





Sustainability: Setting the Scene

Trevor Donnellan & Cathal Buckley

Agricultural Economics & Farm Surveys Department

Rural Economy and Development Programme

Teagasc

Data Source: Teagasc National Farm Survey

- Conducted by Teagasc on an annual basis since 1972.
- Operated as part of the EU Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN).
 - Fulfils Ireland's statutory obligation to provide data to EU
- EU Farm to Fork Strategy “convert its Farm Accountancy Data Network into the Farm Sustainability Data Network”
 - “with a view to also collect data on the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies’ targets and other sustainability indicators”

Multi-dimensional concept

- Farm level sustainability is intersection of:
 1. Economic
 2. Environmental
 3. Social
 4. Innovation



Success



Failure

2019 Teagasc Sustainability Report

- Comprehensive range of results
 - **4 Farm Systems** (Dairy, Cattle, Sheep, Tillage)
 - **4 Sustainability dimension**
 - » Economic, Environmental, Social & Innovation
 - » **129 indicators** for 2019 (most recent year)
 - **Temporal Dimension**
 - » Individual year results 2012 to 2019 in appendix of report
 - 129 indicators x 6 years
 - » 3 year rolling averages 2012-2019 (longer term trend)
- Results presented today is only a small subset
- The 2019 report is published in same year as the 2018 report (June 2020)
- Will enable us to report on sustainability in same year as regular NFS results

EU Agriculture under pressure to be more sustainable

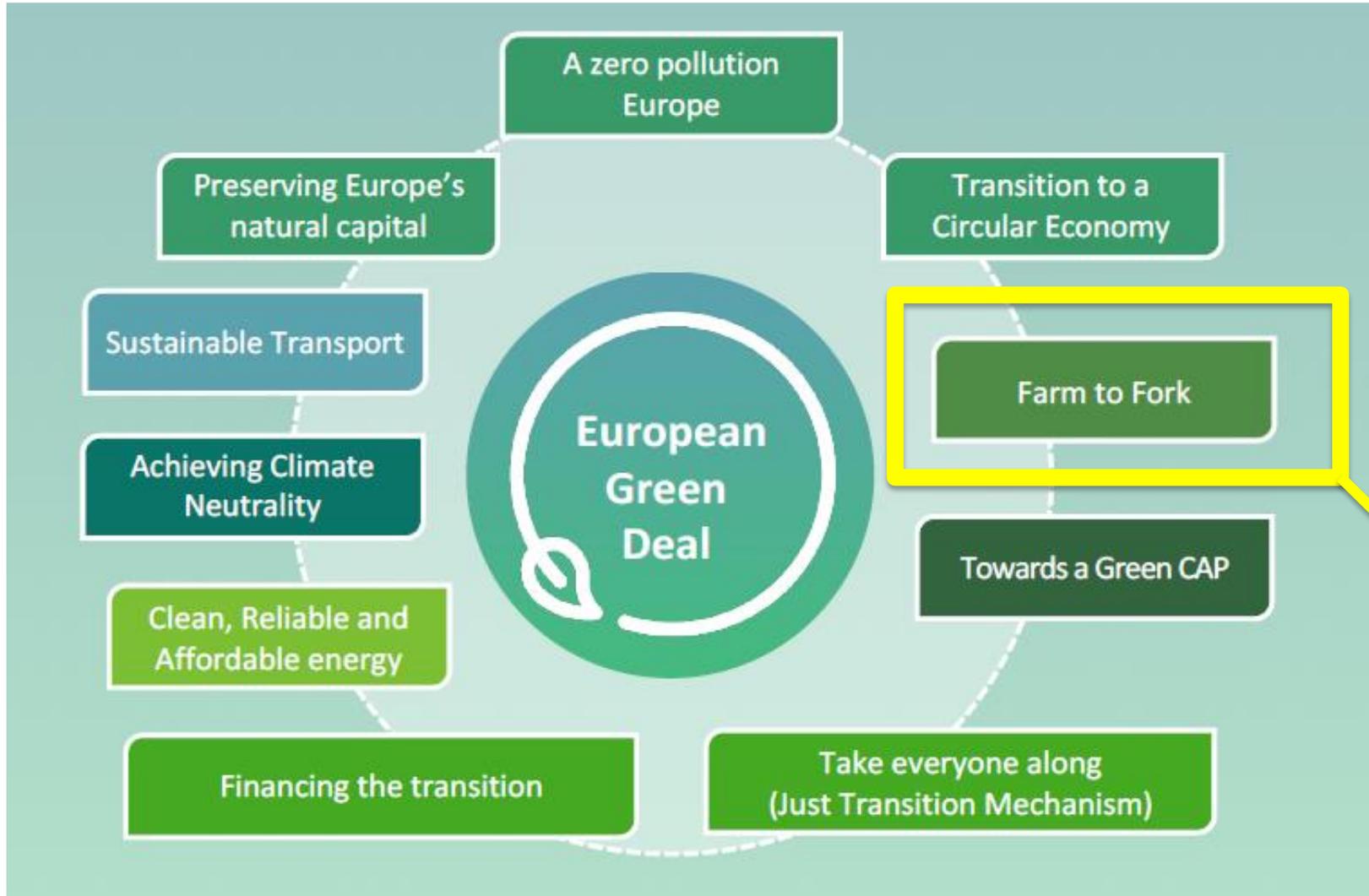
- CAP has traditionally been about **farm incomes** and nature of **food supply**
- Rise in prominence of **environmental concerns**
 - **Air Emissions, biodiversity, animal welfare and human health**
- Requires that we **revisit** current **food production systems**
- Food production must now occur in a way that meets both
 - **economic and social** goals
 - **environmental** goals
- Collectively, these goals are increasingly referred to under the umbrella of ***sustainability***.



