



## SOE 10: Environmentally-sustainable Agriculture

An agriculture and food sector that demonstrates validated performance around producing food with a low environmental footprint.

### *ACTIONS – WHAT IS NEEDED?*

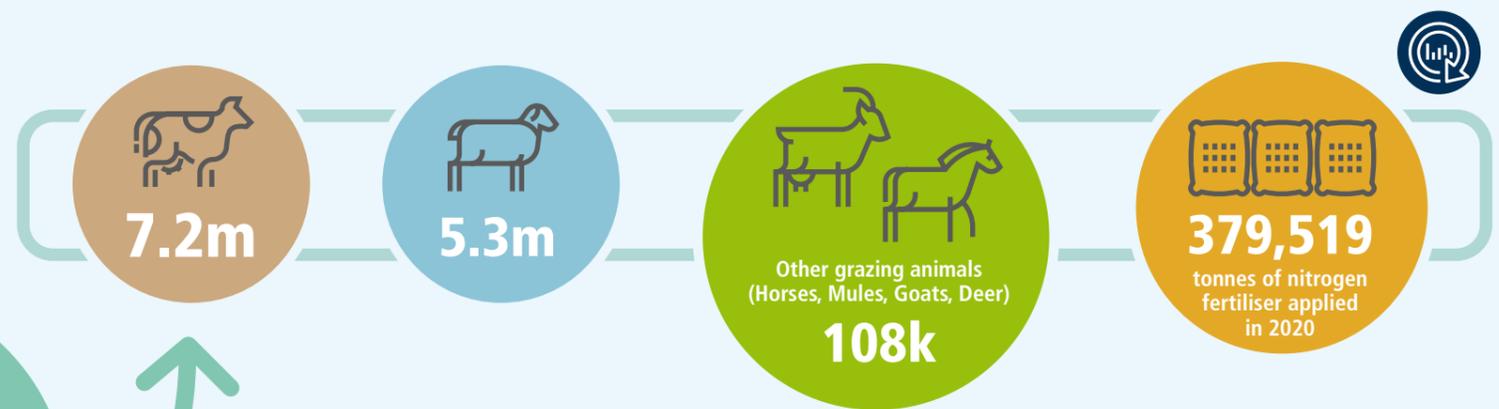
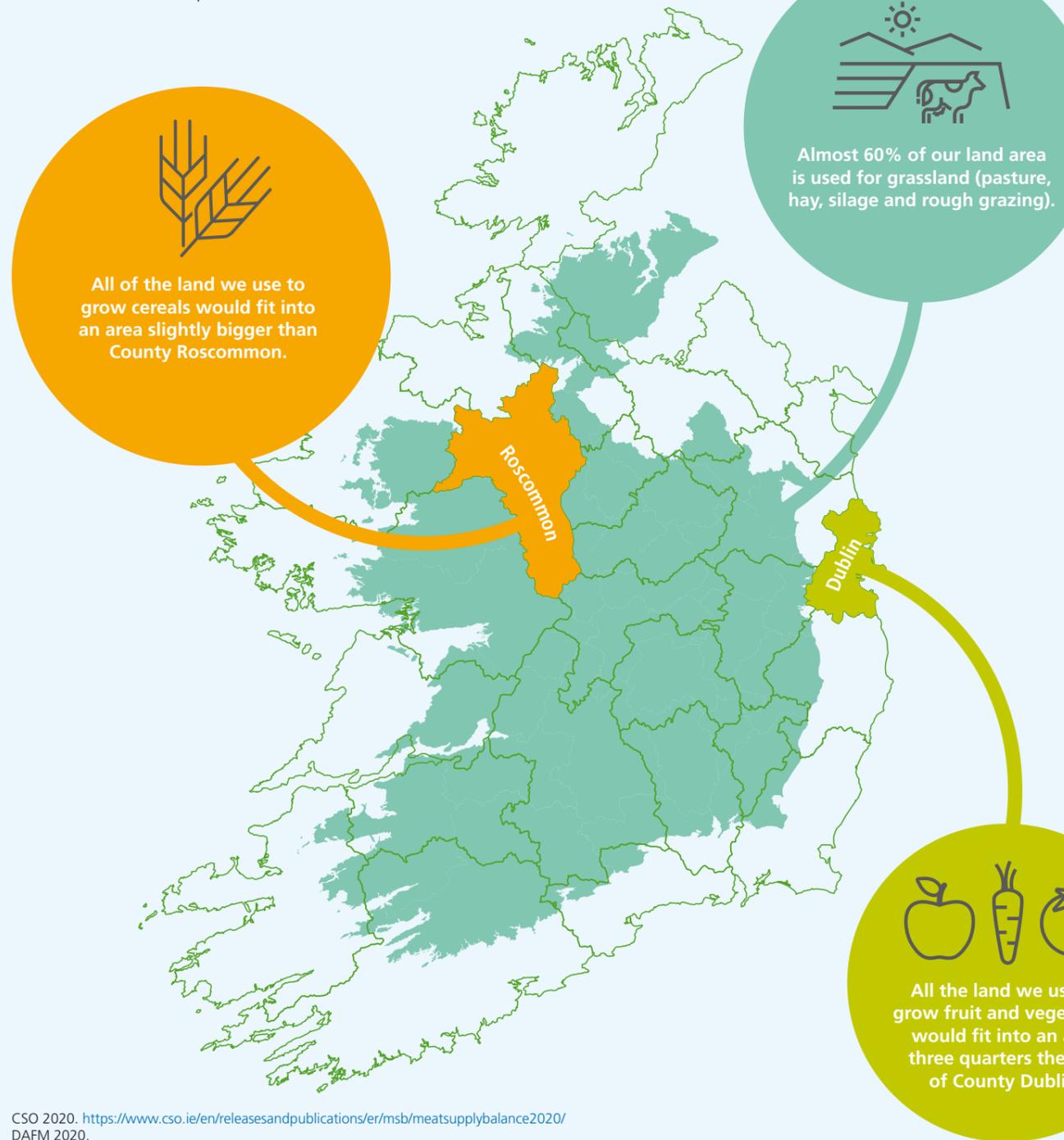
A more holistic farm management and water catchment-level management approach, encompassing all environmental pressures, will be fundamental to progress towards a more environmentally-sustainable and carbon-neutral food production system.



