

MAgrSc Innovation Support Programme 2017-2019

Study title: **Alignment of education
planning and choices to succession
needs on dairy farms**

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Study Objectives

1. Identify the level of alignment on family dairy farms between education decisions and succession planning
2. Investigate the factors that influence education decisions made by dairy farm families
3. Develop recommendations and a framework to support Teagasc in future planning for the education of dairy farmers

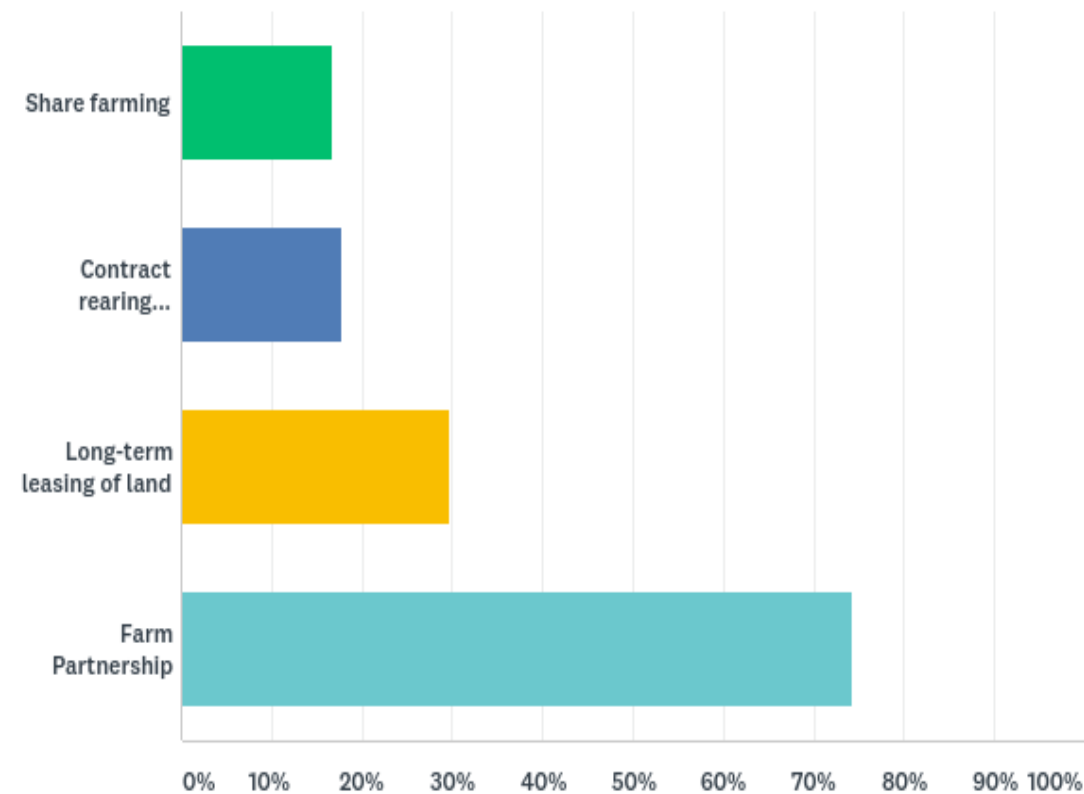
Study Methodology

- Online survey of dairy students on succession and its influence on their educational choices
 - Level 6 Advanced Certificate, Level 7 Professional Diploma and Level 8 UCD Dairy Business
- Focus groups with farmers, educators and farm families

Progress to date (Since Jan 2018)

- Distributed questionnaire to dairy students 02/04/18
- Survey closed on 14/05/18
- 118 respondents
- Survey coded
- Initial analysis completed
- Continuing with literature review

Q16 Are you planning on availing of any of the following? Please explain the reasons why



