

# Organic Production Census Ireland 2012

**National Organic Conference  
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**Dan Clavin**

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

Thank you to the following for assistance in this work:

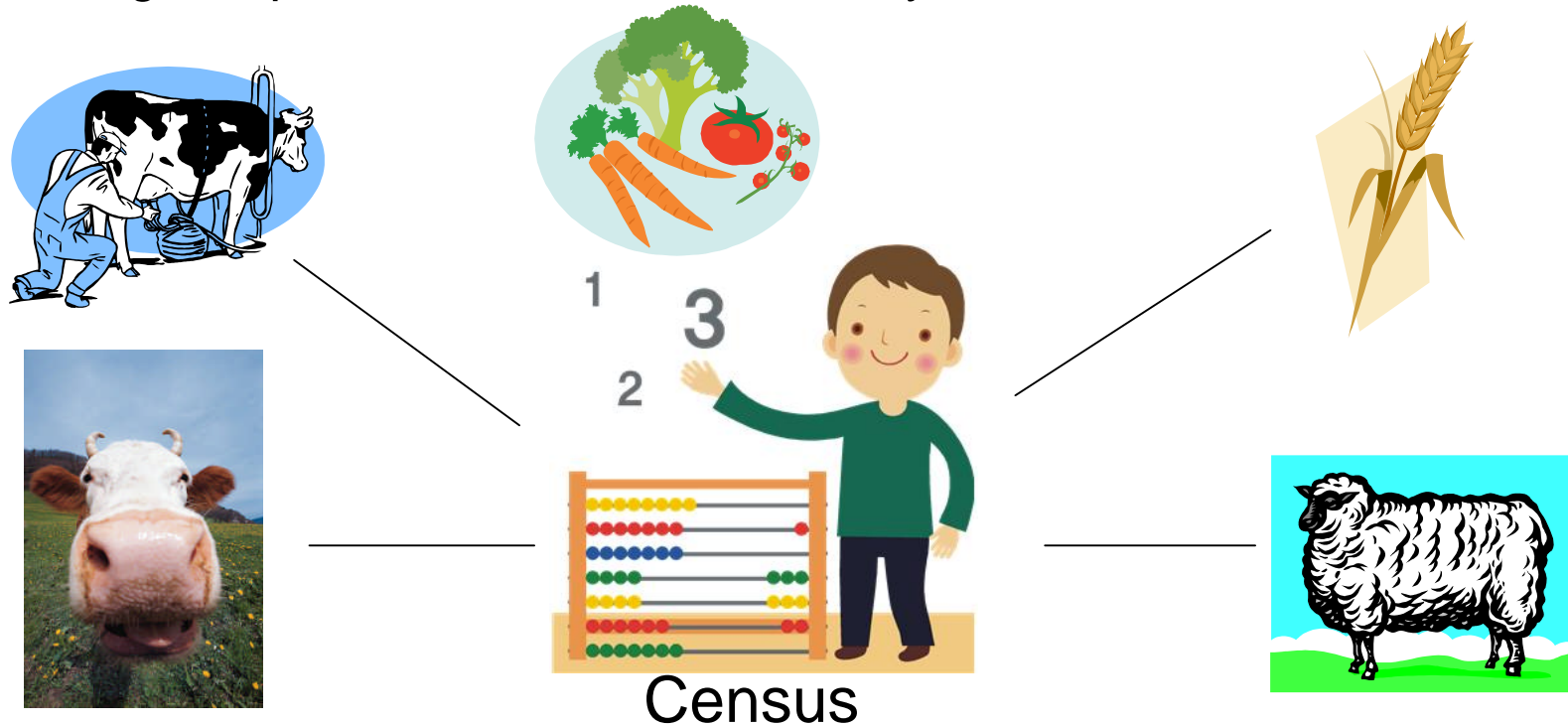
Philip Cullen, Joan Furlong and Kevin McKeever, DAFM Johnstown Castle

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

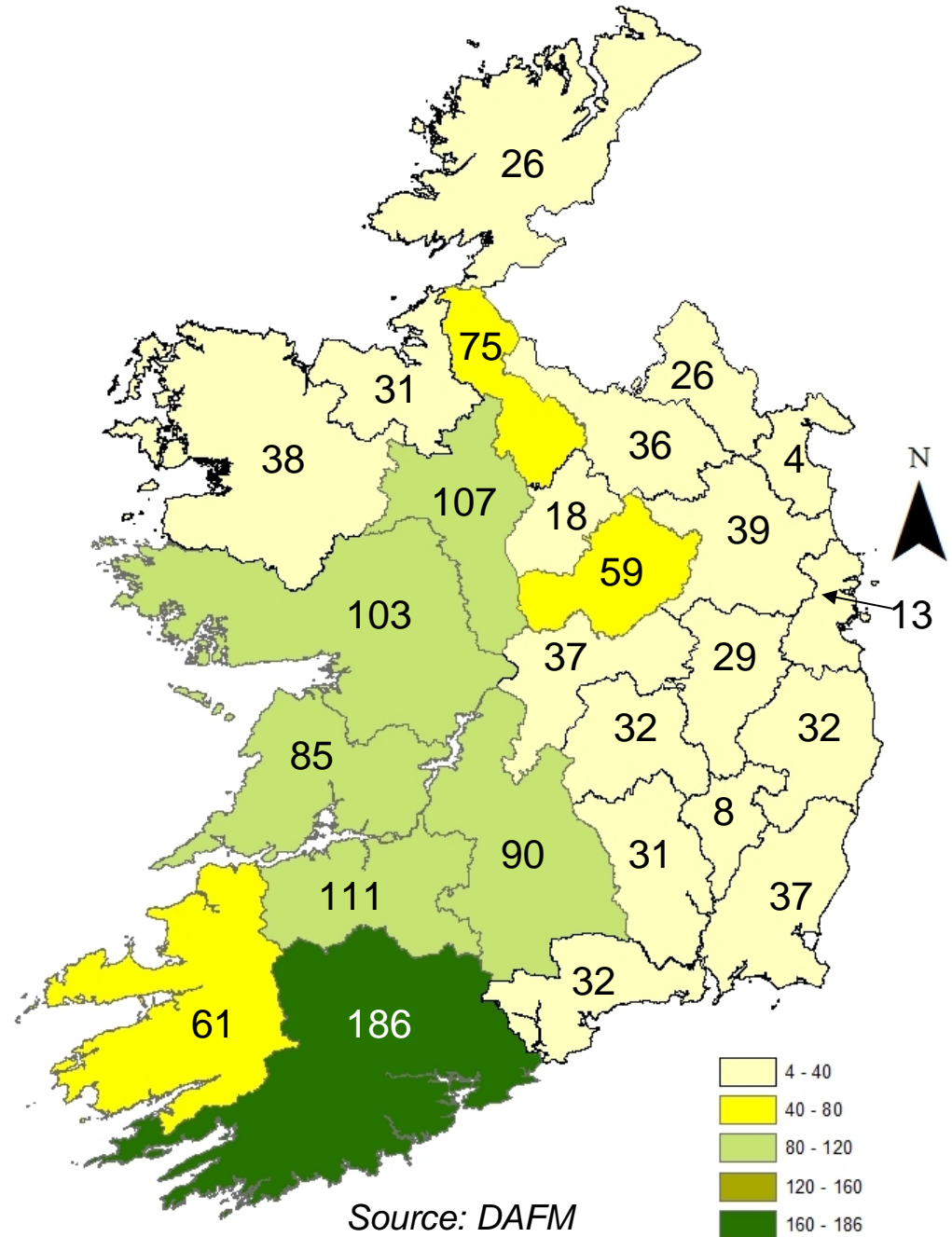
Top 6:

