Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme (SCEP)

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

AgTech - it's in our DNA

Introduction

5-year suckler scheme launched by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine in Ireland.

Builds upon the gains from the previous scheme (BDGP) of driving down carbon emissions through better breeding.

Ireland has committed to a 25% cut in GHG emissions from agriculture by 2030.

Budget of €260m over 5 years will be used to improve beef farmers' environmental sustainability by breeding high-genetic animals based on national economic profit indexes.

Co-funded by Irish Government and European Union.

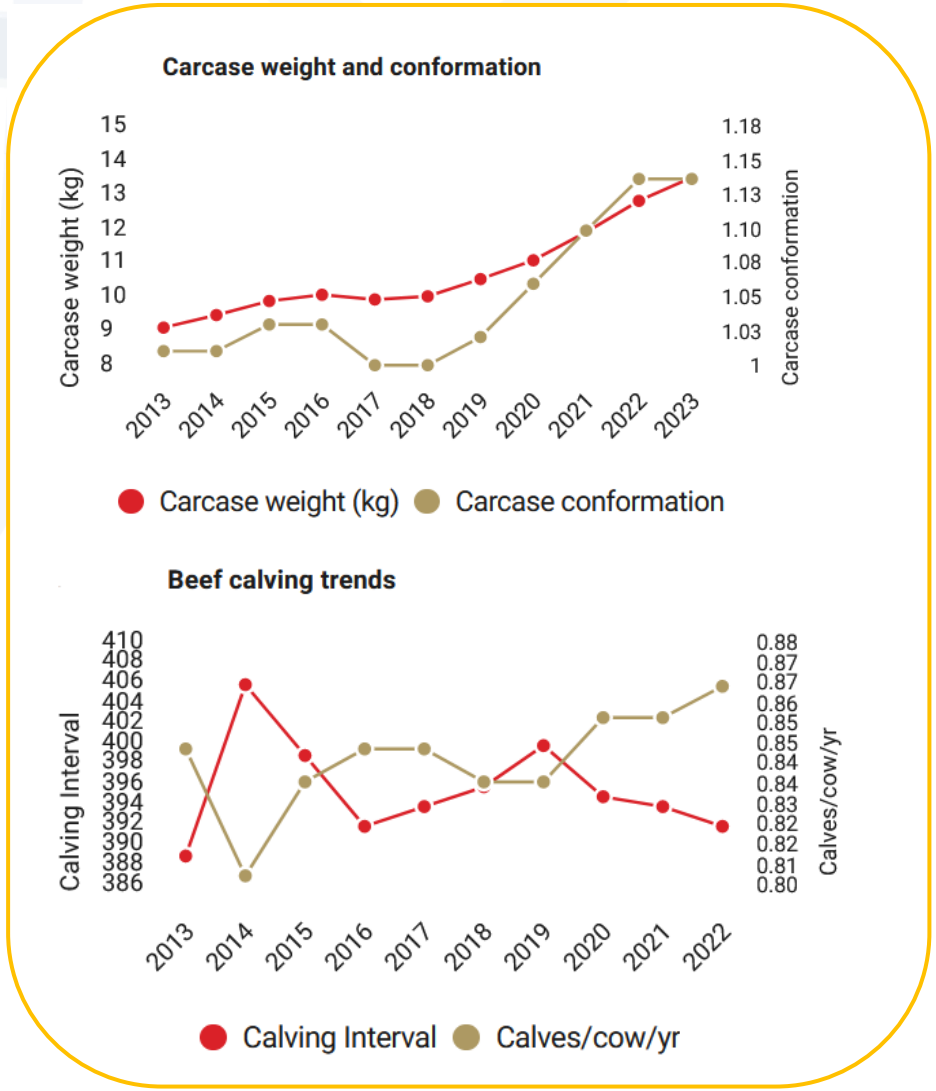
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Benefits of the Beef Data Genomics Programme (BDGP) 2015 - 2020

22k Herds
500k Suckler Cows
340k Animals Genotyped Per Year

"The continued implementation of the principles set out under the BDGP imply a projected cumulative reduction of c. ***1.6 Mt of CO2*** *over the period 2015-2030 which represents a marginal abatement of approximately* ***11%*** *with the size of the herd held constant at current levels."*

Dept. of Agriculture Food and Marine – Spending Review 2019, Beef Data and Genomics Programme.



Actions

Programme	Genotyping	Eligible AI / Eligible Bull	Female Replacement	Data Recording	Weight Recording	Quality Assurance Audit
BDGP	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—
SCEP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Payments

€225 for the first 15 hectares
€180 for the remaining hectares

Payment per animal example:

30 Cow Herd

22.5 cows x €150	€3375
7.5 cows x €120	€900
Gross Payment	**€4275**
Less cost of genotyping	(€420)
Net Payment	**€3855**

Genotyping

70% of eligible animals to be genotyped per year.

20k Herds expected in the scheme => 300k animals genotyped per year.

Process:

1. Animals selected by ICBF, and farmer notified.
2. Farmer has an opportunity to change the selection for preferable, eligible animals.
3. Sampling kits issued to the farmer.
4. Farmer tags the animal and returns the sample to the lab.

Cost of genotyping is deducted from the payment.

Eligible AI / Stock Bull

% calves born must be sired by high genetic animals for meat production or breeding on the national economic profit index.

