



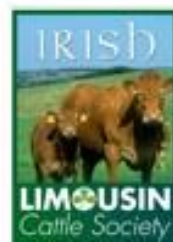
Exports and Future prospects of Dairy Farming in Ireland in the context of the European Green Deal

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ICOS 3rd Nov 2020

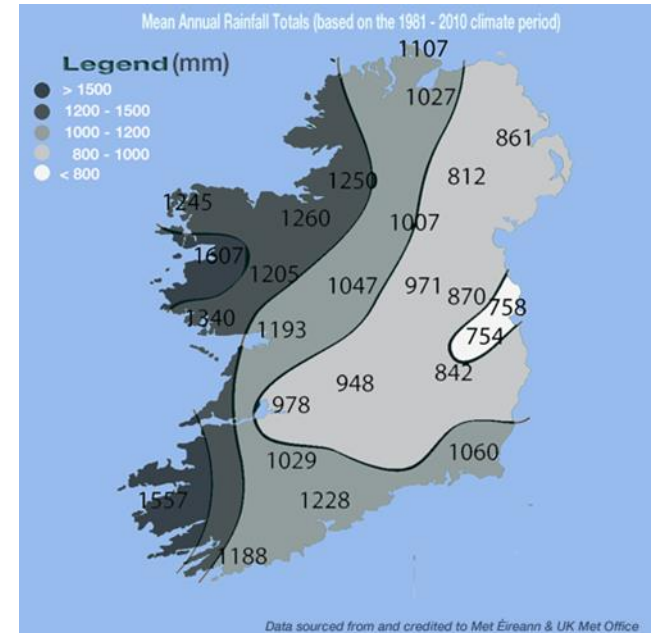


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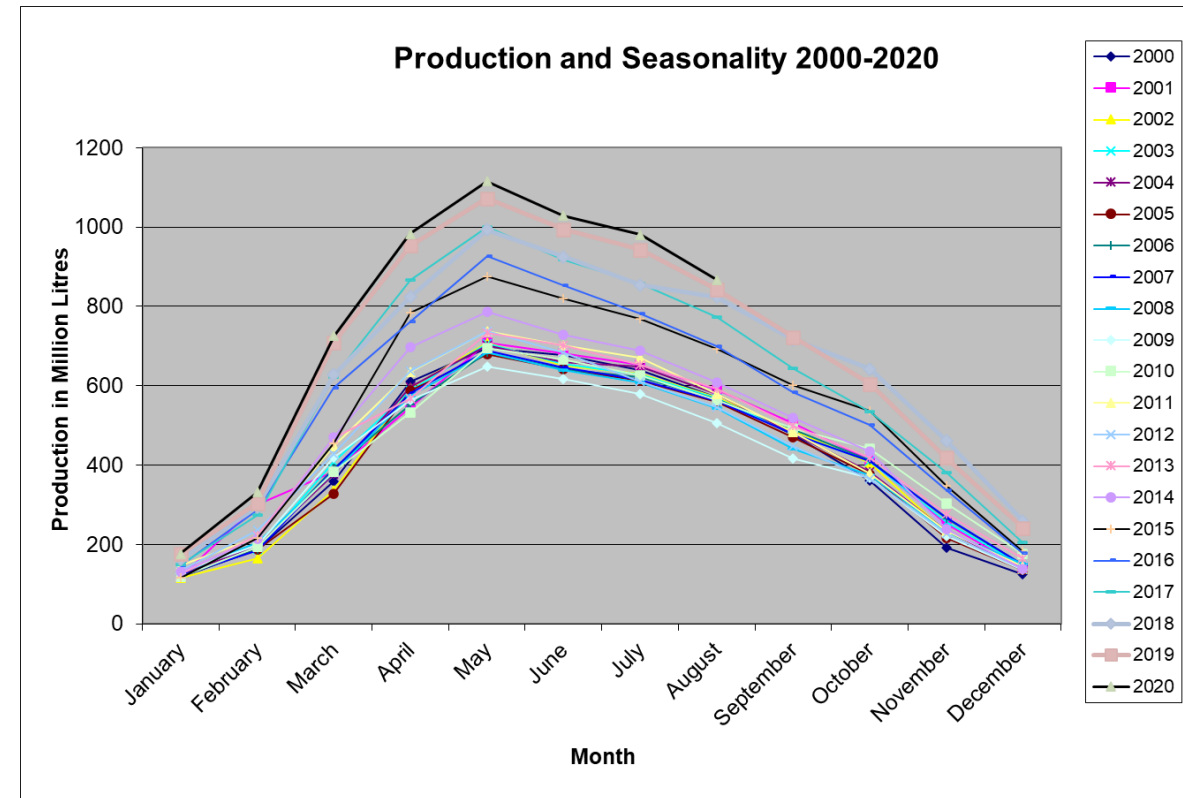
Features of Agriculture in Ireland

