Teagasc National Farm Survey 2022 Sustainability Report

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Rural Economy and Development Programme

October 6th, 2023

Teagasc
Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Overview

- Theoretical framework
- Methodology
- Results
- Summary / conclusion

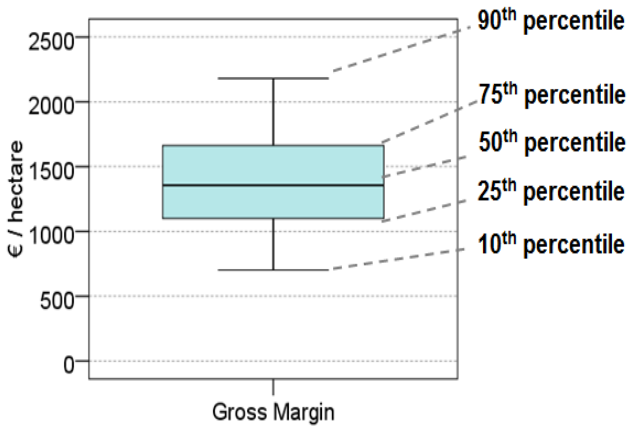
Sustainability Framework

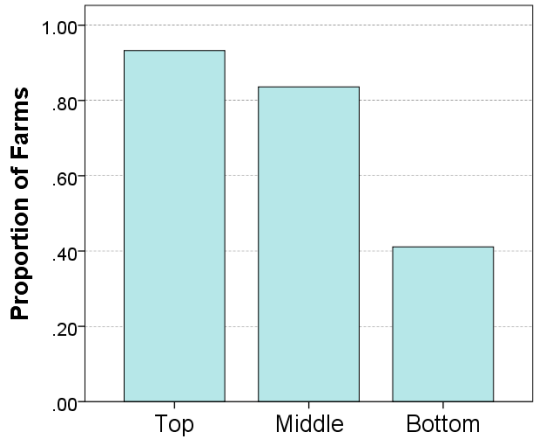
- Farm level sustainability is intersection of:
  1. Economic
  2. Environmental
  3. Social
  4. Innovation

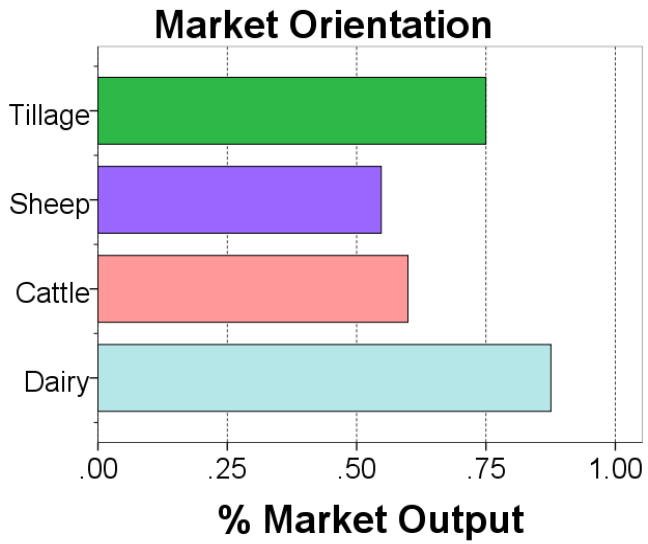
Profile of Teagasc NFS Sample - 2022

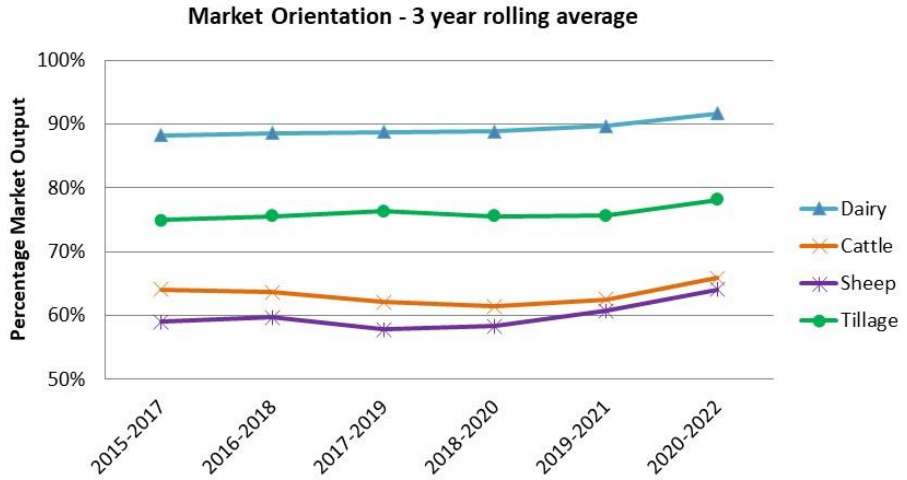
Farm Type	Dairy	Cattle	Sheep	Tillage	All Farms
Sample No.	262	333	106	73	774
Population Represented	15,323	48,227	13,979	6,246	83,776
Average					
Utilisable Agricultural Area (ha^{-1})	64.8	34.8	45.0	63.9	44.6
Grassland Area (ha^{-1})	63.2	34.1	43.8	21.6	40.1
Tillage Area (ha^{-1})	1.6	0.7	1.2	42.3	4.5
Dairy Cow Livestock Units	92.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.9
Cattle Livestock Units	41.5	40.9	16.8	26.4	35.8
Sheep Livestock Units	0.7	1.8	33.4	4.7	7.1
Total Livestock Units	134.3	42.7	50.2	32.1	59.8
Farm Stocking Rate (LU ha^{-1})	2.1	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4

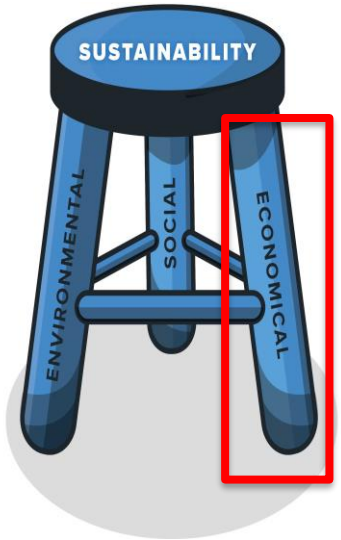
Presentation of Results - Charts











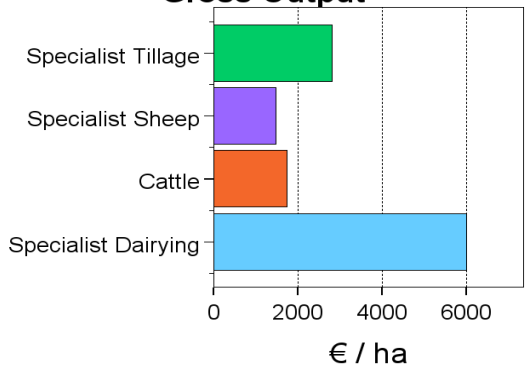
Economic Sustainability

Indicator	Measure	Unit
1. Economic return to land	Gross output per hectare	€ / hectare
2. Profitability of land	Gross margin per hectare	€ / hectare
3. Family Farm Income	Returns to farm family labour, land and capital	€ / hectare
4. Productivity of labour	Family Farm Income per unpaid labour unit	€ / unpaid labour unit
5. Market Orientation	Output derived from market rather than subsidies	%
6. Economic Viability	Economic viability of farm business – Minimum wage for labour & 5% return on non-land based assets	1=viable 0=not viable

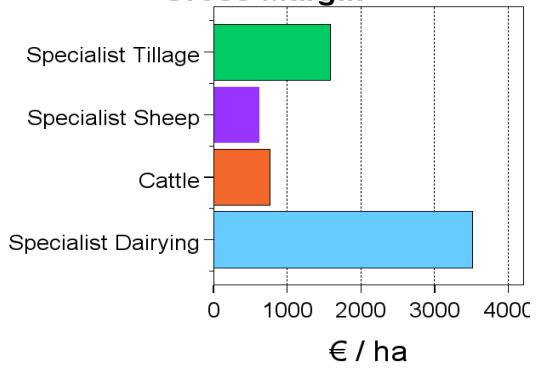
Economic Sustainability

2022 Results

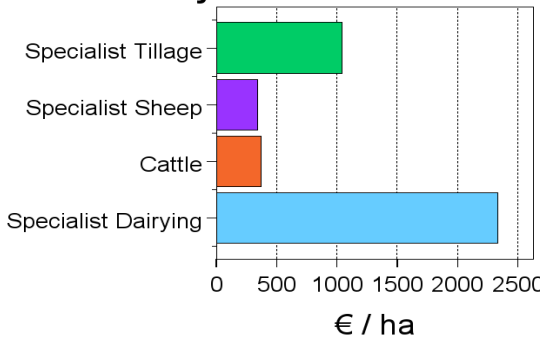
Gross Output

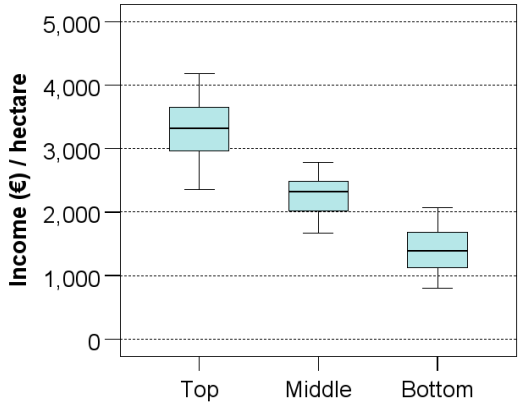


Gross Margin

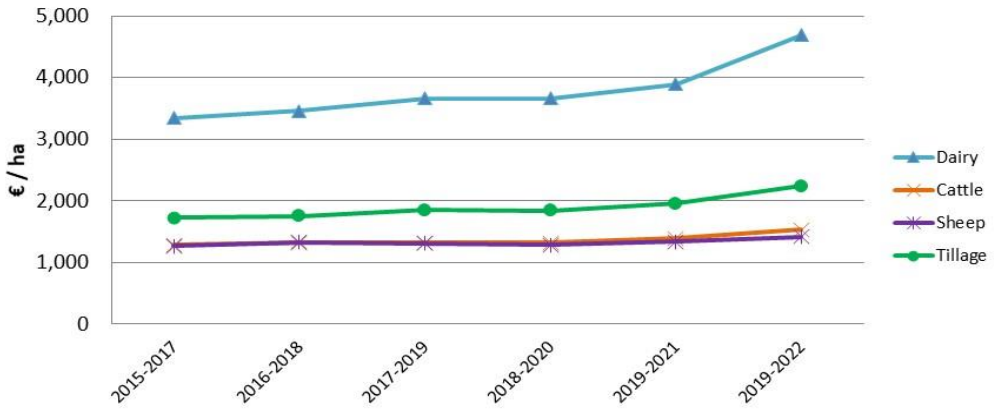


Family Farm Income

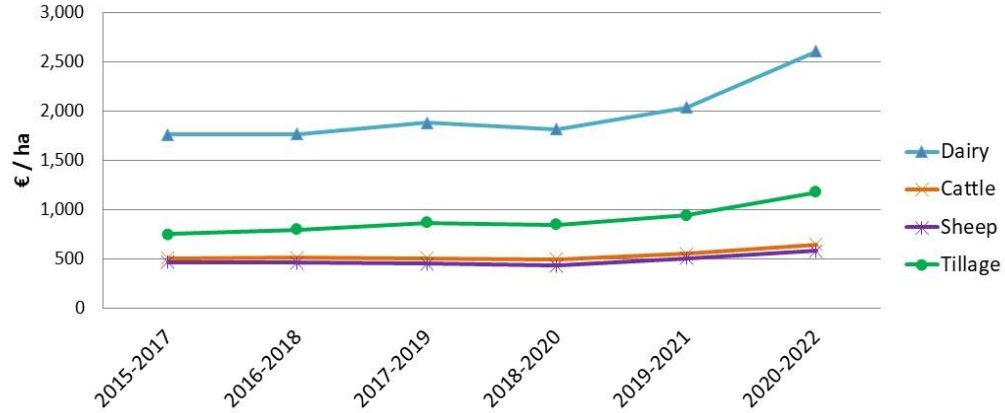




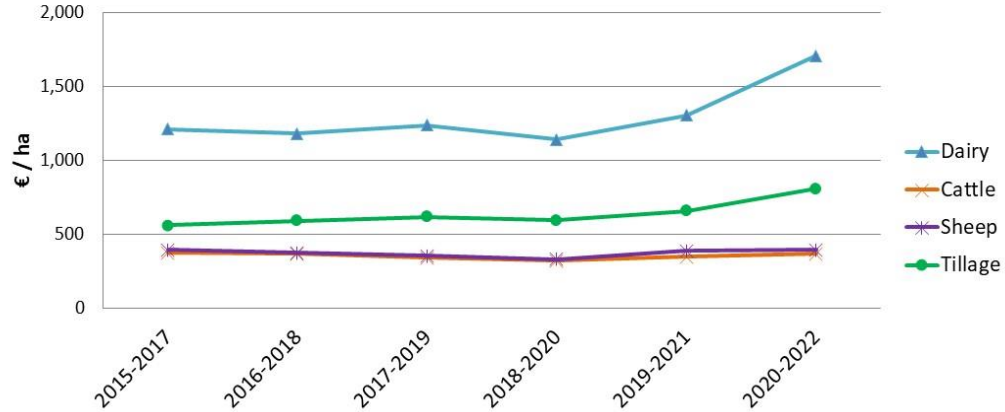
Gross output per hectare - 3 year rolling average



