

Organic Production Census Ireland 2012

**National Organic Conference
Tuesday 5 November 2013**

Dan Clavin

Teagasc Rural Economy and Development Programme,
Mellows Development Centre,
Athenry, Co. Galway

Thank you to the following for assistance in this work:

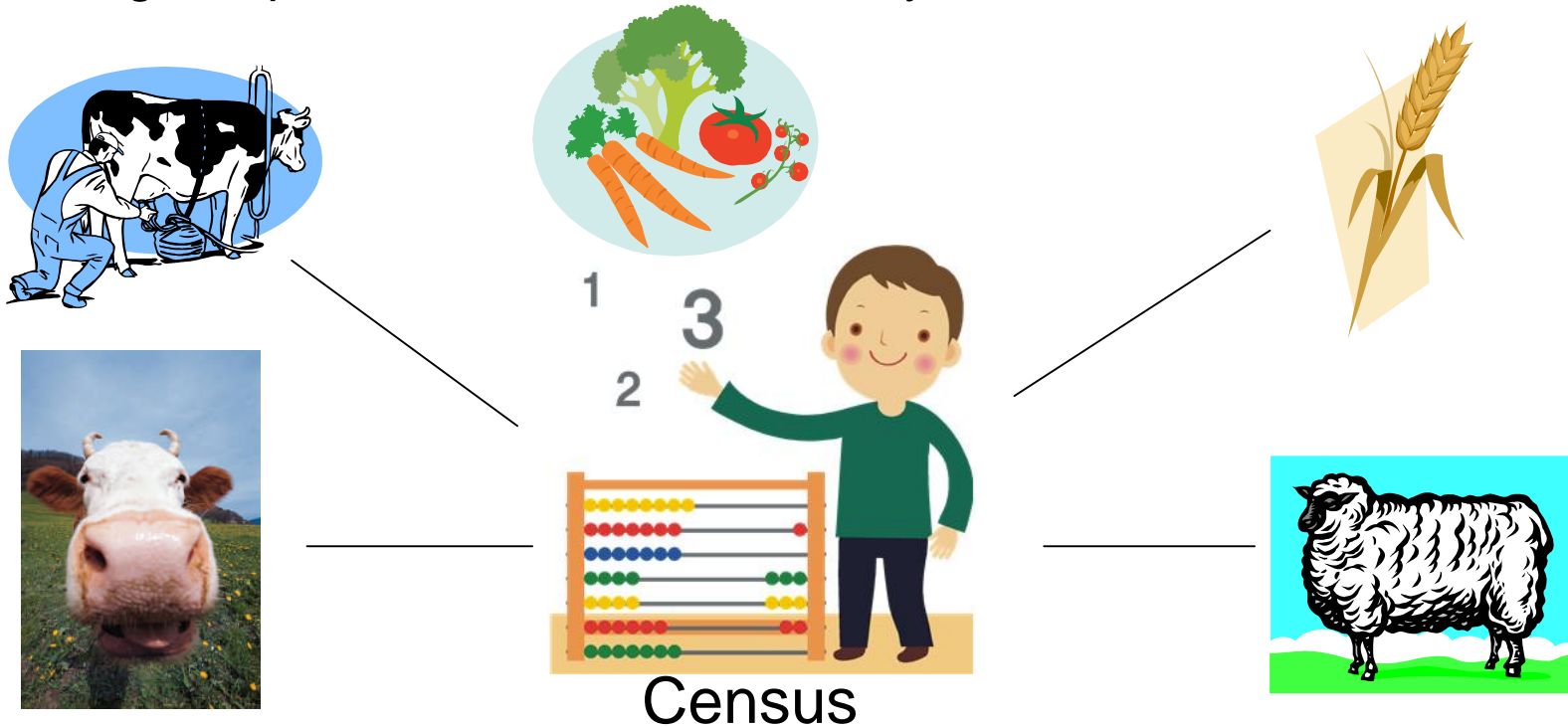
Philip Cullen, Joan Furlong and Kevin McKeever, DAFM Johnstown Castle

Aiden Kelly, DAFM, Backweston

Niall Farrelly, Teagasc, Athenry

Topics in talk

- Organic farming area and producer numbers 2007 - 2012
- Organic production census summary Dec 2012



All data obtained from DAFM Organic Unit, Johnstown Castle, DAFM AIMS Unit Backweston, DAFM SPS Unit, Portlaoise and Organic Certification Bodies (OCBs).

2012 - Where are the producers in Ireland?

58,556 ha (~1.3% UAA)
 -45,377 ha organic (67%)
 -13,179 ha in-conversion (23%)

1,346 producers
 -Shannon Basin and Cork are strongest areas

-50% located in 6 counties

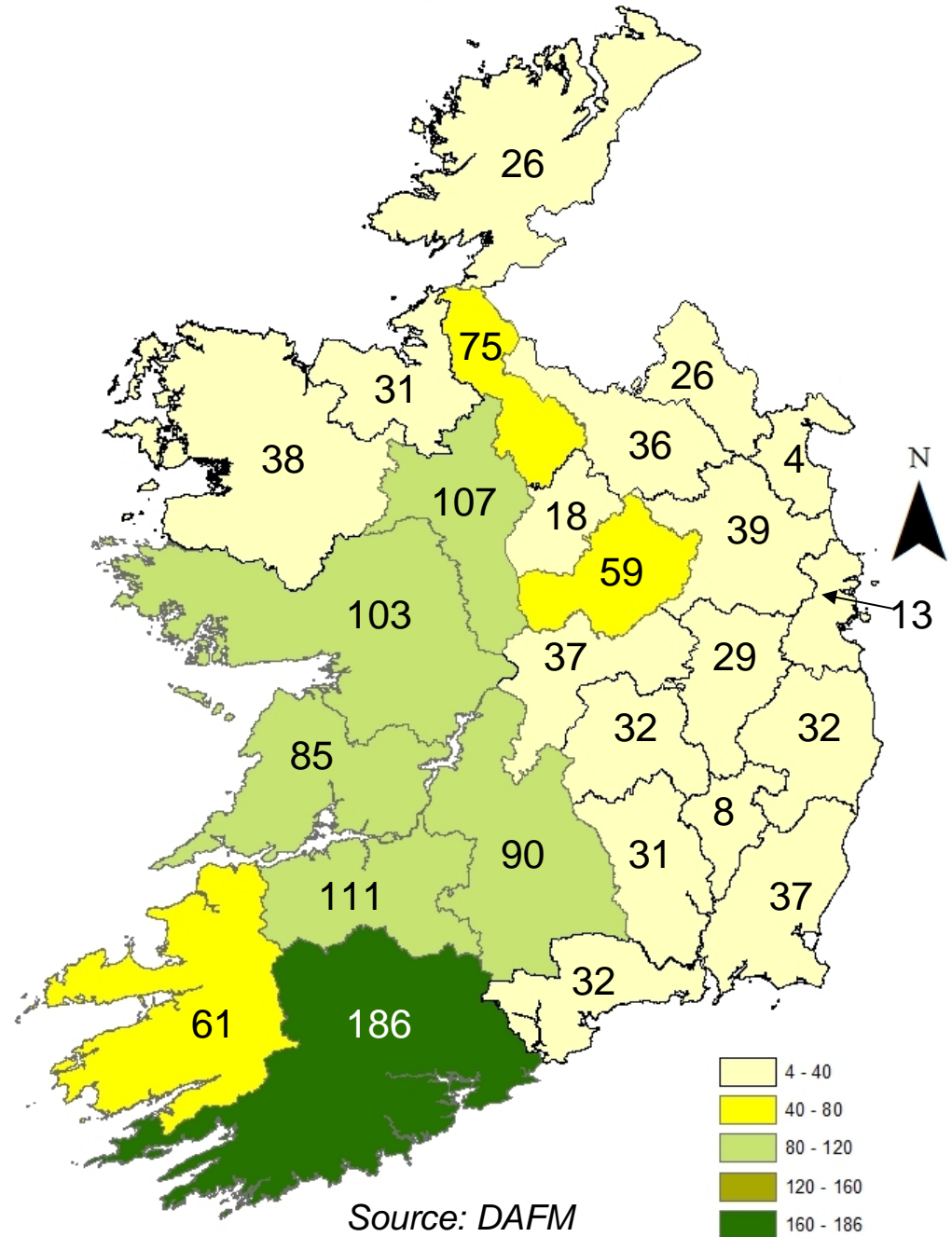
Top 6:

