

The role of forestry in the transition to a low carbon future

Professor Gerry Boyle, Director, Teagasc
Presentation to Wood Marketing Federation and the
Society of Irish Foresters Conference, Enfield, Co. Meath,
Ireland, May 30th, 2019

Increased forest area: a key strategic action



That a proactive promotion campaign be continued ..to encourage increased afforestation and timber mobilisation to achieve the targets outlined in the Forestry Programme 2014-2020.

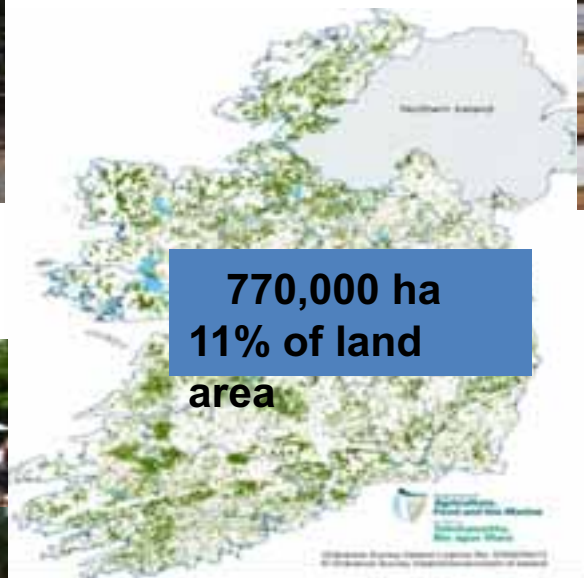
**Over 21,000 owners
49% of forest area
85% farmers**



