



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

Policy Landscape for Irish Agriculture

Bill Callanan

Chief Inspector

Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine

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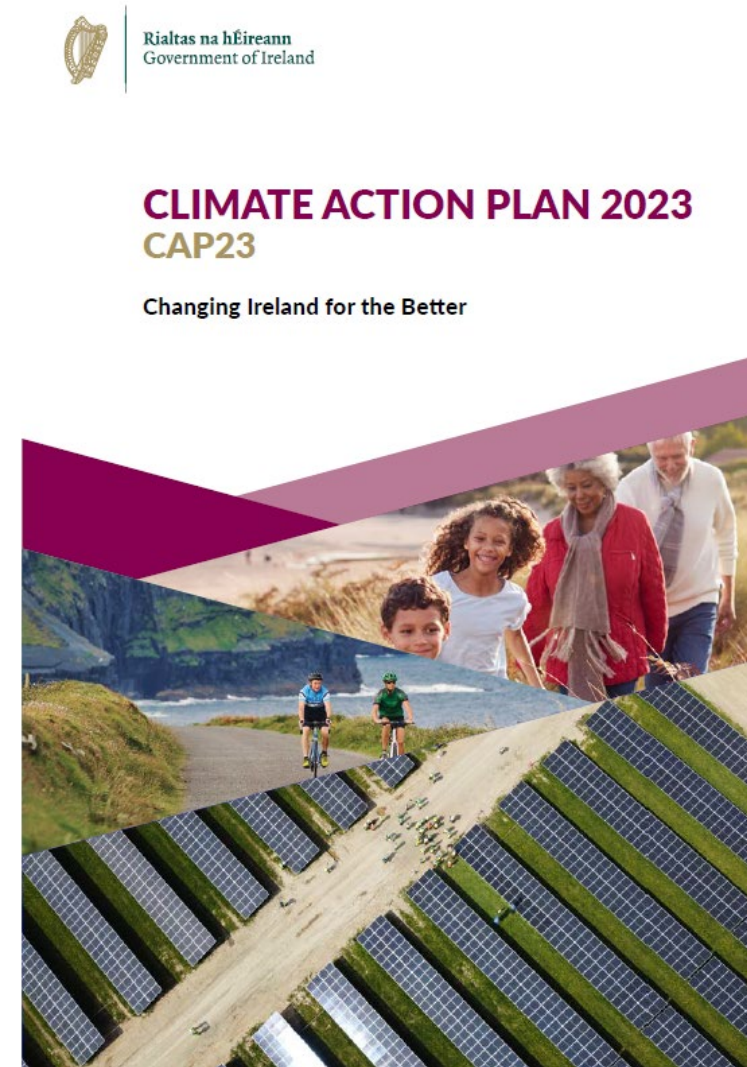
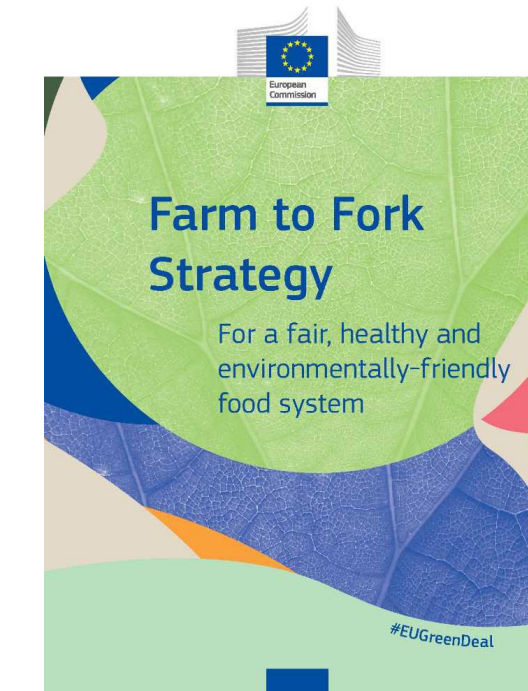
Overview



- Drivers of Change
- Agriculture Change
- Targets
- Actions
- Derogation Impact
- Key Messages