- Cork (186)
- Limerick (111)
- Roscommon (107)
- Galway (103)
- Tipperary (90)
- Clare (75)



The Iris

2012 Total Organic Producers



Spatial distribution of all organic farms in Ireland 2010

Main Clusters:

South Leitrim/North Roscommon

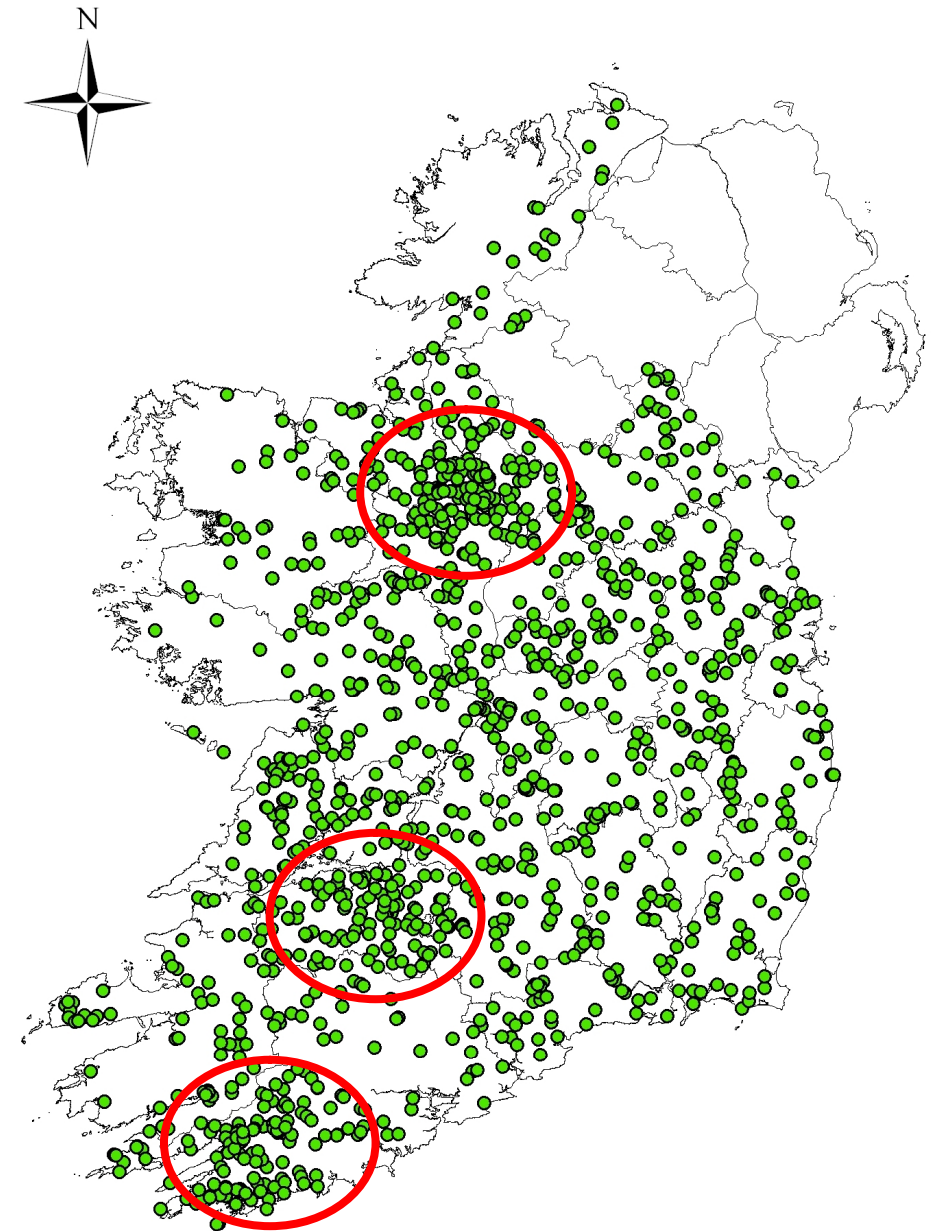
E. Limerick/W. Tipperary

West Cork

Ref:Läpple, D. and Cullinan, J. (2012) The development and geographic distribution of organic farming in Ireland. *Irish Geography*, Vol. 4 (1), pp. 67-85.



