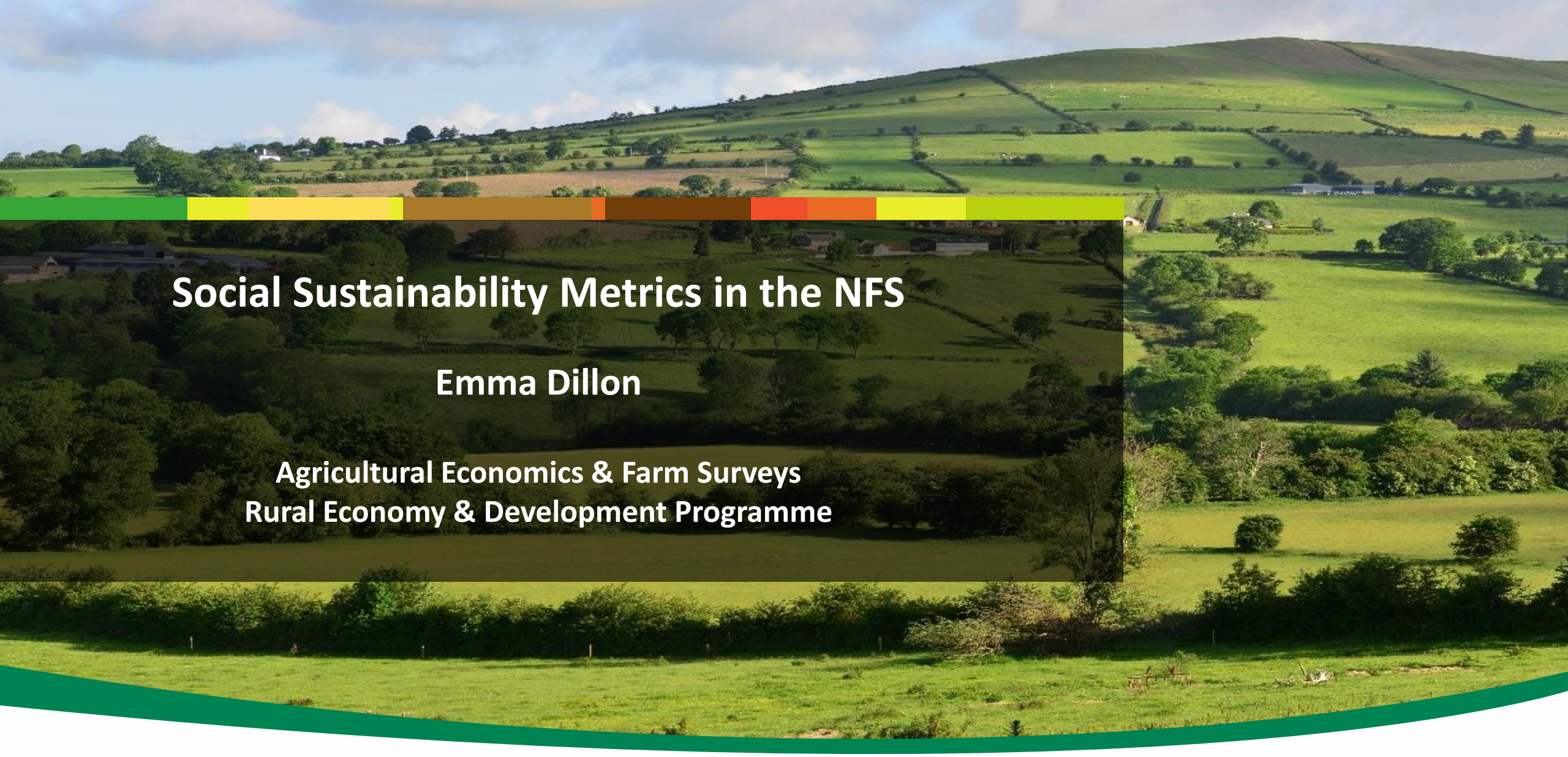

Social Sustainability Metrics in the NFS

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Sustainable Food Systems

- A Sustainable Food System

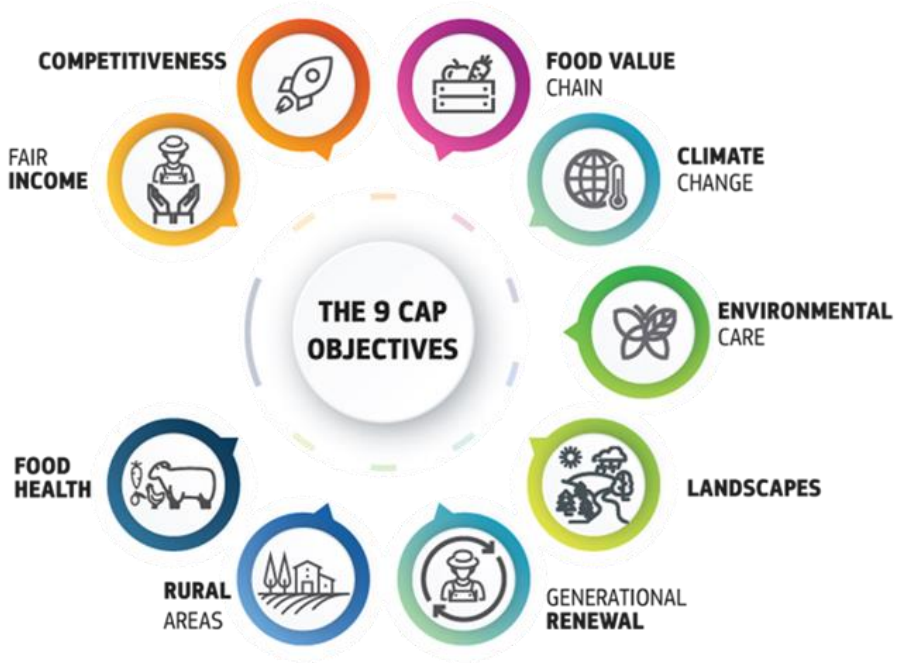
- is profitable throughout (economic sustainability)

- has broad-based benefits for society (social sustainability) &,

- has a positive or neutral impact on the natural environment (environmental sustainability).

An evolving policy landscape

- Holistic nature of sustainability
  - Increasingly evident in policy
- Widening focus of the CAP
  - Overlapping dimensions
  - Broad ranging societal challenges
  - Changing evaluation needs
  - New metrics required



From FADN to FSDN

- Traditional focus of the EU Farm Accountancy Data Network
  - Physical & Structural Data
  - Economic & Financial Data
- National Farm Survey – a broader remit
  - Indicator evolution
  - Challenging to measure social sustainability
    - Can be subjective and sometimes sensitive

How to measure social sustainability?

- **Social sustainability is a measure of human welfare**

  Specifying and managing both positive and negative impacts of systems, processes, organisations, and activities on people and social life (Balaman, 2018).

- Both internal and external dimensions (Brennan et al., 2020).
- **Internal** - issues such as wellbeing, both physical and psychological, demographic viability, education, working conditions for the farmer, families and employees.
- **External** - community oriented issues, relating to the values, concerns and demands of wider rural society e.g. animal health and welfare, generational renewal and rural viability.

