

Case Study of Climate change mitigation in Irish agriculture – the Signpost Advisory Programme

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FAO Global Conference – Sustainable Livestock Transformation
Rome, 25-25 September 2023

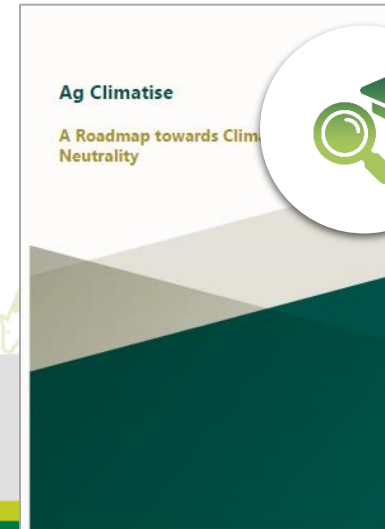
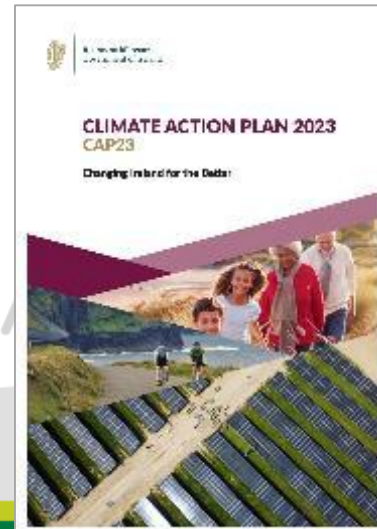


What is the target in Ireland?