The Irish Agri



Legend

- Organic Farms
- Counties

	2007	2012
No. Producers	1,030	1,346

Growth in almost all counties

Midlands, North and West showed strongest growth

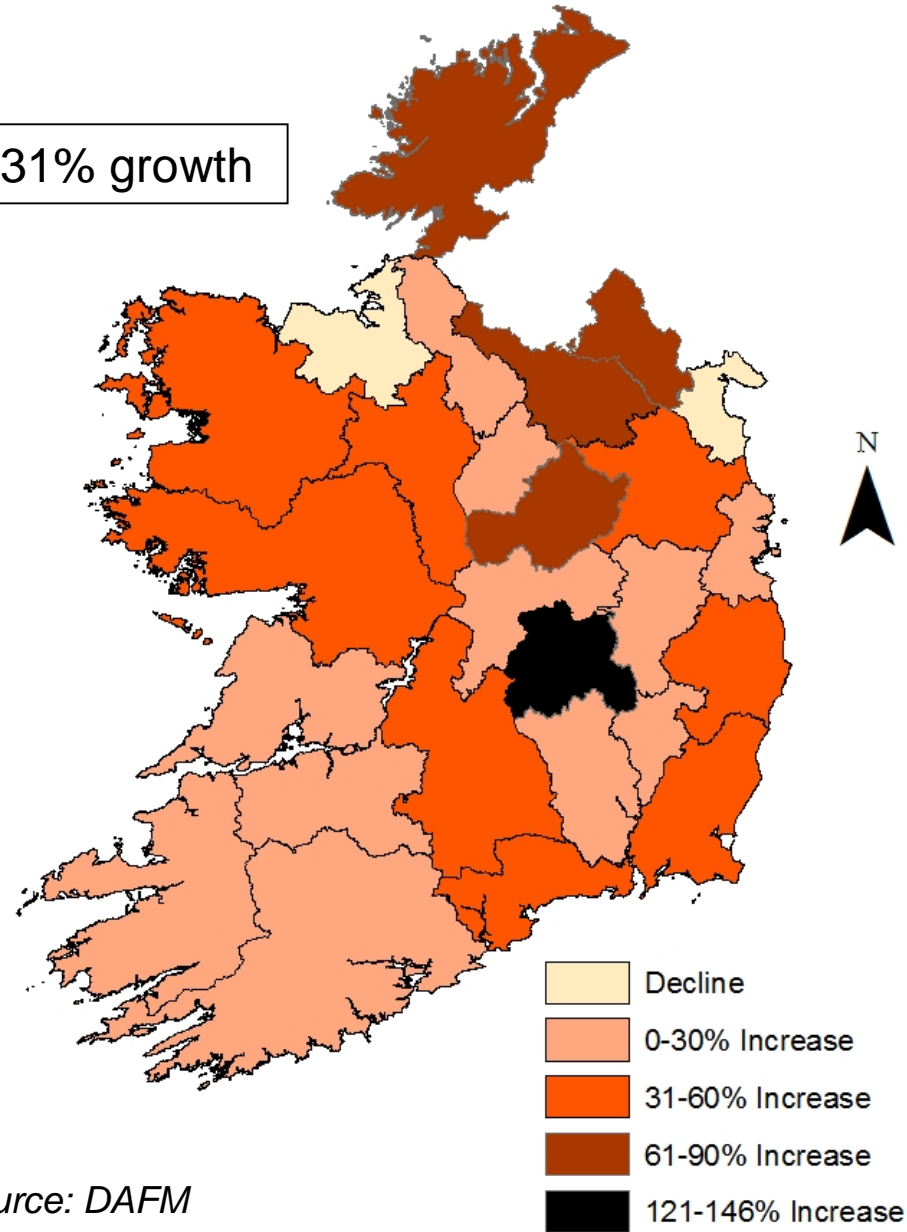
<u>Top 6</u>	<u>% growth</u>
Laois	+146%
Donegal	+85%
Cavan	+80%
Westmeath	+64%
Monaghan	+63%
Meath	+50%



The Irish

Organic Producers Growth/Decline 2007-2012

+31% growth



Source: DAFM

Census of organic production December 2012

Organic Dairy Herd Summary 2012

REDP

County	Breeding Herds	Breeding Cows
Clare	1	21
Cork	3	136
Donegal	1	385
Galway	1	94
Kerry	1	34
Kildare	2	121
Kilkenny	1	48
Laois	1	88
Limerick	7	288
Offaly	2	74
Tipperary	3	136
Waterford	1	44
Westmeath	2	32
Wexford	1	38
Total	27	1,539

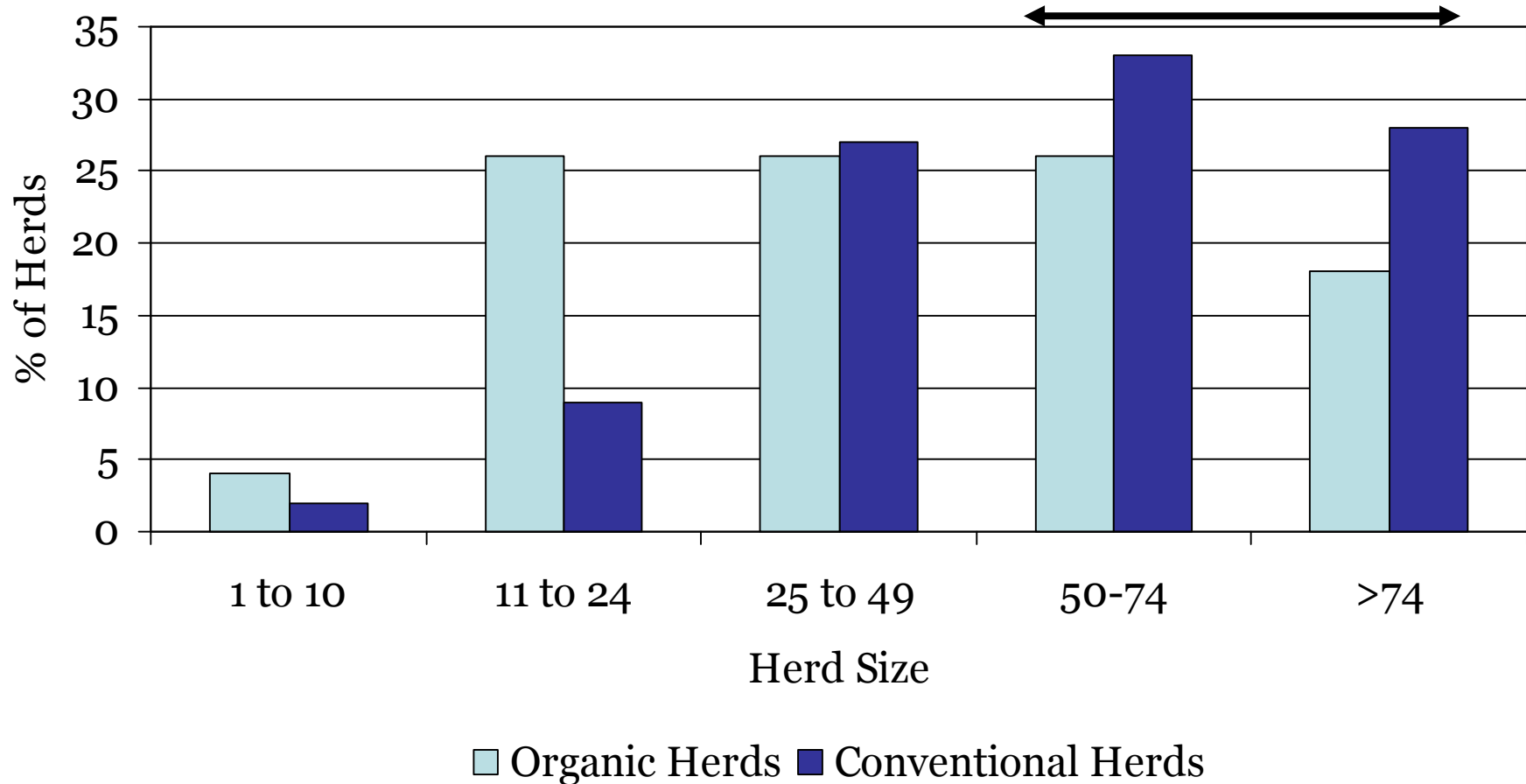


	2009*	2012
No. organic dairy breeding herds	20	27
Total cattle	N/A	2,890
No. of cows	~1,000	1,539
Average cows/farm	50	57

