

# Sustainable Agriculture



Sustainable agriculture involves farming in a manner that protects and enhances the environment. Farming is carried out with reduced reliance on pesticides, and fertilisers. Farming practices are modified using techniques such as crop rotation, minimum tillage, and catch crops.

Sustainable farming helps protect soil and water quality, enhances biodiversity, maintains healthy ecosystems and reduces GHG emissions.

Ireland has the most carbon efficient dairy production in the EU, and the 5th most efficient beef production.

# Sustainable actions



- Early finishing of beef cattle to reduce GHG emissions
- Extending the grazing season
- Improving grass quality and utilisation (measuring grass)
- Soil testing, nutrient management planning, application of lime
- Early slurry application to reduce methane emissions and ensure losses of N to the air are minimised
- Energy efficiency - examine lighting, milking cooling, water heating to identify where improvements can be made
- Water usage - identify leaks, recycle water
- Minimum tillage - reduced machinery costs

## Benefits of Sustainable Agriculture

- Increasing farm incomes and productivity
- Reducing GHG emissions
- Building resilience to climate impacts