- Ireland has c 7 m ha
- 10% of total land, is used for forestry.
- 64%, or 4.44 m ha, is suitable for agriculture.
- 81% of agricultural area is grass, 11% is rough grazing and 8% to crop production
- c100,000 farms, c40 ha each
- c30,000 farms are commercially viable
- Others are semi-retired, part time etc.



Features of Dairy Farming in Ireland

- Ireland has 17,000 dairy farmers
- They milk 90 cows each
- Average Yield 5,300 litres
- Producing 8 Bn litres
- 4.17% fat, 3.54% Protein
- Highly seasonal Milk Supply (10:1)
- 6% of Milk used for drinking
- 94% of milk supply is for Manufacturing





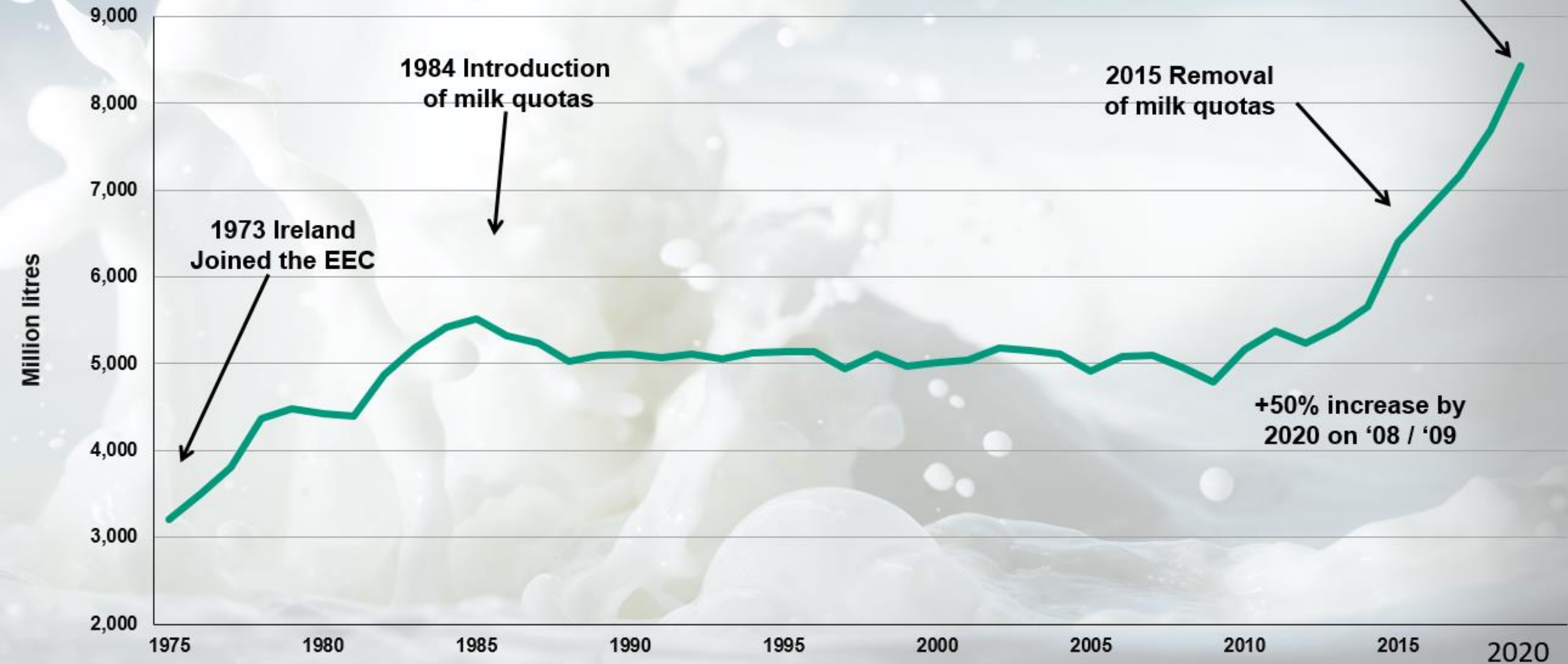
Typical farm

- Production from grazed grass
- Compact Spring calving; late January onwards
