



IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL



Justin McCarthy Editor & Chief Executive

1940s-1950s

**One more cow, one
more sow, one more
acre under the plough**

IRISH
**FARMERS
JOURNAL**

**TODAY IRELAND
PRODUCES ENOUGH
FOOD TO FEED**

35m
Europeans

**DELIVERED
THROUGH ONE
OF THE MOST
SUSTAINABLE
PRODUCTION
SYSTEMS IN
THE WORLD**



US feedlot



Ireland 'needs to act' on report that urges 90 per cent cut in meat-eating

Report co-author says Irish Government needs to step up – not just individuals

© Thu, Apr 25, 2019, 18:56

Olivia Kelleher



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**The
Guardian**

International edition

New plant-focused diet would 'transform' planet's future, say scientists

'Planetary health diet' would prevent millions of deaths a year and avoid climate change



Wolff Katzert/Eat Forum

The New York Times

New Diet Guidelines to Benefit People and the Planet: More Greens for All, Less Meat for Some



**Ignores fragility
of global food
production model**

Irish agriculture

FAO: 70% more food by 2050

IPCC: 700m/ha for energy
crops and intensification of
sustainable food production



**How should this
influence Irish
land use policy?**



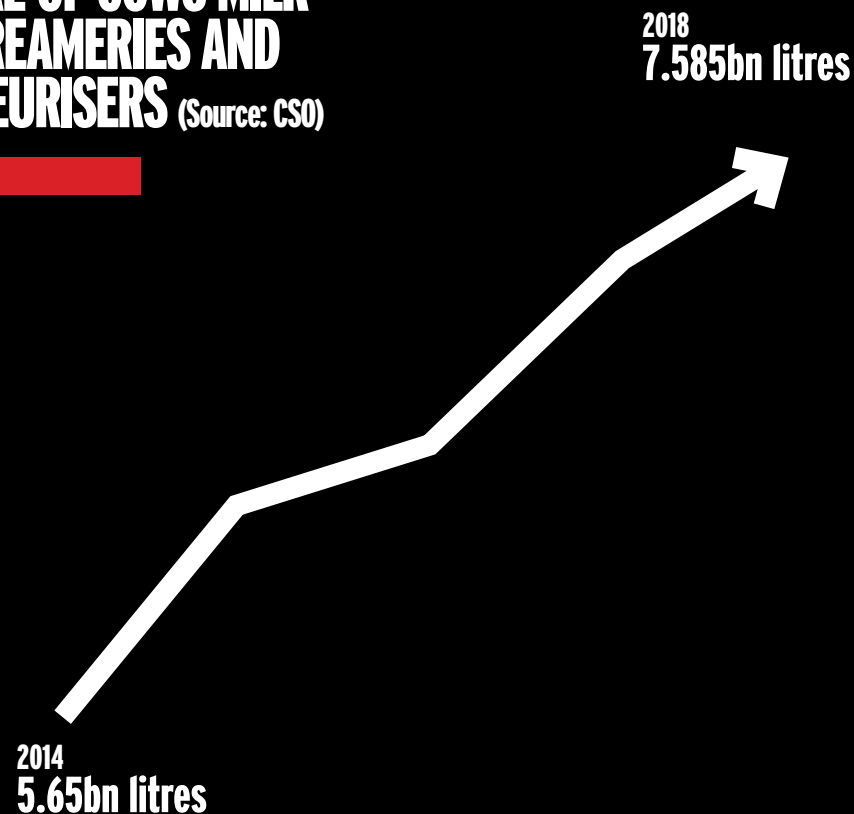
**DEMAND FOR
LUXURY PROTEINS
WILL INCREASE**

4.9bn

size of global middle
class by 2030 – threefold
increase since 2009

IRELAND IS RISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF INCREASED FOOD DEMAND

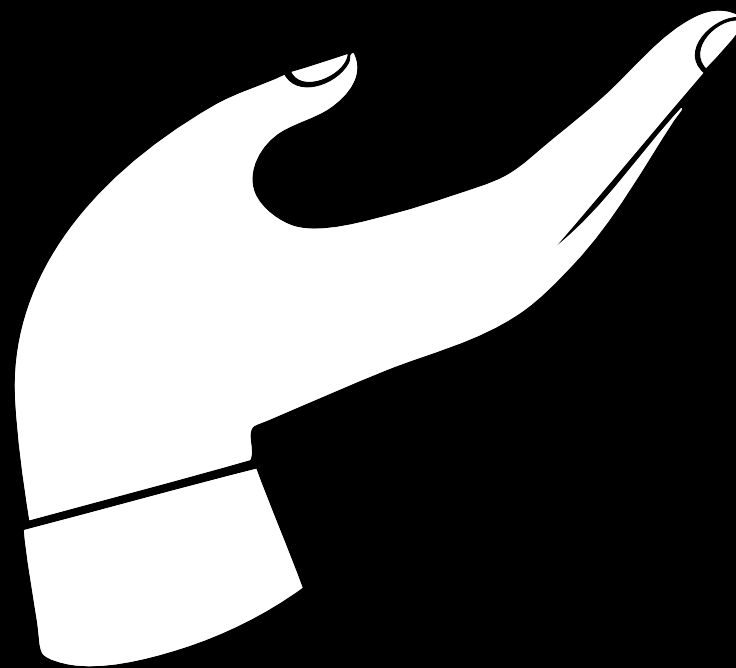
INTAKE OF COWS MILK BY CREAMERIES AND PASTEURISERS (Source: CSO)



Striking a balance between production & environment

Growing production

Delivering environmental dividend





LAND TYPE



FORESTRY WILL BE KEY TO EXPLOITING FOOD PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF IRISH AGRICULTURE, BUT

- » Clear targets set but not being achieved
- » Falling well short of Government's 2040 target of 18%
- » 10,000/ha versus reality of 5,000/ha
- » Skewed planting programme generating rural backlash

At current annual
afforestation levels,
forest cover of 17% – half
the EU average – **won't
be achieved until 2100**

**In this scenario the
potential of Irish
agriculture will be
curtailed not
just forestry**

TIME FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENT TOGETHER

- » This will require a change in the mindset of farmers
- » Planting “that difficult few acres” with broadleaves supported through CAP
- » Availing of forestry grants and premiums on marginal land to produce the highest yielding commercial forest in Europe
- » Favourable regulatory landscape
- » Removing the replanting obligation

Future of Irish Agriculture
depends on **putting every
acre to work** whether it
be in producing food,
delivering an environmental
dividend or both

Thank you