* pers. comm DAFM

Dairy Herds 2012 - Organic Versus Conventional Farm Structure

44% of organic herds >50 cows
61% conventional herds >50 cows



Organic Suckler and Beef Census Summary 2012

Organic Cattle Farms (non-dairy) Summary 2012

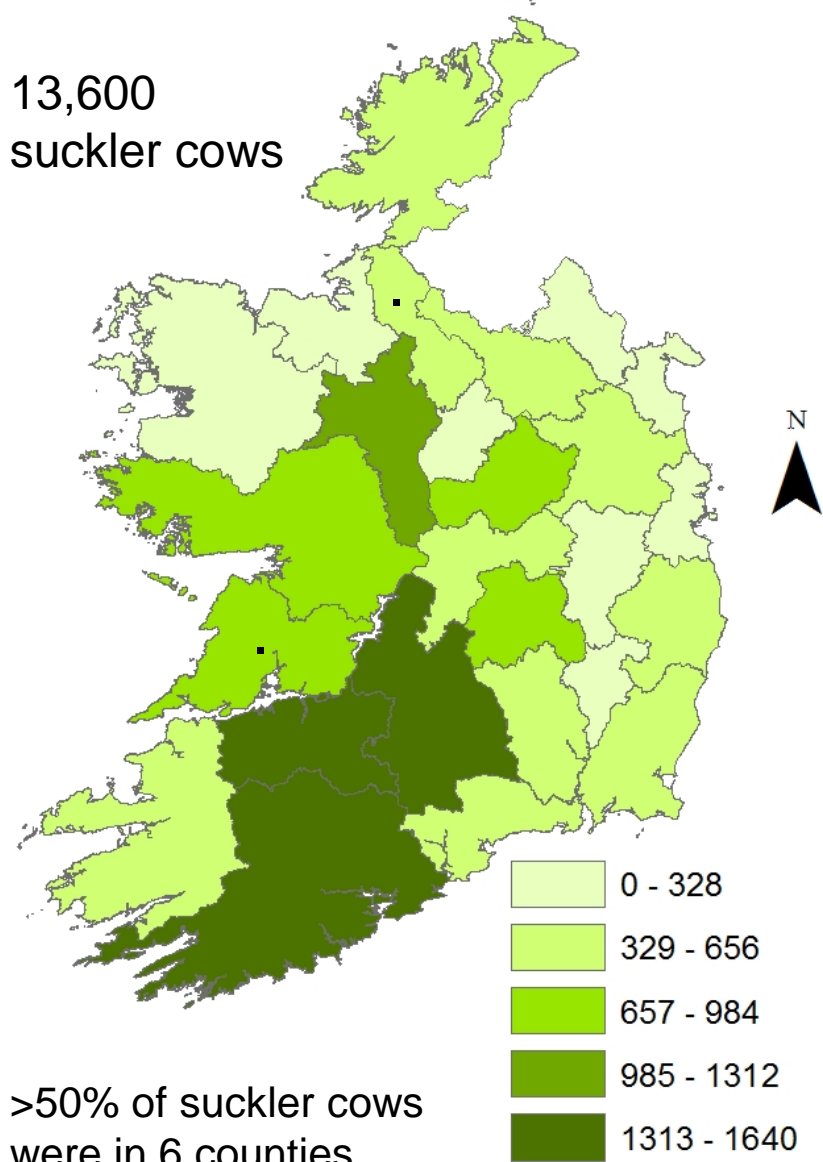
	2008		2012
No of cattle farms	824	+19%	981
No. cattle	30,000	+38%	41,381

	2012
Total cattle farms (No. cattle)	981 (41,381)
Suckler Cow farms (No. cows)	807 (13,600)
6 - 12 month old cattle	9,709
12 – 24 month old cattle	9,755
Average cattle/farm	42
Average suckler cows/farm	17



