



EUROPEAN DAIRY

Ireland, working with nature 

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IT'S FROM
EUROPE



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BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD



Trusted Dairy from Europe

European dairy farming exemplifies the very best that food production sector has to offer with the highest global standards in food safety, traceability, animal welfare and sustainability.

European dairy production is underpinned by strict European Union food safety legislation that is recognised as the most stringent worldwide. The EU food safety policy covers food from farm-to-fork and is designed to guarantee safe, nutritious food with high standards of animal health and welfare and clear information on the origin and labelling of food.

'European Dairy - Ireland, working with Nature' is a joint initiative between the European Commission and Ireland, an EU member state. Ireland, who is leading this three year programme exports high quality premium dairy to 150 countries around the world.



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Trusted Dairy from Europe

145 million metric tonnes

The EU is the largest dairy milk producing region in the world and is renowned for its portfolio of diverse, high-quality, nutritionally dense, sustainable produce. In addition, stringent safety standards are adhered to and deployed by member nations. In 2021, the combined markets of the EU-27 produced approximately 145 million metric tonnes of dairy products.

8.8 billion litres

Ireland processed 8.8 billion litres of milk in 2021 and exported dairy produce to approximately 150 markets all over the world. (Source: Bord Bia Performance and Prospects 2022)



IRELAND



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In 2021, Ireland was ranked number one by the Global Food Security Index (GFSI) which assesses 113 countries over 58 parameters taking into consideration issues of food affordability, availability, and quality as well as safety standards, natural resources, and resilience.

Food Safety and Biosecurity



EU food safety standards are world leading. EU Regulation (EC) no. 178/2002 sets out strict legislation in relation to quality assurance, traceability, animal welfare and sustainability. No growth hormones are allowed in the EU.

The use of antibiotics and other medicines is strictly controlled and can only be used when absolutely necessary. No residual medicine can enter the food supply chain.

Full Traceability

A key safety obligation under EU food law includes product traceability and the ability to withdraw a product if determined to be unsafe. All dairy products are traceable from the supplying farm through to the final product.

Functional, Nutritional and Tasty



European dairy from Ireland is highly functional, nutritionally dense, and naturally tasty and lends itself to many applications and solutions. Dairy processors are leaders in their field and highly dexterous in the production of dairy products, informed by their global customer and consumer

requirements. Dairy processors in Ireland are proficient in the manufacture of dairy butters, cheeses, powders, flavours and other dairy extractions and solutions.



The applications range from but are not restricted to; table use, retail-shelf ready, food service, manufacturing, and ingredient-based applications as well as life stage, Pharmaceutical and Nutraceutical type applications.

Increasing milk supply and quality

Milk production in Ireland has consistently increased since the abolition of EU milk quotas in 2015. In 2021 alone, milk production increased by over 6% to reach 8.8 billion litres. In addition to the growth in production volumes, there has been an increase in fat and protein levels in Irish milk in recent years (Source: Bord Bia Performance and Prospects 2022).

Welfare Friendly Farms

Citizens of the EU and Ireland care deeply about animal welfare and the ethical treatment of animals.

Under EU law, animals are recognised as sentient beings, meaning they are capable of feeling pleasure and pain.

The guiding principle underlying the animal welfare provisions within the EU is that “everyone is responsible”.

Animal welfare provisions are rigorously enforced by national governments and monitored to ensure that they meet their objective.

Veterinary Controls

As an EU member state, Ireland has a very efficient veterinary control system. Controls are implemented to verify that the highest legal standards of quality and safety for human consumption are maintained at all production levels.

Ireland’s Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine carry out monitoring and enforcement measures to verify compliance with legislation. While also providing the certification of dairy products for export to Third Country markets across the globe.

Dairy Production in Ireland



Ireland exports over **€5 billion** of dairy products every year, making it making it Ireland's largest food and drink export category. Ireland is renowned for the production of quality dairy products and ingredients

(Source: Bord Bia Performance and Prospects 2022).