- Cows produce milk from grazed grass
- Cows dried off in November and December
- Low levels of purchased feed used



Evolution of Irish Dairy

2020 estimate 8.3bn litres



Production and Exports

- 62% of milk used to make butter (250,000t)
 - Germany, USA, UK markets
- 25% of milk used to make cheese (240,000t, mostly cheddar)
 - UK, EU, USA
- 400,000 tonnes of dairy powders
 - China, Middle East, North and West Africa



EU Green Deal; Threat or Opportunity

- Policy framework for the foreseeable future
 - Climate Action
 - Circular Economy
 - Biodiversity
 - Farm-to-Fork
- Will it impact Irish Dairy?
 - Hugely
- Threat or Opportunity
 - Both

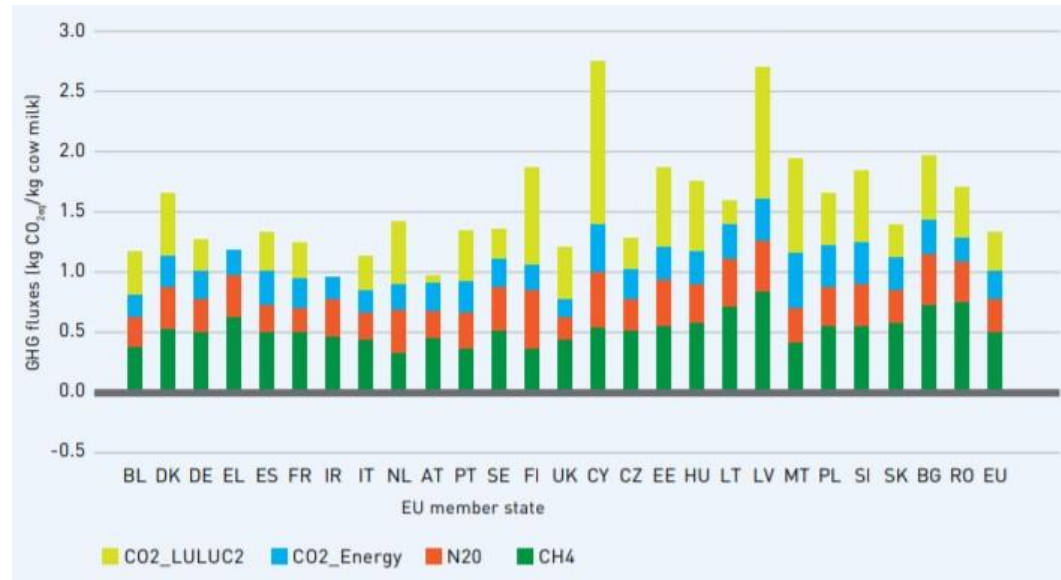
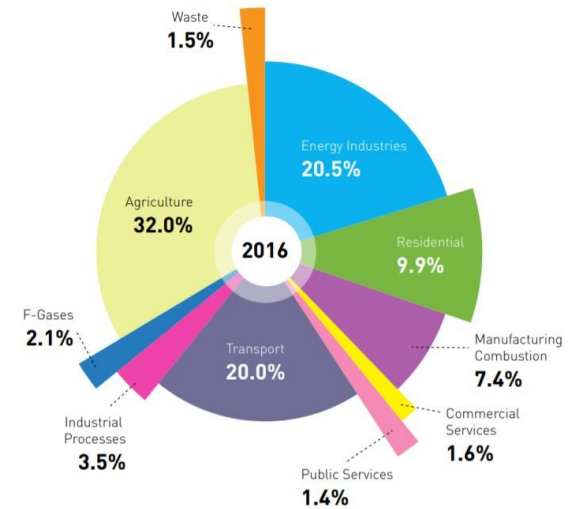