Organic Suckler Breeding Cows 2012

13,600
suckler cows

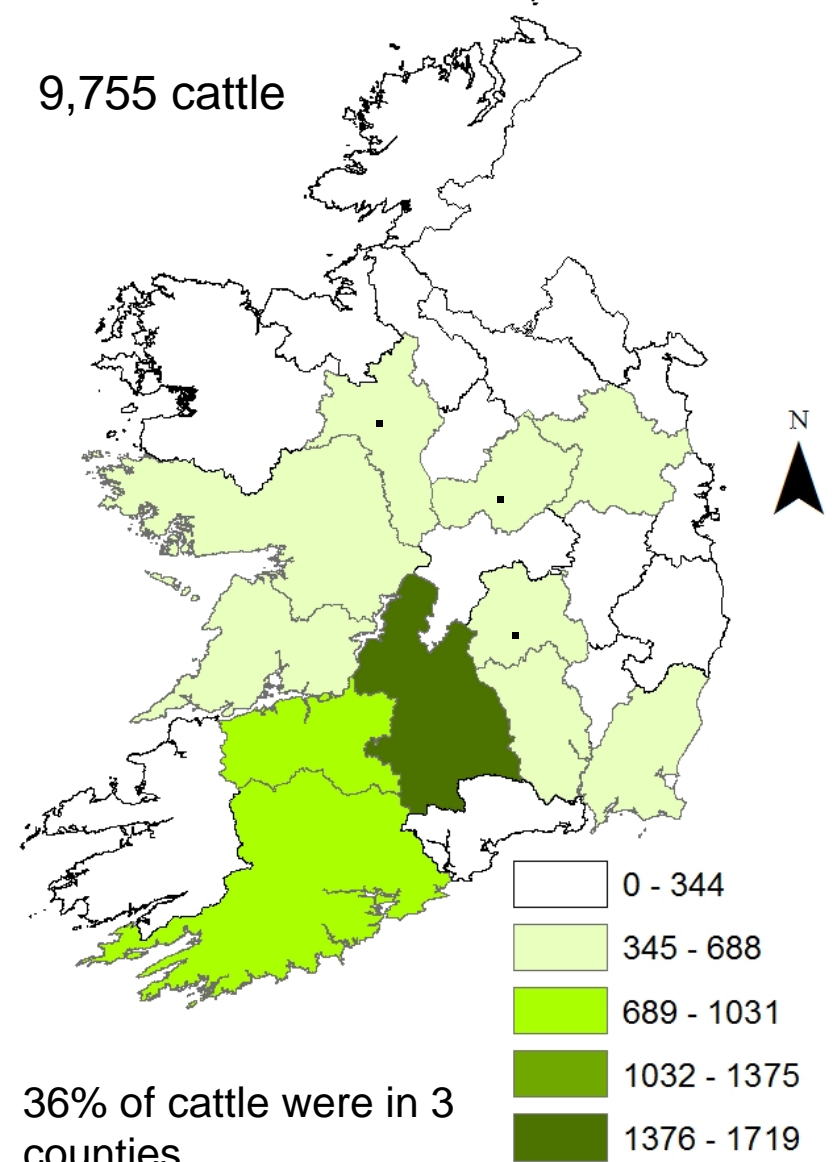


>50% of suckler cows
were in 6 counties

Source: DAFM

Organic Cattle 12-24 Months 2012

9,755 cattle



36% of cattle were in 3
counties

Source: DAFM

Scale of cattle finishing farms

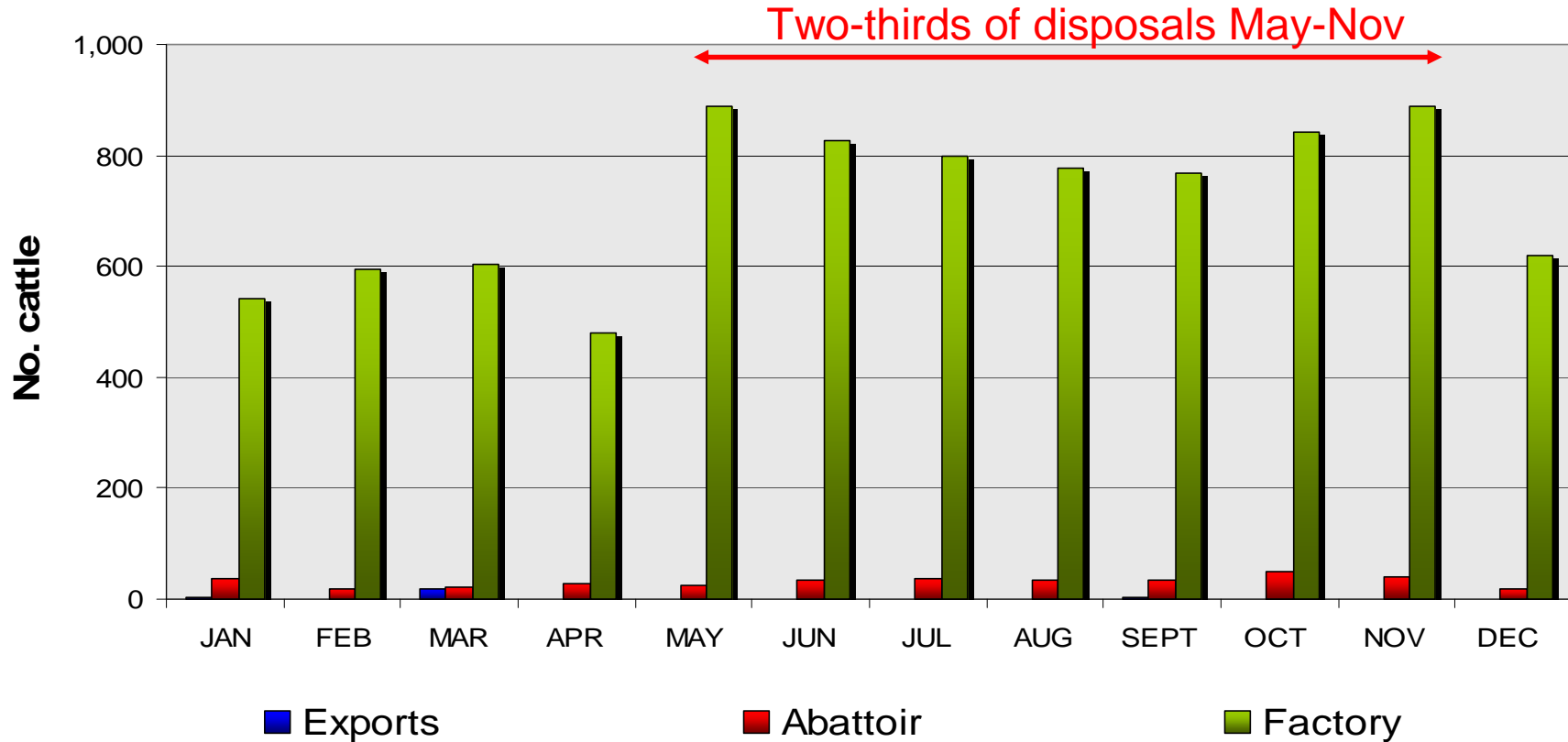
- 526 producers finished cattle in 2012
- >50% of all organic cattle farms finished cattle
- Beef finishers by range:



Cattle finished/farm	0-20	21-40	41-60	61 - 80	81-100	>100
% of organic finishers	85%	9%	3%	<1%	<1%	>1%
% of national* Finishers	73%	13%	5%	3%	2%	4%