Gross margin / hectare - 3 year rolling average

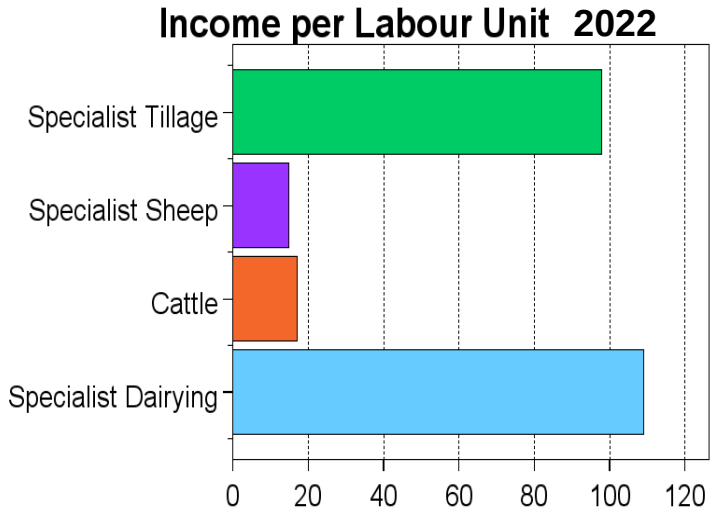


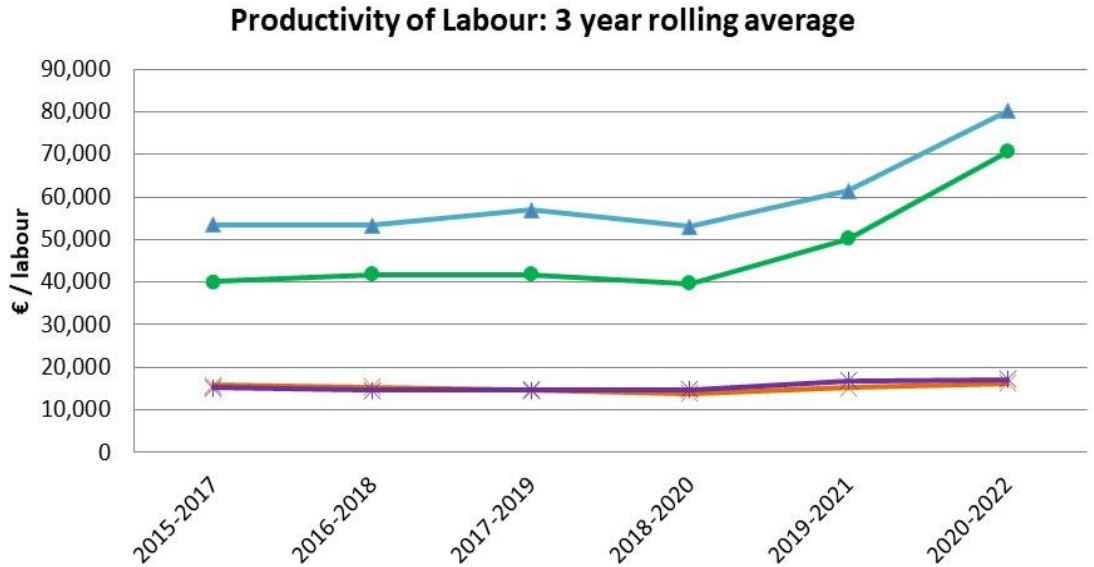
Family Farm Income / hectare - 3 year rolling average

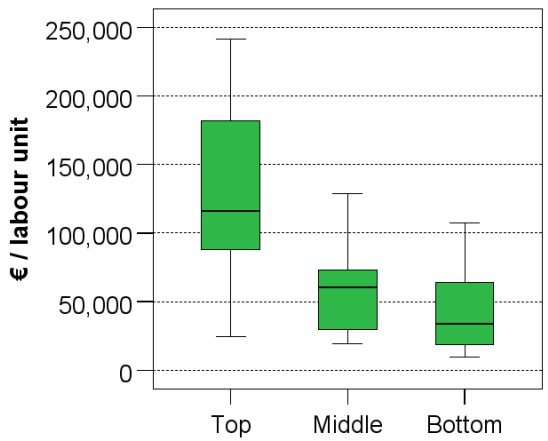


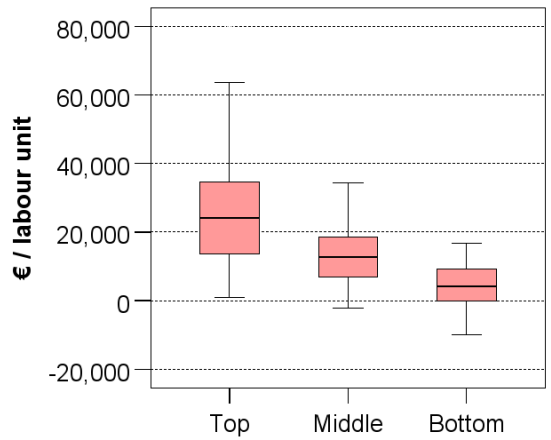
Economic Sustainability

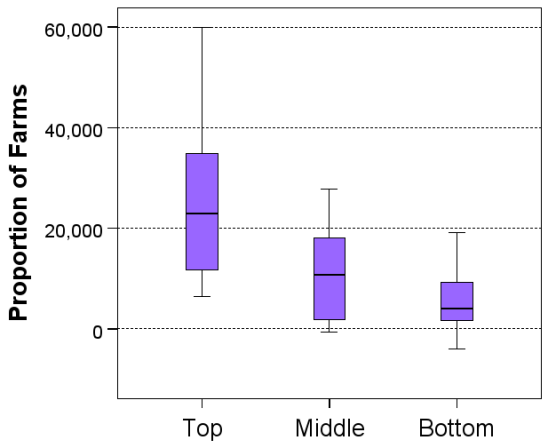
Indicator	Measure	Unit
Productivity of Labour	Family Farm Income per unpaid labour unit	€ / unpaid labour unit





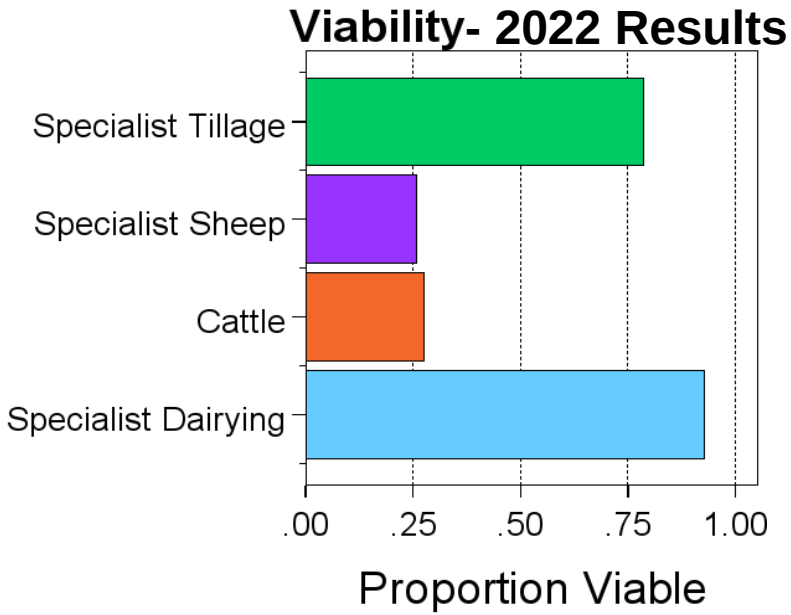


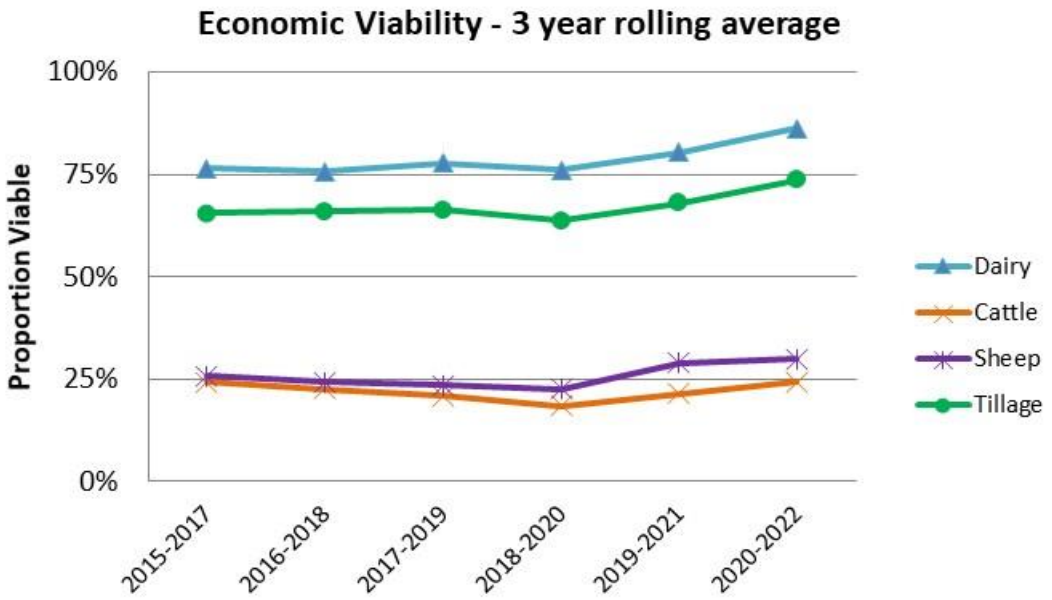


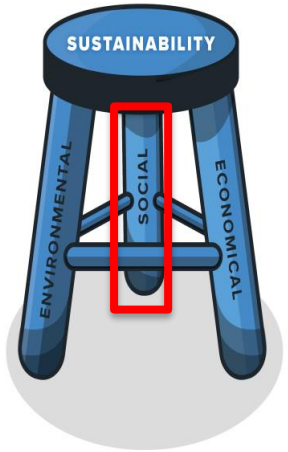


Economic Sustainability

Indicator	Measure	Unit
Economic Viability	Economic viability of farm business – Min wage for unpaid labour & 5% return on non-land based assets	1=viable 0=not viable