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



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## 2012 Total Organic Producers



Source: DAFM

# Spatial distribution of all organic farms in Ireland 2010

## Main Clusters:

South Leitrim/North Roscommon

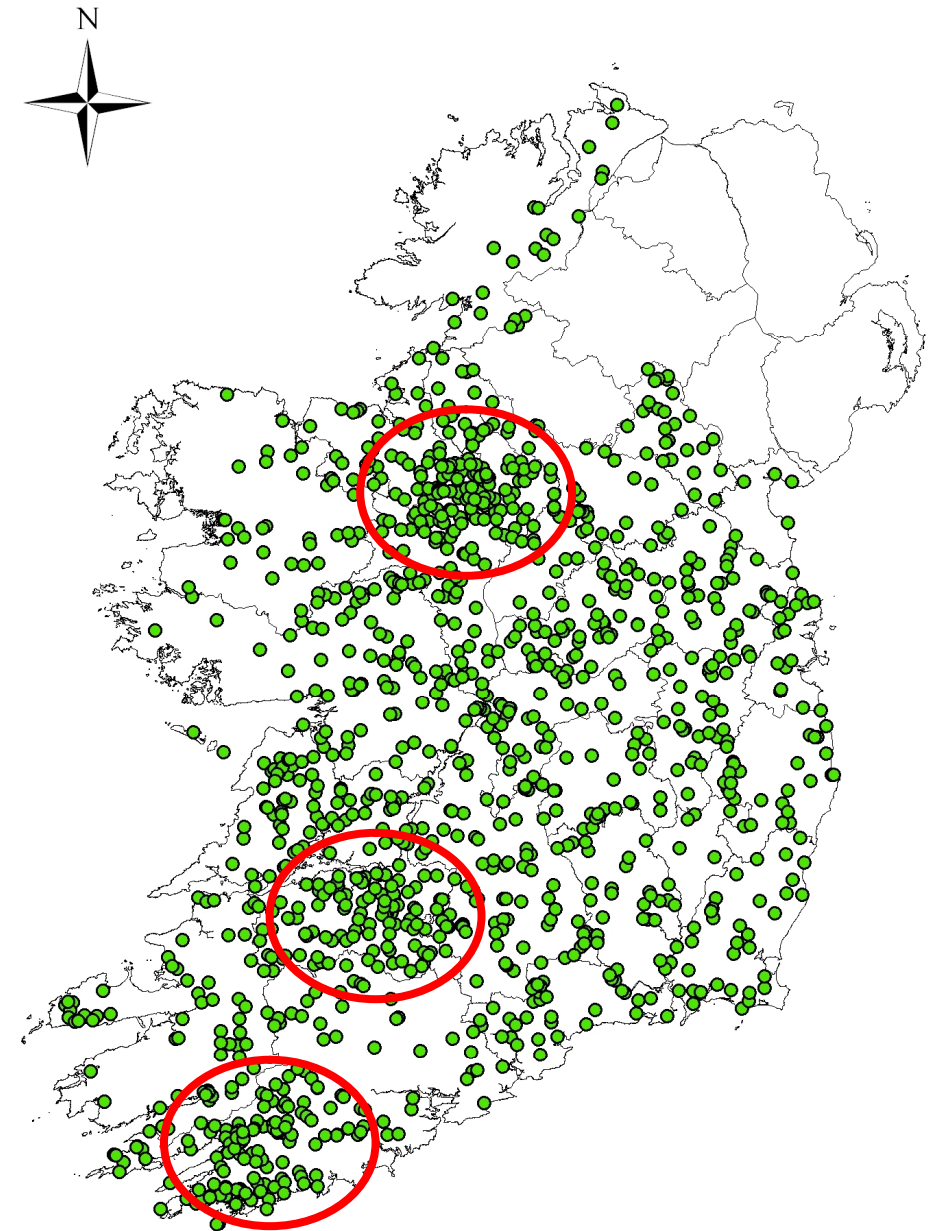
E. Limerick/W. Tipperary

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.



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### Legend

- Organic Farms
- Counties

	2007	2012
<b>No. Producers</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,346</b>

