

# Rotation planning in practice

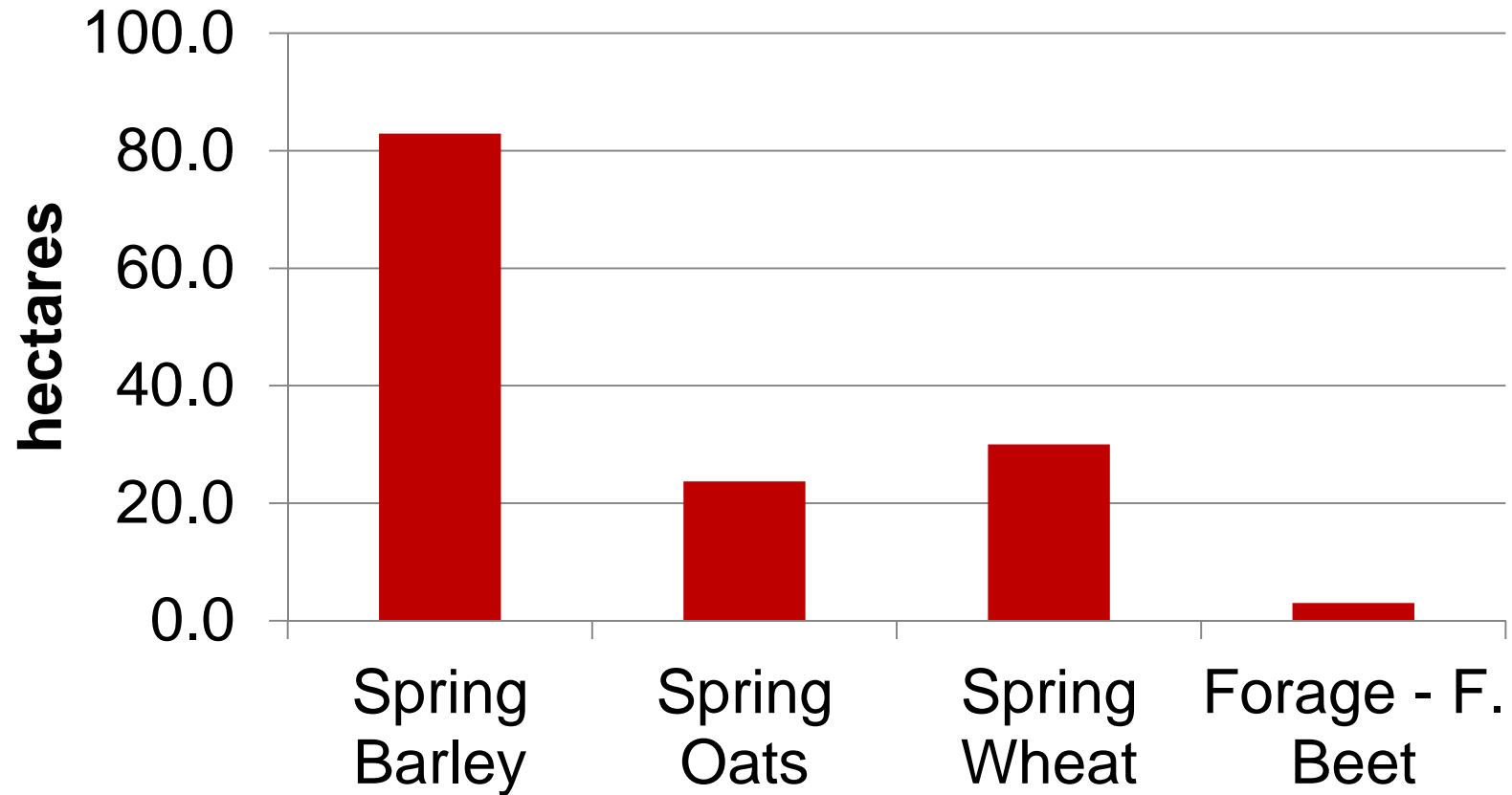
BETTER FARM  
Wexford



# Farm background

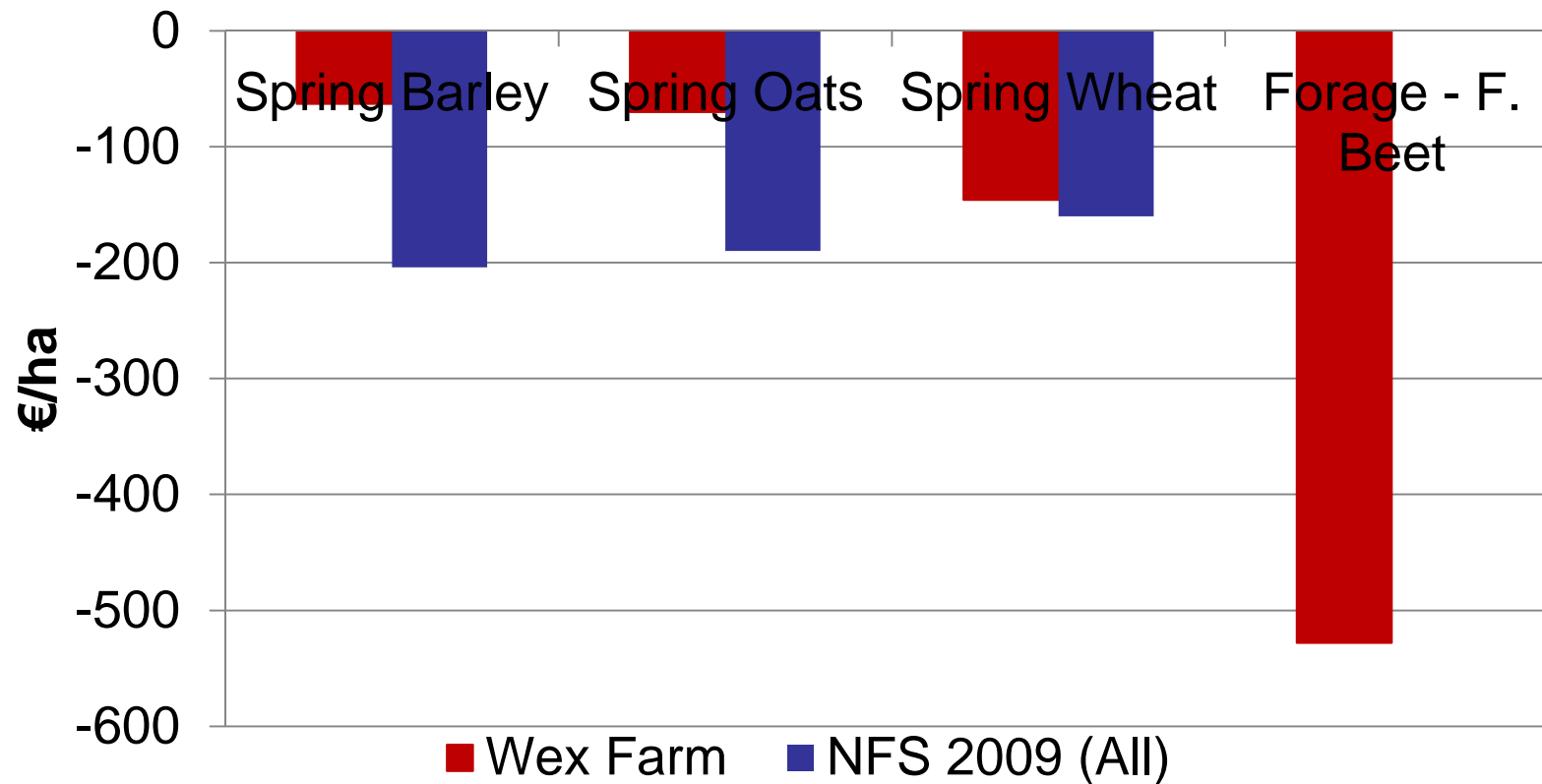
- Father and son farming business
- Historic farm rotation
  - Sugar Beet & Spring Barley
- Contracting business
- Recognised potential to increase profitability inside the farm gate

# Cropped area 2009



# Common Profits

(excludes land rental, labour and interest)



# Analysis of farm system

- Match crops to soil type
- Winter crops could be more profitable
- Limit the risk to one individual crop
  - Harvesting
  - Financial Performance
- Have expertise to grow most tillage crops
- Optimise available labour and machinery capacity
- Potential to increase spring contracting work

# The steps to change

1. Completed financial analysis (Profit Monitor)
2. Identified the most profitable crops
3. Matched crop suitability to soil type
4. Build a rotation around winter cereals

# Building a New Rotation

- Compared different rotation options across the farm
- Winter Rotation most profitable
  - OSR – W Wheat – W Barley – W Oats – W Wheat – W Barley
- Decision to change farm rotation
  - Aimed for 50% winter crops rising to 66%
- Lighter land sown to spring rotation