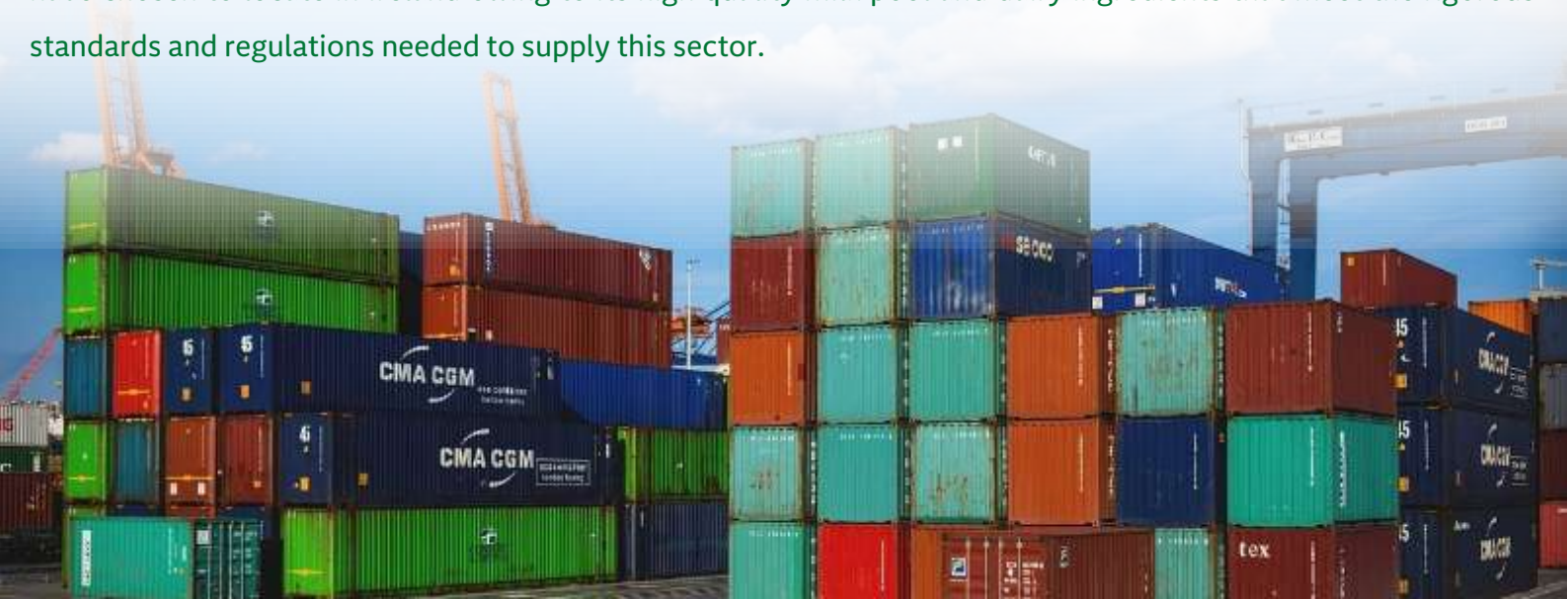
Ireland has a population of approximately five million people, yet it produces enough dairy to feed multiples of that. What Ireland produces is influenced by its seasonal grass growth and its dairy production is focused on high quality butter, cheese and powder products. Ireland is synonymous with grass fed butter and continues to build on its global reputation.

262,297mt

Ireland exported 262,297mt of cheese in 2021, and is particularly well known for its cheddar cheese production (Source: Bord Bia Performance and Prospects 2022). The industry is continuing to enhance its cheese

making capabilities in other varieties such as mozzarella and continental cheeses.

Ireland has earned a strong reputation for the production of dairy powders, including fat filled, skim milk, casein, whole milk and butter milk powders as well as premium specialised nutrition. Multinational nutritional companies have chosen to locate in Ireland owing to its high-quality milk pool and dairy ingredients that meet the rigorous standards and regulations needed to supply this sector.





Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme

The Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (SDAS) is the national Irish dairy scheme with close to 100 percent participation from Irish dairy farmers. The SDAS monitors quality assurance requirements and collects farm performance data to demonstrate the sustainability of Irish dairying at individual farm level.

It monitors Ireland's progress in a systematic way on its journey of continuous improvement. A farm visit is conducted by an independent auditor on every member's farm at 18-month intervals and a comprehensive report is produced on the performance of the farm under the criteria of the two main components of the SDAS: Sustainability and Quality Assurance.

Dairy Farming in Ireland

Ireland's dairy industry is built on the tradition of intergenerational family farming.

1.6 million

In 2021, Irish dairy cow numbers totalled 1.6 million, producing approximately 8.8 billion litres or 5,648 litres per cow

64 hectares

The average size of an Irish dairy farm is 64 hectares or 0.64 square kilometres with the average herd size being 91 cows.

17,000

There are approximately 17,000 multigenerational family-owned dairy farms.

Ireland - A Food Island

Situated on the edge of Western Europe, Ireland is a country that is fortunate to have the Gulf stream bringing warm waters up from the Gulf of Mexico and this is what explains Ireland's mild temperate climate. Our abundant rainfall means we have one of the longest growing seasons in Europe, perfect for creating green lush landscapes that nourish our animals.