It's up to us

What are the issues with Irish Dairying?

- Ireland has very little Heavy Industry, so Agriculture is a big % of National Emissions.
- Low Emissions per litre of milk produced
- But Emissions are growing as production grows

FIG 6 | GHG's Per Economic Sector in Ireland (2016)



What's our problem?

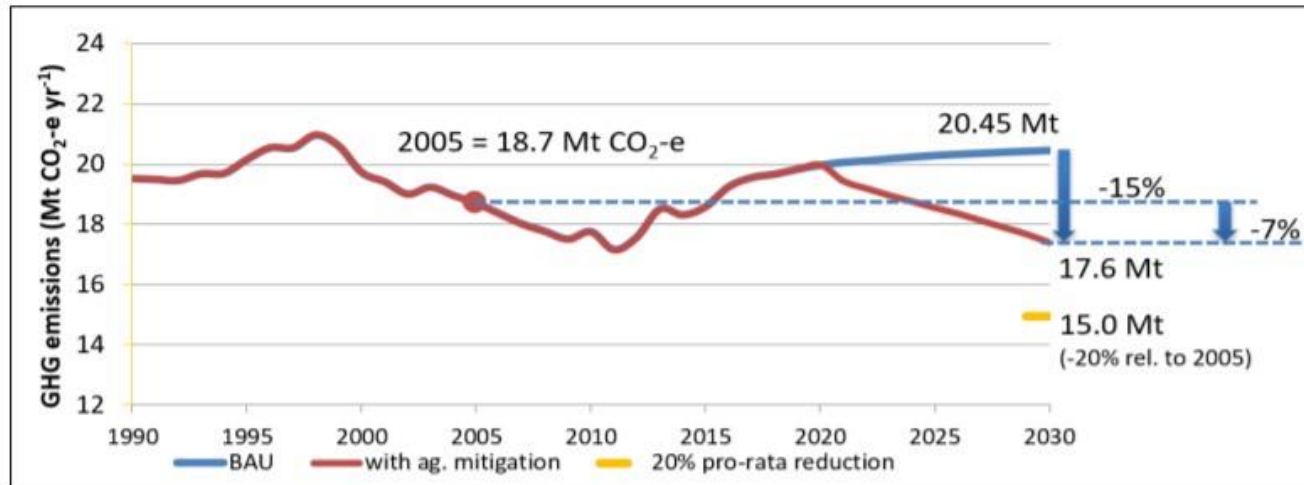