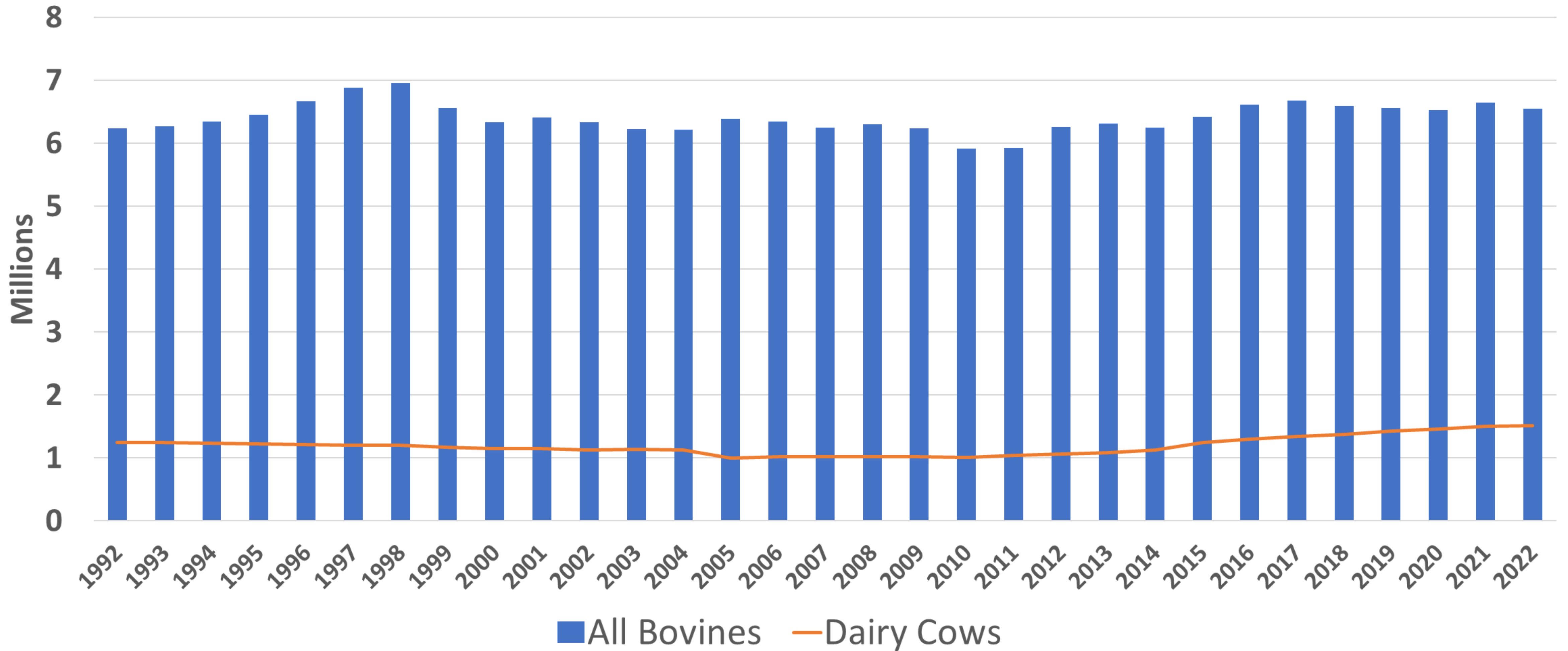
Drivers of Change

- EU Farm to Fork
- Food Vision 2030
- Water Framework Directive
- Nitrates Action Programme
- Climate Action Plan
- CAP Strategic Plan