**Value of
Forest Sector
€2.3 billion**



**770,000 ha
11% of land
area**



**Employment
12,000**

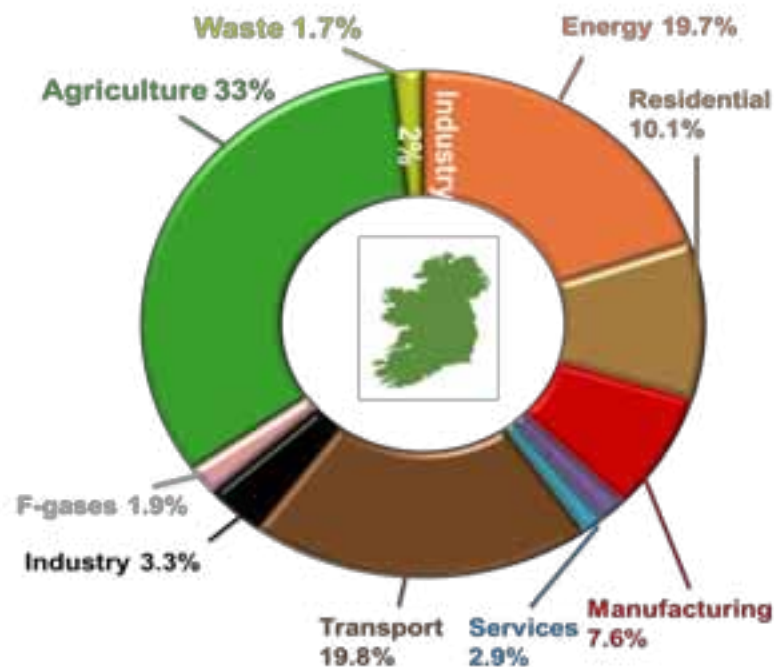


**Timber
C-sequestration
Biodiversity
Recreation
Novel bioproducts**

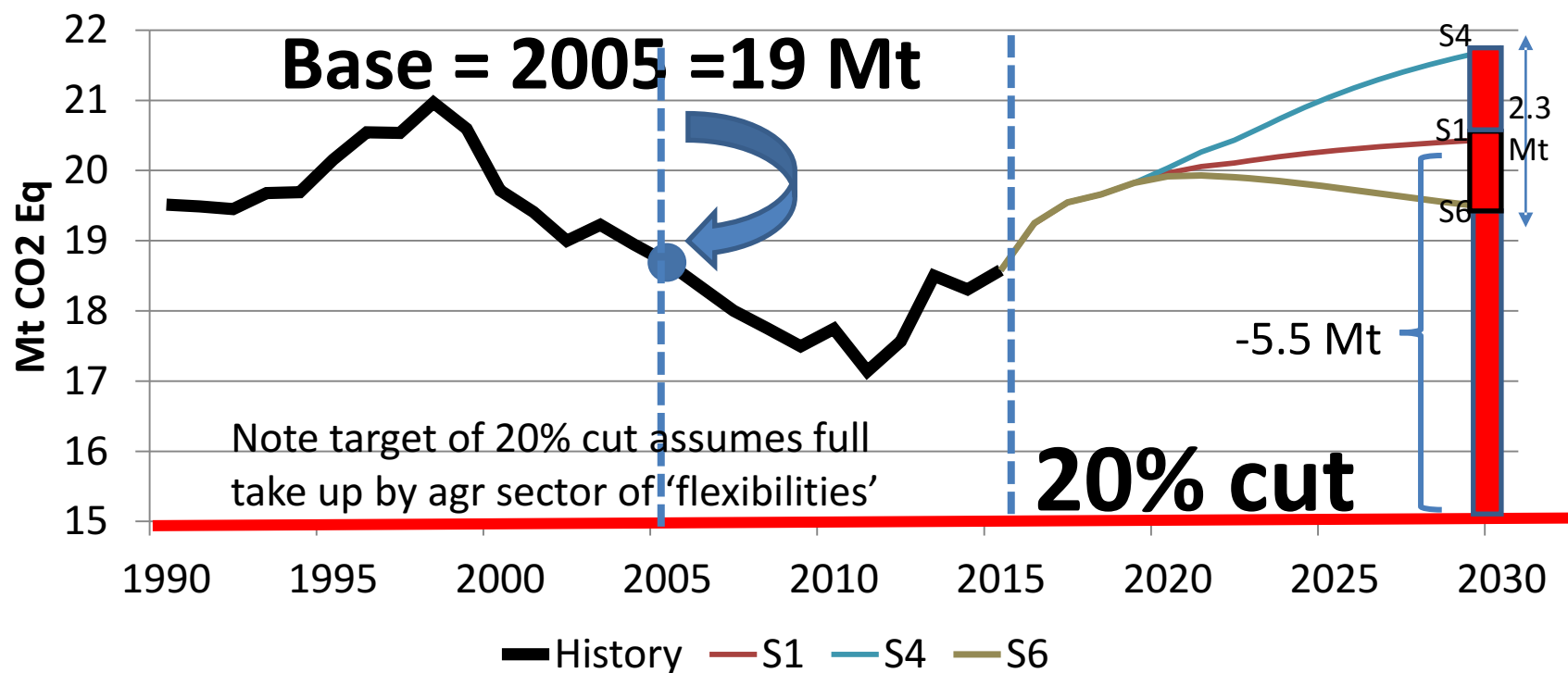


Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) and forestry

- Irish agriculture comprises
 - 33% of Irish GHG emissions (of which dairy 44%)
 - 45% of Irish *non-Emissions Trading Scheme* (ETS) GHG
- GHG targets
 - 20% emissions reduction by 2020
 - 30% non-ETS reduction by 2030 (EU 2030 Effort Sharing) with up to 10% flexible mechanisms allowable due to LULUCF credits and transfers from ETS