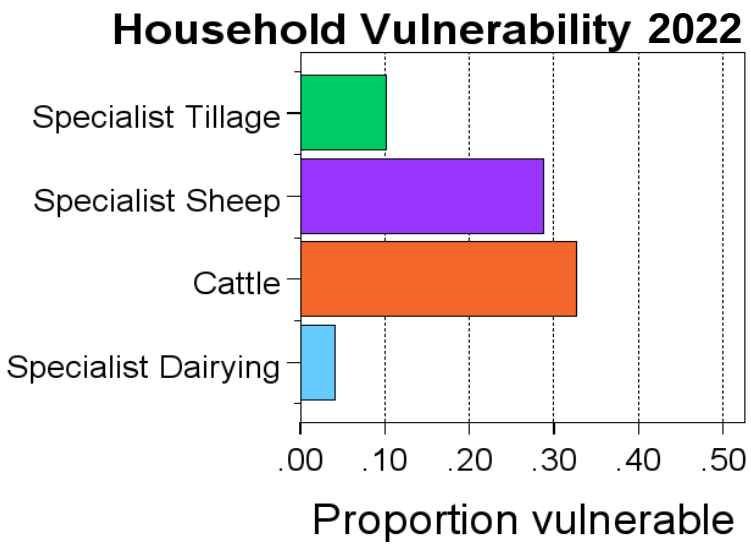


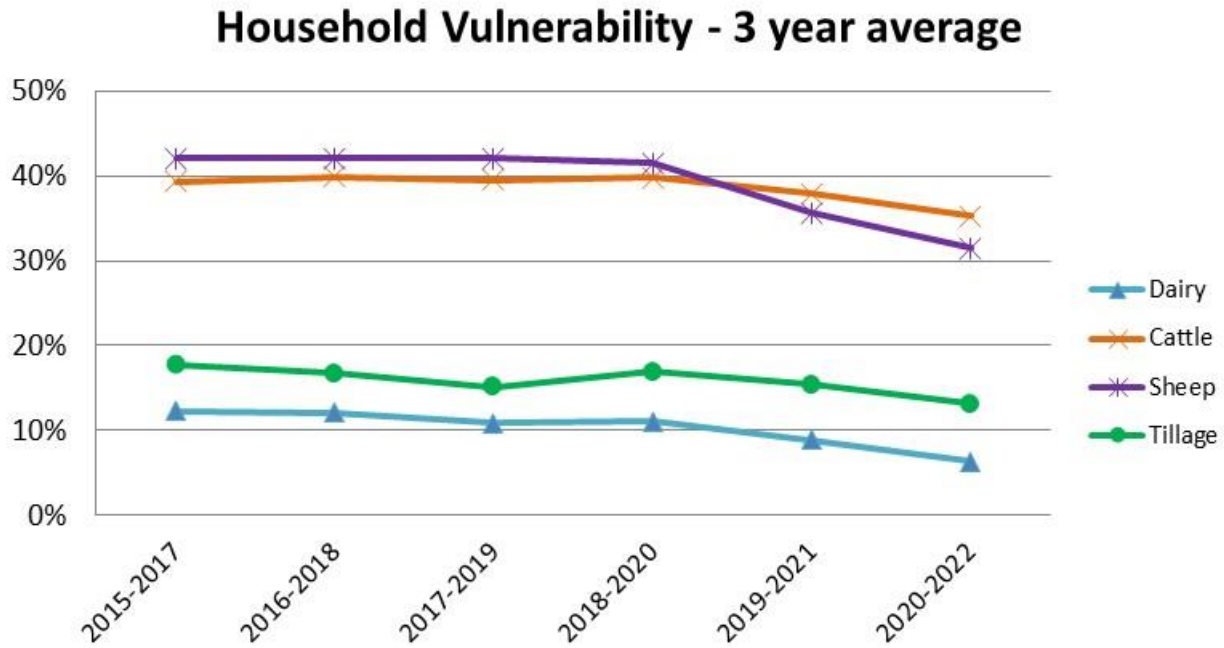
Social Sustainability

Indicator	Measure	Unit
1. Household vulnerability	Farm business is not viable and no off-farm employment	Binary variable, 1= vulnerable
2. Isolation Risk	Farmer lives alone	Binary variable 1=isolated
3. High Age Profile	Farmer is over 60 years old & no members of household under 45	Binary variable 1=high age
4. Agricultural education	Formal agricultural training received	Binary variable 1= agricultural training received
5. Hours worked on the farm	Work load on farm** (Off-farm work hours not included)	Hours worked on the farm
6. Total hours worked	Work-life balance	Hours worked on and off farm

Social Sustainability

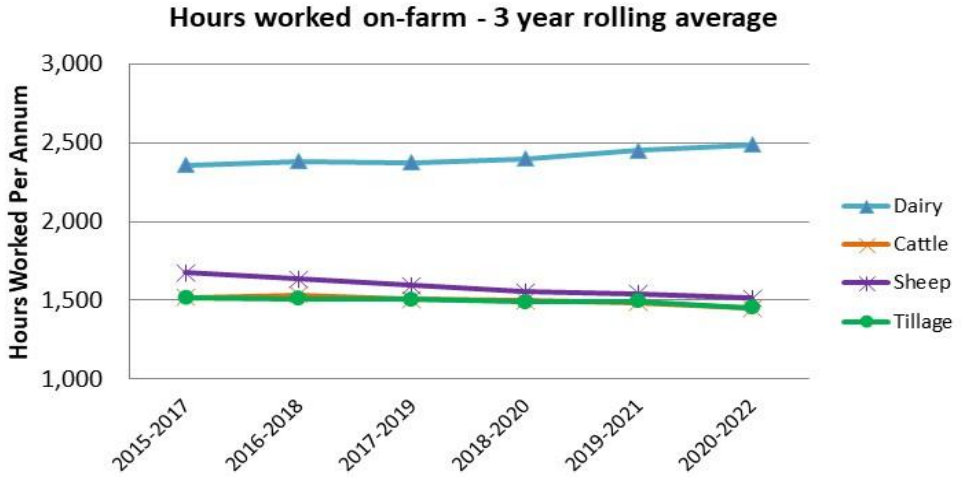
Indicator	Measure	Unit
Household vulnerability	Farm business is not viable & no off-farm employment	Binary variable 1= vulnerable 0=Non vulnerable

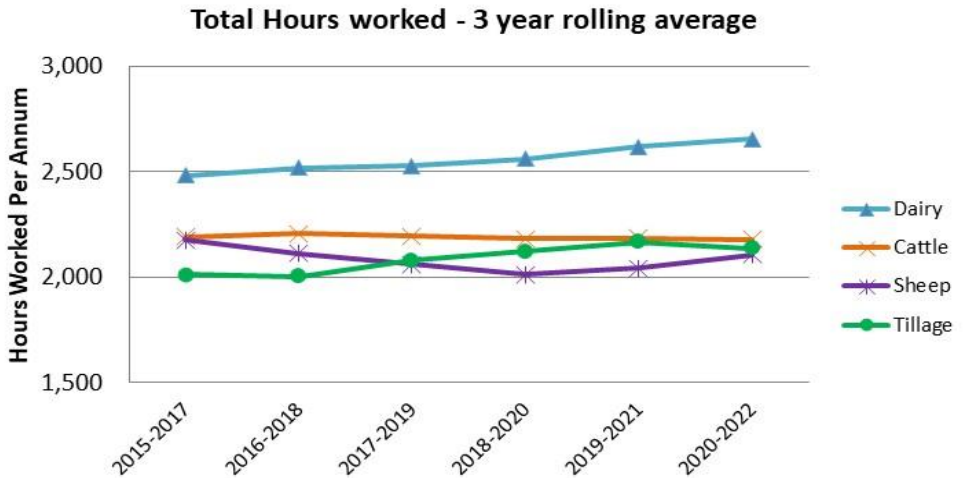




Social Sustainability

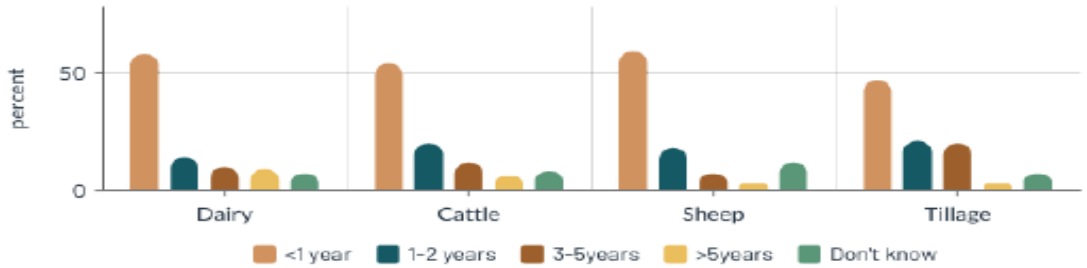
Indicator	Measure	Unit
Hours worked on farm	Work load on farm (Off-farm work hours not included)	Hours worked on the farm
Total hours worked	Total work load (On and off-farm)	Hours worked on and off farm



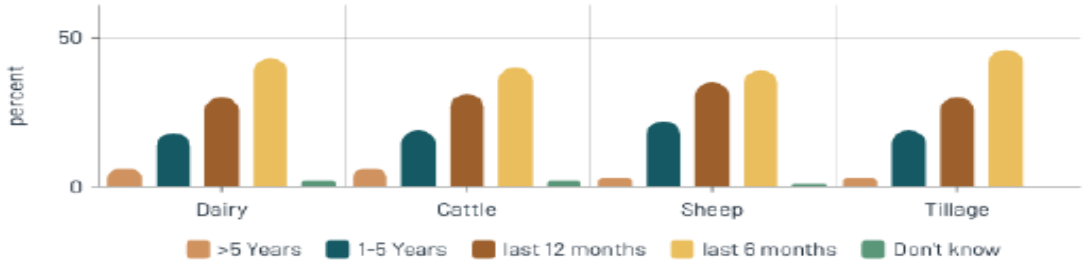


Social Sustainability Special Focus 2022

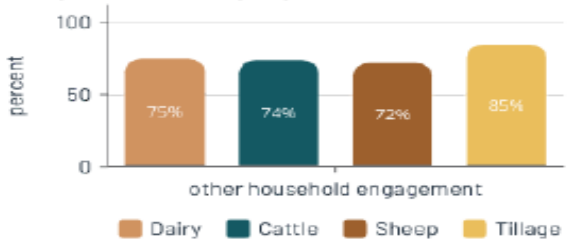
When did you last take a break from the farm?



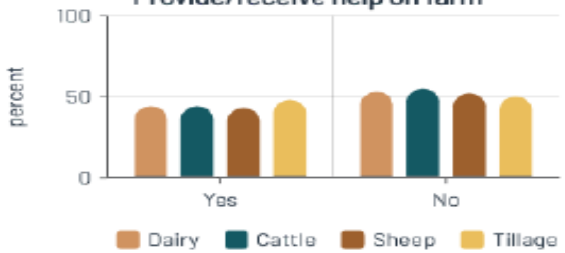
When did you last visit a doctor?



Daily contact with people outside the farm?

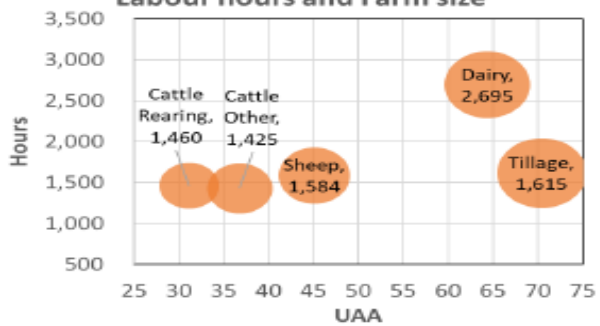


Provide/receive help on farm

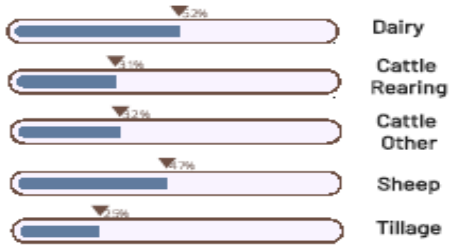


Farm Labour

Labour hours and Farm size



Proportion of farms with female labour input 2022

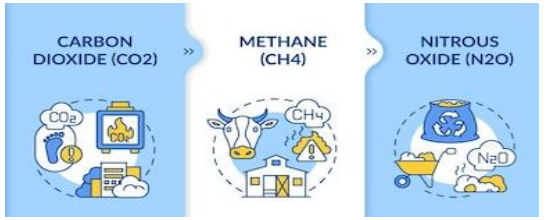


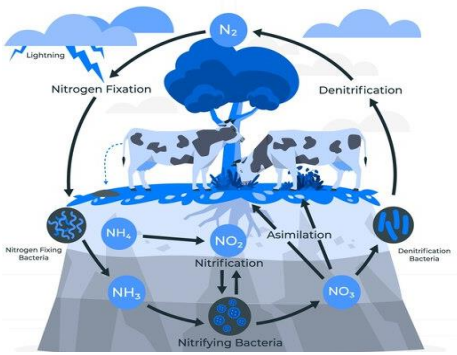
These social sustainability metrics for 2022 are based on data from a special survey of a sample of 611 farms, representing over 85,000 farms nationally.