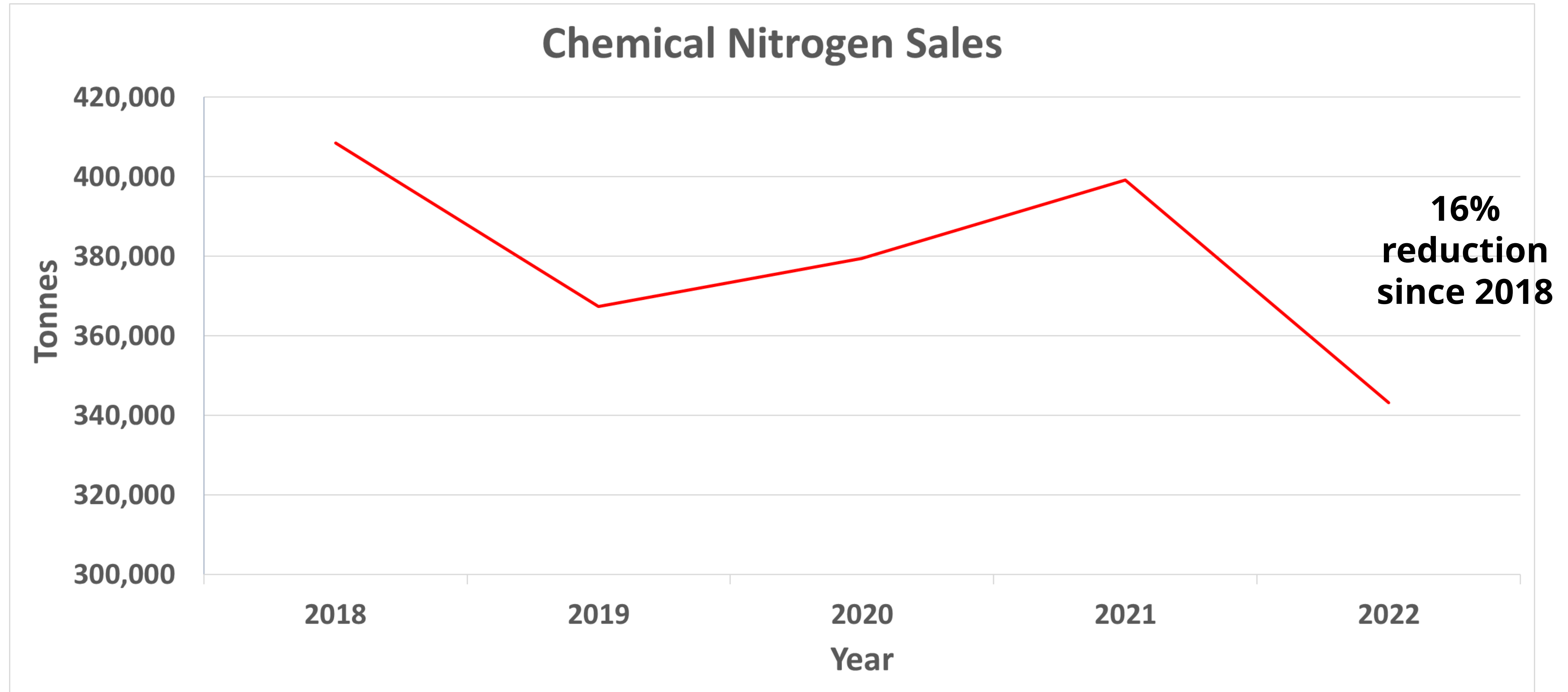


Livestock Trends

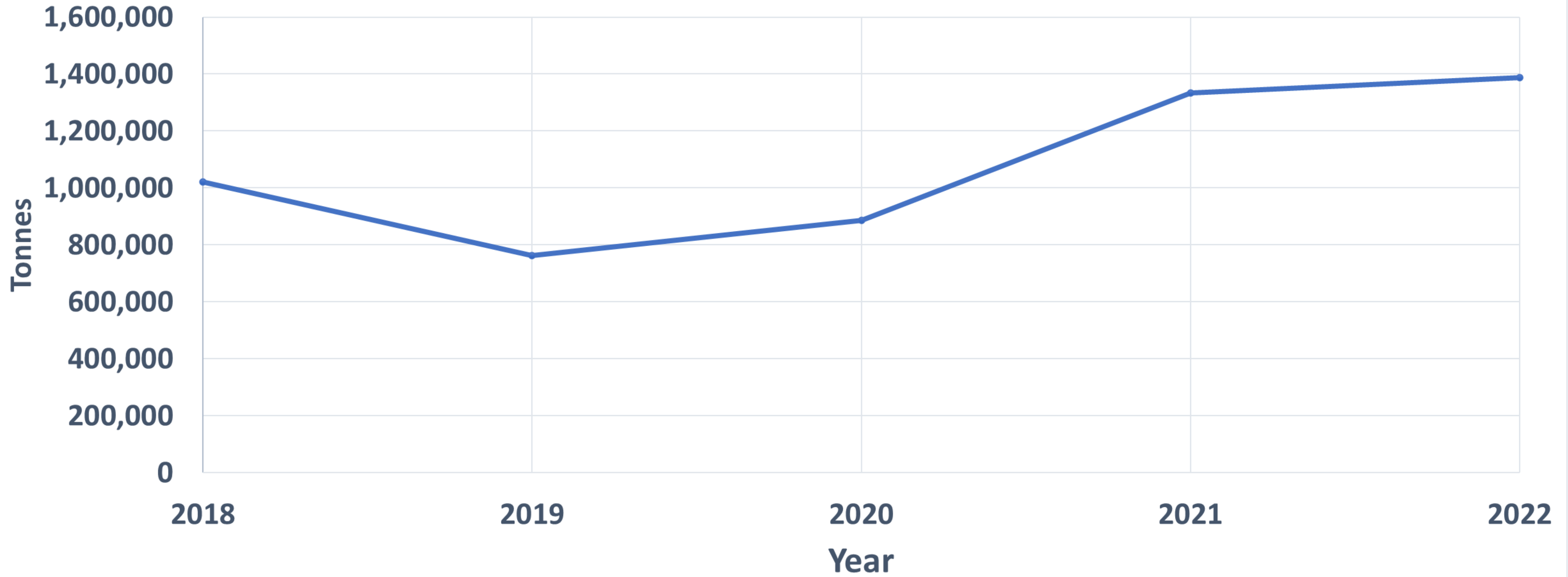
30 Year Bovine Numbers



Fertiliser Sales Trends



Ground Limestone Sales



Source: DAFM

Targets set in Climate Action Plan

- Emission reduction of 25% from Agriculture

Activity to Delivery reductions	2025 KPI	2030 KPI
Reducing Chemical N Use	Max usage of 330,000 tonnes	Max usage of 300,000 tonnes
Increased Adoption of Protected Urea on grassland farms	80 to 90%	90 to 100%
Early Slaughter Age of finishing Beef cattle (26 to 22-23 months)	24-25 months average finishing age	22-23 months average finishing age by 2030
<u>Diversification</u>		
Increase organic farming	250,000 ha	450,000 ha
Increase in Tillage Area	360,000 ha	400,000 ha
Agriculture Feedstocks into indigenous sustainable Biomethane	20 Anaerobic Digestion plants of scale 1 TWh of Biomethane	200 Anaerobic Digestion plants of scale 5.7 TWh of Biomethane
<u>Afforestation</u>		
Reduced management intensity on drained organic grassland soils	25,000 ha	80,000 ha
Planting of Cover Crops	25,000 ha	50,000 ha



