

Innovation in Agricultural Education and Training

Meeting of Chairpersons of Agriculture and
Fisheries Committees

11th March 2013



Dr Karina Pierce, Lecturer in Dairy Production,

Introduction

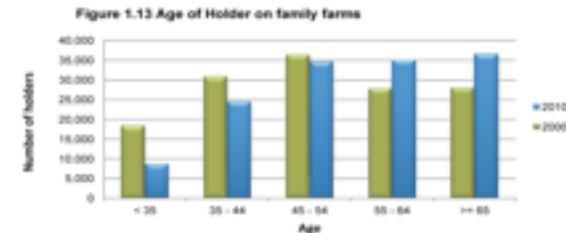


- Food Harvest 2020 – ambitious targets
 - Dairy – 50% increase in volume
 - Beef – 40% increase in output value
- EU milk quota abolition in 2015
- Opportunities in the Agri-Food Sector



Age Profile of Irish Farmers

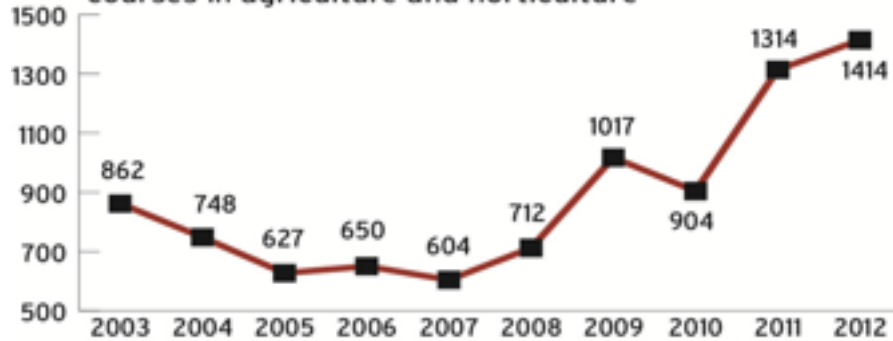
- The CSO census of agriculture shows the average age of farmers in Ireland in 2012 was 54, compared to 51 in 2000
- It also showed more than half (51.4pc) of all farm holders in 2010 were 55 or older
- EU - of a total 13 million farmers, only 7 per cent are aged below 35



Demand for Agriculture/Horticulture courses +100% since 2008

Figure 1

Total first-preference applications for level 6, 7 and 8 courses in agriculture and horticulture



Minimum Points Required for Agricultural Science in UCD





UCD DUBLIN

Agriculture, Food and Undergraduate Programmes Nutrition

Agricultural Science

Agri-Environmental Sciences

Animal and Crop Production

Animal Science

Engineering Technology

Food and Agribusiness Management

Animal Science – Equine

Dairy Business

Food Science

Human Nutrition

Forestry

Horticulture, Landscape & Sportsturf
Management

BAgrSc - Dairy Business

- Designed to provide students entering the dairy industry (dairy farming or supporting industries) with a high level of **scientific**, **technical** and **business** skills
- Developed following extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders
- Basic sciences, Agriculture and the Environment, communication/IT skills
- **Business** – Farm business management, Leadership,



Professional Work Experience (Internship)

- 5 months
- Students encouraged to travel abroad
 - New Zealand
- Learning outcomes must be achieved
- Semester 2: Teagasc Moorepark - Applied grassland management, Breeding, Herd Health, Milk Quality, Dairy systems



Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management

- AIM: Develop managerial expertise and the capacity of future farm managers
- Two years professional work experience (PWE) on the most progressive dairy farms - option to travel overseas
- Students have a minimum of 2 years agricultural education
- Modules delivered as one day, two day and five day courses (e.g Dairy Farm Management, Managing people in agriculture, Planning for expansion)
- Learning by: Discussion groups, class lectures, workshops, practical field sessions, field trips etc.



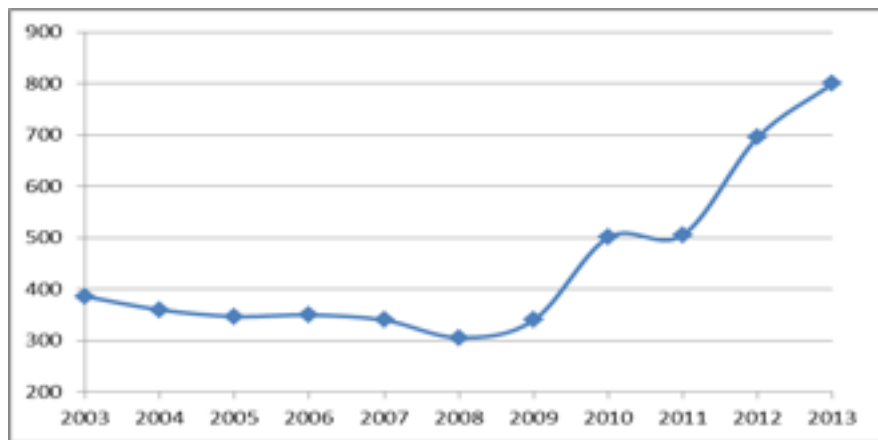
General Characteristics of New Entrants to the Irish dairy industry (2009-2011)

	Average	(min-max)
Age (yrs)	36	21-62
% with Relative already in dairy	44	
% farms previously in dairy	35	
% with dairy exp		
% with experien		
Education %		
180hour Agricul		
Advanced Agric		
Bachelors degre		
Previous Enterp		
Beef		
Mixed		
Other		
Land Origins %		
Leased		
Owned		
Own & Leasing	48	
Total Land (ha)	58.08	20-199
Land leased/rented (ha)	23.09	0-151
Land owned (ha)	34.90	0-107
Off-farm Income %		
Other Income	78	
Income dairy farming	22	
% with existing loans	39	
% planning on getting a loan	79	

- **Average age: 36**
- **93% of new dairy entrants have at least two years formal 3rd level agricultural education**
- **Intend to become relatively large scale and efficient milk producer's post-EU milk quota abolition**



Increasing Number of Discussion Groups



Beef Farmers in Discussion Groups in South East Ireland

Average age – 45

Average farm size – 72 hectares

90% have an agricultural education

Source: Alan O'Brien, MSc data



Future Challenges

- Large numbers of highly educated young graduates / farmers entering the sector
- **Educators:** Must continue to keep the curriculum relevant to changing requirements: e.g sustainability, climate change, expansion post quota, precision agriculture, IT, business skills etc.





Go Raibh Míle Maith Agaibh