GHG emissions with NO mitigation actions

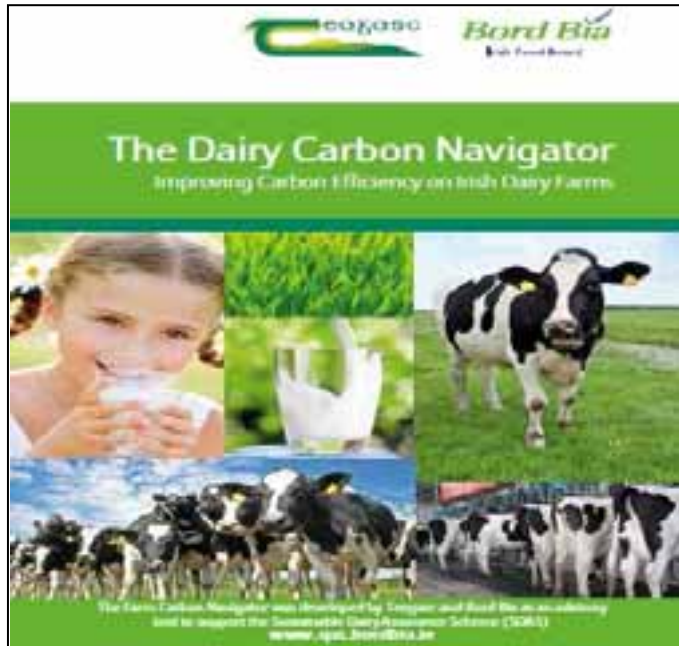


Source: FAPRI-Ireland Model

Land-use and C-sequestration

Measure	Mean ann. saving 2021-2030	Saving 2030
15. Grassland Mgt.	0.26 Mt	
16. Water table mgt. of org. soils	0.44 Mt	
17. Forestry	2.10 Mt	
18. Tillage Mgt – Cover crops	0.10 Mt	
19. Tillage Mgt – Straw incorp.	0.06 Mt	
Total	2.96	3.89

Forestry in the Carbon Navigator



Forestry – major potential to contribute to national GHG abatement

Potential to include forestry component in Carbon Navigator

- In collaboration with Teagasc Agri-Environment Section
- Raise awareness
- Demonstrate impact at farm-level

Biodiversity: wildlife value of trees

Invertebrate species associated with tree species

Willow	300
Oak	280
Birch	220
Whitethorn	140
Sycamore (non-native)	30
Chestnut (non-native)	6

Native is best for biodiversity!