Growth in almost all counties

Midlands, North and West showed strongest growth

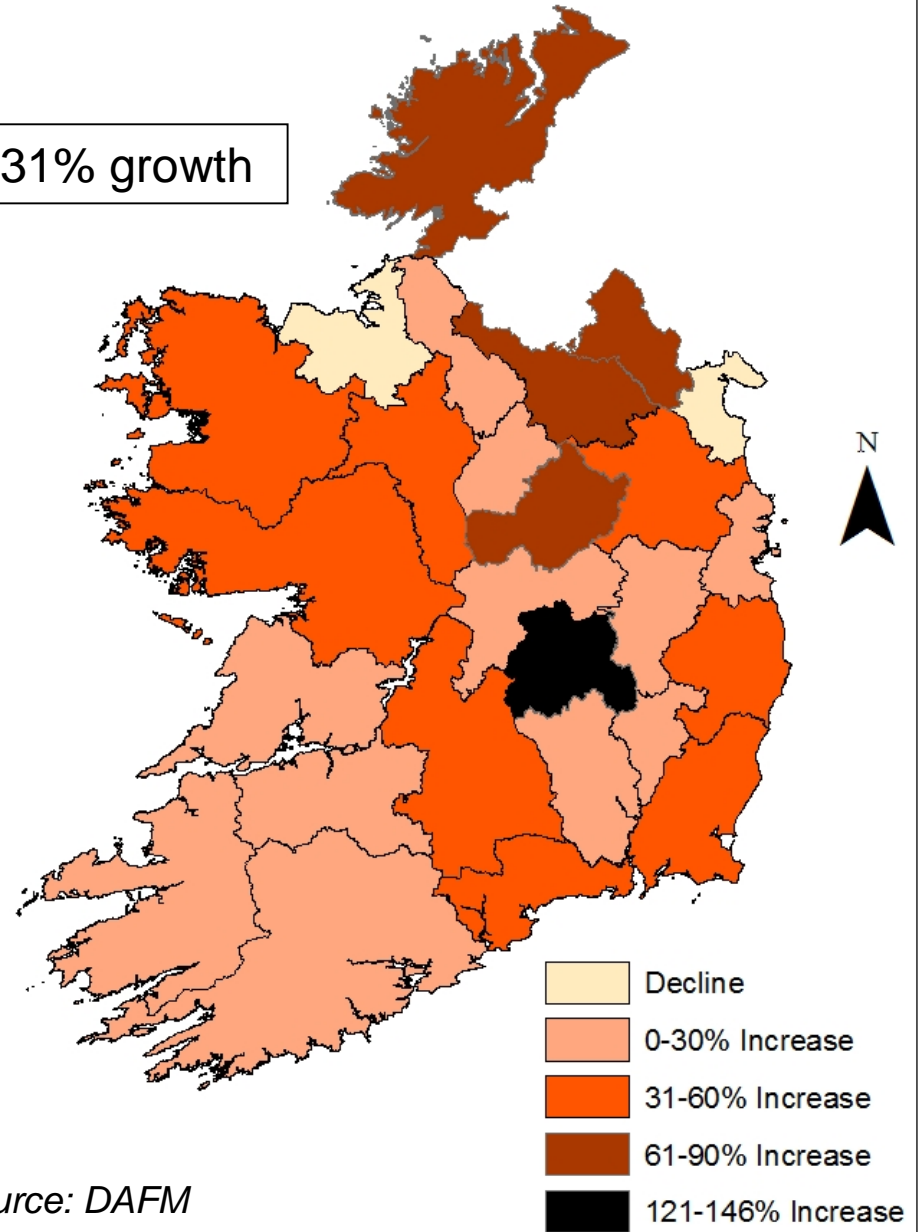
<u>Top 6</u>	<u>% growth</u>
Laois	+146%
Donegal	+85%
Cavan	+80%
Westmeath	+64%
Monaghan	+63%
Meath	+50%