Environmental Sustainability

1. Gaseous Emissions

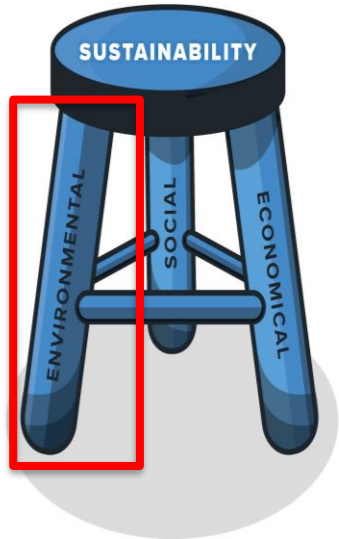
- Greenhouse Gases (Ag. & Energy)
  - » IPCC national inventories approach – All Farms
  - » Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) - Dairy
- Ammonia
  - » National inventories approach for all farms





2. Risk to water quality

- Farm gate input/output approach
- Balance / use efficiency of nitrogen & phosphorus



3. Biodiversity Indicator

- More about this later

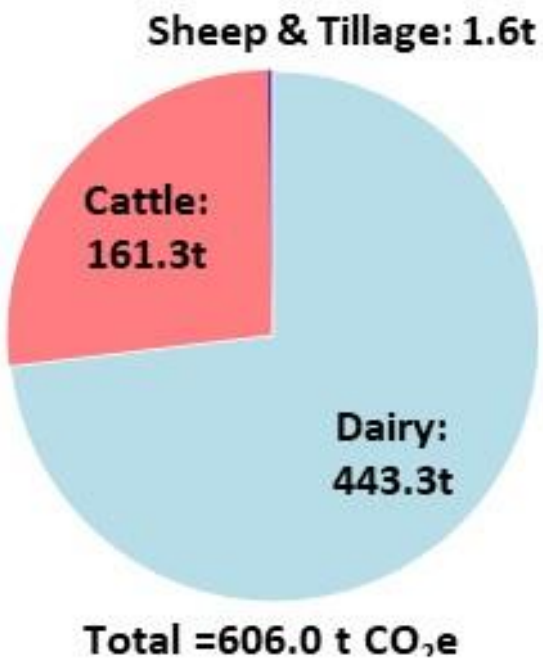
Overview of Environmental Indicators

Indicator	Measure	Unit
Ag. GHG emissions per farm	Absolute GHG emissions per farm	Tonnes CO_2 equivalent / farm
Ag. GHG emissions per hectare	Absolute Ag. GHG emissions per hectare	Tonnes CO_2 equivalent / hectare
Ag. GHG emissions per kg / € of output	GHG emissions efficiency	kg CO_2 equivalent / kg output AND kg CO_2 e / € output
Energy GHG emissions per farm	Farm GHG energy use efficiency	kg CO_2 equivalent / kg output
Energy GHG emissions per hectare	Absolute Energy emissions per hectare	Tonnes CO_2 equivalent / hectare
Energy emissions per kg / € of output	Energy GHG emissions efficiency	kg CO_2 equivalent / kg output AND kg CO_2 e / € output
NH_3 emissions per farm	Absolute NH_3 emissions per farm	Tonnes NH_3 equivalent / farm
NH_3 emissions per hectare	Absolute NH_3 emissions per hectare	Tonnes NH_3 equivalent / hectare
NH_3 emissions per kg / € of output	NH_3 emissions efficiency	kg NH_3 equivalent / kg output AND kg NH_3 / € output
N balance	N transfer risk	kg N surplus / ha^{-1}
N use efficiency	N retention efficiency	% N outputs / N inputs
P balance	P transfer risk	kg P surplus / ha^{-1}
P use efficiency	P retention efficiency	% P outputs / P inputs

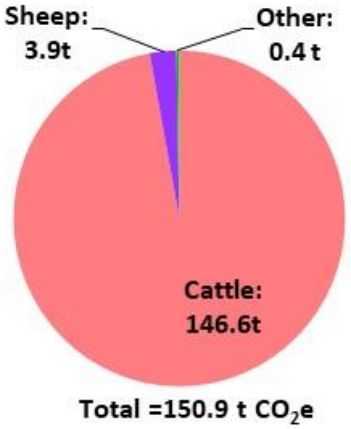
Environmental Sustainability – GHG Emissions

Ag GHG emissions	Measure	Unit
per farm	Absolute Ag. GHG emissions (IPCC methodology)	Tonnes CO_2 equivalent
per hectare	Ag. GHG emissions per hectare farmed (IPCC methodology)	kg CO_2 equivalent
per kg of output	Ag. GHG emissions efficiency (IPCC methodology)	kg CO_2 equivalent
per € output	Ag. GHG emissions efficiency (IPCC methodology)	kg CO_2 equivalent

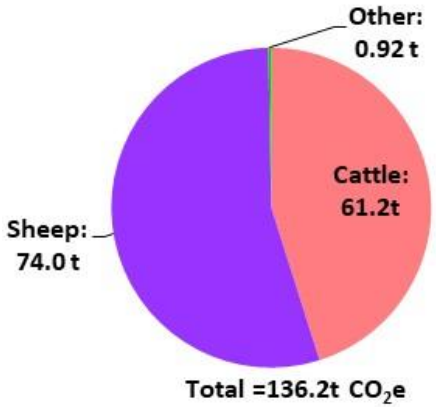
Dairy Farm Ag. GHG Emissions 2022



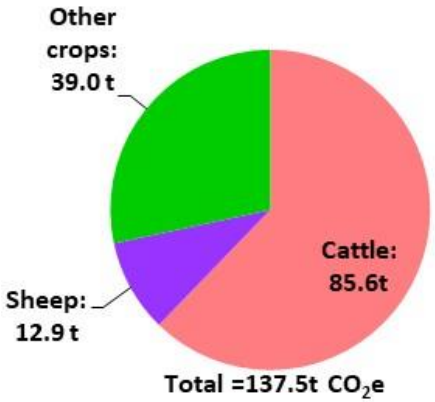
Cattle Farm Ag. GHG Emissions 2021

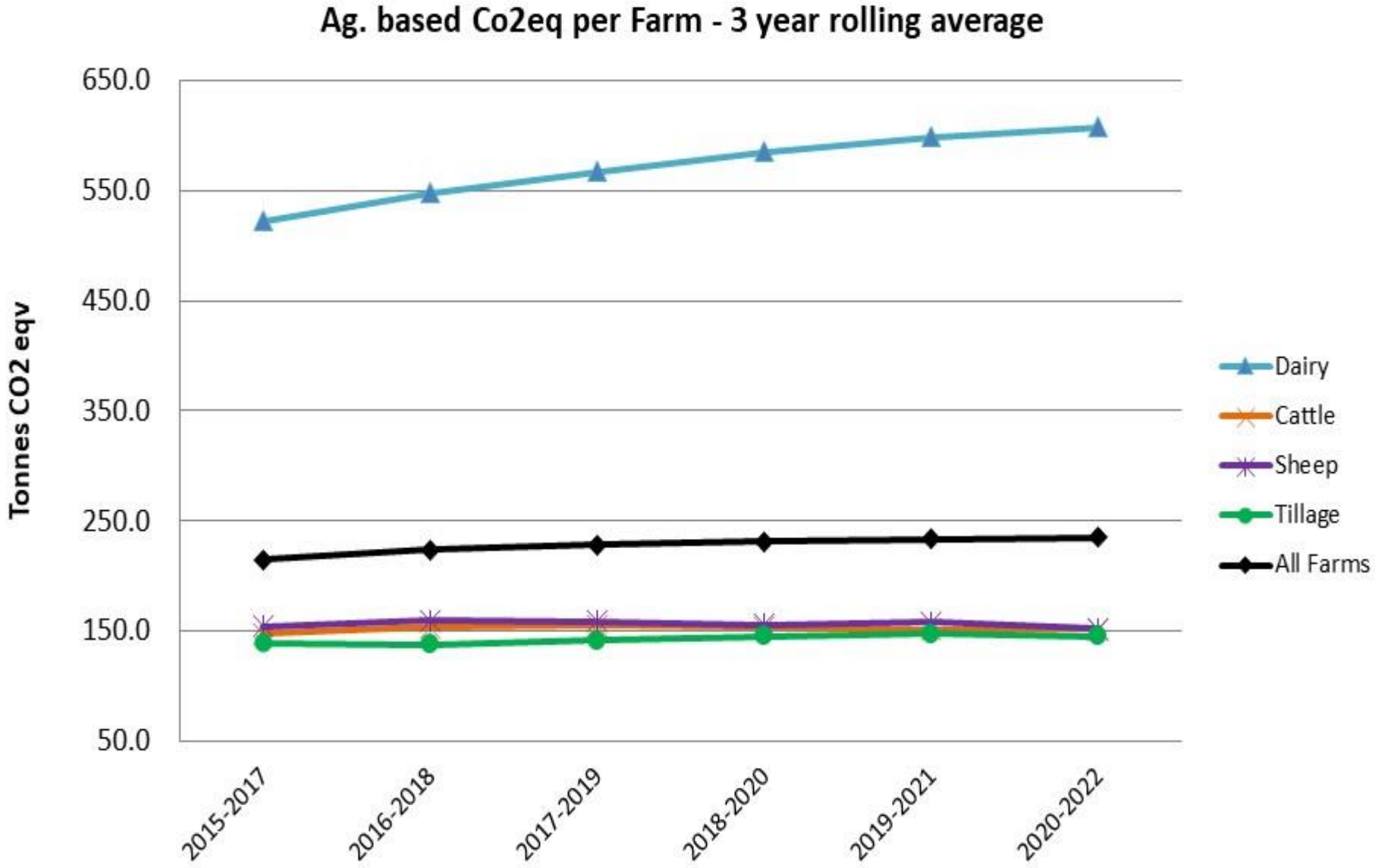


Sheep Farm GHG Emissions 2022



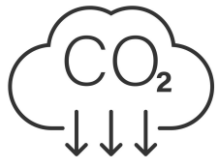
Tillage Farm Ag. GHG Emissions 2022

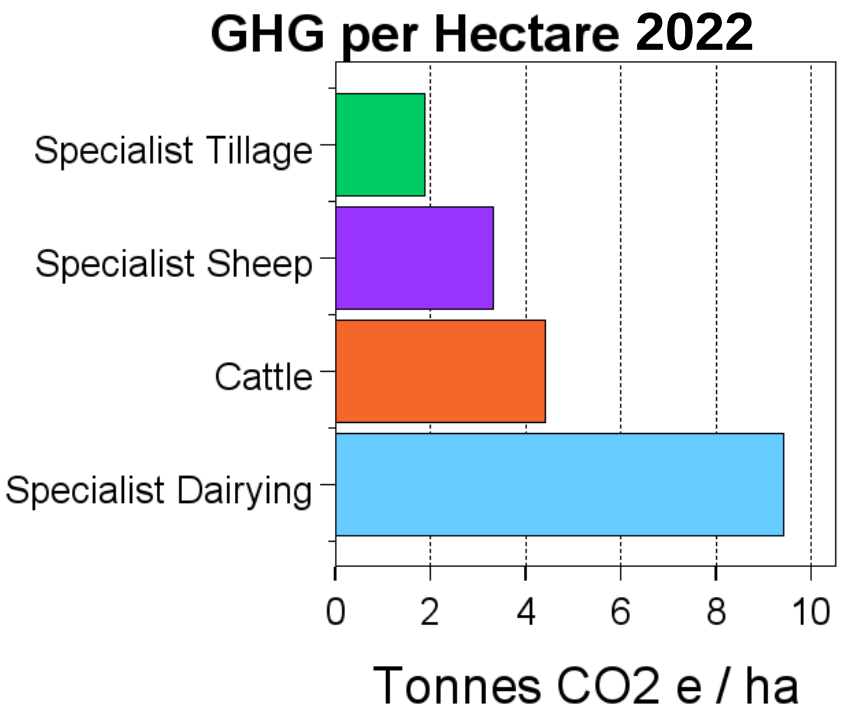


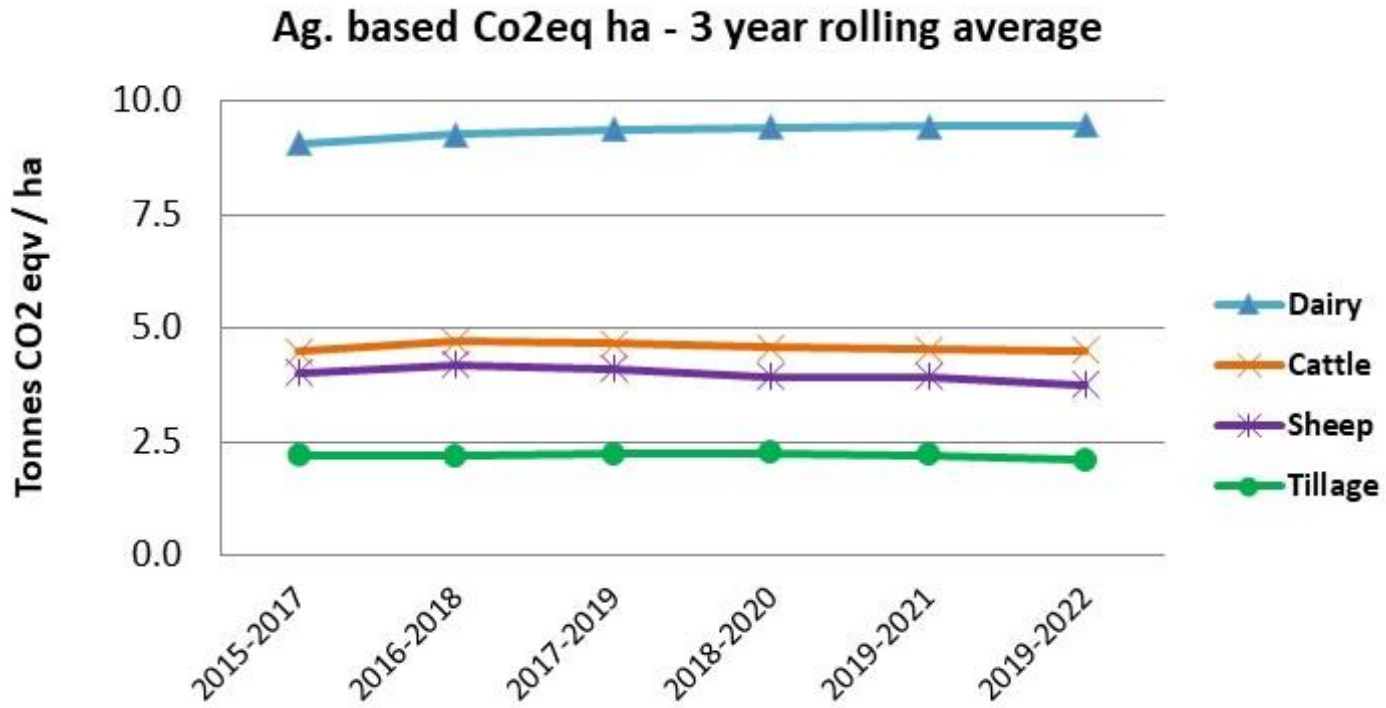

Ag. based Co2eq per Farm - 3 year rolling average
Tonnes CO2 eqv
650.0
550.0
450.0
350.0
250.0
150.0
50.0
2015-2017
2016-2018
2017-2019
2018-2020
2019-2021
2020-2022
Dairy
Cattle
Sheep
Tillage
All Farms