CAP Ambitions

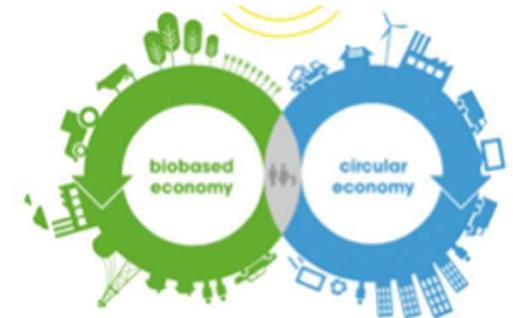
- More targeted CAP spending with greater environmental focus
 - Aligning spending with environmental goals
- Results based orientation in policy design and implementation
 - Shift from compliance with rules to delivery of outcomes
- Better indicators for agriculture
 - to measure progress is a wider range of areas
 - to measure the effectiveness of policy

EU Green Deal



Farm to Fork: Key Goals

1. Address the Climate Footprint of the Food Chain
2. EU Leadership in transformation of Food Chain
 - while maintaining international competitiveness
3. Operationalise new opportunities in Bioeconomy
4. Ensure Food Chain is resistant to shocks



BOUNCE BACK

Some of the Required Actions

■ Pesticides

- Reduce by 50% the overall use

■ Nutrient Losses

- Reduce **nutrient losses** by at least 50%
- Maintain soil fertility
- Reduce use of **fertilisers** by at least 20%

■ Antimicrobials

- Reduce sales of **antimicrobials** in farming by 50%

■ Organic Farming

- 25% of the EU's agricultural land in **organic farming**



Timeline: A selection of the Required Actions

- 2020
 - 5 year Action Plan for Organic Sector
- 2021
 - Revised regulations on plant protection products
- 2021
 - Action plans on Nutrient Management
- 2022
 - Revised Sustainable Pesticides Directive
- 2022
 - Farm Sustainability Data Network
 - » Transformation of Farm Accountancy Data Network to measure all dimensions of sustainability