# Teagasc Rotation calculator

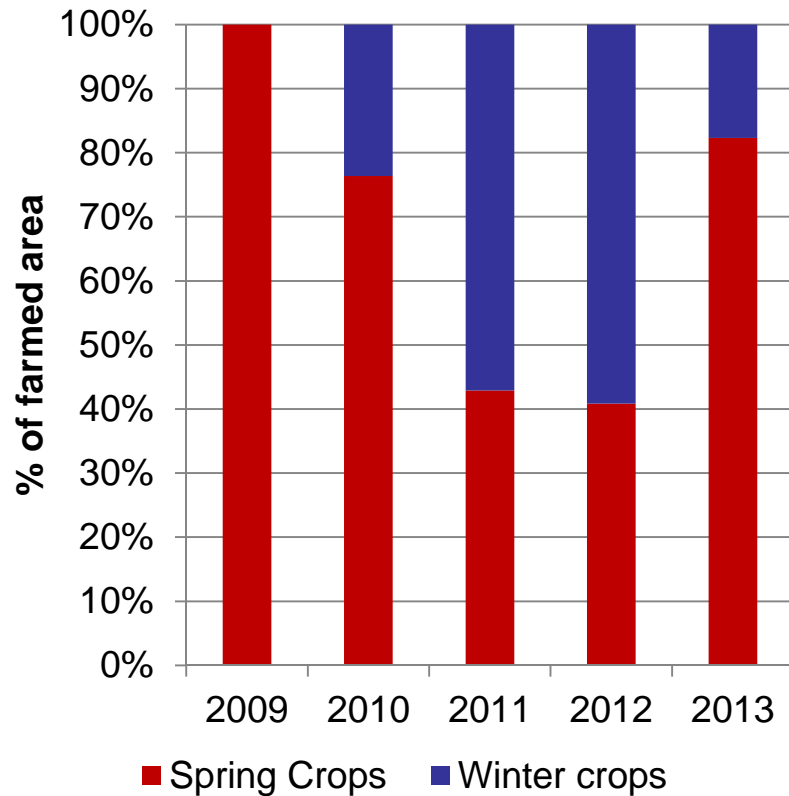
## 2009 V Potential

Rotation 1		Yield t/ac	Costs	Price ton	Straw	Margin/ac	Area sown (ha)	% Total
Year 1	Winter Oilseed Rape	1.7	469	320	0	75	15	17%
Year 2	Winter Wheat	4.2	526	140	36	98	15	17%
Year 3	Winter Barley	3.7	459	130	57	79	15	17%
Year 4	Winter Oats	3.2	423	140	40	65	15	17%
Year 5	Winter Wheat	4	526	140	36	70	15	17%
Year 6	Winter Barley	3.6	459	130	57	66	15	17%
Year 7								0%
Average							<b>90</b>	<b>100%</b>
Average Margin on farm						<b>76</b>		
Rotation 2		Yield t/ac	Costs	Price ton	Straw	Margin/ac	Area sown (ha)	% Total
Year 1	Spring Feed Barley	2.7	383	130	40	8	82	59%
Year 2	Spring oats	2.5	381	130	35	-21	23	17%
Year 3	Spring Wheat	3.1	445	140	32	21	30	22%
Year 4	Fodder beet	27	785	35	0	160	3	2%
Year 5								0%
Year 6								0%
Year 7								0%
Average							<b>138</b>	<b>100%</b>
Average Margin on farm						<b>9</b>		

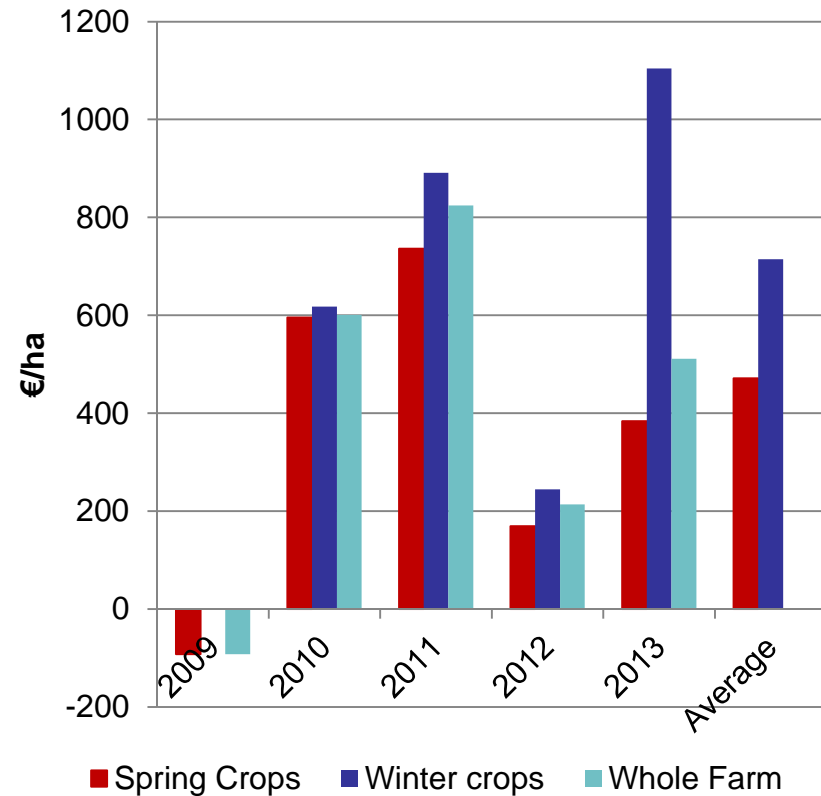


# Results from Rotation

## Area on farm % of total



## Av. Common Profit on farm



Common Profit = Net profits excluding: land rental , labour and interest

# Conclusion

- Average margins increased
- Reduced risk
- Better spread on work load
- Process helped clarify the basis of a having a good rotation