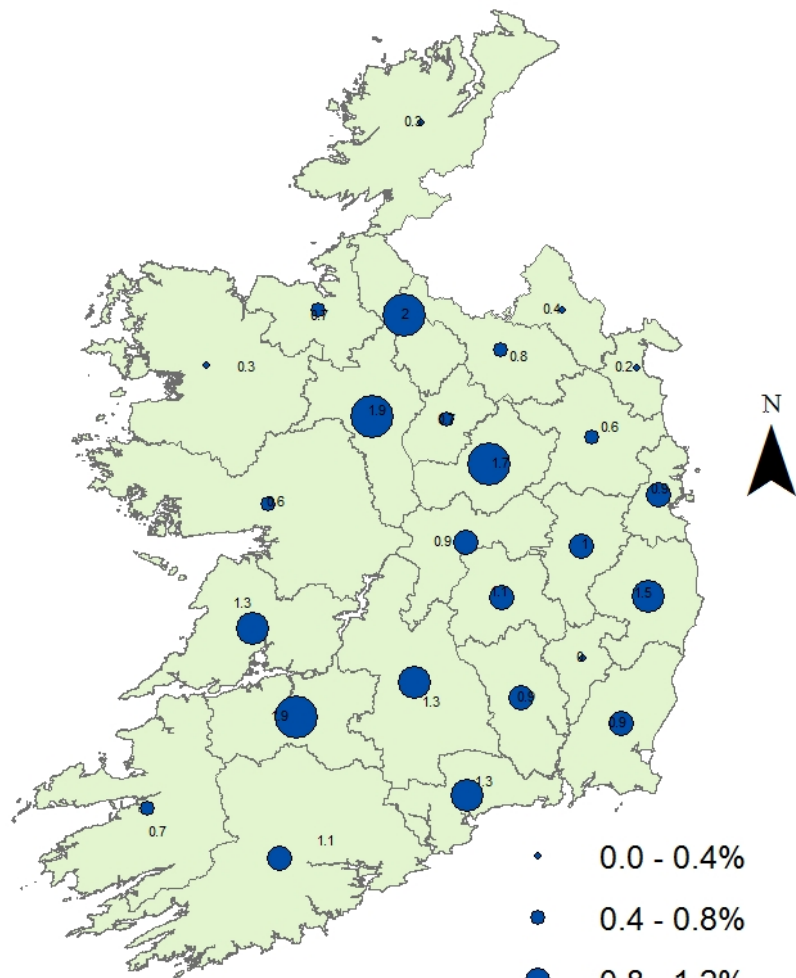
*national = conventional and organic

Organic Exports, Abattoir, Factory disposals 2012



Factory – 8,627; Abattoir – 377; Live exports – 23. Total – 9,027 cattle

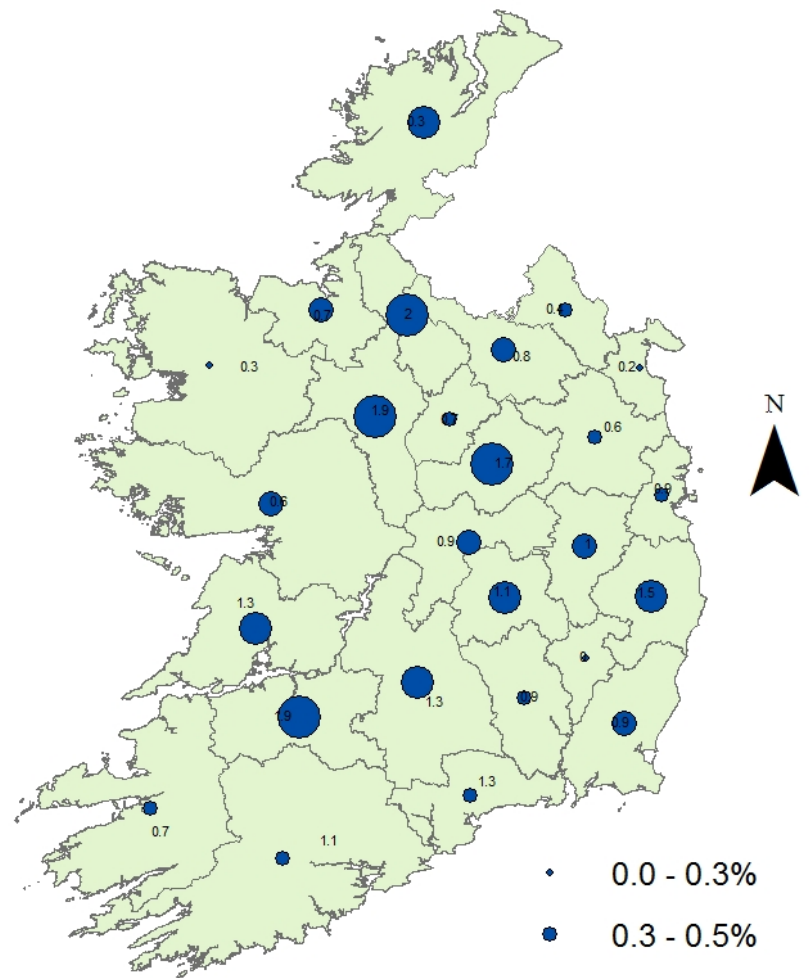
**% bovine producers who are organic
2012**



0.9% of dairy and cattle farmers were organic

- ◊ 0.0 - 0.4%
- 0.4 - 0.8%
- 0.8 - 1.2%
- 1.2 - 1.6%
- 1.6 - 2.0%

**% bovines that are organic
2012**



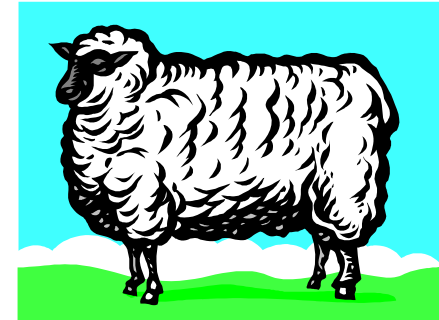
0.7% of cattle were organic

- ◊ 0.0 - 0.3%
- 0.3 - 0.5%
- 0.5% - 0.7%
- 0.7% - 1.0%
- 1.0% - 1.9%

Organic Sheep Census Summary 2012

Organic Sheep Census Summary 2012

	2012
Sheep (% of national flock)	45,655 (1.3%)
Ewes (% national)	32,890 (1.3%)
Sheep farmers (% national)	410 (1.2%)

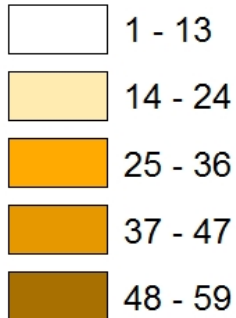
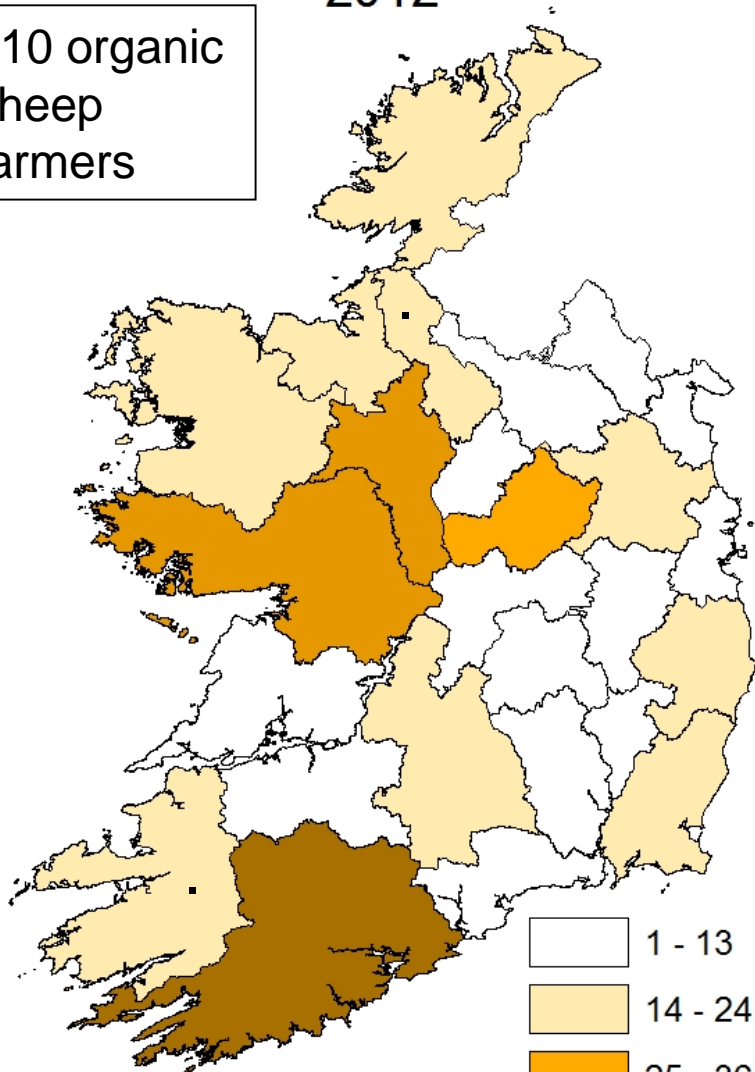