Social dimensions

Health and Wellbeing

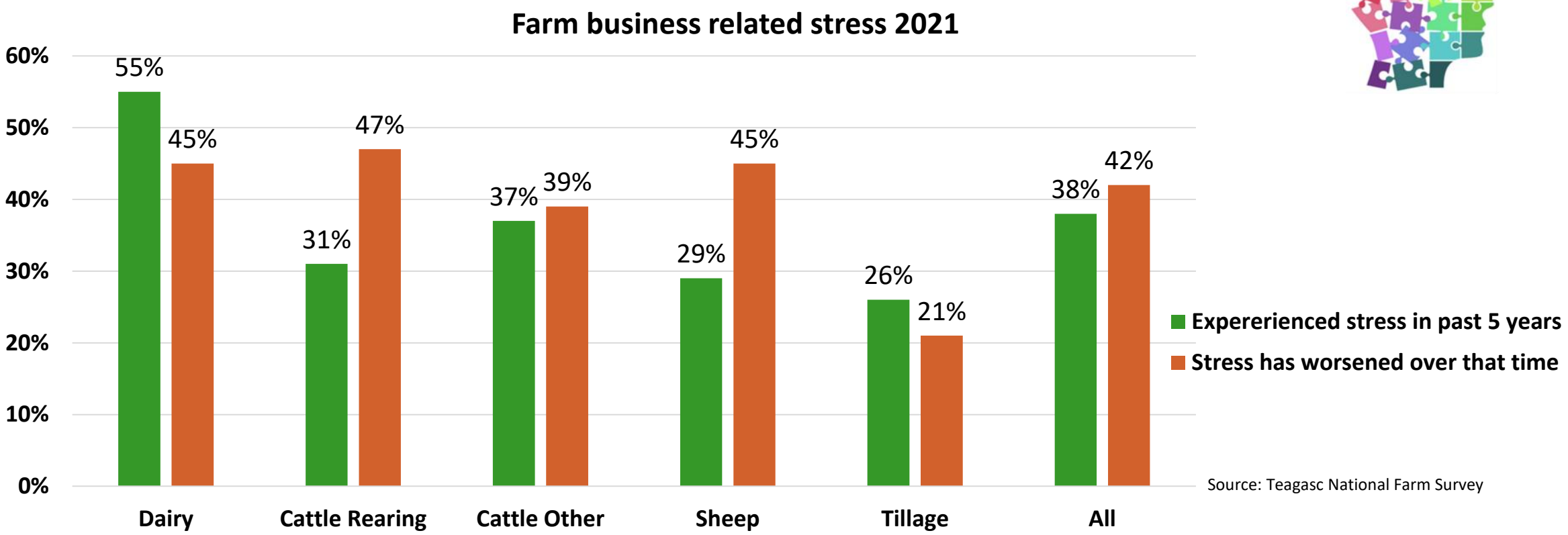
Connectivity

Social engagement

Farm labour

Special Focus - Social Sustainability 2021

- **Health and wellbeing**



Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey

- **38% of farmers reported stress** relating to their farm business in the past 5 years
  - More than half of Dairy farmers. Approx. 1/4 to 1/3 across other systems
  - Significant **deterioration over time** across livestock systems
- However, comparable data from 2018 indicated a much higher incidence of stress
  - Drivers were weather, workload and finance in a particularly challenging year

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Special Focus - Social Sustainability 2021