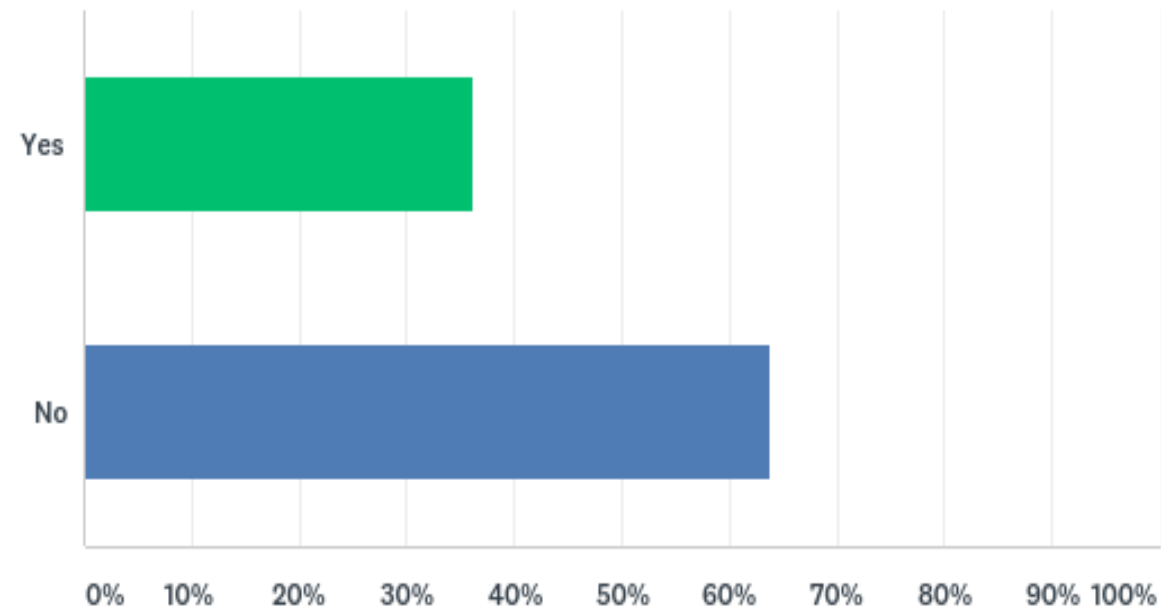
Findings to Date

“These are a great way for young farmers to build up stock numbers and follow a profitable career as well as gaining experience.”

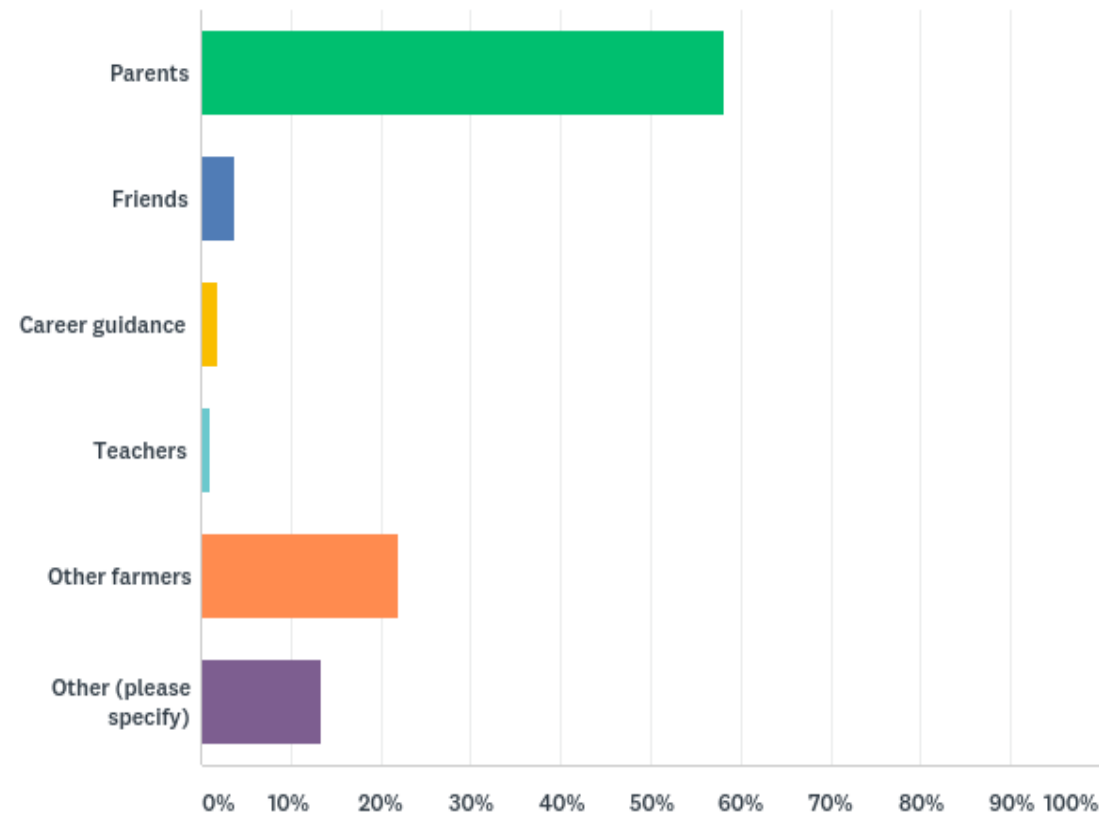
“To get an alternative income from the farm and maybe a better income than beef.”