CH4


N2O


CO2





Dairy based Ag. GHG emissions - Components

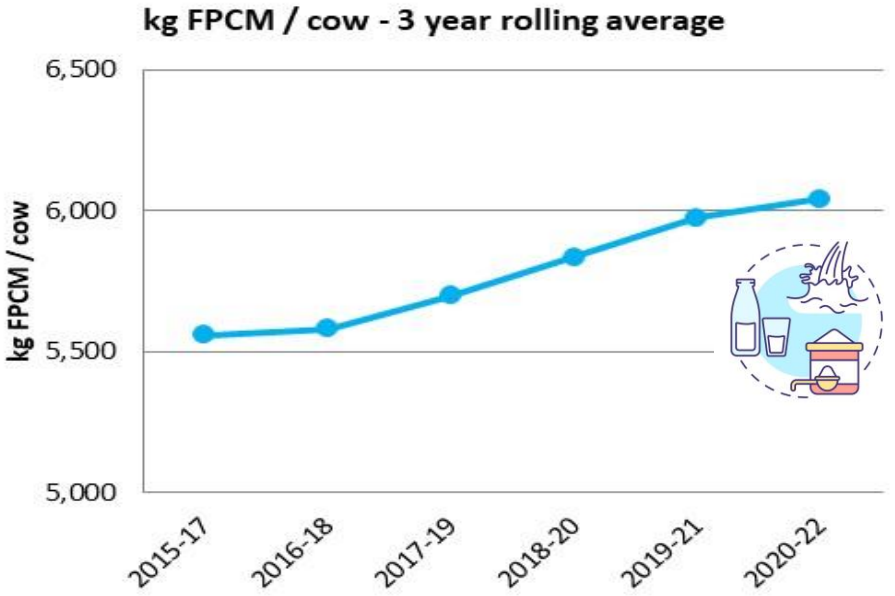
Dairy absolute GHG emissions equation = 3 Components

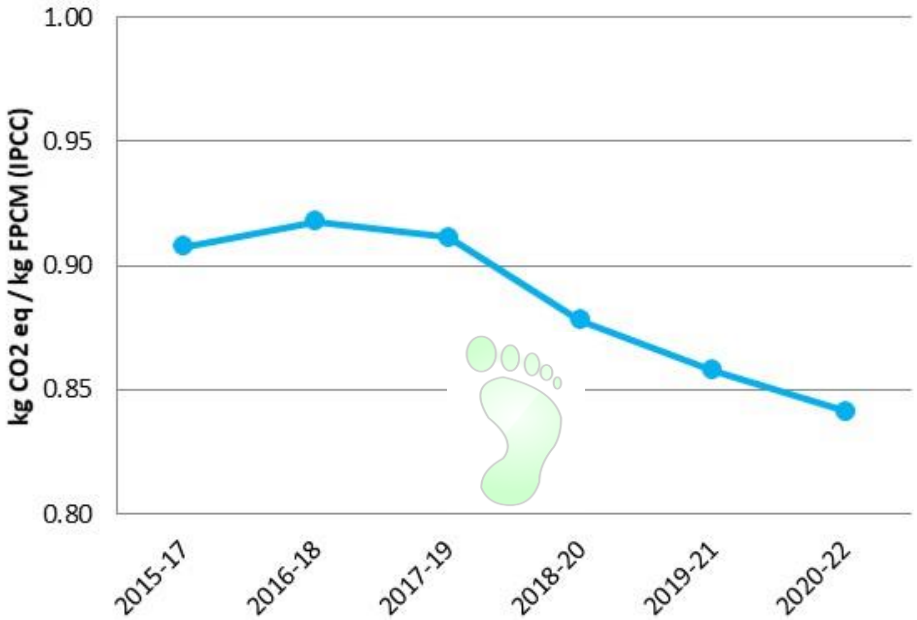
(1) kg of milk produced per cow *

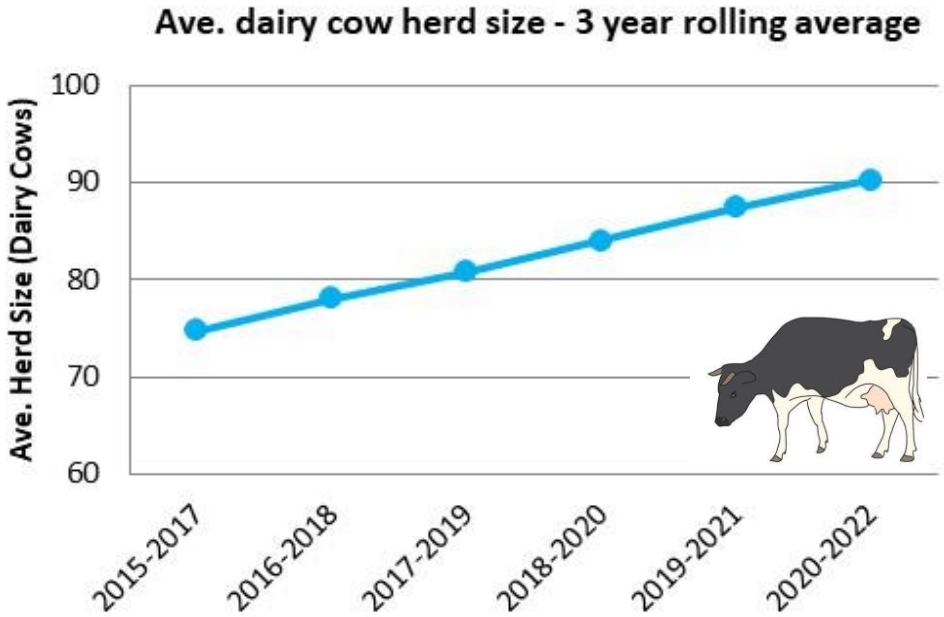
(2) CO_2e per kg of milk *

(3) No. of cows (Herd size)

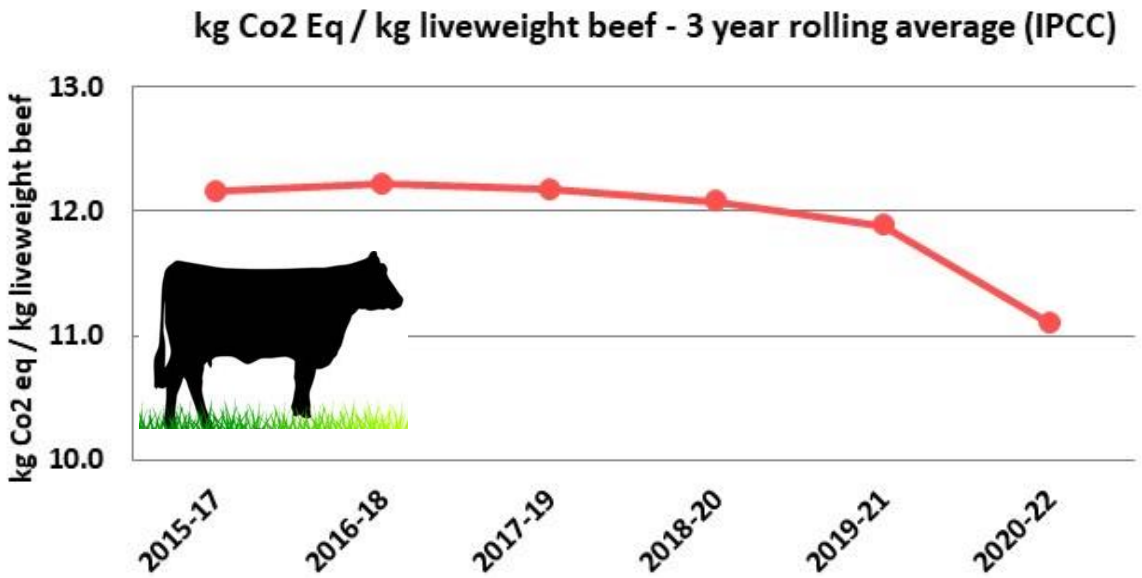
***Kg of Fat & Protein Corrected Milk (FPCM) milk = Standardized to 4% fat and 3.3% protein**.