- **Health and wellbeing**

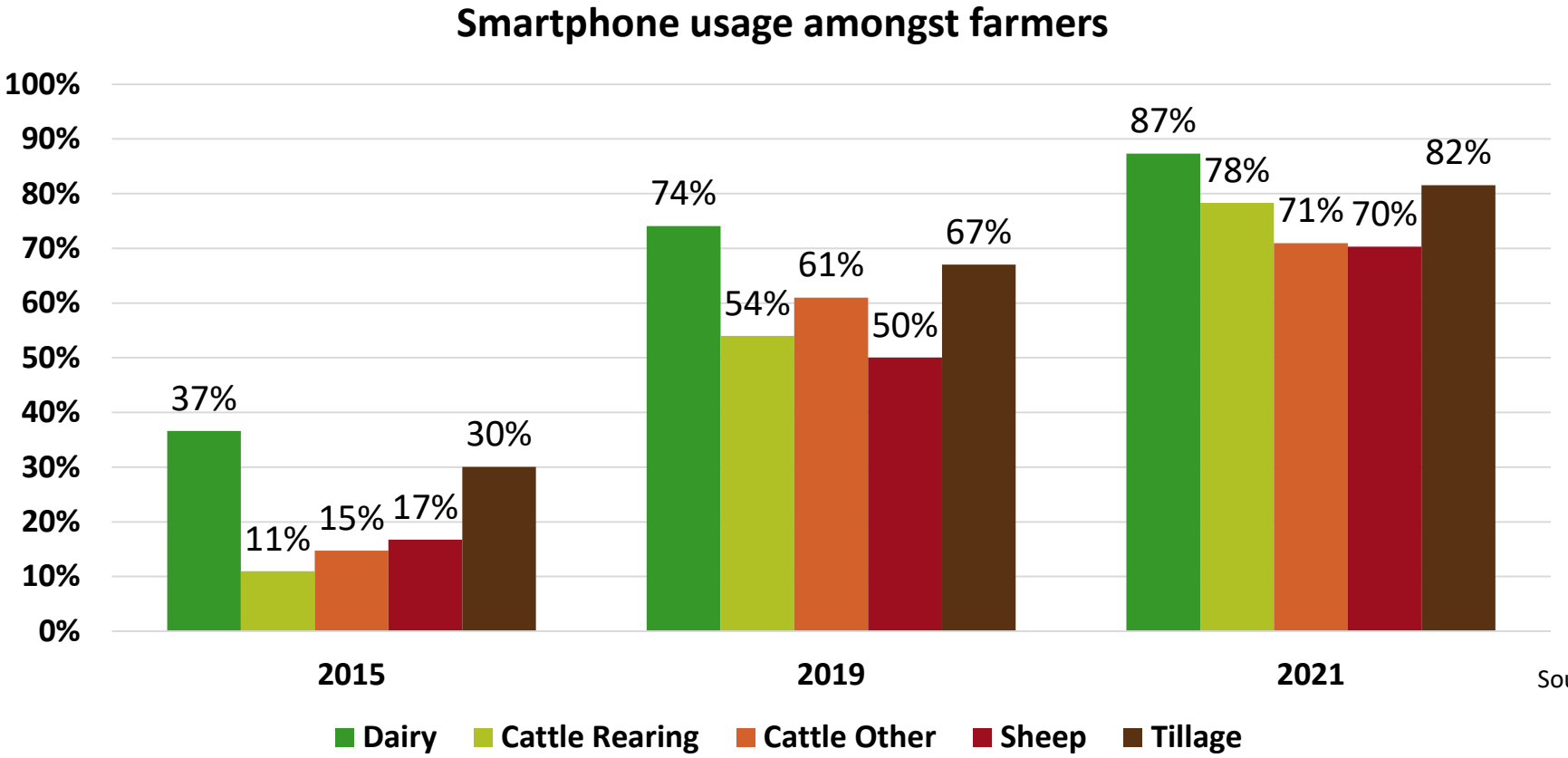
Self-reported farmer health, by system 2021				
%	**Poor**	**Fair**	**Good**	**Very Good**
Dairy	0	11	55	34
Cattle Rearing	6	21	41	33
Cattle Other	1	23	51	25
Sheep	1	30	37	33
Tillage	0	8	50	42
All	**2**	**20**	**47**	**31**

Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey

- **78% of farmers themselves report good or very good health**
  - Highest amongst Tillage farmers, lowest amongst Sheep farmers
- **Between about 1/4 and 1/3 of Drystock farmers report poor or fair health**
  - compared with about 1/10 of Dairy and Tillage farmers
- **Of those reporting poor or fair health, almost half have no replacement labour**
  - Sheep farmers were least likely to have an identified replacement

Special Focus - Social Sustainability 2021

- **Connectivity**



Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey

- **Dramatic increase in smartphone usage amongst farmers**
  - Going from 20% across systems in 2015 to 76% in 2021
  - Above 70% across all systems, highest amongst Dairy and Tillage farmers