51% reduction
in GHG Emissions
↓
by 2030
for all sectors

25% reduction
in GHG Emissions
↓
for agri sector
by 2030

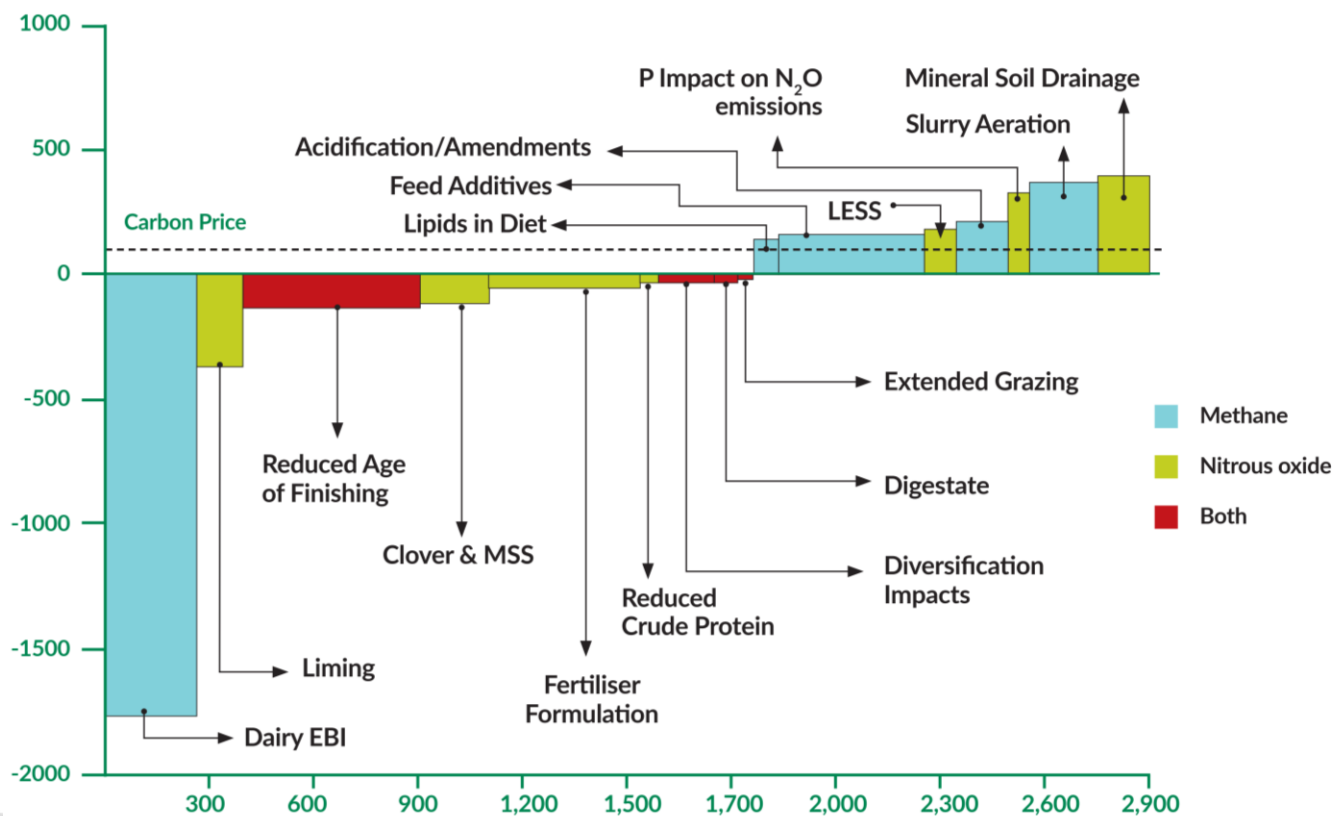
Farmers need support
at three levels



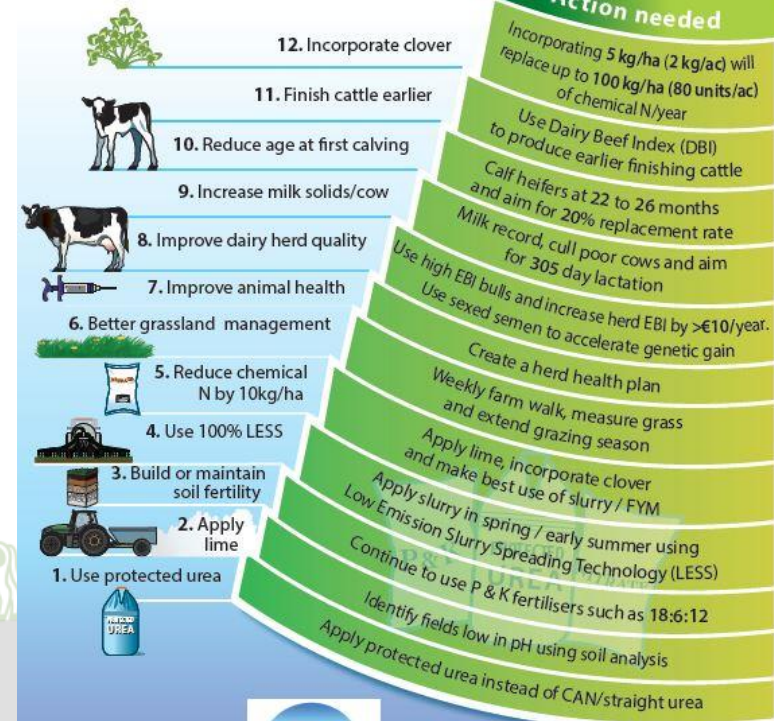
Research has identified promising technologies and system improvements



Teagasc MACC 2023



Where are you on the 12 Steps to reduce Gaseous Emissions on YOUR FARM?



The Signpost Programme

Lead and support the transition of Irish farming towards more sustainable farming systems



Signpost Programme – network of 120 farmer demonstration farms

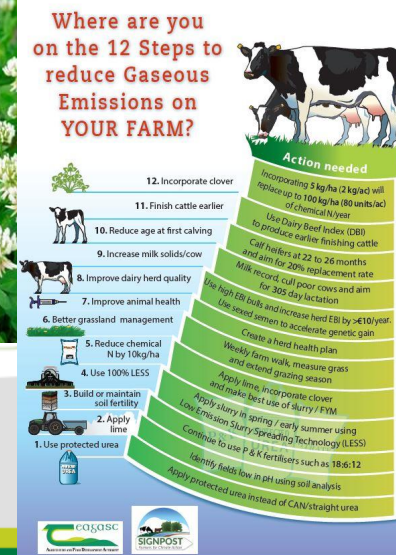
1. Plan



2. Implement



Where are you on the 12 Steps to reduce Gaseous Emissions on YOUR FARM?