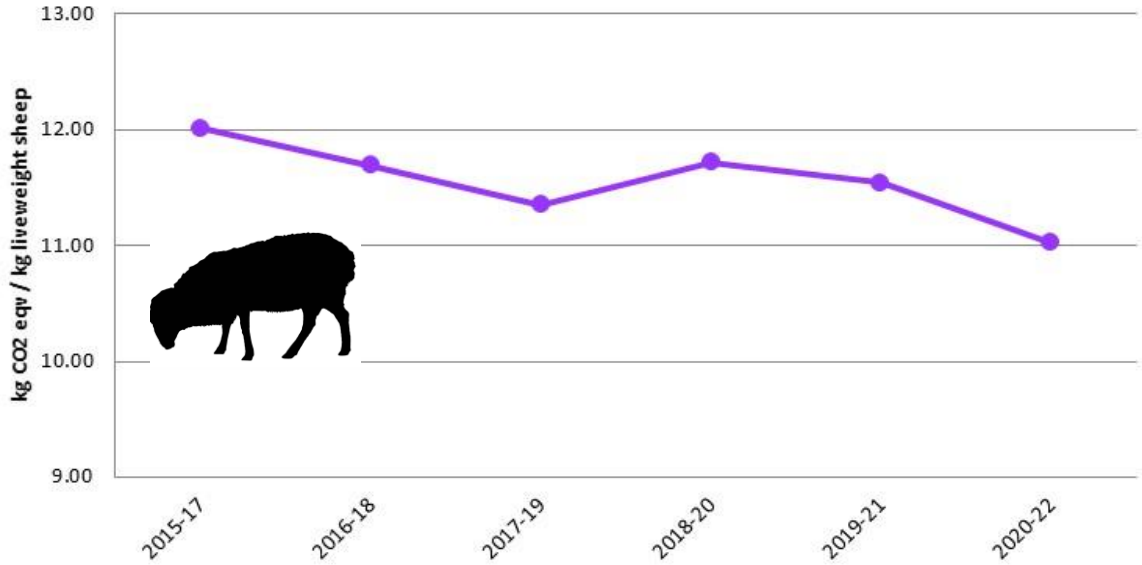


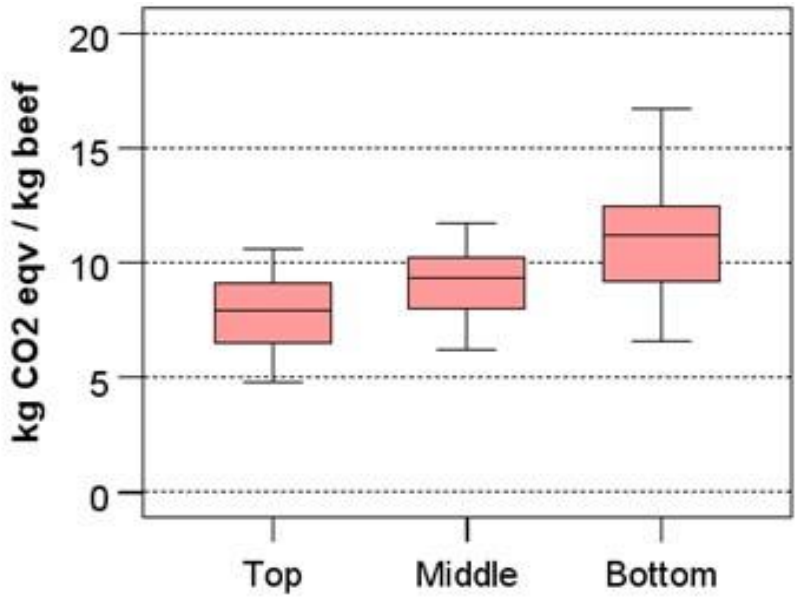


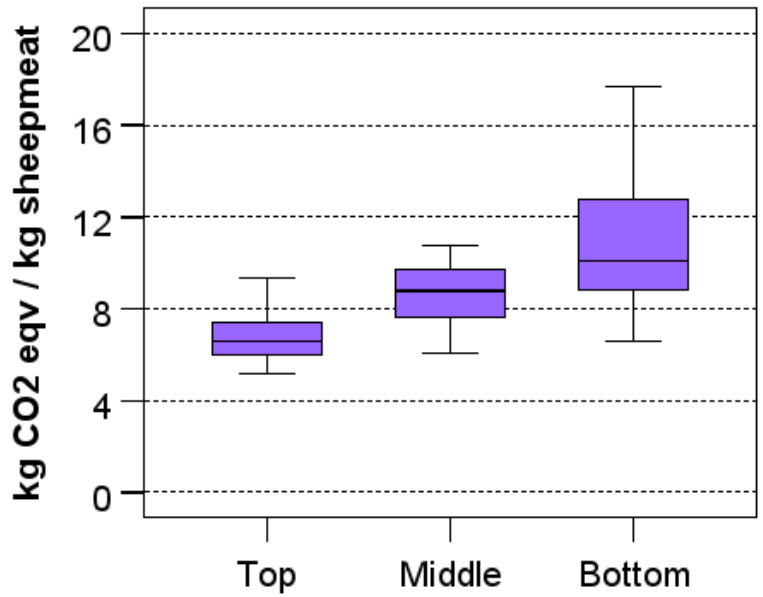


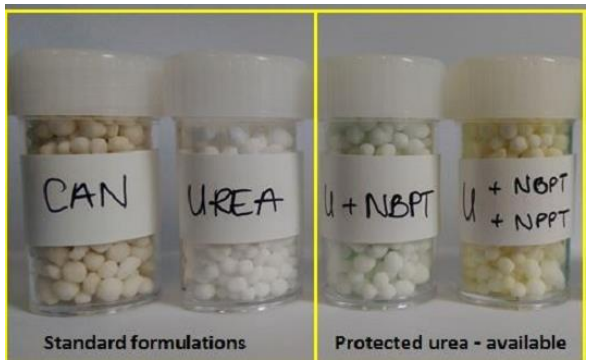
Ag. Emissions intensity – Cattle & Sheep







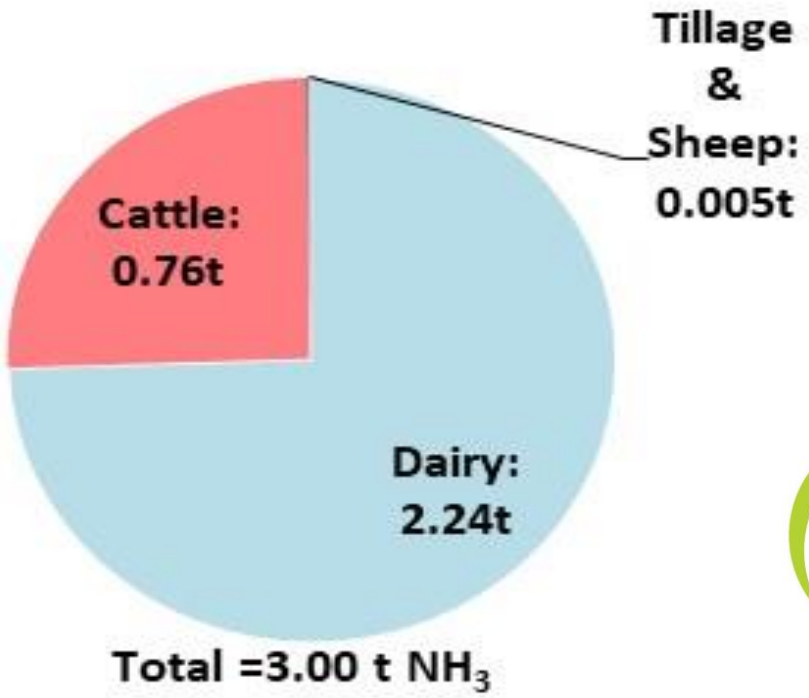




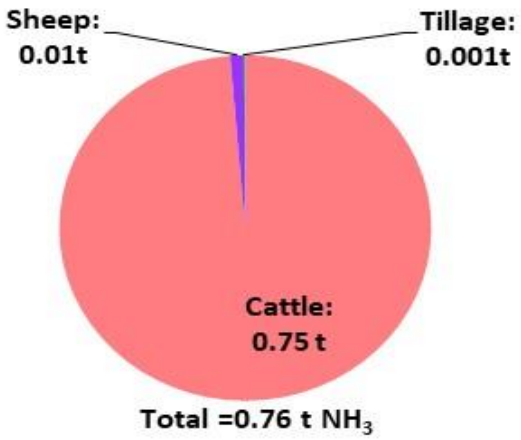
Ammonia Emissions

Ammonia emissions Indicators	Measure	Unit
per farm	NH_3 emissions	Tonnes NH_3 equivalent
per hectare	NH_3 emissions per hectare farmed	kg NH_3 equivalent
per kg of output	NH3 emissions efficiency on a kg of product basis	kg NH3
per € of output	NH_3 emissions efficiency on a Euro of output generated basis	kg NH_3