The Irish

## Organic Producers Growth/Decline 2007-2012

+31% growth



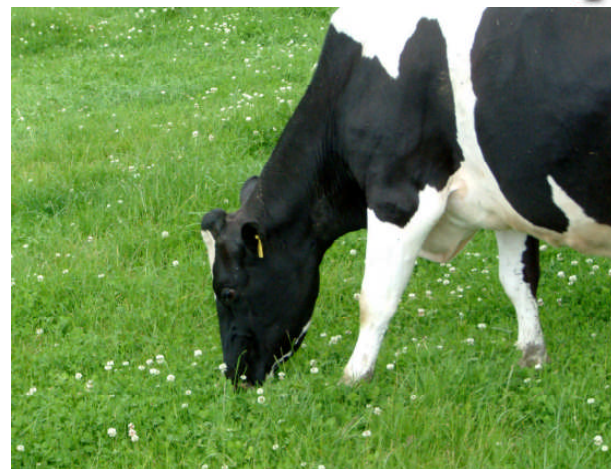
Source: DAFM

# 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1,539</b>

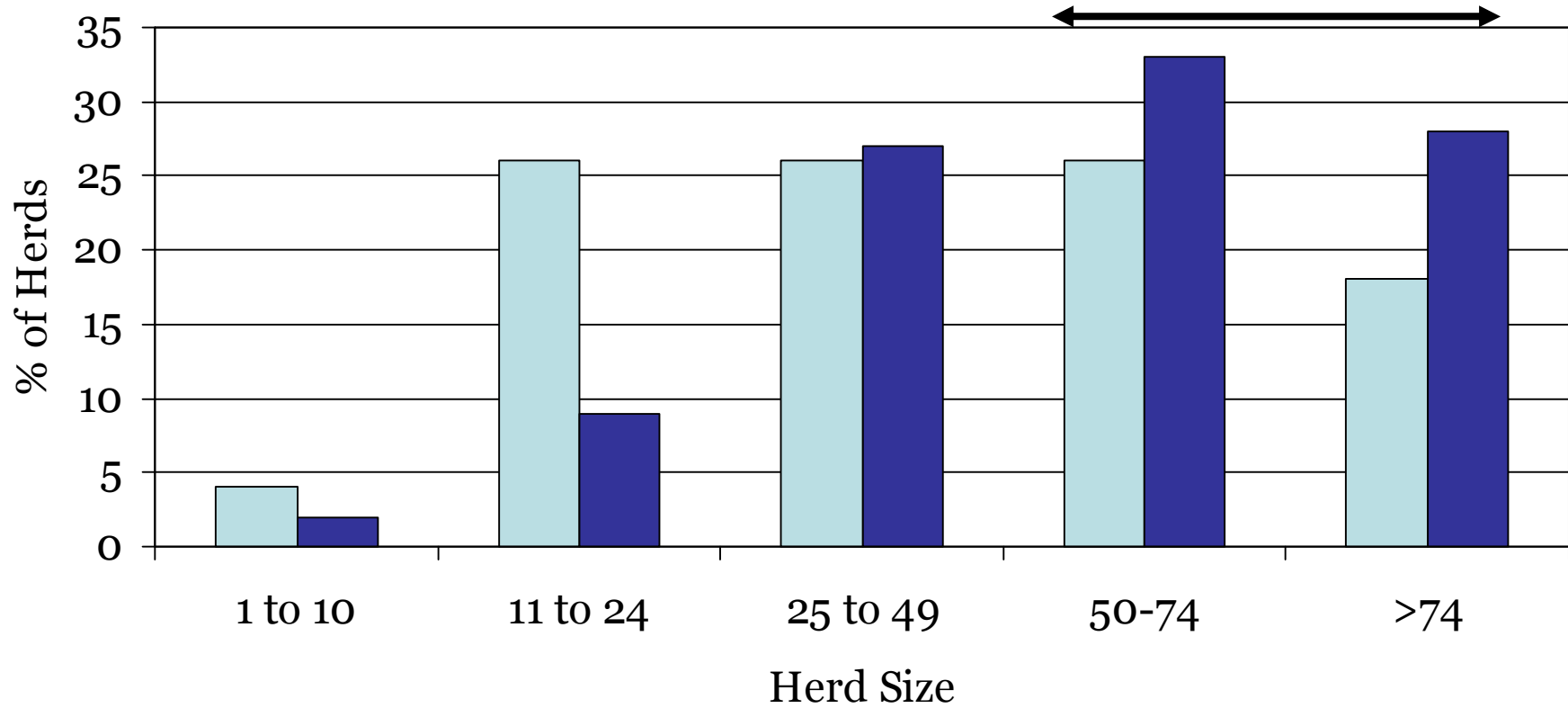


	2009*	2012
<b>No. organic dairy breeding herds</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Total cattle</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>2,890</b>
<b>No. of cows</b>	<b>~1,000</b>	<b>1,539</b>
<b>Average cows/farm</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>57</b>

\* pers. comm DAFM

# Dairy Herds 2012 - Organic Versus Conventional Farm Structure

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



Organic Herds Conventional Herds



# Organic Suckler and Beef Census Summary 2012

# Organic Cattle Farms (non-dairy) Summary 2012

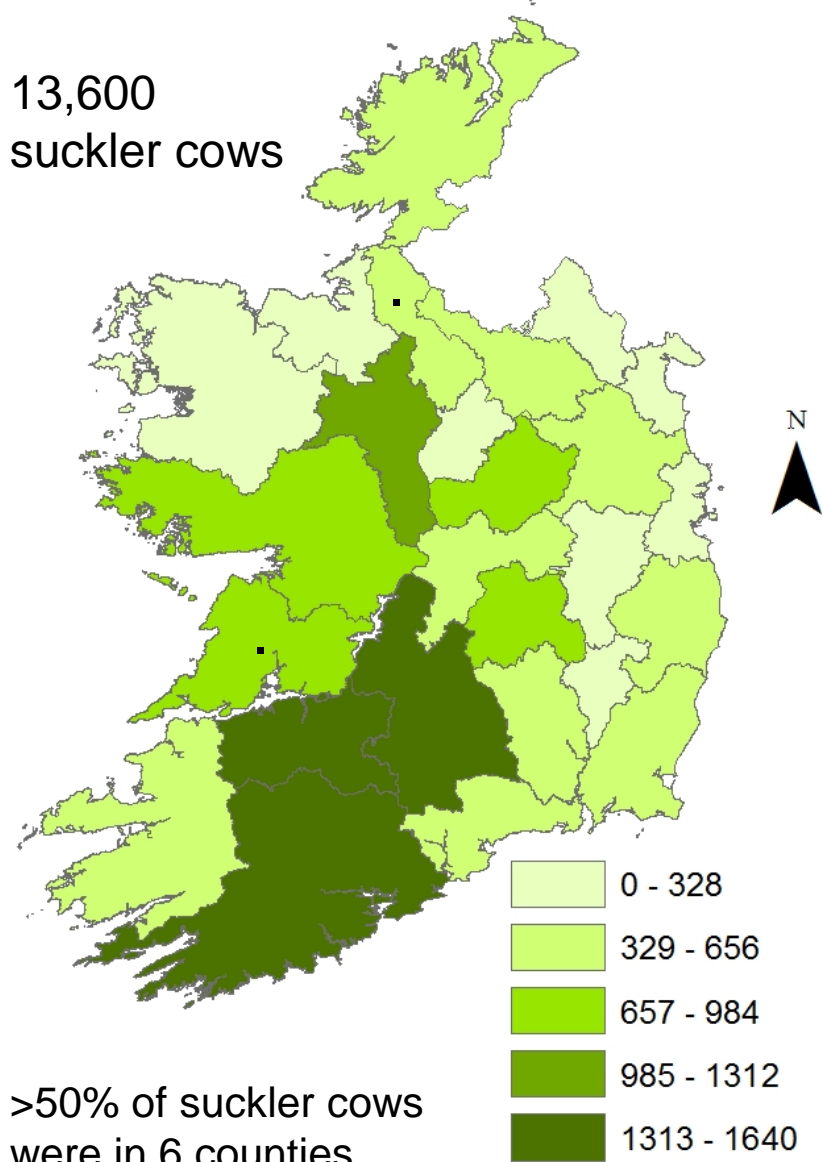
	2008		2012
No of cattle farms	824	+19%	981
No. cattle	30,000	+38%	41,381