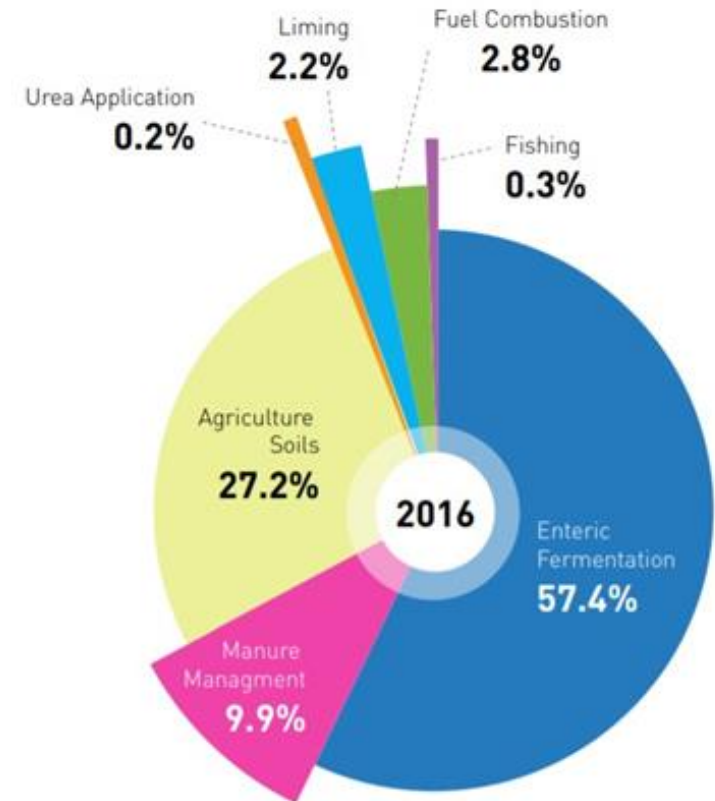
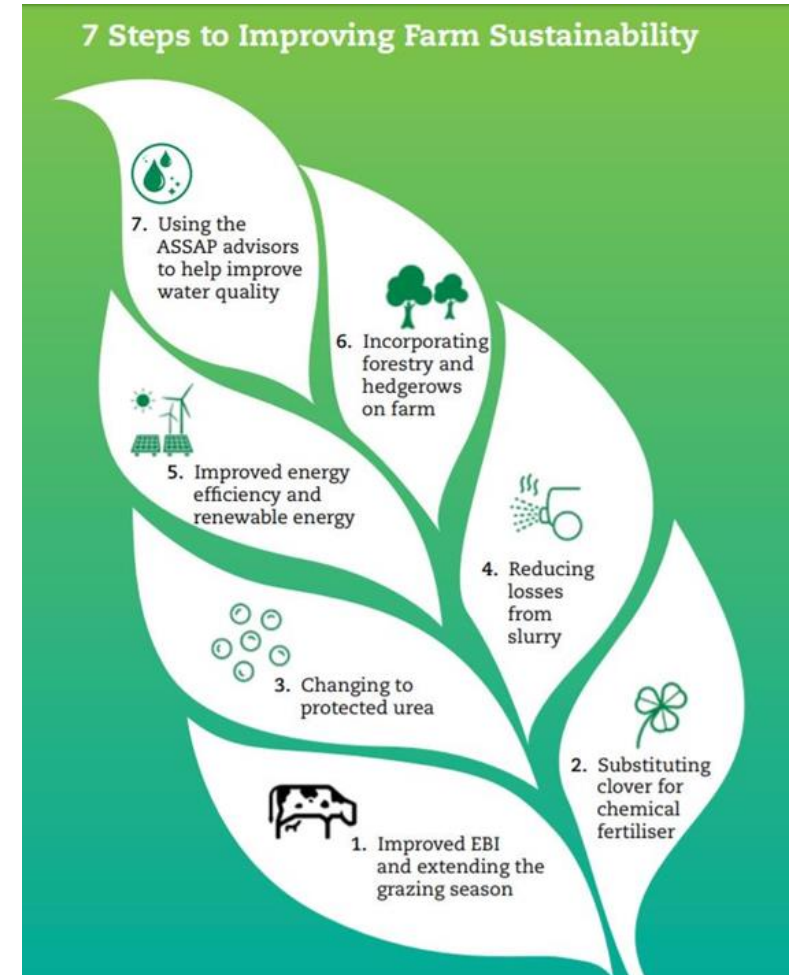
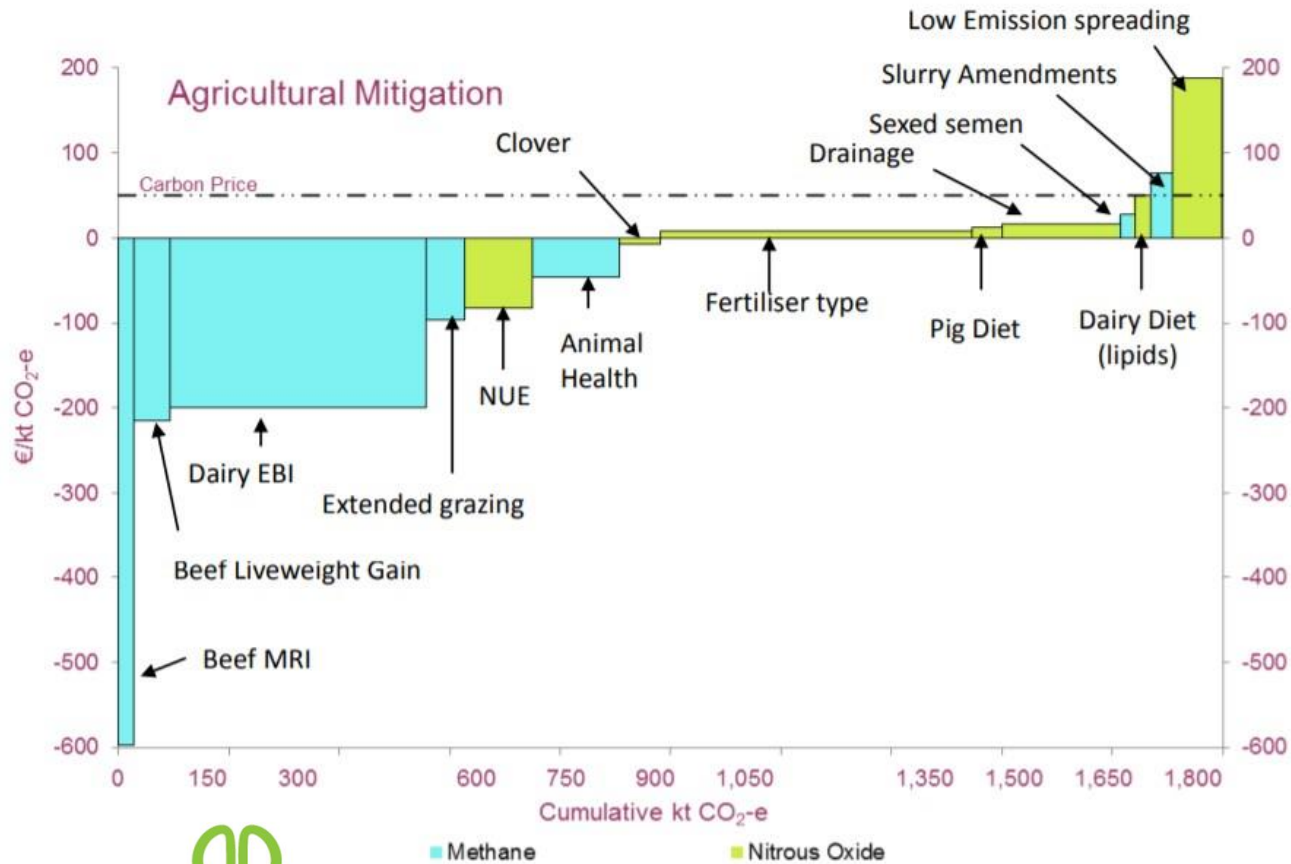


FIG 7 | Breakdown of Agriculture GHG's by activity (2016)



Source: EPA

What we'll need to do



Other Challenges in the Green Deal

- Trade Policy
 - Impact on global trade
 - Shorter supply chains?, more local production?
- Promotion of Dietary Change
 - Plant diets?
- Biodiversity
- Pesticide Reduction
- Organic Production Targets



Can we embrace these challenges?

- Yes we can
- Methane, Nitrous Oxide, and Carbon Dioxide emissions are wasted resources.
- The lowest emission producers are the most efficient and most profitable.
- We need to support farmers to evolve their production systems
 - Advice
 - Support
 - Incentives