# Our food

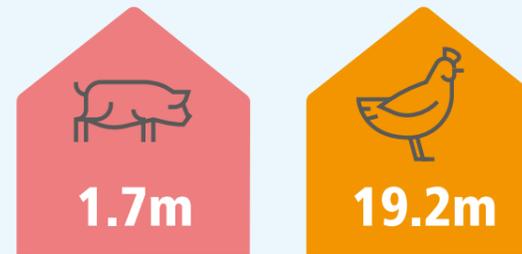
## What we produce and how we use it

A lot of our land is used to produce food with a strong focus on animal-based farming, much of which is exported. Farming is an important part of our economy, but with evidence showing the many environmental impacts of this, can we really afford not to become more sustainable and reduce pressures on the environment?



(2) Source DAFM, fertiliser and live stock numbers

In 2020 we also raised

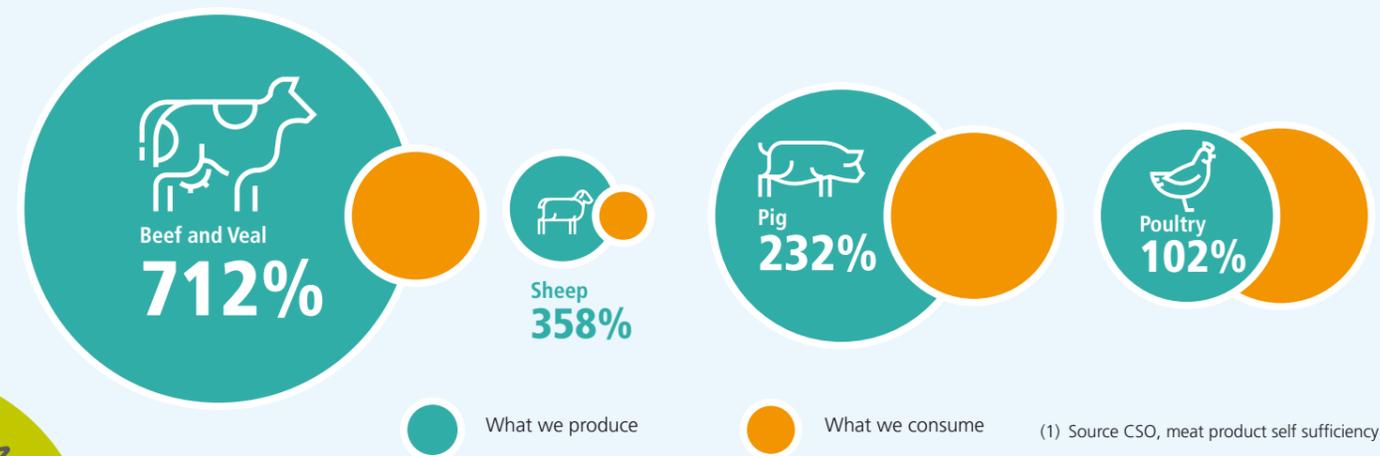


In 2019, the agriculture sector accounted for



Agriculture is also a source of nonmethane volatile organic compounds (VOC), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and total suspended particulates.

We generate a lot more meat products than we consume domestically.



(1) Source CSO, meat product self sufficiency 2020.

Through Water Framework Directive Cycle 3 activities, agriculture has been identified as a significant pressure for 62% of at risk water bodies.



The National Parks and Wildlife Article 17 Habitats Directive report identifies agriculture as a pressure on, and threat to, many of Ireland's protected habitats.