

Abstract by Dave Beehan - Ireland's Strategy for a More Profitable Beef and Sheep Industry

Ireland has over 60,000 beef suckler farms with 1.1 million beef suckler cows and 50% of the 1.1 million dairy cows are also bred to beef bulls. Annual beefmeat output is 540,000 tonnes, of which 85% is exported, and live cattle exports are about 200,000, giving total beef exports of €2 billion. There are 32,000 sheep farmers with 2.2 million ewes. Total sheepmeat production is 53,000 tonnes of which 75% is exported, valued at €180 million.