Special Focus - Social Sustainability 2021

- **Connectivity**

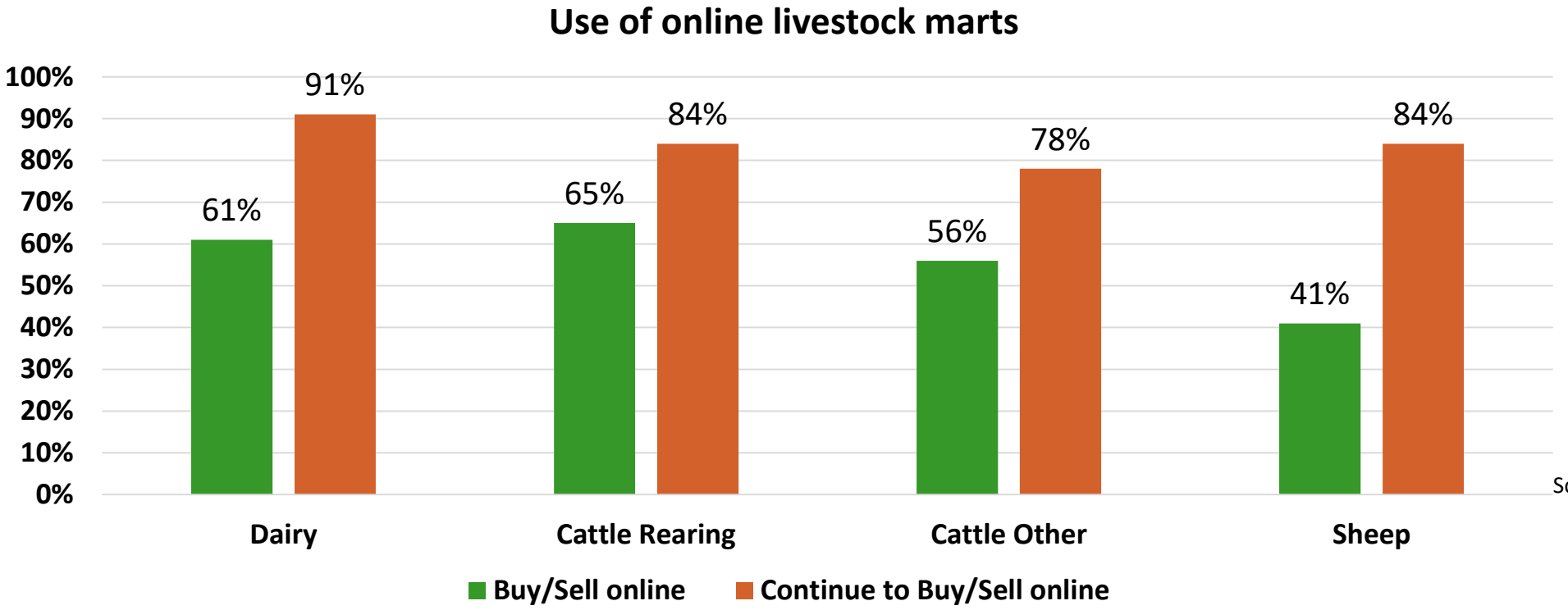
Internet access across farm households			
%	**2011**	**2019**	**2021**
Dairy	84	95	97
Cattle Rearing	66	68	88
Cattle Other	67	80	83
Sheep	66	78	85
Tillage	94	90	92
All	**76**	**80**	**88**

Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey

- **Steady increase in internet access/utilisation amongst farm households since 2011**
  - Almost universal amongst Dairy farms in 2021
  - Increase evident since Covid-19 pandemic
  - Dairy farmers more likely to use ICT for farm business
- **Quality - 57% report good/very good, broadly similar across systems**
  - 28% report average quality, with 15% poor/very poor