Nitrates Action Programme

2022-2025

Changes Introduced



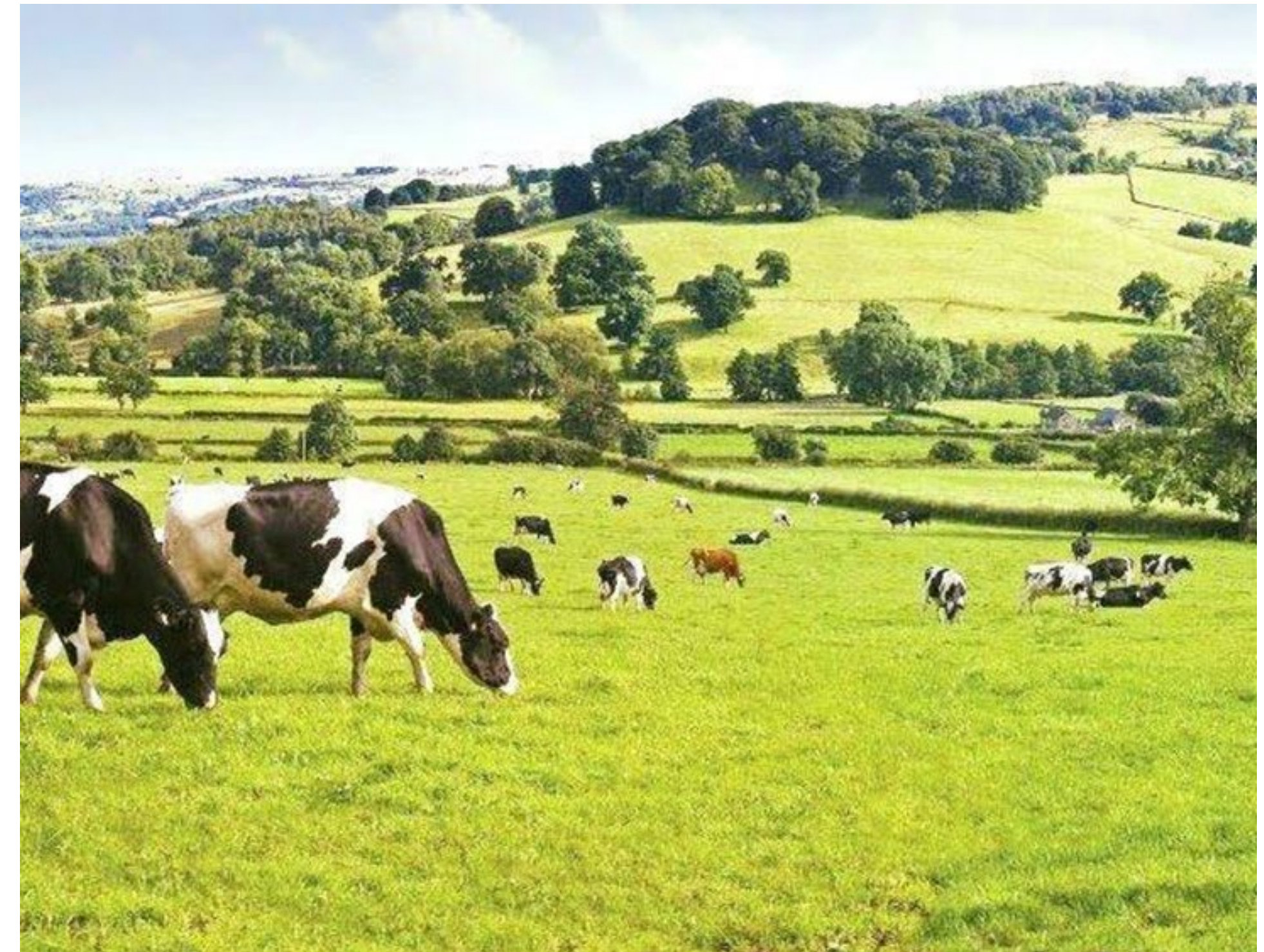
- 10% cut in grassland chemical nitrogen allowances
- Soil sampling
- Low Emission Slurry Spreading
- Closed period for slurry and chemical fertiliser
- Soiled water closed period (dairy farmers)
- Banding of dairy cow nutrient excretion rates



Other changes in measures



- Commonage max 50kg N/ha and no chemical allowance
- Green cover on tillage land post-harvest – 14 counties
- Buffer strips increased and late harvest crop buffer introduced
- Crude Protein max 15% in concentrates if >130kg GSR
- Silage bales max 2 high unless effluent collection facility



Interim Review and Water Quality Review

Non-GAP Measures



- Fertiliser Sales Database
- Improving compliance and enforcement
 - DAFM derogation inspections increase to 10% per annum
 - Local Authority National Agricultural Inspection Programme
- Extension and expansion of Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP)
 - Over 40 advisors with significant increased commitment from Industry

Outside the Nitrates Action Programme



- Water EIP €50m over 5 years
- Accelerated Capital Allowances
- Agri-Schemes:
 - ACRES,
 - Eco-Schemes,
 - Organic Farming
- Industry schemes

Agriculture Water Quality Working Group



Objective: To seek stakeholder buy-in, to raise awareness of existing measures and bring forward additional measures to protect waters and drive water quality improvement

Stakeholders:

- Farming organisations
- Industry
- Teagasc
- Government Depts (DAFM & DHLGH)
- Others: ACA, LAWPRO, An Forum Uisce



Derogation Impact

Not a limit on farm intensity, limit on application of nutrients to land.



Key Messages



1. Agriculture has to do more
2. Need to recognise effort and progress
3. Co-benefits for the farming sector
4. Need for an overall collaborative approach involving all actors.
5. Key Priorities for Ag Water Quality Working Group.
 - Individual understanding of local water quality and impact of their actions
 - Improved compliance and enforcement
 - Introduction of additional measures to drive improvement of water quality