Action needed

1. Use protected urea
2. Apply lime
3. Build or maintain soil fertility
4. Use 100% LESS
5. Reduce chemical N by 10kg/ha
6. Better grassland management
7. Improve animal health
8. Improve dairy herd quality
9. Increase milk solids/cow
10. Reduce age at first calving
11. Finish cattle earlier
12. Incorporate clover

Weekly farm walk, measure grass and extend grazing season

Apply lime, incorporate clover and make best use of slurry / FYM

Apply slurry in spring / early summer using Emission Slurry Spreading Technology (LESS)

Continue to use P & K fertilisers such as 18:6:12

Identify fields low in pH using soil analysis

Apply protected urea instead of CAN/straight urea

Use high EBH bulls and increase herd EBH by >€10/year. Use sired semen to accelerate genetic gain

Milk record, cull poor cows and aim for 305 day lactation

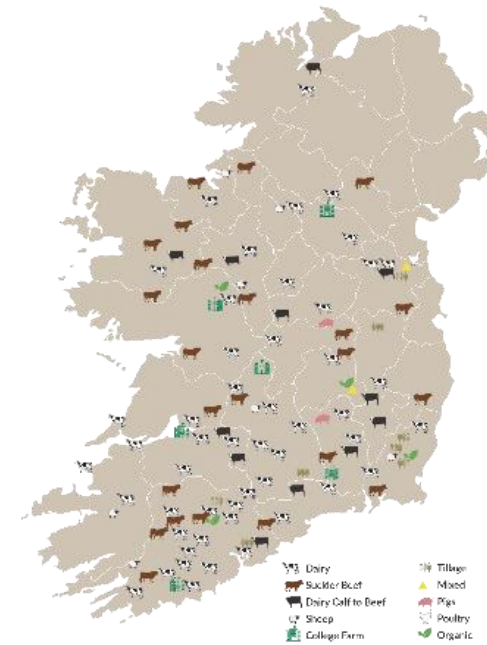
Use Dairy Beef Index (DBI) to produce earlier finishing cattle

Use Dairy Beef Index (DBI) to produce earlier finishing cattle

Calve heifers at 22 to 26 months and aim for 20% replacement rate

Incorporating 5 kg/ha (2 kg/ha will replace up to 100 kg/ha (180 units/ha) of chemical N/ha)

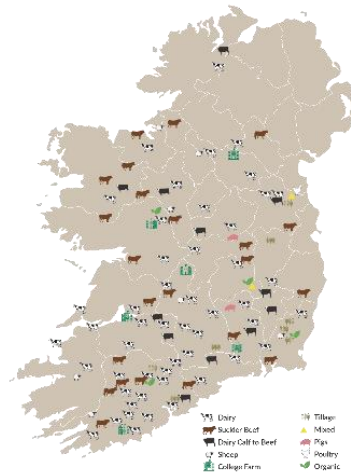
3. Farmer to farmer learning



Signpost Advisory Programme



120 Farmers
Signpost Demonstration Farmers



Signpost Advisory Programme



Available to all farmers



Enhanced advisory & training support



“Know My Number – Make My Plan”
- supported by a Digital Platform called AGNAV



Engage with 50,000 farmers between now & 2030

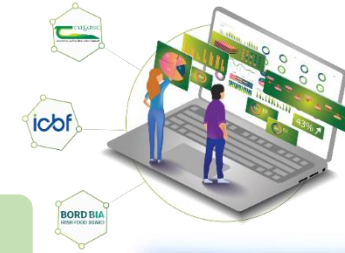
Registration & Commitment

Know My Number

Make My Plan

Support for Action
(3 year programme)