“I don't want anyone standing over me telling me what to do I want to work smarter not harder. The home farm is too small for a partnership and I get no input in decision making”.

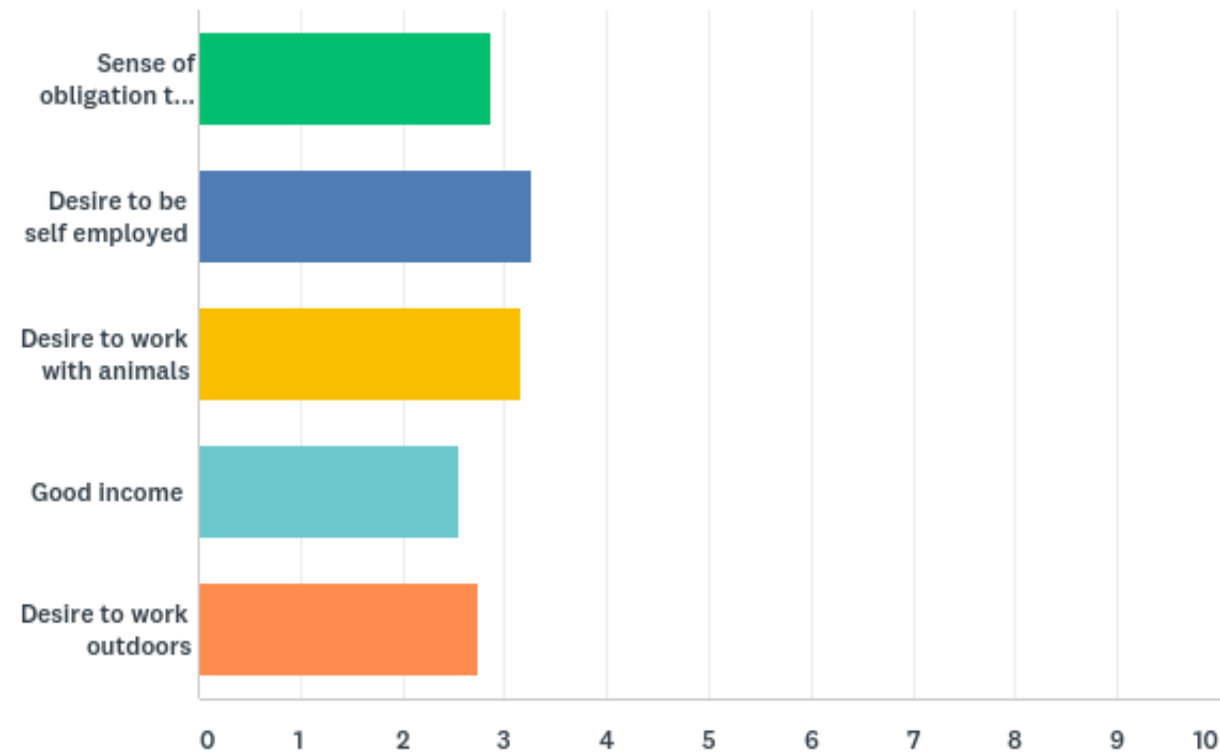
Q17 Did any financial incentives e.g. Young Farmers grant, stamp duty relief, affect your succession plan or educational decisions?



