

Impacts of Climate Change on Irish Agriculture

Profile Of Irish Agriculture

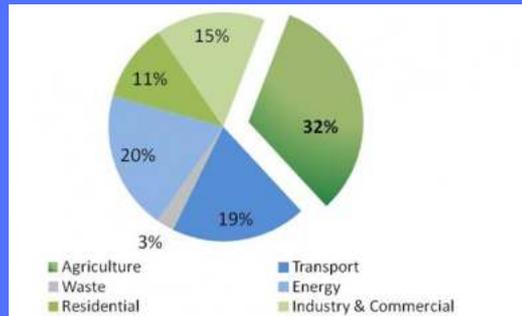
Food and drink exports are worth €11.15 billion.



- 6.96 million cattle
- 5.16 million sheep
- 1.54 million pigs in Ireland (June 2015 livestock survey)
- 378,000 ha of crops grown in Ireland
- The land area of Ireland is 6.9 million hectares, of which 4.5 million hectares are used for agriculture and a further 730,000 hectares for forestry(DAFM 2015)



Contribution of Agriculture to Greenhouse Gas Emissions



(Source: ICOS)

Agriculture contributes 32% of Irelands GHG

Sources of GHG From Agriculture

Livestock Production:

The Principal gas produced from Livestock production is methane (CH_4). Livestock production forms the basis of the Dairy, Beef, Sheep, Pig and Equine production.



Soil and Soil Management:

Soil management results in the production and release of nitrous oxide (N_2O). Application of synthetic Nitrogen fertiliser and application of organic animal manure, deposition of urine and dung onto land by grazing livestock results in emission of nitrous oxide.

Manure storage and management:

Manure storage and management results in the production and release of methane (CH_4). Methane is released during storage and treatment of manure under anaerobic conditions.

Impacts of Climate Change

- Warmer summers heat waves becoming more frequent
- Heavier precipitation increased risk of flooding
- Decreased crop yields
- Possible impact on animal health and productivity (heat stress)
- Flooding-water logging of land



Emissions challenge

Ireland will have to reduce its carbon emissions by up to 30% compared to 2005 levels between now and 2030 in order to meet binding new targets set by the EU.

How will we meet the challenge?

Reducing GHG emissions and improving efficiency go hand in hand.

Improvements in production efficiency breeding more efficient animals is being promoted through the BDGP programme.

Reducing emissions through the use of technology Low Emission Slurry Spreading is being promoted through GLAS & TAMS Schemes.

Planting hedgerows and trees, and minimum tillage are all encouraged through the GLAS Scheme and will help to reduce emissions.

Sowing of catch crops to reduce erosion and help build soil fertility is being promoted through the GLAS Scheme.