Average ewes per farm organic (national) = 80 (73)

Over 40% of ewes were located in 6 counties

Organic Sheep Producers 2012

410 organic
sheep
farmers

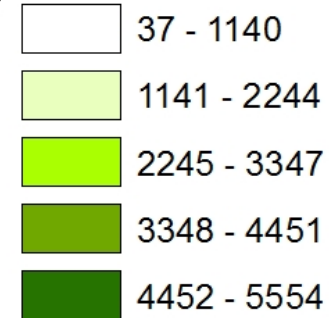
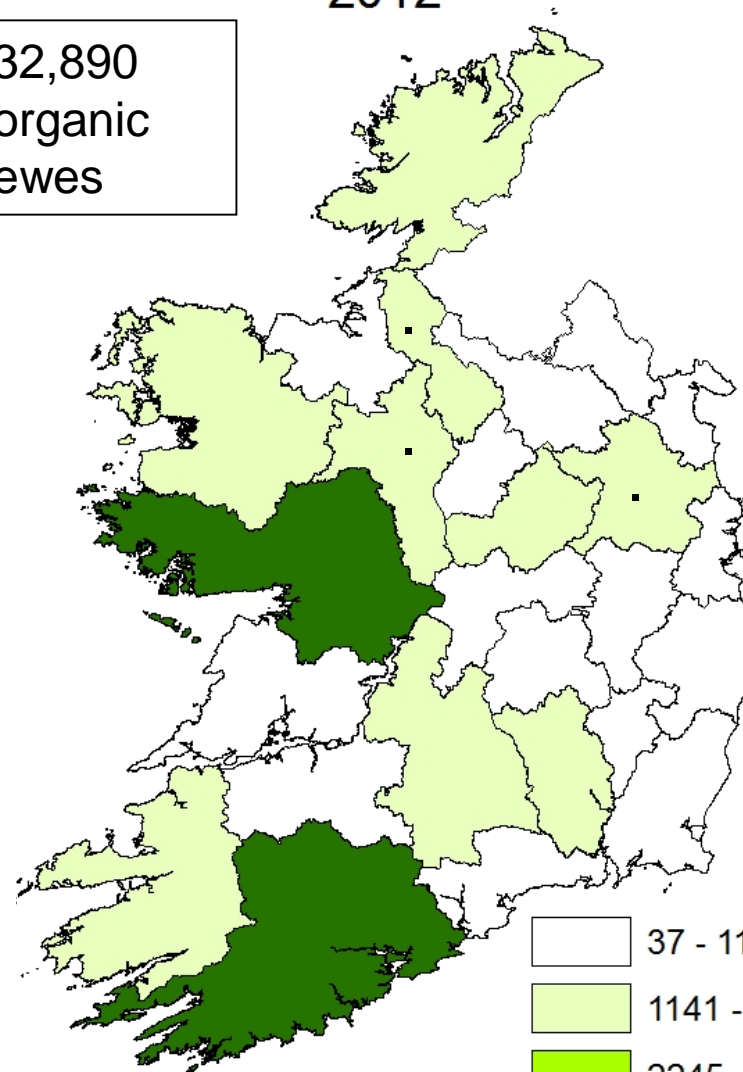


50% of producers were
in 6 counties

Source: DAFM

Organic Ewe Numbers 2012

32,890
organic
ewes



50% of ewes were in 5
counties

Source: DAFM

Organic Cereal, Forage Crop and Hort Census Summary 2012

Organic Cereal Summary 2012

- Cereals 2012

- Wheat, oats, barley, arable silage, peas, beans, oilseed rape, triticale, linseed

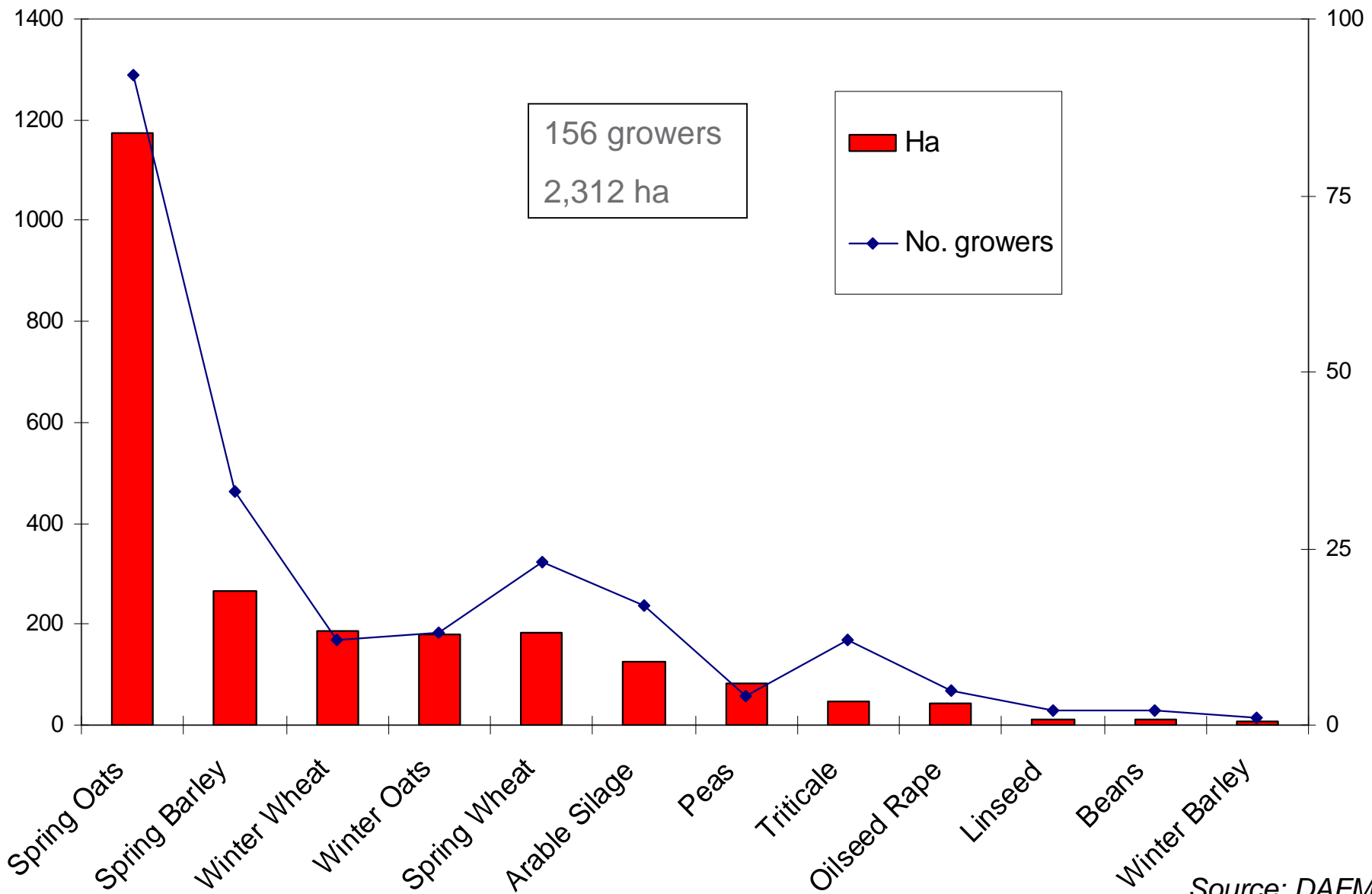
	2012
Organic Cereal Area (ha)	2,312 ha (mainly oats)
Organic Grower numbers	156 growers (94 growers in 2008)