Q18 Who was the main influence on your decision to enrol in an agricultural course?



Q19 Which of these factors were the biggest influence on your decision ? Rank 1-5



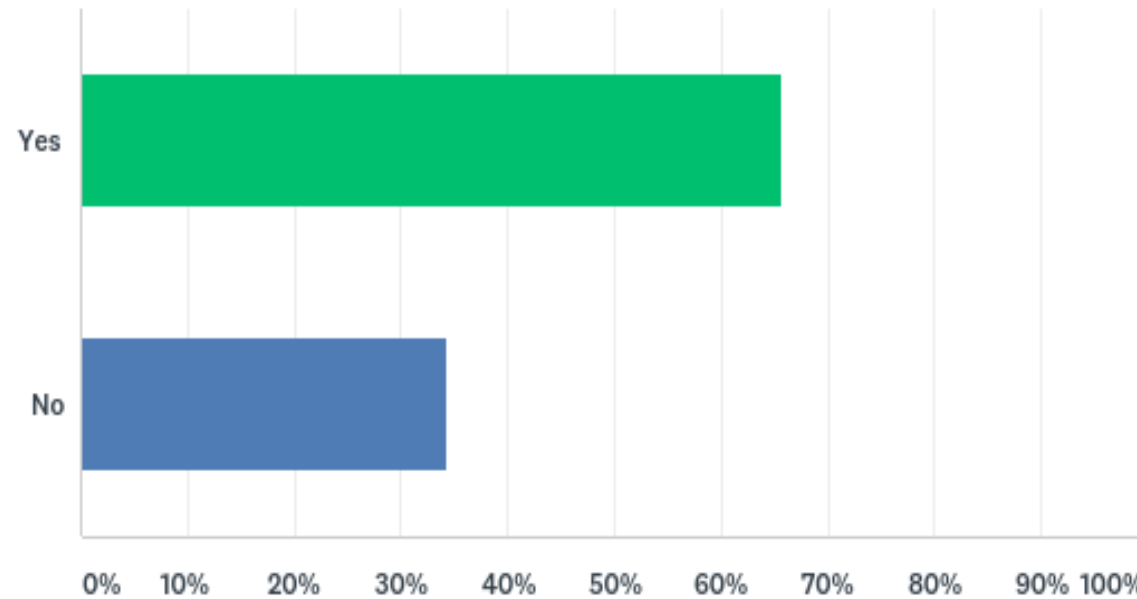
Findings to Date

Sense of obligation to take over the farm and desire to be self employed were the most commonly ranked No.1.

Desire to work outdoors was the most ranked No.2.

Desire to work with animals was the most ranked No.3.

Q25 Do you think Teagasc has a role in agricultural education and career planning at secondary school level? Please explain your answer



Findings to date

“They should get more involved with students and give access to more info on potential careers in agriculture”

“To encourage students with no farms at home that they still have a future in dairying”

Issues/Problems arising

- No major issues to date

Advisory/Education work (Jan – June 2018)

- Primary Food Production with WIT Food Business
- Beef practical skills and Feed ID with Level 6 Distance education
- Looking up resources for the new Level 6 courses
- Supervising practical exams
- Scribing and reading for written exams

Schedule of Activities (Work Plan)