	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

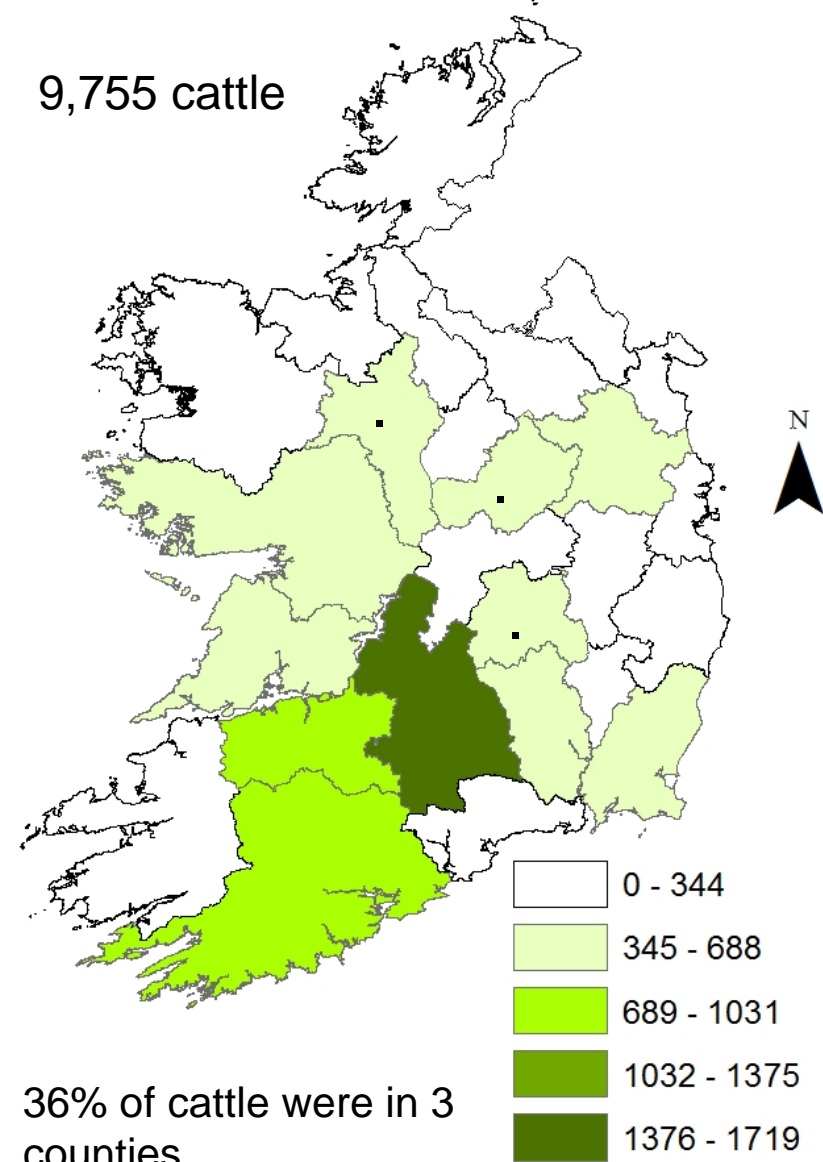
13,600  
suckler cows



Source: DAFM

### Organic Cattle 12-24 Months 2012

9,755 cattle



Source: DAFM

## Scale of cattle finishing farms

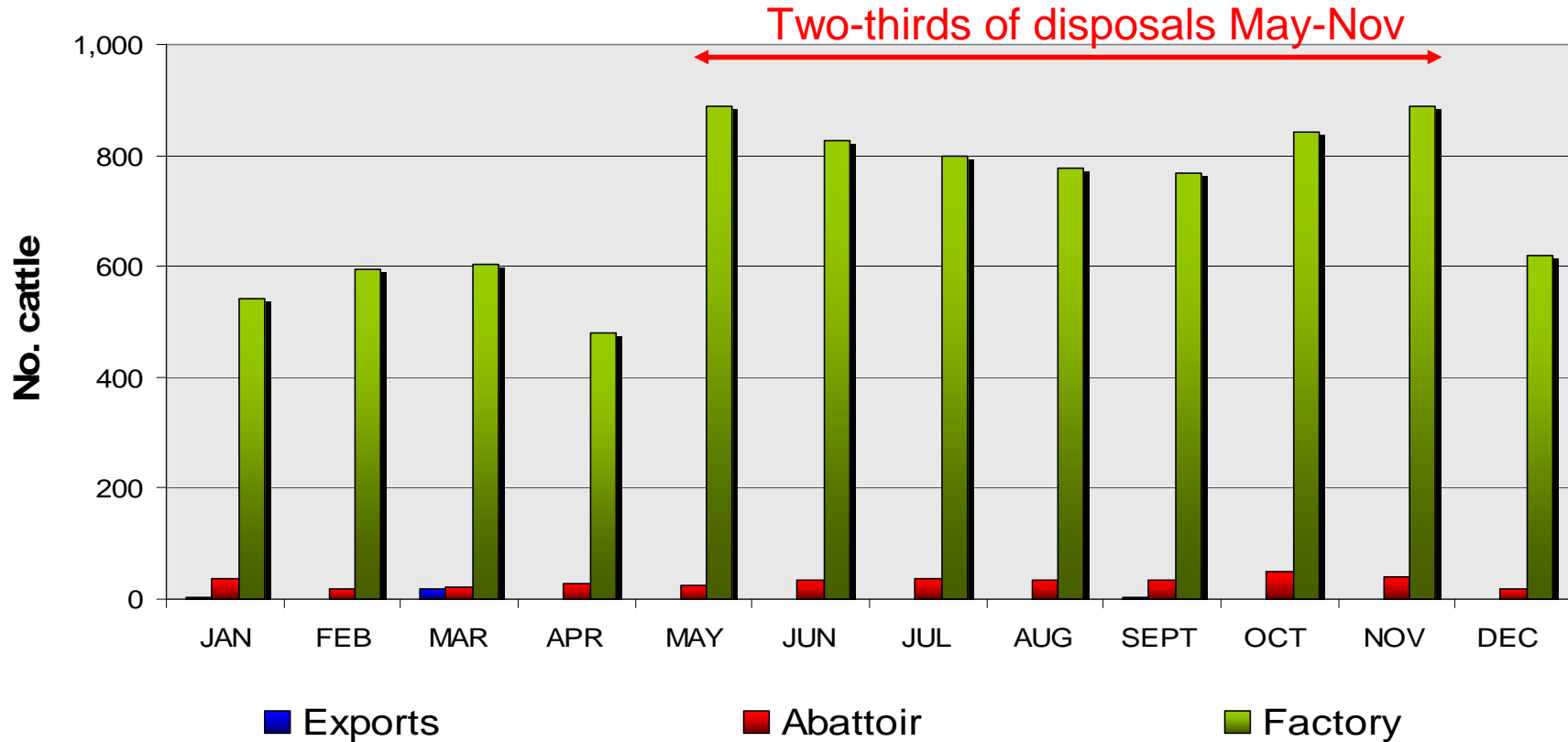
- 526 producers finished cattle in 2012
- >50% of all organic cattle farms finished cattle
- Beef finishers by range:



