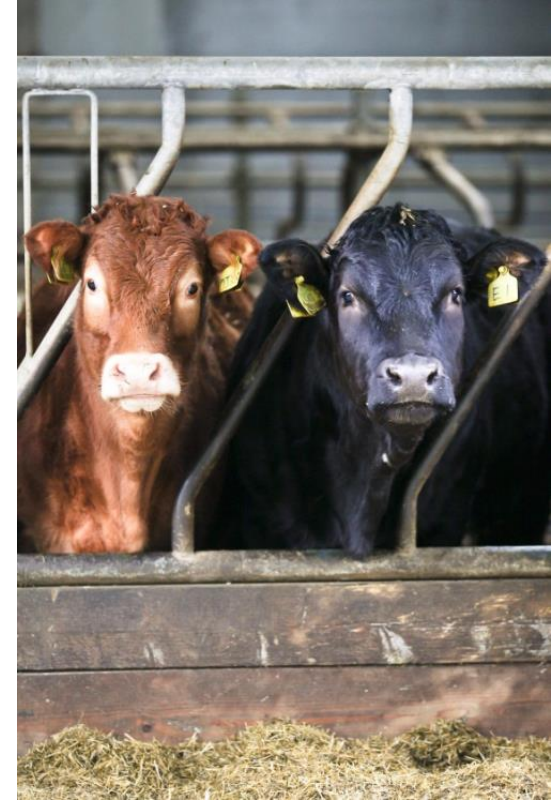


Current Practice and Future Potential

Jim Freeburn

Head of Beef and Sheep Development
CAFRE





The Industry

- ▶ 1 million hectares farmed
 - 1/3 is farmed as conacre.
 - 70 % LFA
- ▶ 24,500 active farm businesses
 - Average 34ha (85 acres).



The Industry

- ▶ 8,661 farmers keep ewes
- ▶ 15,356 farmers keep suckler cows
- ▶ 14,450 farmers keep cattle intended for slaughter





The Industry

- ▶ Average herd/flock size
 - Ewes **106**
 - Sucklers **18**
 - Beef Cattle **22**
- ▶ BUT (>200 Ewes, >30 cows, >50 cattle)
- ▶ **15%** of farms produce **50%** of output

Source – Dard Statistics



Current Issues

- ▶ Improving efficiency
 - Using the tools available
- ▶ Profitability
- ▶ Research and Development, Technology Transfer, Education and Training
- ▶ Single Farm Payment
- ▶ Supply Chains, marketing and value
- ▶ ...