Year 1 and 2:	80% calves
Year 3 and 4:	85% calves
Year 5:	90% calves

Female Replacement Strategy

% of the herd's eligible females must be of a high genetic merit for breeding on the national economic profit index at time of purchase or at time of genotyping

31st October 2023	50% females
31st October 2025	65% females
31st October 2027	75% females

Traits of an Ideal Suckler Cow

- Docile
- Calve at 24 months
- Calving ability
- Milk
- Produce a good calf
- Fertility
- Longevity
- Moderate size

Weighing

80% of the calves born to be weighed each year with their dams.

Calves must be weighed within the scheme year and must be at least 50 days old.

Farmers can use their own scales, borrow a scales or rent a scales from the local Agri-Store.

Weighing technicians are available to weigh the animals

The scales must be registered with ICBF.

The weights must be recorded on the ICBF database.

ICBF validates the weights using machine learning.

Weighing platform: Length: 7’ 2”
Width: 2’ 1”
Weight 47Kgs
Manufacturer: O’Donovan Engineering

Beams: Tru-Test MP600

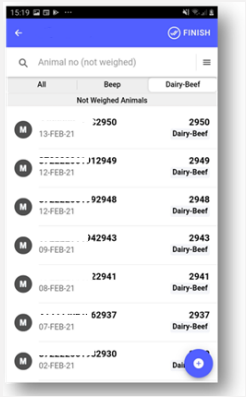
Weighing Indicator: EziWeigh7i TruTest

Weighing Scales Rental and Technicians Network

400 Weighing scales for rent across

105 Depots nationwide

32 Weighing technicians



Weighing Technicians

Scales Rental Depot

Record Keeping and Event Recording

Calf Surveys

from birth:

Sire, Calving Survey, Birth Size, Calf Vigour.

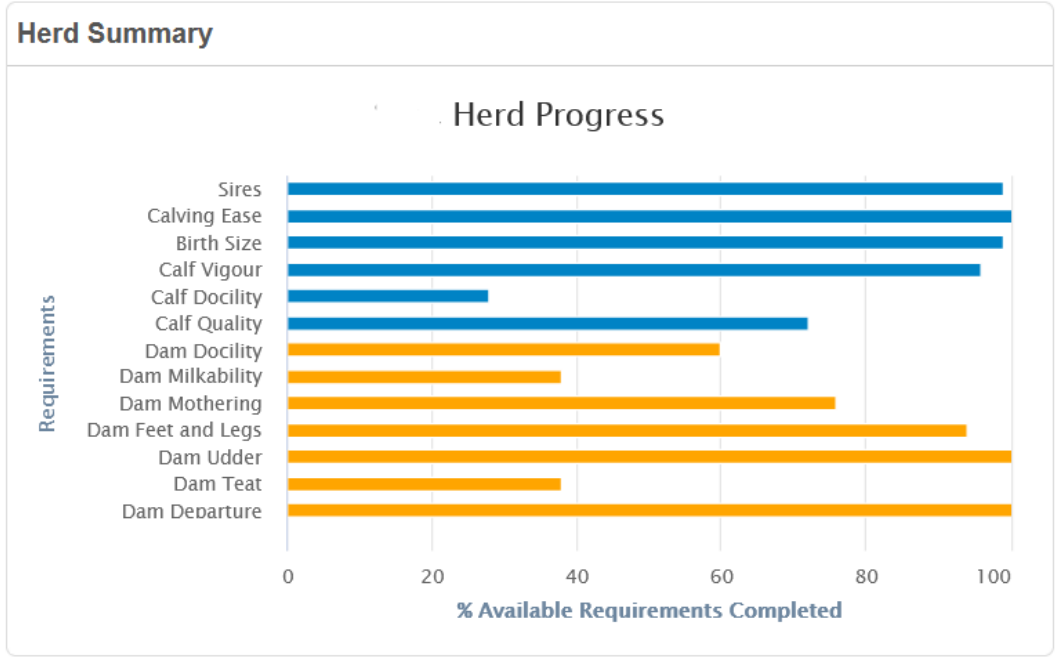
from 5 months:

Calf Quality, Calf Docility.

Dam Surveys

Docility, Milk Ability, Departure Reasons.

New surveys: Mothering Ability, Feet and Legs, Teat, Udder.



Quality Assurance Audit

What is involved:

A Farm Sustainability Survey must be completed.

An on-farm review of facilities, remedies store, health and safety etc.

A review of record keeping such as passports, prescriptions and knackery receipts.

Summary

Build upon the gains of the previous schemes.

Continue to improve the genetic merit of the national beef herd through the collection of data and genotypes.

Continue to lower the intensity of GHG emissions by improving the quality and efficiency of the national beef herd.

Our Farmer & Government Representation

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association

Feirmeoirí Aontaithe na hÉireann – The Irish Farmers' Association – IFA

Our AI & Milk Recording Organisations

Dovea Genetics

Munster Bovine – Collectively Improving Farm Life

Progressive Genetics

Tipperary Cooperative

Our Herdbooks

Pasthenais

Irish Angus Cattle Society

The Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association

Irish Simmental

Jersey Cattle Association of Ireland

Irish Limousin Cattle Society

IHFA – Irish Charolais Cattle Society

Irish Shorthorn Society Ltd.

Salers Cattle Society of Ireland

Irish Hereford Breed Society

Irish Aubrac

MRI Cattle Society of Ireland
Meuse Rhine Issel -- Milk & Muscle!

Ayrshires

EASBB

The Irish Moiled Cattle Society

Blonde D'Aquitaine

Irish Belgian Blue

Droimeann Cattle Society

ISP

Montbeliarde

Ireland's native dairy breed

Norwegian Red Cattle Society

icbf Acknowledging Our Members