Special Focus - Social Sustainability 2021

- **Connectivity**



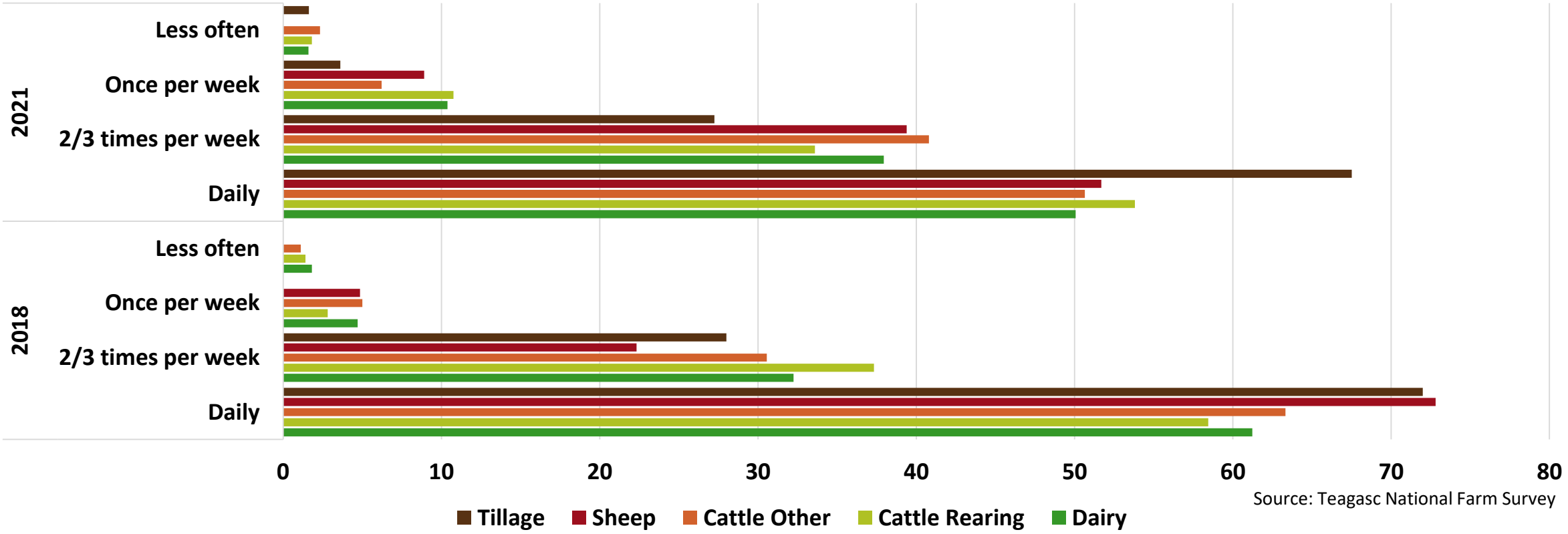
Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey

- **Behavioural change evident around livestock mart participation**
  - 2/3 of farmers watched marts online during the pandemic
  - Over half bought/sold in this way (across all systems)
  - 83% of those plan to continue doing so
  - Sheep farmers least engaged in buying/selling online

Special Focus - Social Sustainability 2021

- **Social engagement**

Frequency of farmer social contact outside of household, % by farm system 2018 & 2021