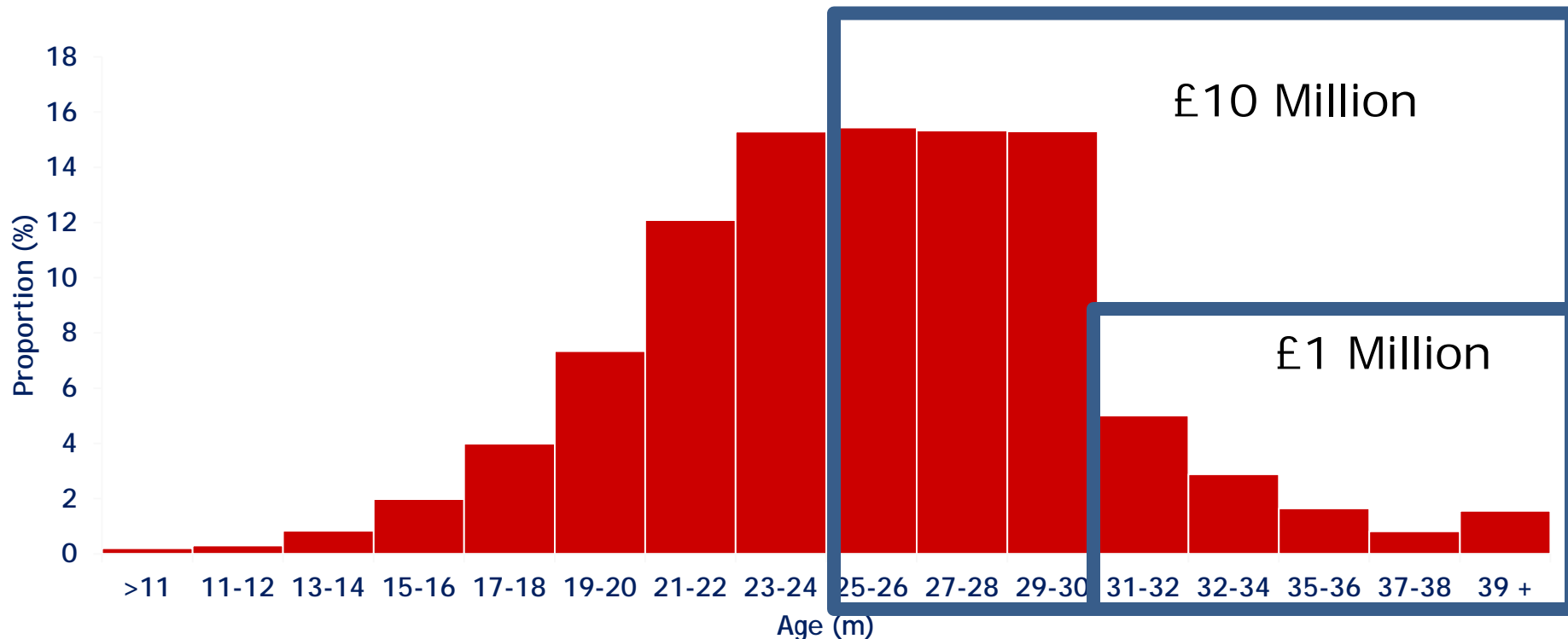
Grassland - Soil Fertility

- ▶ Optimum soil fertility
 - P index of 2 or greater and
 - K index of 2- or greater and
 - pH level over 6.0
- ▶ Approx 1% of fields soil are sampled per annum
- ▶ 85% need remedial action



Meeting Specification

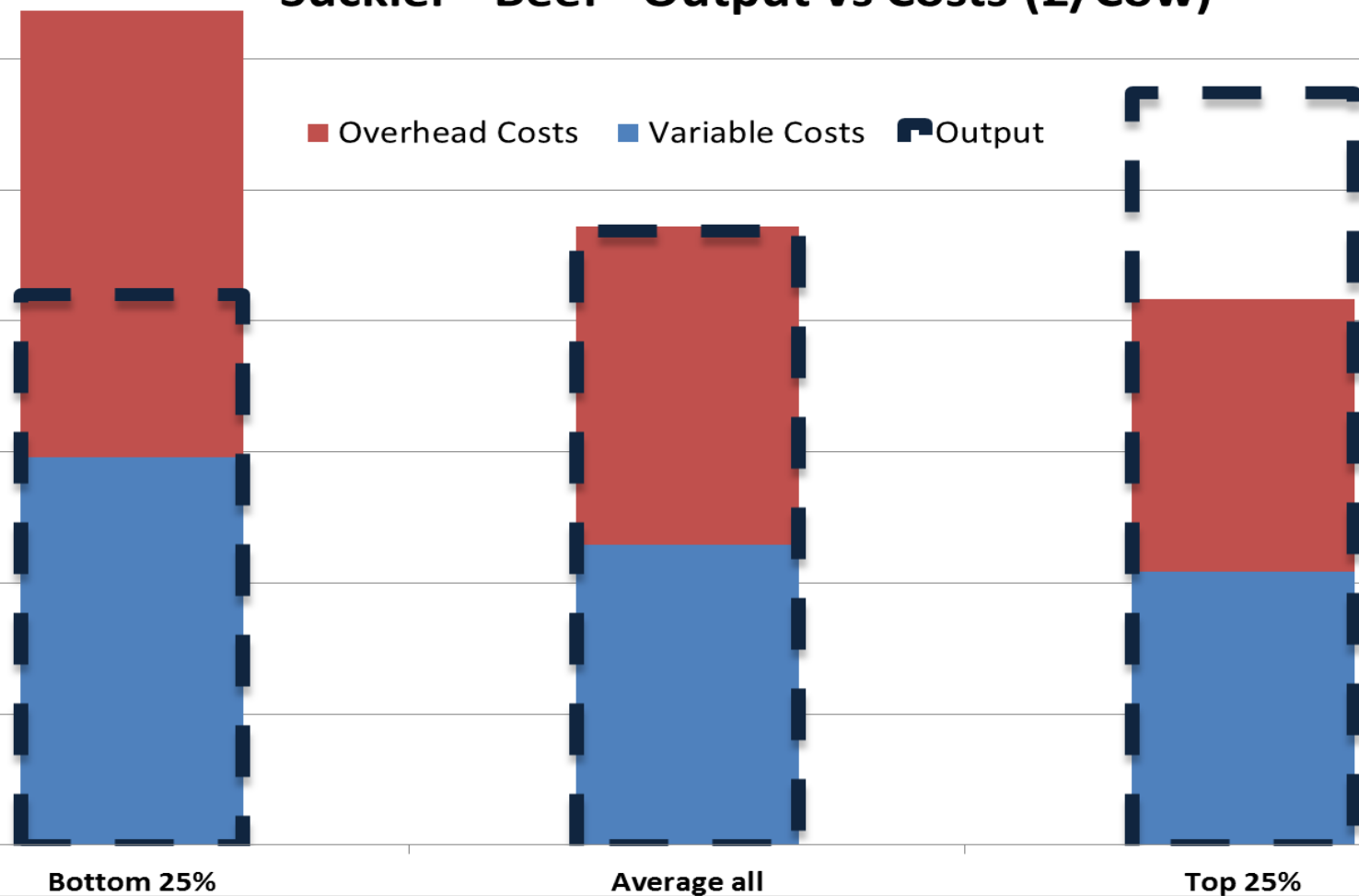
Proportion of steers slaughtered at each age range 2013