Emissions Reduction





Sign into your account



IE

6

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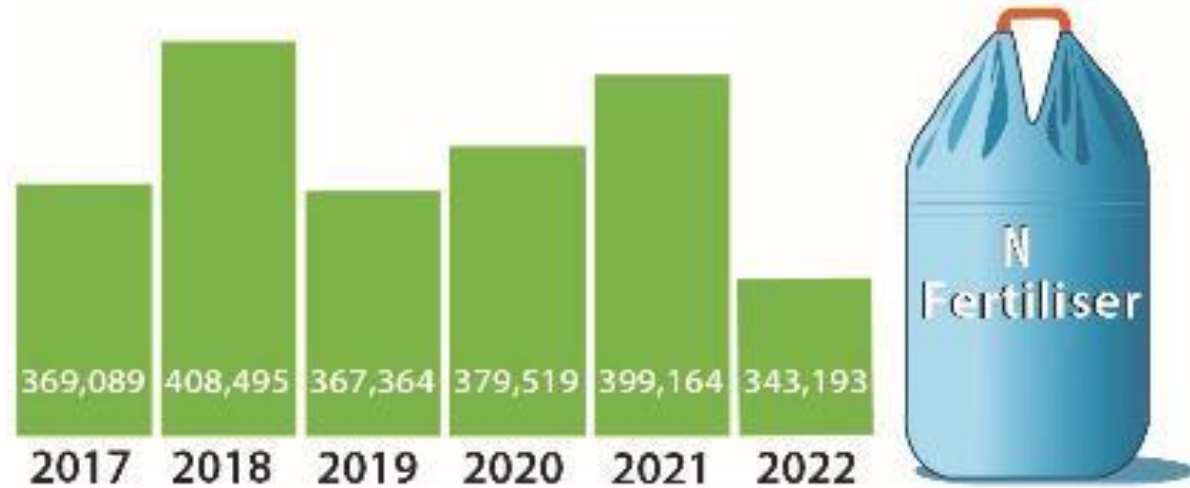
Login

- Digital tool that drives 'Know my number – Make my plan'
- Draws most information from existing databases
- Decision support functionality
- Compatible with national inventory

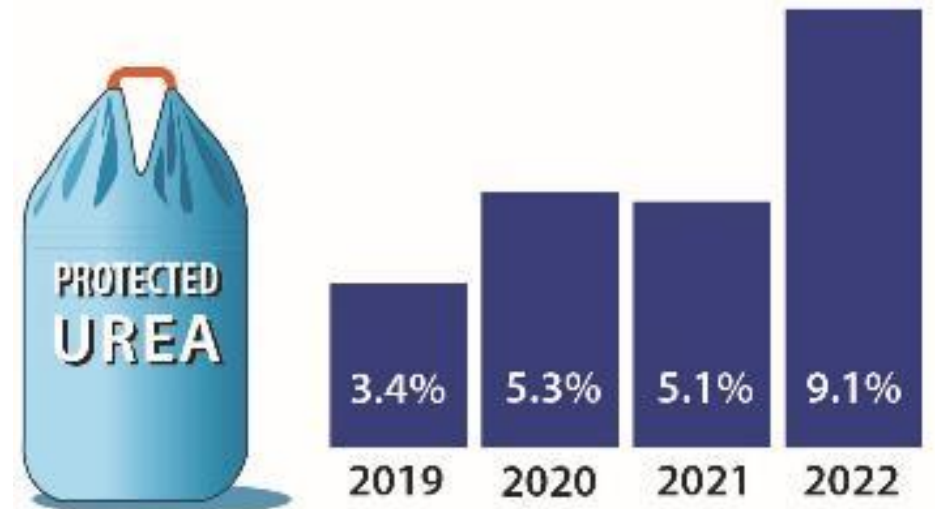


How are we doing so far?

Annual N fertiliser sales (tonnes, CSO)



Protected urea sales as % of overall fertiliser N sales (DAFM)



Next steps

- Recruit farmers into the new *Signpost Advisory Programme* - they are already engaging – target is 50,000
- Support them to implement their plan – relentless push for 2030 target
- Beyond 2030 – Climate neutrality



atf animal
task
force
A European Public Private Partnership

AGRICULTURAL METHANE

—
ASSESSING
ITS SIGNIFICANCE
AND SEEKING SOLUTIONS

A policy brief from the Animal Task Force

Two events were organised by the ATF in 2022 concerning agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, notably methane: a joint symposium organised by the ATF and the Livestock Farming Systems Commission of the European Federation of Animal Science in Porto (05/09/22), and the ATF seminar organised in Brussels (17/11/22). These events made it possible to take stock of the latest advances in knowledge concerning agricultural methane emissions from the livestock sector, and possibilities for reducing these emissions. These events created a dialogue between scientists, policy makers, farmers and industry representatives.