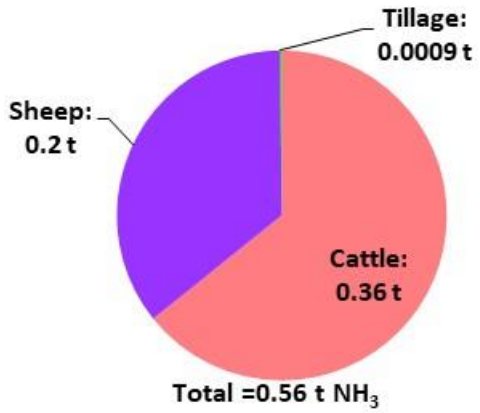
Dairy Farm NH_3 Emissions 2022



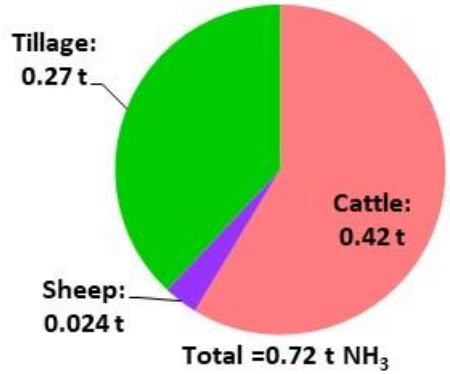
Cattle Farm NH_3 Emissions 2022



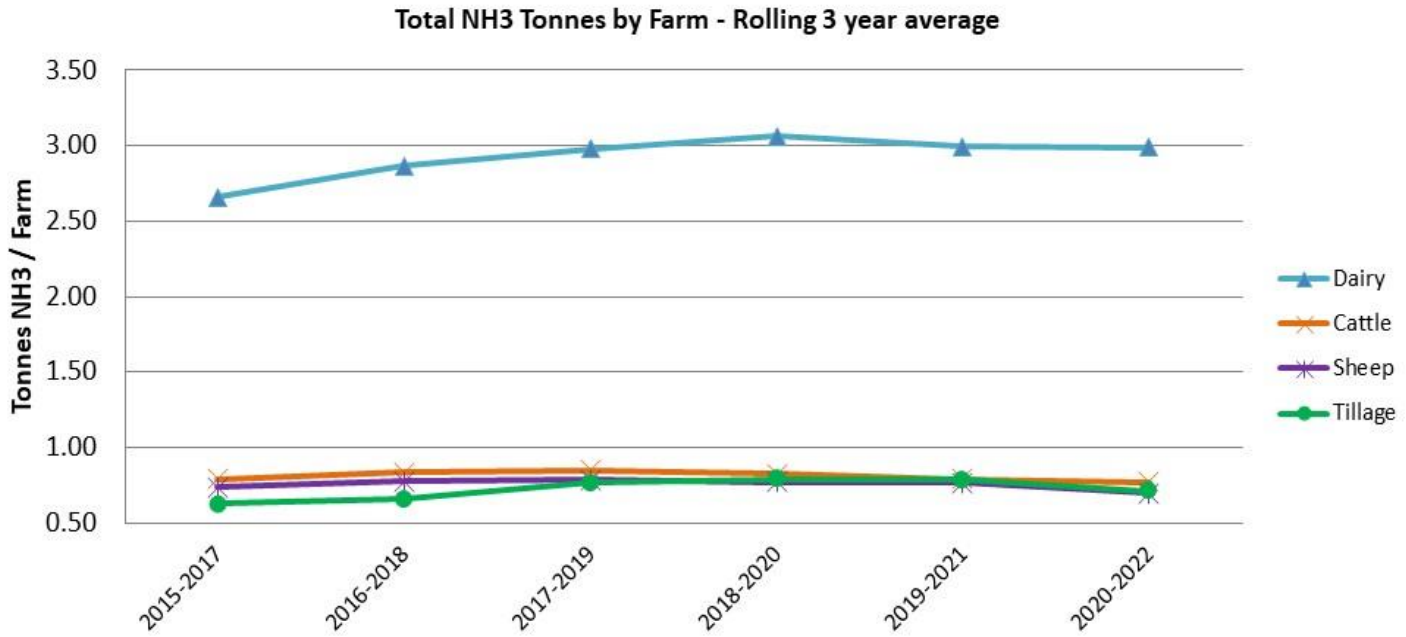
Sheep Farm NH_3 Emissions 2022

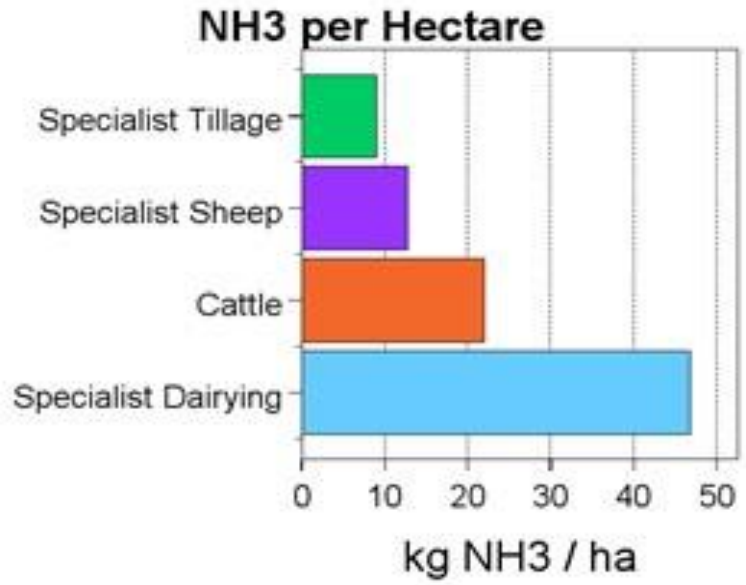


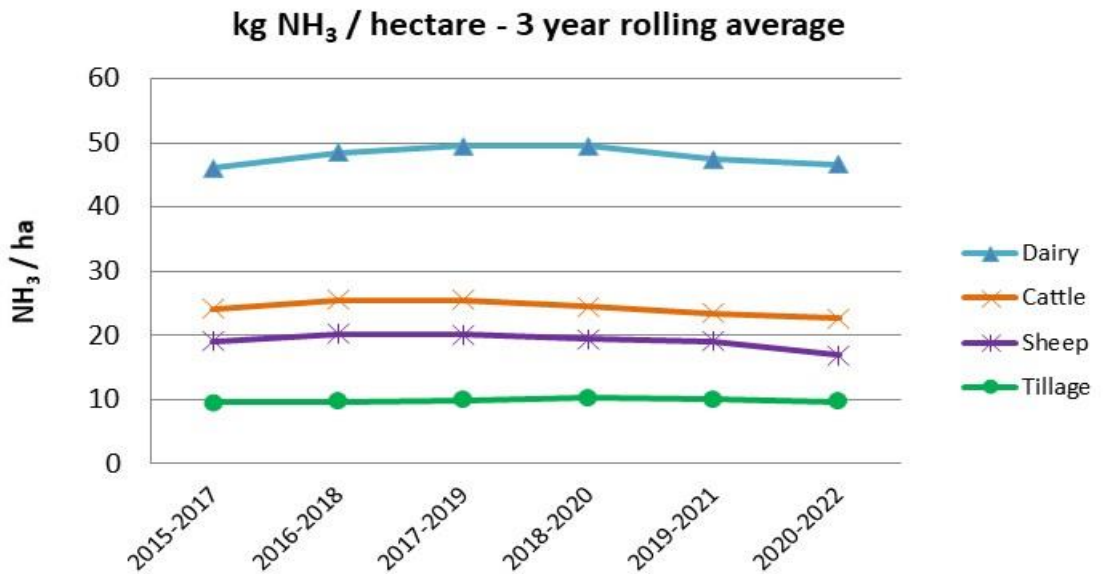
Tillage Farm NH_3 Emissions 2022



Trends in Farm and per hectare NH_3 emissions

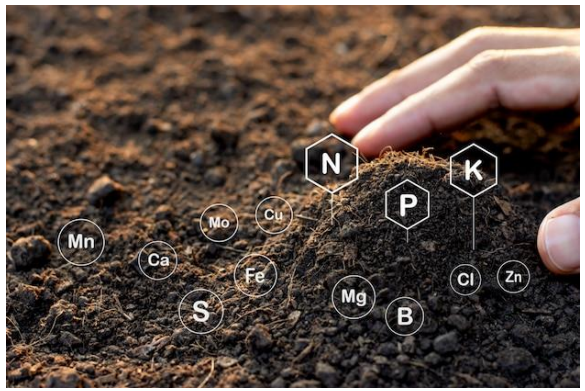


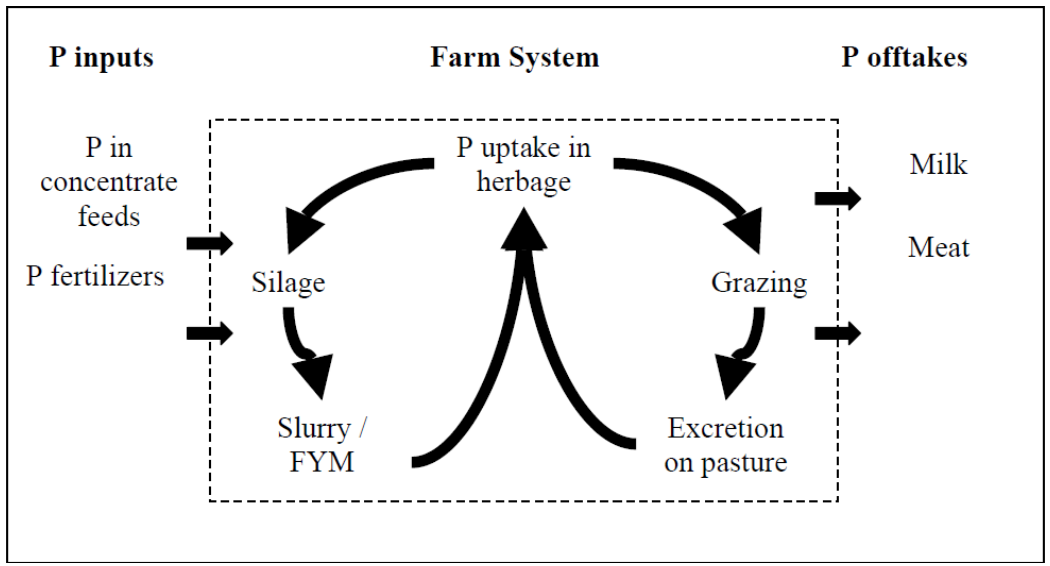




Environmental Sustainability – Risk to Water Quality

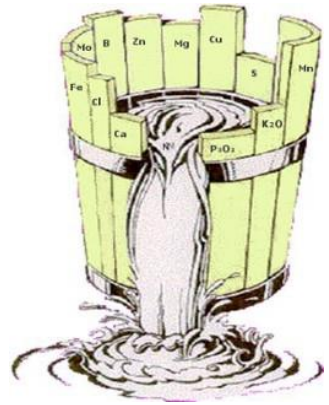
Indicator	Measure	Unit
Nitrogen (N) balance	N loss risk (Farm gate level)	kg N surplus/hectare
Phosphorus (P) balance	P loss risk (Farm gate level)	kg P surplus/hectare
Nitrogen (N) use efficiency	N application efficiency	% N outputs / N inputs
Phosphorus (P) use efficiency	P application efficiency	% P outputs / P inputs