Benchmarking

Suckler - Beef - Output vs Costs (£/Cow)



CAFRE – Supporting Industry Development

- Industry Training
 - Knowledge & Technology Transfer
 - Benchmarking
 - Business Development Planning
-
- Technical Support to DARD business areas
 - Technical support for development and delivery of CAP Reform Pillar I and II
 - Implementation of recommendations from the Going for Growth report
 - Support for the DARD input to the NICS Digital Action Plan, specifically through DARD Online Services IT support and Industry Training



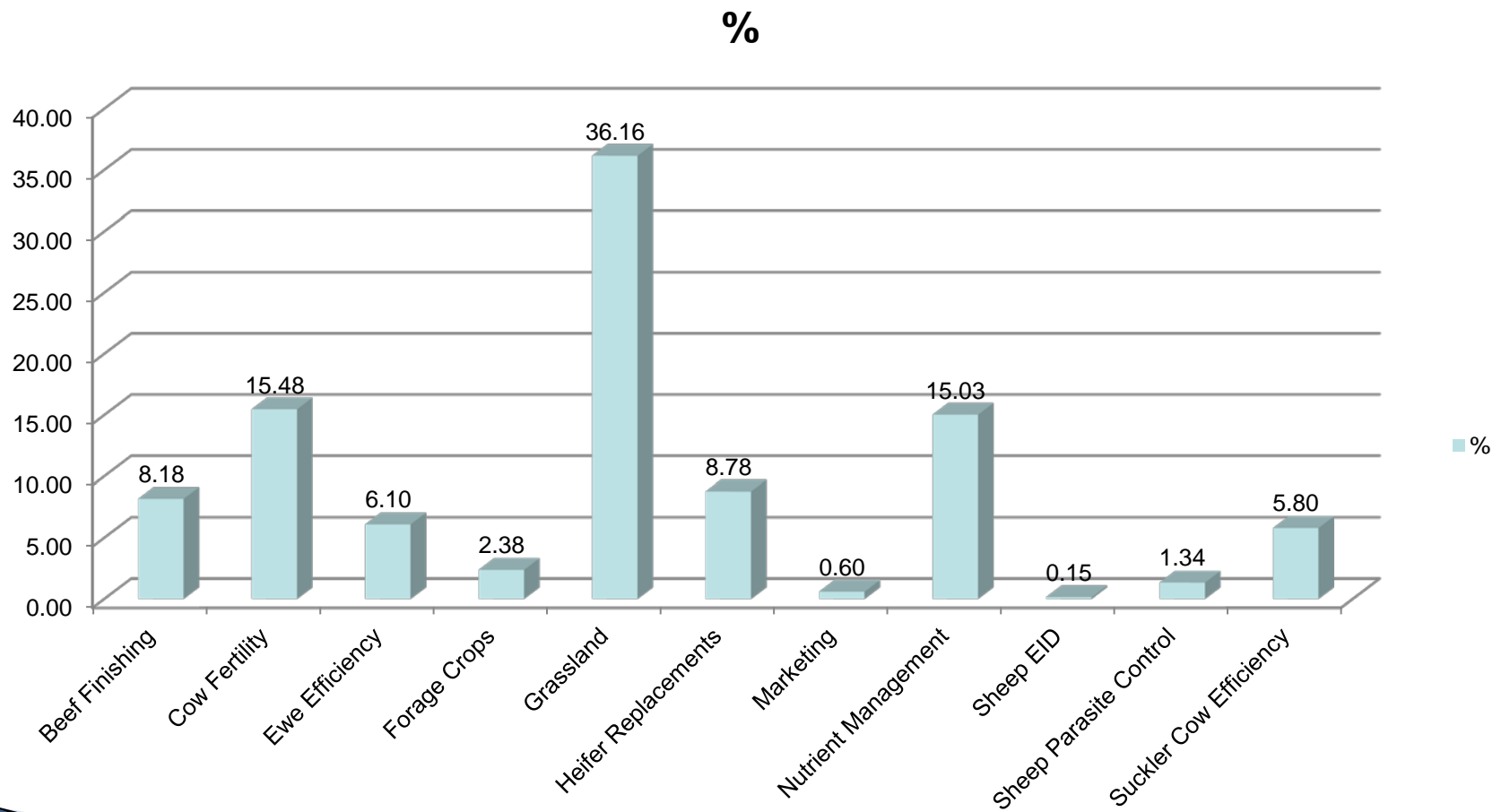
Performance of NISBP farmers 2010-2013

	2010	2013	Difference
Av farm size (adjusted Ha)	95	121	+ 26
Av cow herd	91	111	+ 20
Av stocking rate (LU/Ha)	1.65	2.05	+0.4
Av Gross Margin/Ha	399	644	+ 245
Av Kg LWT/Ha	567	646	+ 79

- ▶ Partnership programme between CAFRE/ABP/Irish Farmers Journal
- ▶ Farmers have:
 - adopted a range of key technologies,
 - improved physical efficiency and profitability
- ▶ Clear focus on improving grassland management
- ▶ 61% increased in GM/Ha over 3 years (£399 to £644)



BSDB Technologies Adopted 2013/14



What do consumers expect?





VIA

- ▶ Grading System
- ▶ Payment System
- ▶ Information Management





Future Issues

- ▶ CAP Reform
 - Area based payments
 - Rural development
- ▶ Going for Growth
- ▶ Business Improvement Scheme(s)
- ▶ Profitability



Area based payment estimator

	No of Entitlements 2014	Entitlement Value (€) 2014**	Total Value
1	50	500	25,000
2			-
3			-
4			-
5			-
Total SFP Value 2014 (€)			25,000
Total Value after 2014 scaleback			22,688

Total Initial Value 2015 ***	Eligible Area Claimed 2015	Initial Unit Value (€)