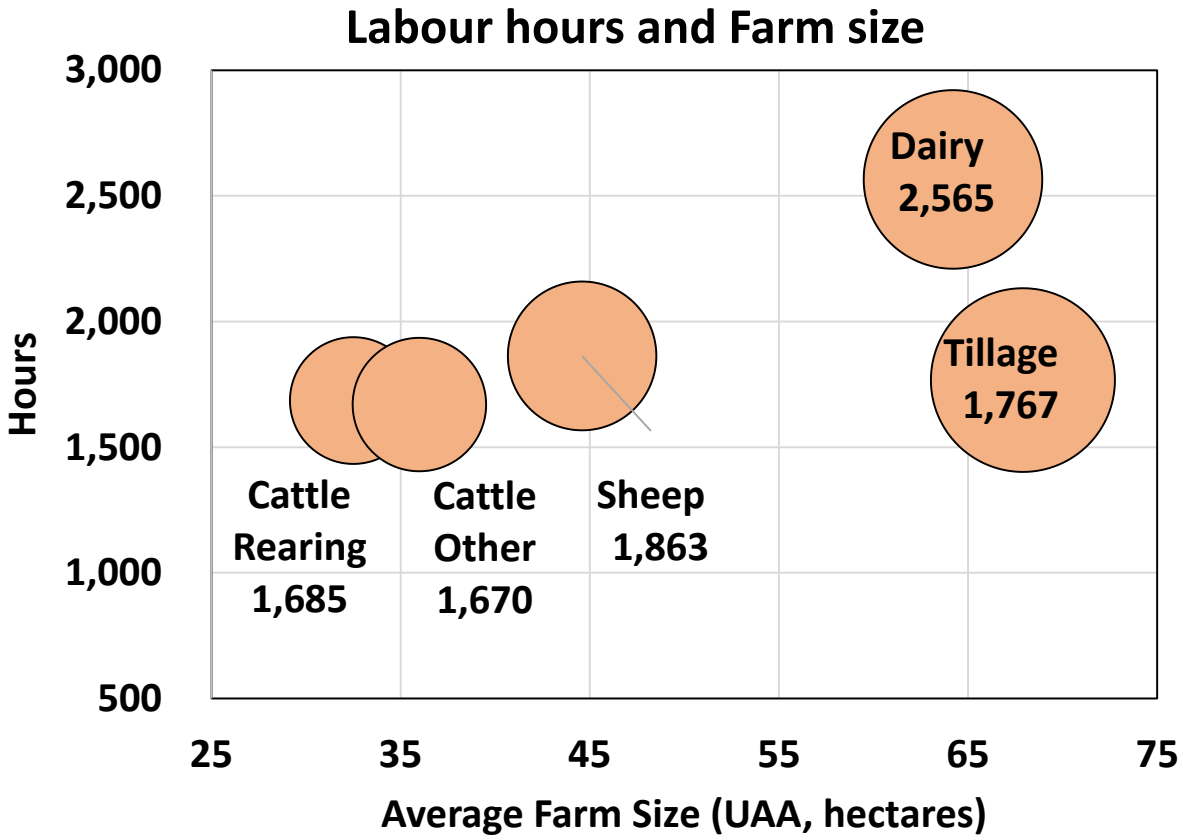


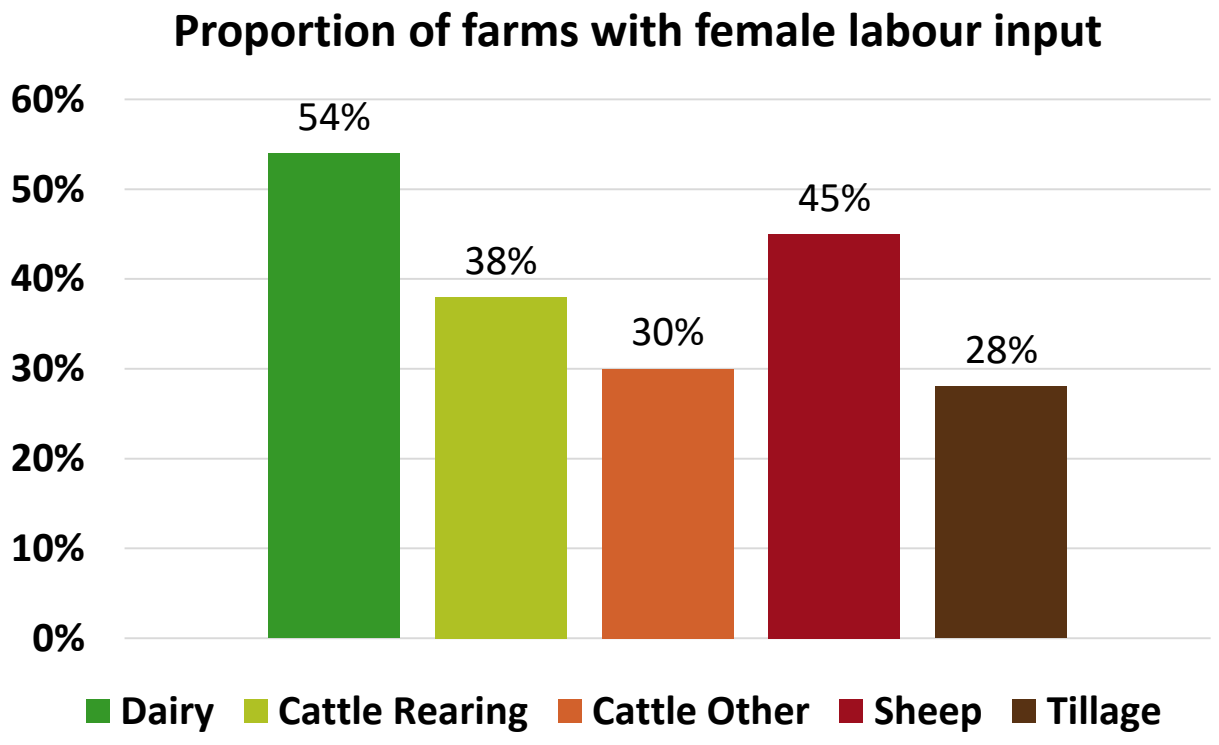
Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey

- **Impact of Covid-19 evident in terms of daily contact across systems**
  - Daily contact by Sheep farmers went from 73% to 52% from 2018 to 2021
  - Dairy and Cattle Other down about 10 percentage points to 50% also
  - Subsequent increase in the proportion of farmers with less social contact

Special Focus - Social Sustainability 2021

- **Farm Labour**





Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey

Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey

- **Larger labour requirement on Dairy farms** reflected in total annual hours worked on-farm
- **Dairy and Sheep farms have a relatively higher proportion of female labour input**

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Indicator development in the NFS

Farmer

Demographics
Education
Workload
Isolation
Farm Safety
Connectivity (ICT)
Succession
Stress
Wellbeing/Quality of Life*

Health & Welfare*
Antibiotic use**
Farm Facilities*

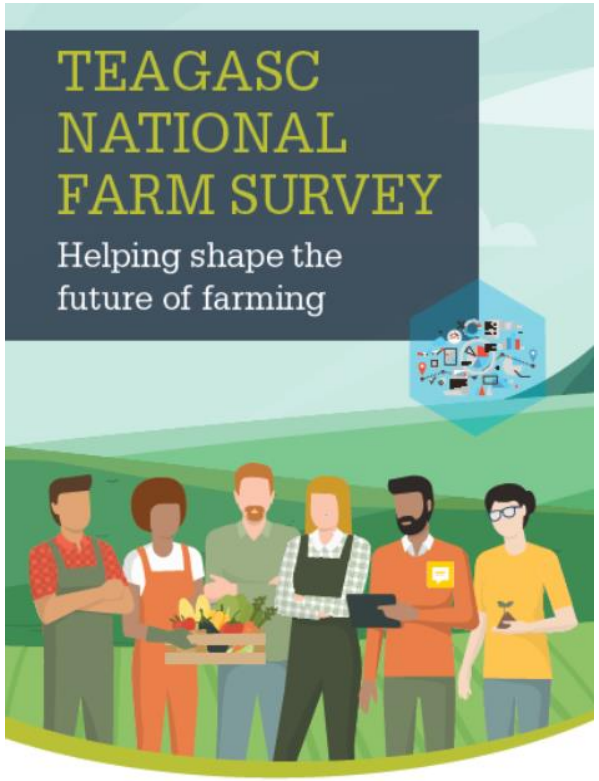
Animal

Community

Rural viability/access to services
Small Farms Survey
Biodiversity*

**Work in progress ** not currently collected*

Thank You



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