Dairy prairie landscape



Irish hedgerows



Traditional hedged landscape

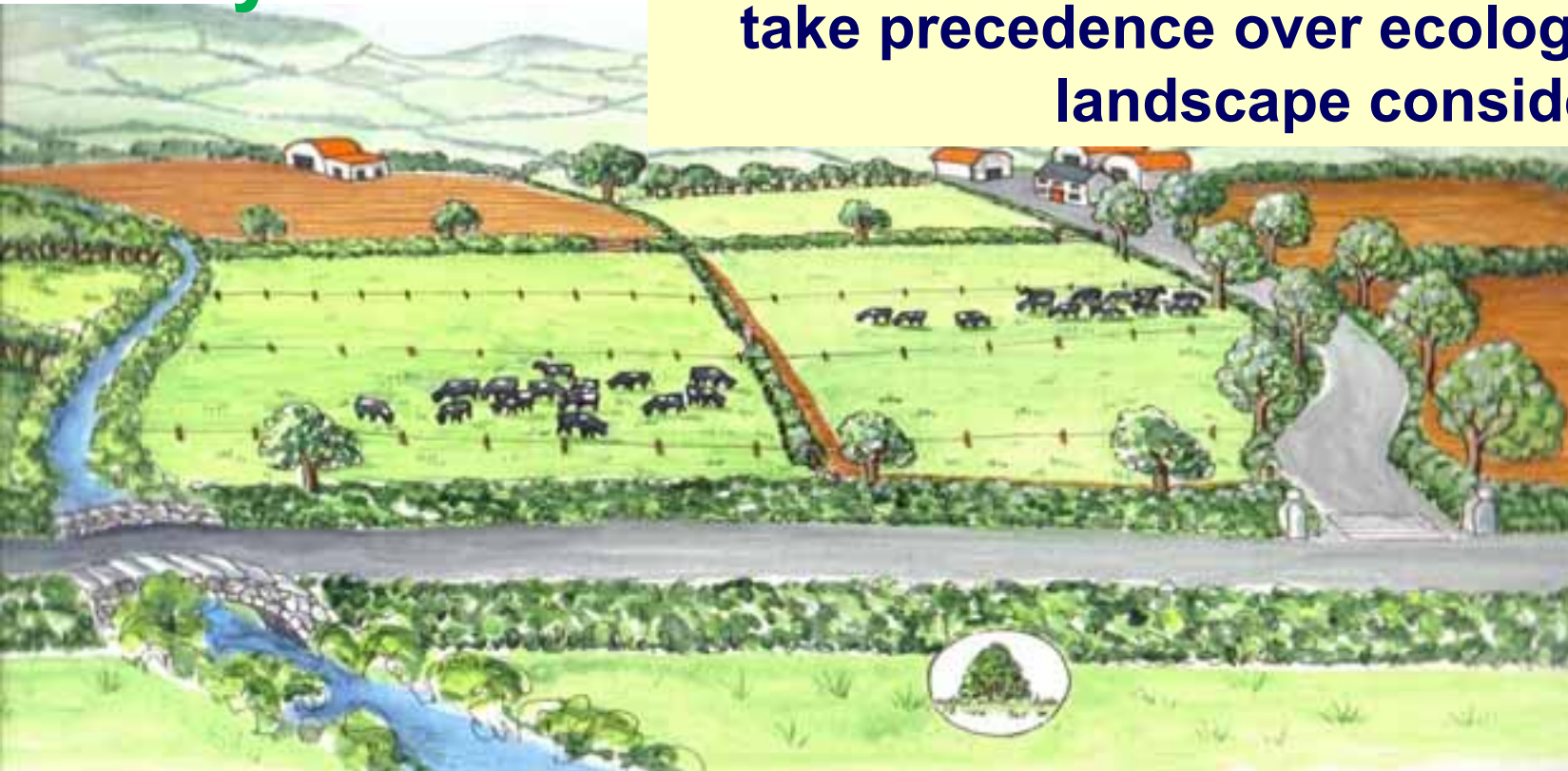


Landscape with hedgerows with some trees

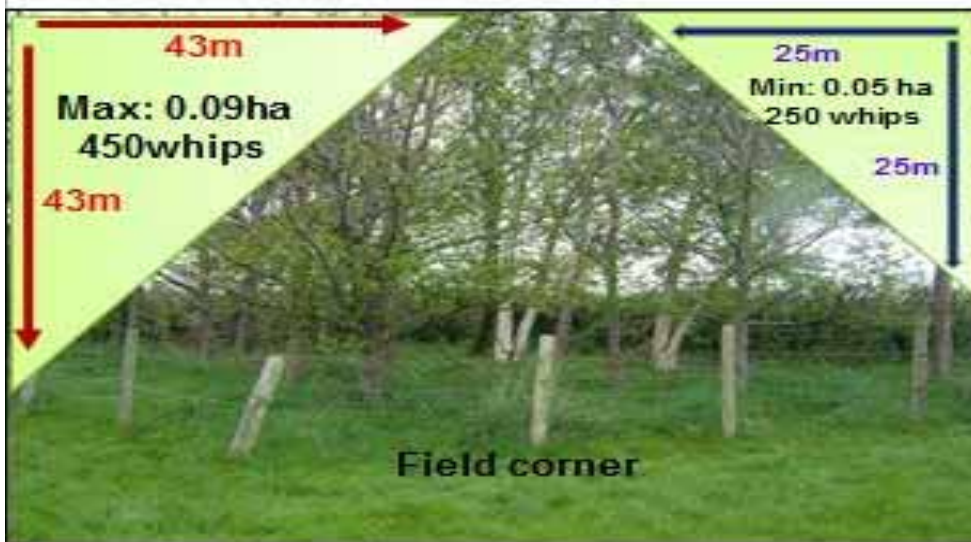


Variety is best

➤ The quest for neatness should not take precedence over ecological and landscape considerations



Plant a grove of trees



Teagasc focus for 2019

- Support all elements of the 2014 -2020 Forestry Programme
- Encourage planting of native woodlands on all farms
- Promote afforestation and provide advice to help planting and management decisions ... support Forest KT groups
- Support the farm forestry sector: timber mobilisation and timber marketing
- Priority research focus on ash dieback
- Focus on health and safety in forestry and forest operations

Thank you