- Forage Crops 2012

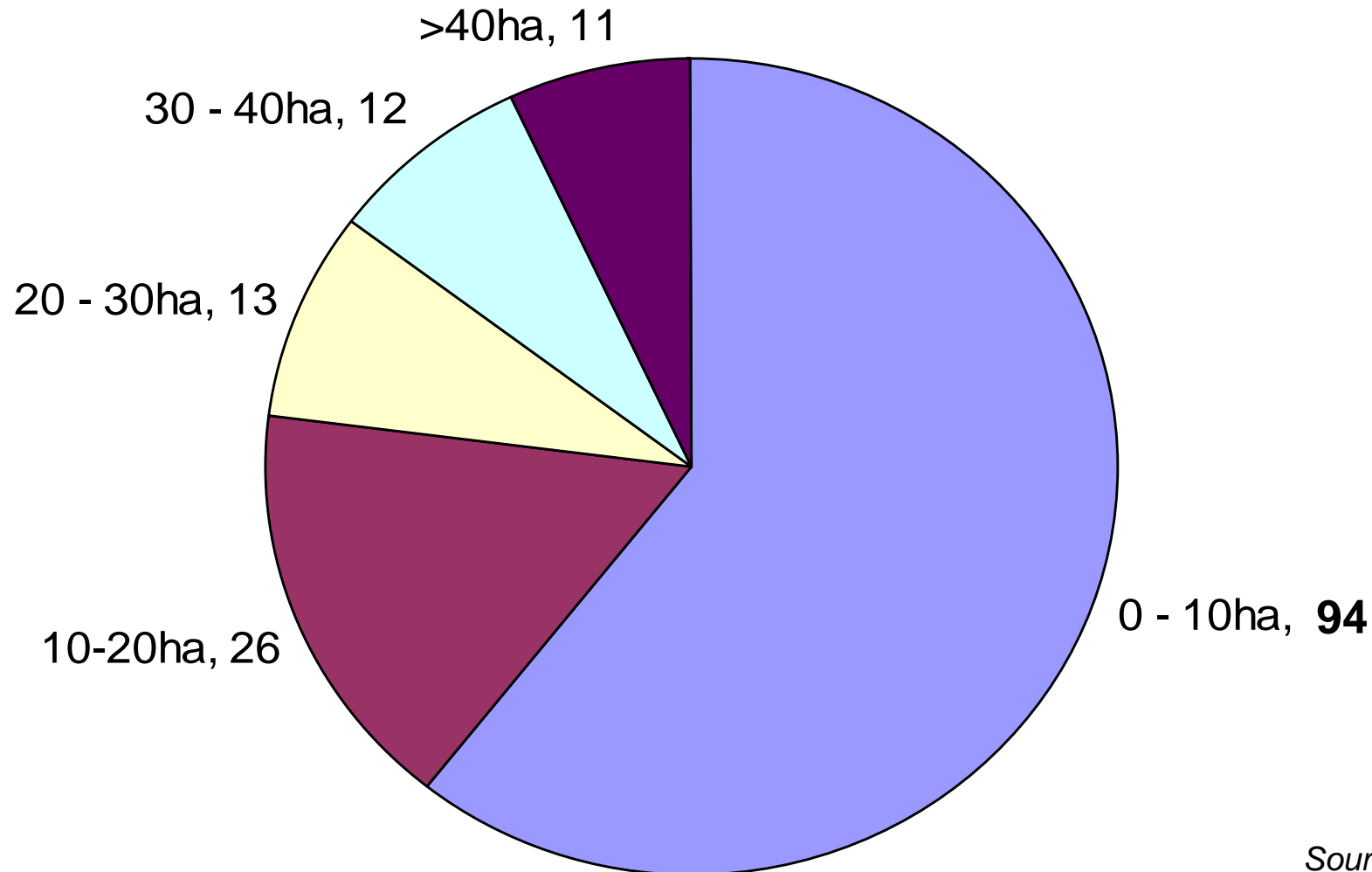
- Rape, kale, fodder beet, sugar beet, turnips
 - 15 growers, 40 ha

Organic Cereals 2012 Ireland



Source: DAFM

Size range of organic cereal growers 2012



Horticulture Summary 2012



- Summary figures from OCBs 2012

	2012
Organic Vegetables	248ha
Organic Potatoes	33ha
Organic Fruit	41ha
Total	322ha

Approximately 300 growers

- Figures from DAFM Single Payment Scheme Unit 2012
 - 14 organic hort. growers >5ha

Conclusions

- Organic farming remains small in Ireland compared to agriculture as a whole but the sector continues to grow in size and production levels.
- In general, relative to conventional farming, production from the organic sector comes from a wider range of smaller scale farms.
- Organic farmers are quite extensively located across Ireland but clusters do occur in certain areas where opportunities especially occur for supplier co-operation.
- More information required/future work:
 - Better supply statistics for horticulture, poultry and pigs.
 - Link animal and crop statistics to area of individual holdings. This will give us a better picture of the structure of the organic sector and will help aid future policy decisions.
 - Survey organic processors to establish market potential. This will aid supply increase where required.

Go raibh maith agaibh