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%

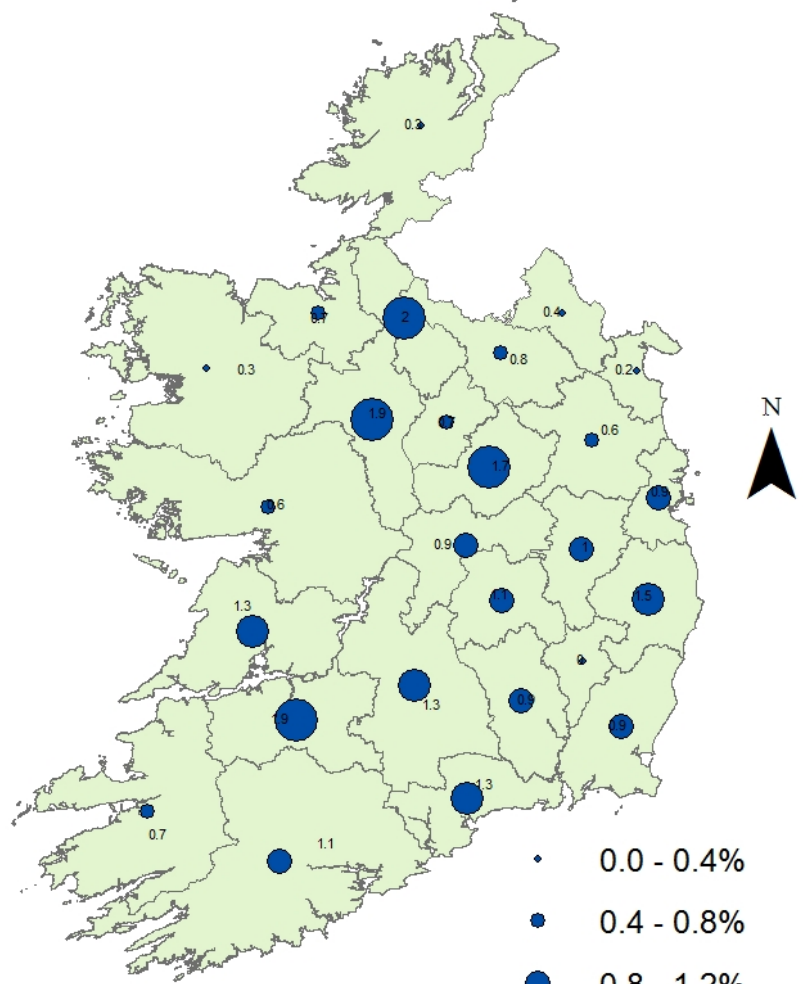
\*national = conventional and organic

# Organic Exports, Abattoir, Factory disposals 2012



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

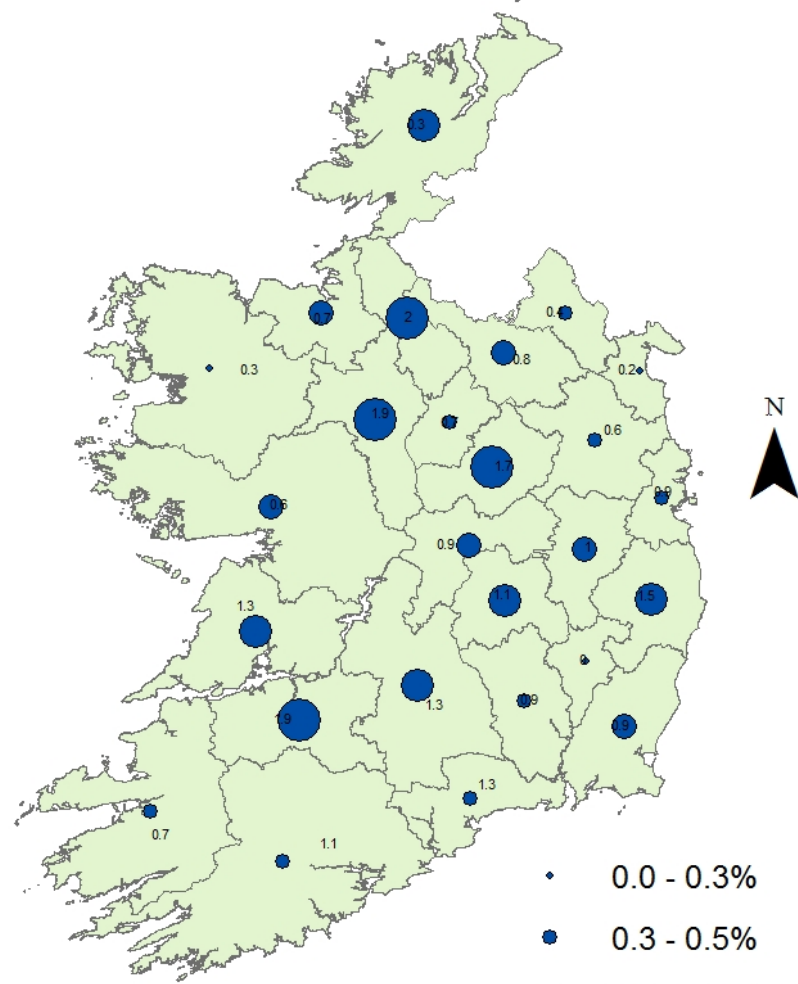
### % bovine producers who are organic 2012



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



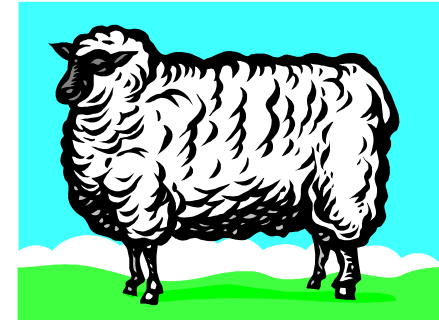
0.7% of cattle were organic

- ◊ 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%)