21,553	50	431

Average Entitlement Value (€)	329
Euro Exchange Rate ****	0.78
Initial value reduction (Reg. Reserve + Young Farmers)	5.0%
2014 Scaleback**	9.25%

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Average Entitlement Value (€)		402	387	373	
Total BPS and Greening (€)	20,824	20,096	19,367	18,638	17,909
Total BPS and Greening (£)	£ 16,243	£ 15,675	£ 15,106	£ 14,538	£ 13,969

Total SFP (15-19) (€)	96,835
Total SFP (15-19) (£)	£ 75,531

Login to Dard Online Services



Going for Growth - Industry

- ▶ Technical efficiency
 - Better genetics
 - Economies of scale
 - Land and building improvement
 - KPI monitoring (Benchmarking, BOVIS,...)
 - Greenhouse gas reduction

- ▶ Market signals and pricing to drive change



Going for Growth - Government

- ▶ CAP reform
- ▶ Business Improvement
 - Capital funding
- ▶ Animal Health strategy
 - Reduced mortality
 - Disease eradication
 - Market access
- ▶ KTT – education, training and development
- ▶ Business development support - benchmarking
- ▶ Advice and guidance



The Future

- ▶ Feeding
 - Grow grass and use it
- ▶ Fertility
 - Fertility & Reproductive efficiency
 - Genetic progress - Genomics
- ▶ Finance
 - Manage costs
- ▶ Animal Health & Welfare
 - Control and prevention of disease
 - Welfare of animals
- ▶ Alternatives
 - Add value





Summary



- ▶ Use all the tools available effectively –
 - a blend of very new and very simple technology
 - sequencing the genome to a tonne of lime.

- ▶ Focus on efficient use of ALL resources
 - but do focus on the most important first (feeding, fertility and finance)

- ▶ Produce FOOD for a known market and add value where possible.