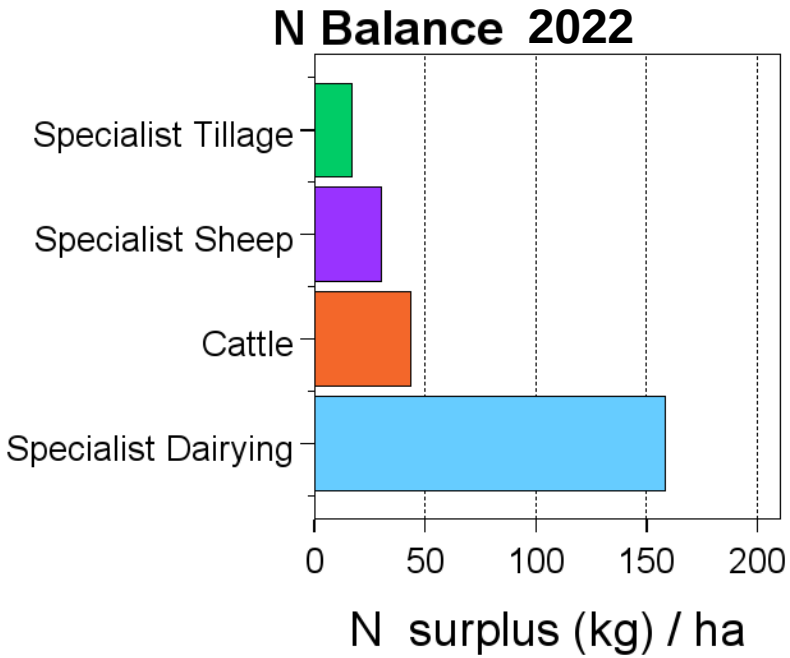


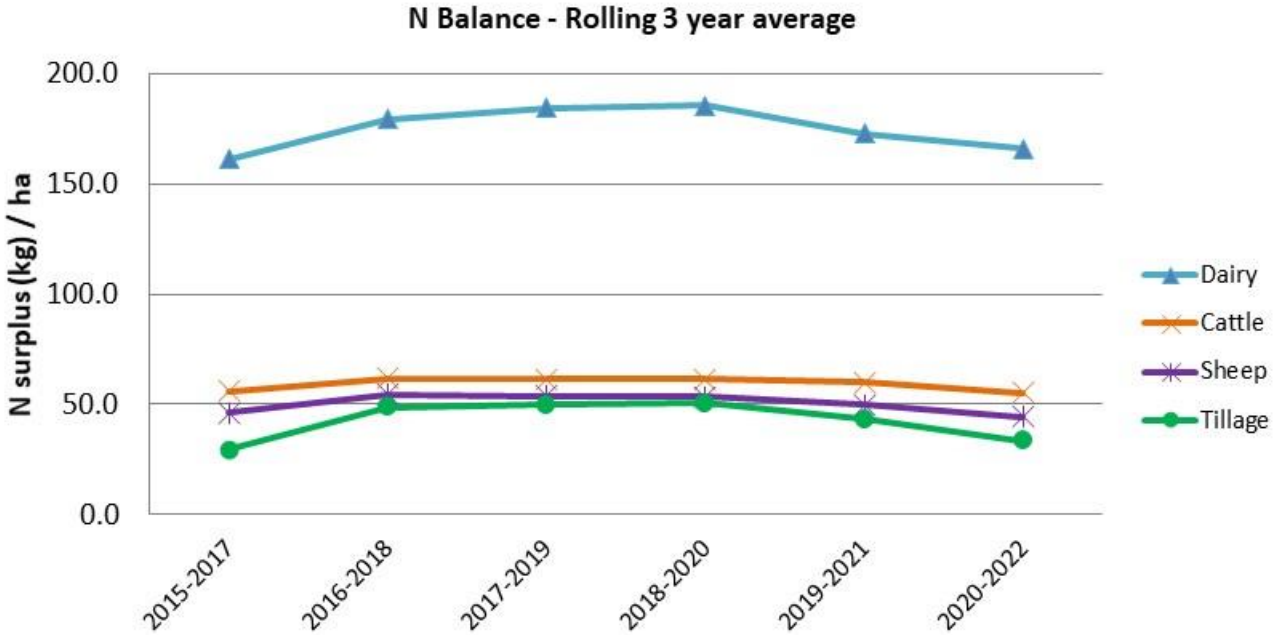
Source: Lalor and Coulter 2009

Nitrogen Balance

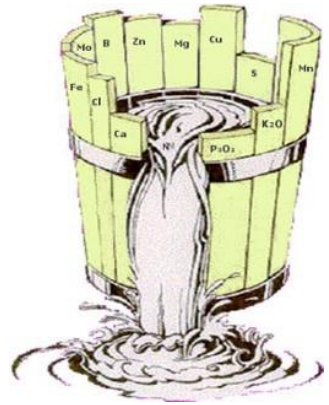


- N inputs – N outputs (farm-gate level), per hectare basis

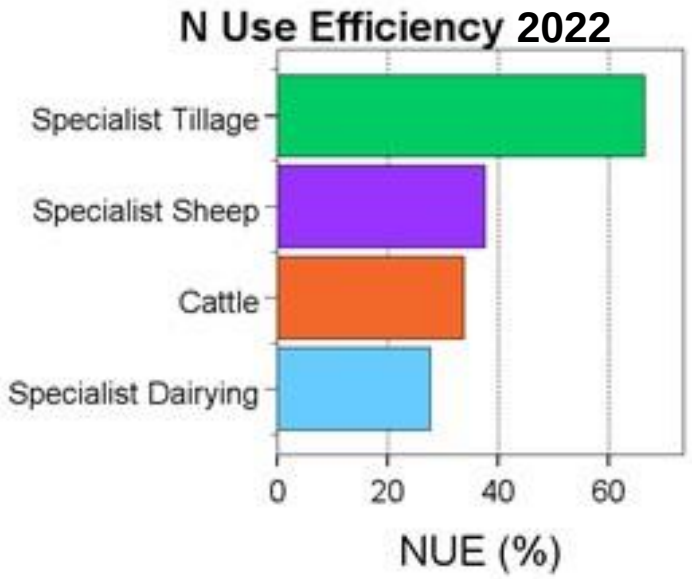


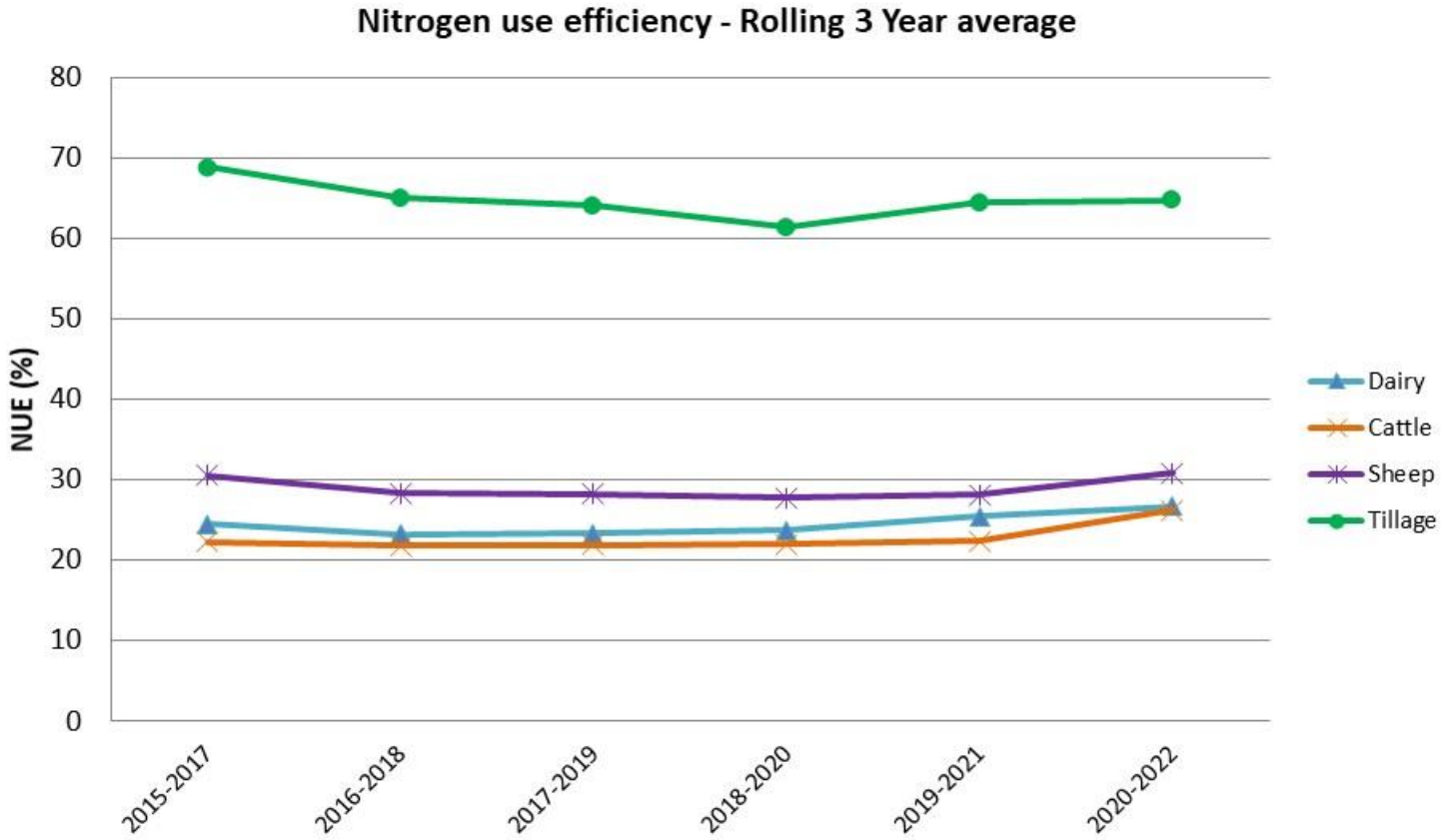


Nitrogen use efficiency



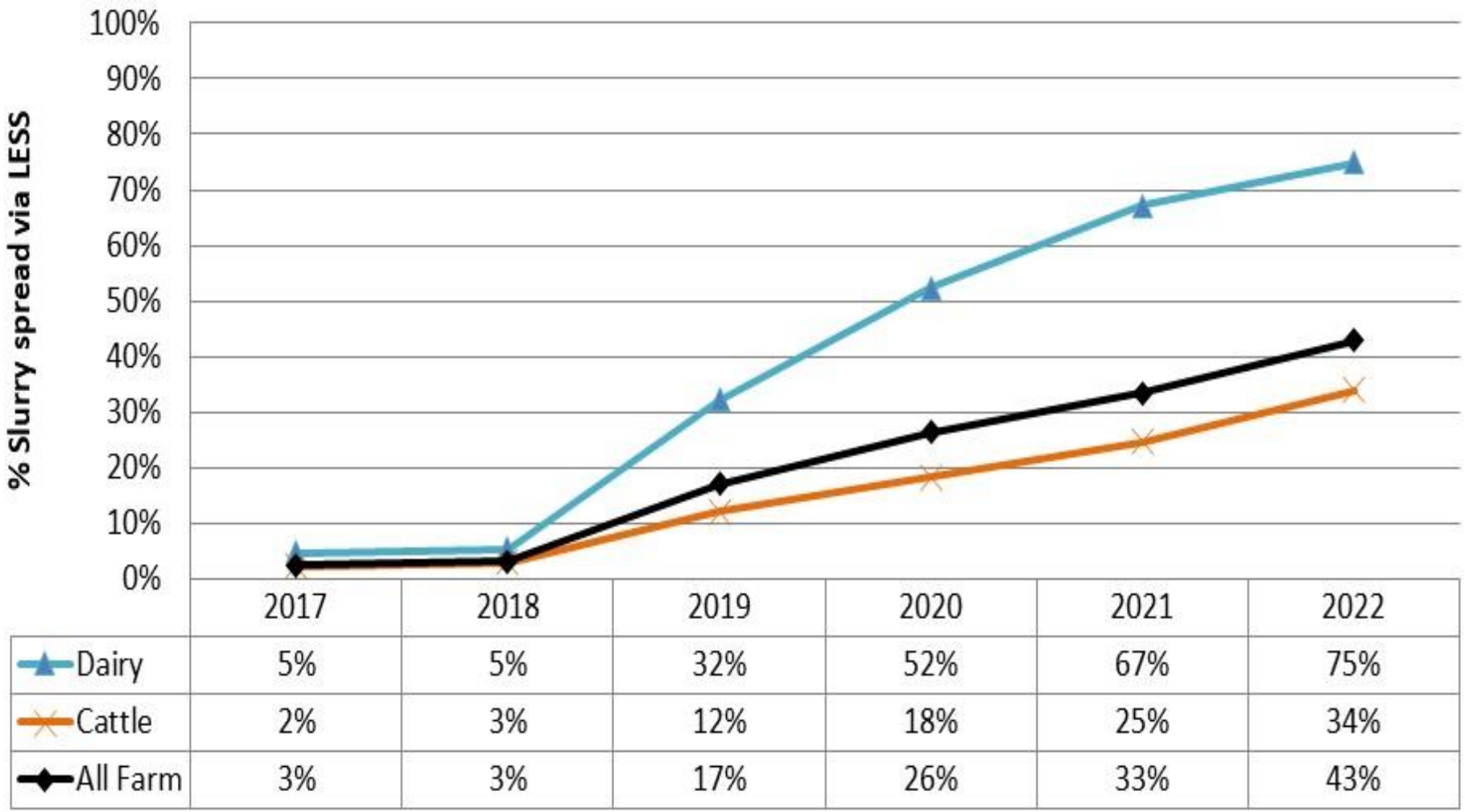
- Retention of N in farm system in % terms (output/input)



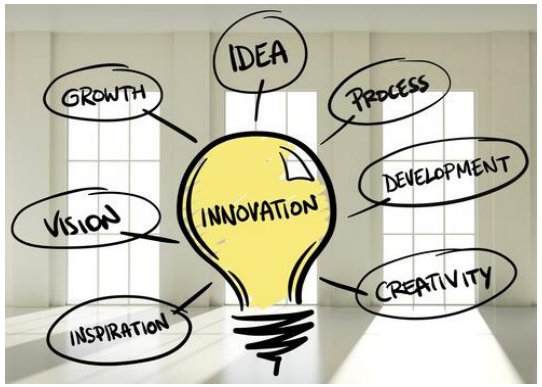


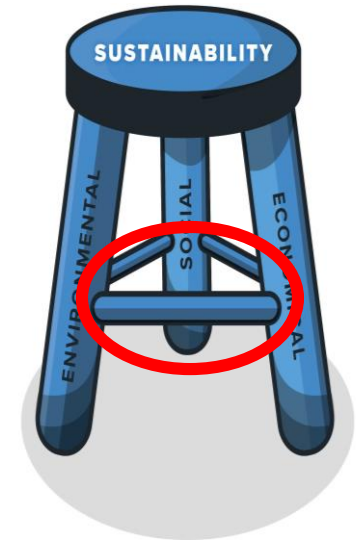
Innovation - LESS

% Slurry applied via LESS – Farm Average

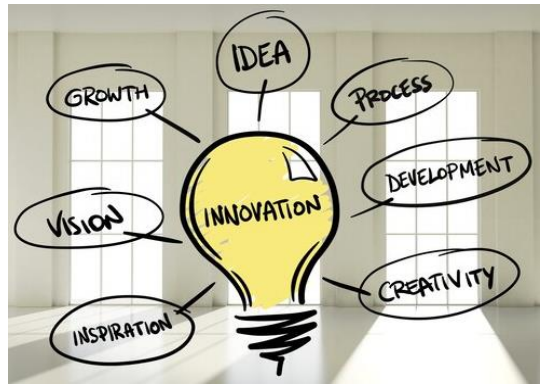


	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Dairy	5%	5%	32%	52%	67%	75%
Cattle	2%	3%	12%	18%	25%	34%
All Farm	3%	3%	17%	26%	33%	43%

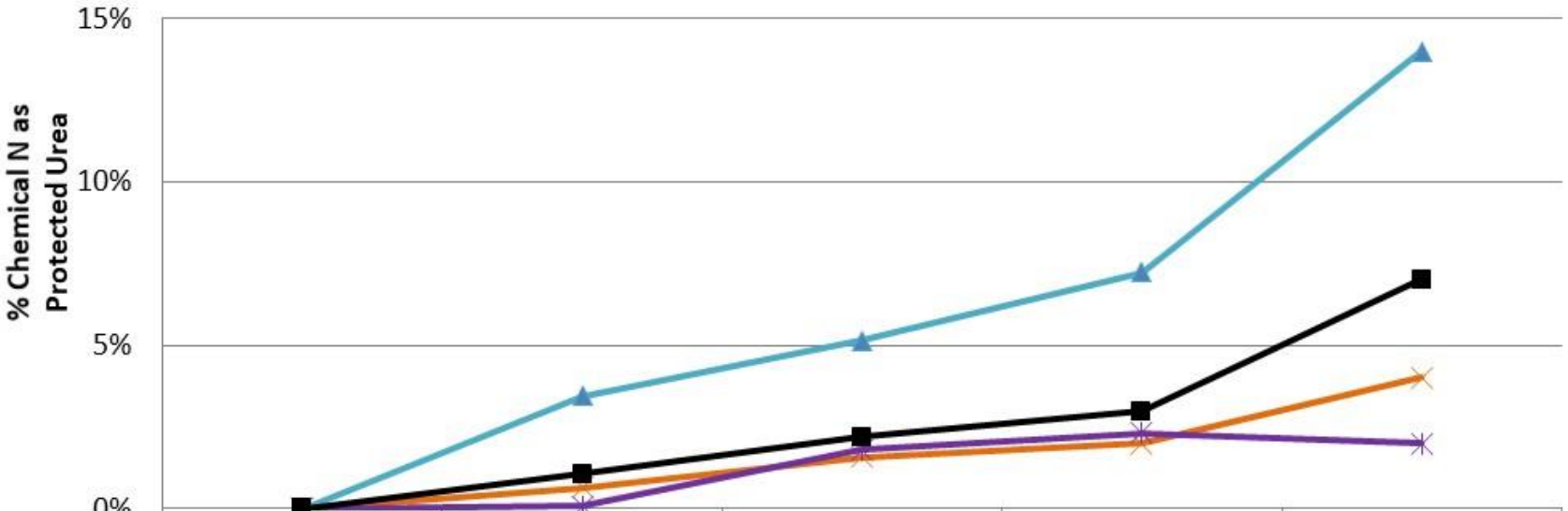




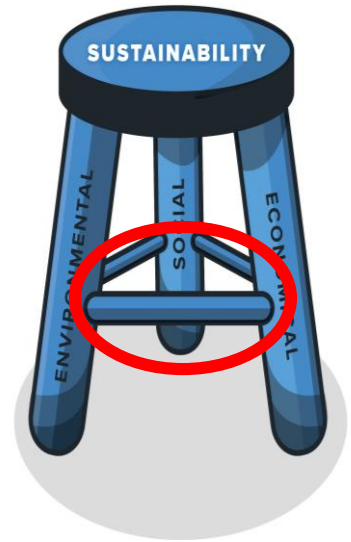
Innovation – Protected Urea



% Chemical N applied as Protected Urea – Farm Average



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Dairy	0%	3%	5%	7%	14%
Cattle	0%	1%	2%	2%	4%
Sheep	0%	0%	2%	2%	2%
Total	0%	1%	2%	3%	7%



Summary / Conclusion

- **Economic & Social Metrics:**
  - **Dairy** performs strongest on a **farm** and **per hectare** basis
  - **Tillage** systems **comparable** on **social** and some **economic** indicators
    - » Income per unpaid family labour unit
  - **Drystock** systems still the most **challenged**
- **Absolute GHG Emissions in 2022:**
  - Decline in GHG emissions in 2022 (back to around 2020 levels) - Due to reduced chemical N use
  - Other farm systems also showed reduced per farm & per hectare GHG emissions
- **Absolute NH_3 Emissions in 2022:**
  - Dairy showed increase vs 2021 (straight urea use), but below long term trend
  - Other systems shoed a decline on a per farm and per hectare basis (compared to preceding years)
- **Emissions intensity of production:**
  - GHG / NH_3 per kg product (milk & meat) is generally improving
- **Innovation Metrics:**
  - Use of **low emissions slurry spreading continues to increase**
  - **Protected Urea** use remains low but is increasing slowly

Thank You

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https://www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/rural-economy/national-farm-survey/sustainability-reports/