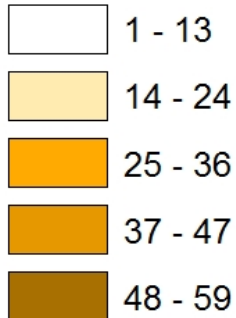
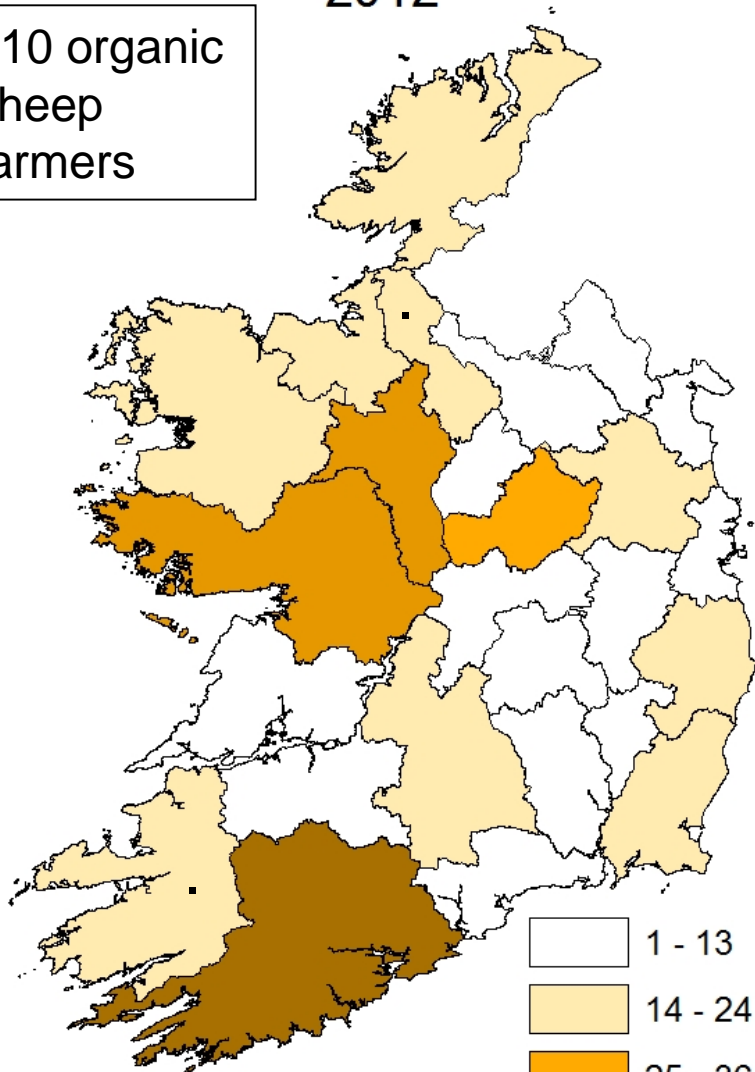
Average ewes per farm organic (national) = 80 (73)

Over 40% of ewes were located in 6 counties



## Organic Sheep Producers 2012

410 organic  
sheep  
farmers

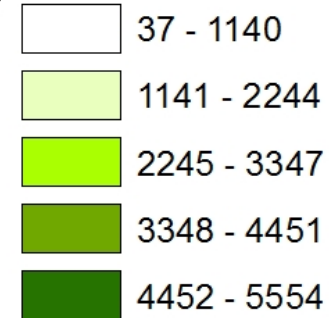
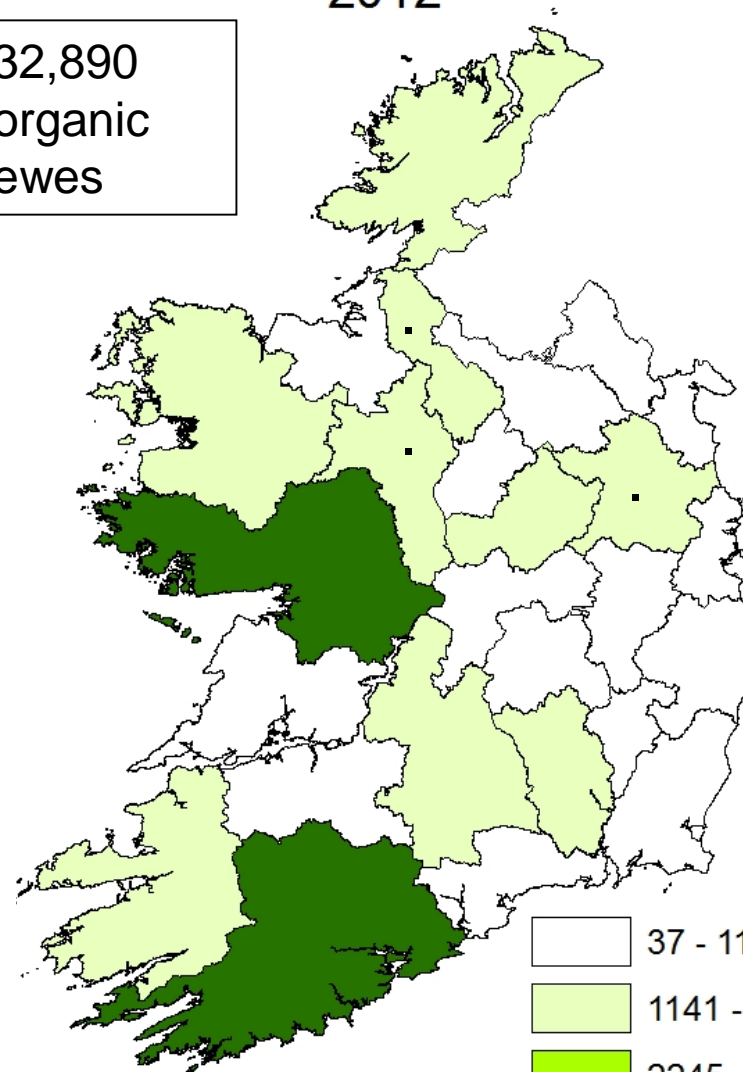


