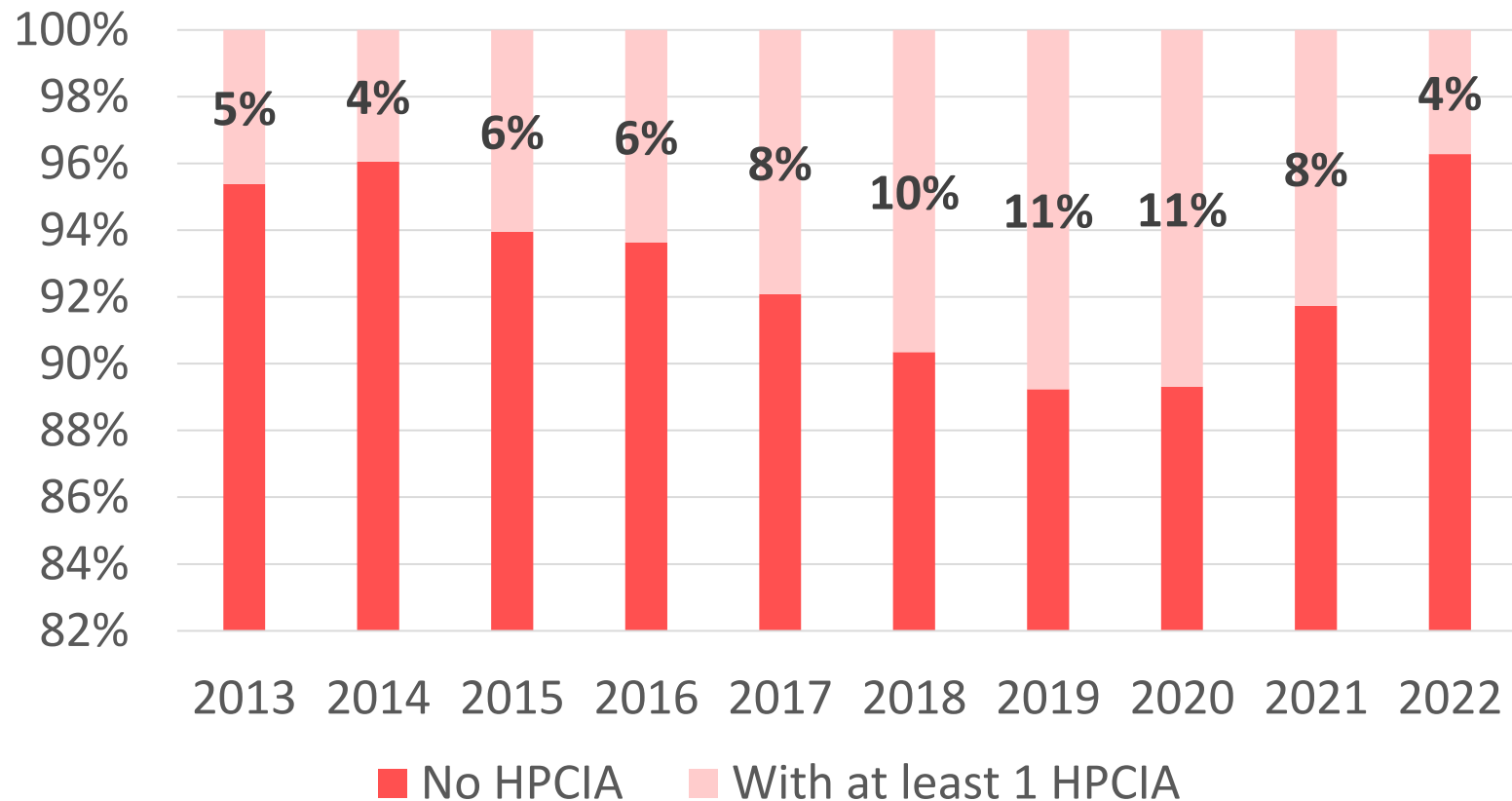
# % of tubes that contain HPCIA

In-lactation tubes



# % of tubes that contain HPCIA

## Dry Cow Tubes

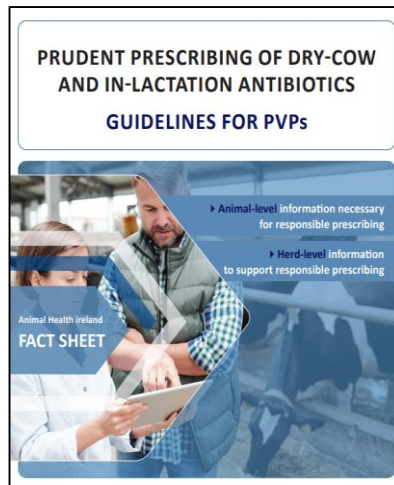
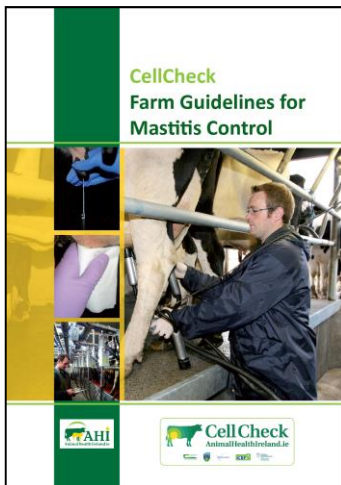






# CellCheck-main components:

## 1. Establishing best practice (TWG):



## 2. Building capacity (training and tools):

- CellCheck Farmer Workshops
- Service Provider Training
- TASAH training for PVPs
- Dry Cow Consults
- Cell Count Solutions Consults
- CellCheck ICBF dashboard
- CellCheck Partner Labs



# CellCheck-main components:

## 3. Building awareness (communications):

- CellCheck Tip of the Month
- On-farm events
- CellCheck Virtual Week
- Co-op SCC performance reports
- “Benefits of milk recording”

## 4. Evaluating change:

- Bulk tank SCC data analysis
- Intramammary sales analysis
- Analyse outcomes of TASAH consult participation
- Milk recording participation



## 5. Setting goals:

- Industry-agreed targets.





# CellCheck awards-10 year winners:





# Priority activities for 2024 & beyond:

- Cell Count Solutions Consult (TASAH-funded), including PVP and service provider training
  - No eligibility criteria (commenced 2022)
- CellCheck Dry Cow Consult (TASAH-funded), including PVP training
  - For milk recording herds, with average SCC <200,000 cells/mL (commenced 2018)
- Evaluation of Cell Count Solutions consults delivered to date (>500)
- Detailed analysis of bulk tank SCC data, to understand milk quality trends in last decade and explore industry questions





# Priority activities for 2024 & beyond:

- Continued engagement with CellCheck Implementation Group
- Working with DAFM to review and improve CellCheck Partner Labs listing, to include Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing
- Continued analysis of intramammary sales data, to estimate usage





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