50% of producers were  
in 6 counties

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

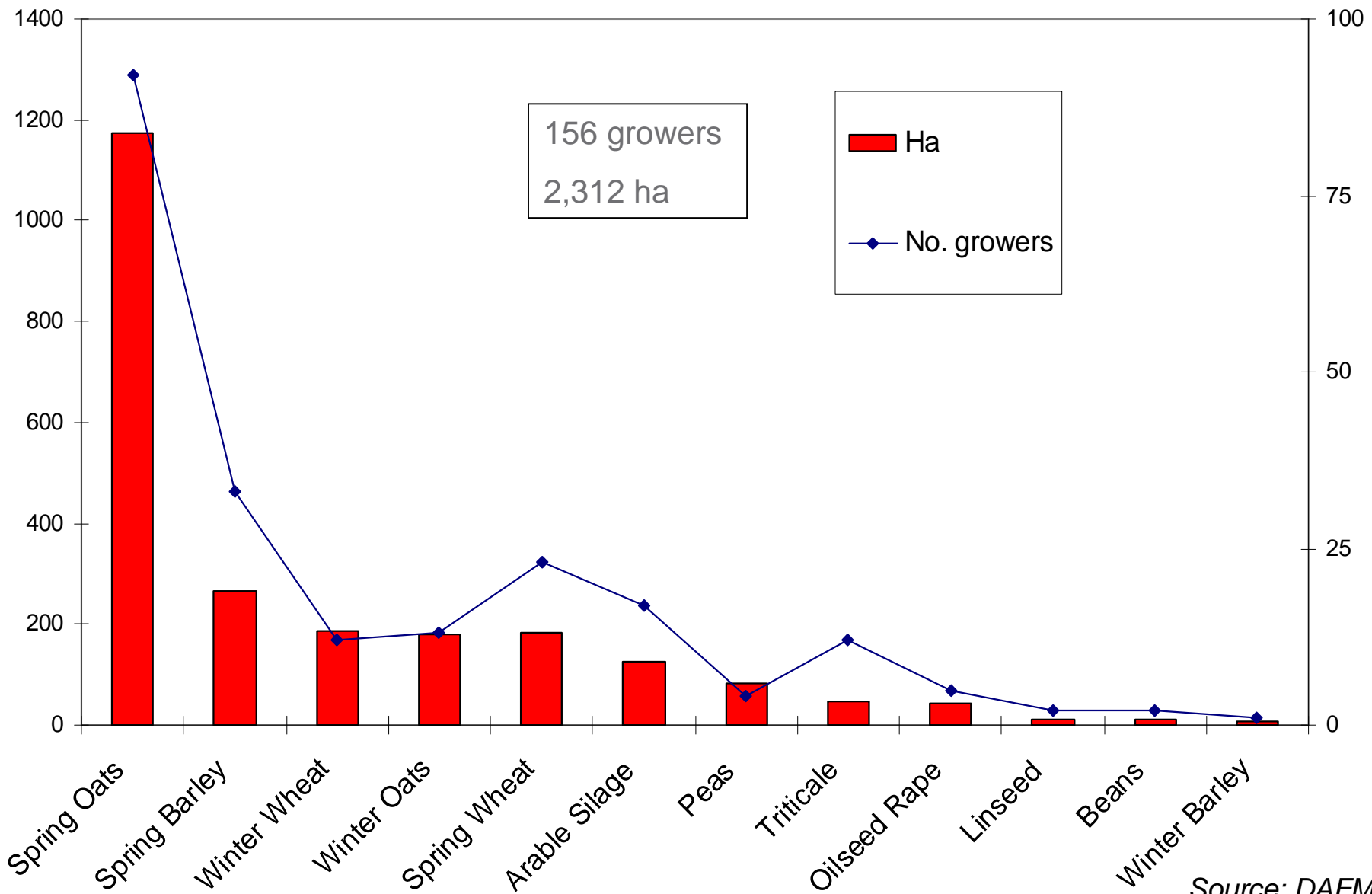
	2012
Organic Cereal Area (ha)	2,312 ha (mainly oats)
Organic Grower numbers	156 growers (94 growers in 2008)



- Forage Crops 2012

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

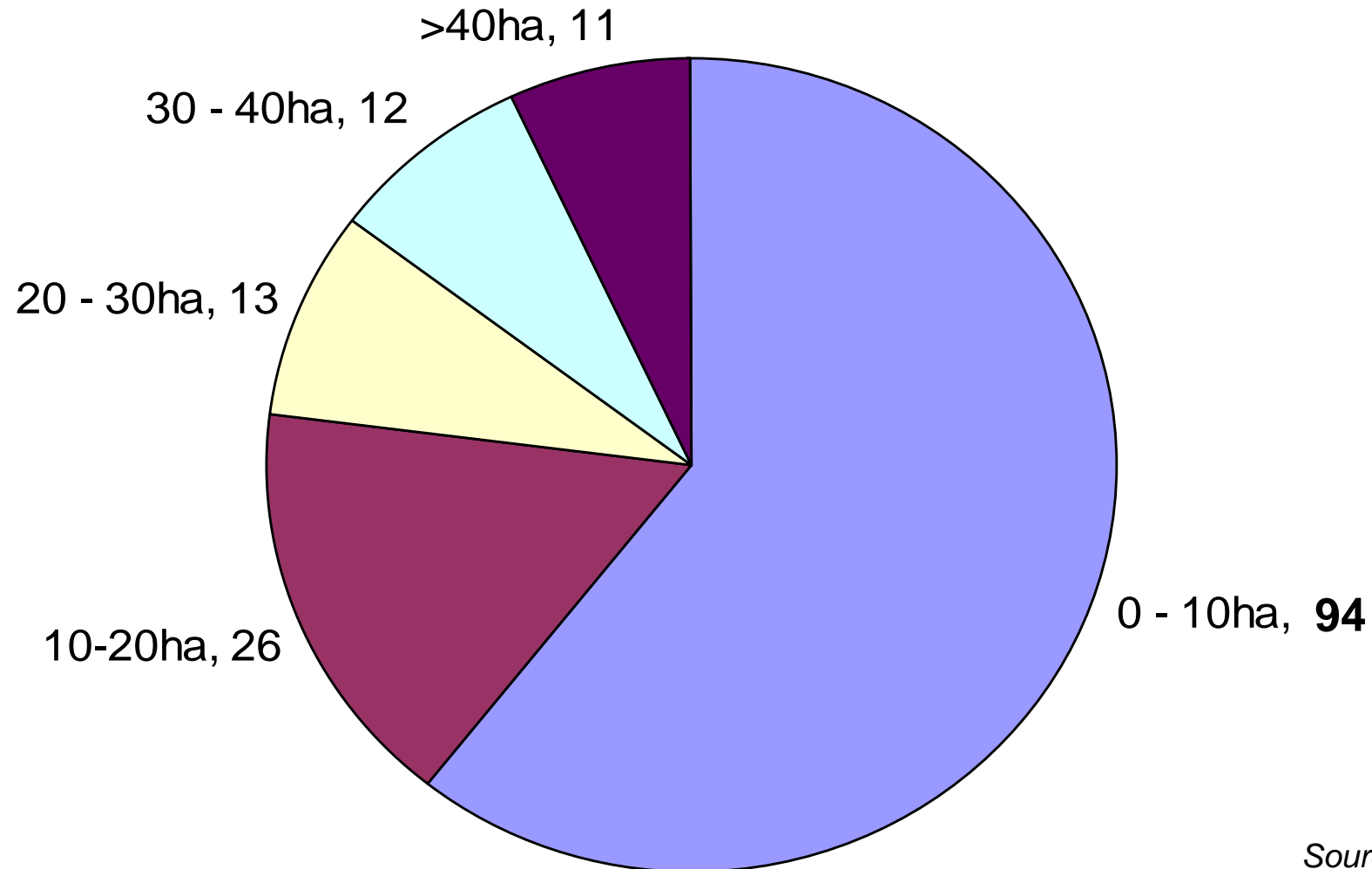
# Organic Cereals 2012 Ireland



Source: DAFM

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## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>322ha</b>

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