Ireland's ideal agricultural conditions result in cows in Ireland spending, on average, 240 days each year on pasture, with 95% of their diet consisting of grass.

Optimum Climate

With its temperate ocean climate, Ireland does not suffer from the excessive temperature fluctuations experienced by other areas at its latitude. Winters are short and mild, summers never too dry or sultry. Our hills and mountains, near most of the coast, create a safe shelter from wind and ocean currents. Under such favourable conditions, livestock are free to roam the lush green pastures from mid-March to mid-November. During the colder winter months, livestock are fed preserved grass known as silage.



Natural Water Supply

A natural supply of water from the rain and ground provides sufficient water for agricultural purposes, therefore there is no need to irrigate the land. Ireland gets an average of 1,750-2,400mm of rainfall per year, ensuring optimum grass growth from February to November that will meet dairy herd requirements.

Abundant grass

Ireland has the perfect climate for grass growth and enjoys one of the longest grassing growing seasons in Europe. Ireland covers 6.9 million hectares. 64% of this land is dedicated to agriculture and 81% of agricultural land is devoted to pasture, hay or silage. This permanent pasture acts as a carbon store and Irish dairy farmers also use multi-species swards of grass for greater biodiversity and animal health.

Clear air

The air quality in Ireland, measured by the Environmental Protection Agency, has some of the highest AQIH (Air Quality Index for Health) values in Europe, and ranked in the top 20 countries in the world in 2021 (Source: IQAir 2021). On a scale from one to ten with one being the highest air quality, Ireland has consistently maintained a score of one to three, contributing to the ideal environment for agriculture (Source: Environmental Protection Agency, 2022).



SUSTAINABILITY

Producing food that is kinder to the environment.

Sustainability is a growing priority for consumers, retailers and governments around the world.

Sustainability is also central to the development of agriculture in the EU, increasingly reflected in its policies and legislation.

In the coming decade, the EU will build on what are already some of the world's highest environmental standards to take advantage of advances in genetic improvement, improved housing, increased feed efficiency and improvements in herd health to enhance the sustainability of dairy farming across EU Member States.

Ireland has taken a leadership role in sustainable agriculture through Origin Green.

Origin Green

Launched in 2012, Origin Green is a national sustainability programme for Ireland's entire food and drink industry. It is the only food and drink sustainability programme in the world operating on a national scale, uniting government, the private sector and food producers through Bord Bia, the Irish Food Board.

Working across all levels of the supply chain, this independently verified programme, enables Ireland's farmers, food producers and retail and foodservice operators to set and achieve measurable sustainability targets, reduce environmental impact, serve local communities more effectively and protect the rich natural resources that Ireland enjoys.

340 companies

At present, Origin Green has over 340 companies with independently verified and annually monitored sustainability plans. These members represent 90% of total Irish food and drink exports.





GRASS FED STANDARD

Why Grass Fed Dairy is Better?

Grass fed dairy has higher levels of beneficial nutrients compared to indoor-based dairy, supporting healthy lifestyles (Source: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine 2020, 'Comprehensive review of the advantages and disadvantages of pasture-based feeding systems to the chemical composition, characteristics and quality of milk and dairy products').



Improved Environmental Sustainability

European grass fed dairy from Ireland has one of the lowest greenhouse gas footprints, per kilo of milk produced, in the world (Source: Teagasc 2021, 'Irish Dairying - Delivering Sustainability').



Consumers Will Pay a Premium for Grass Fed Dairy

Half of consumers globally said that grass fed would influence their choice of dairy, and over 60% of consumers in key markets claim that they would pay more for grass fed products (Source: Bord Bia/Ernst and Young Research 2018, 'Global Consumer Trends in Dairy').



Improved Animal Welfare

Dairy cows can lead more 'natural' lives out on pasture (Source: Animal, Volume 11, Issue 2, 2017, 'Review: welfare of dairy cows in continuously housed and pasture-based production systems').

What is the Objective of the Grass Fed Standard?

The Bord Bia Grass Fed Standard for the Irish dairy industry is the world's first independently verified grass fed certification. It provides reassurance that dairy products carrying this standard have been produced using milk from grass fed cows on the island of Ireland. This creates the opportunity for international customers to promote their dairy products as certified grass fed, an increasingly important driver of consumer preference.

Product Portfolio

Butter	Unsalted Lactic
	Unsalted Sweet Cream
	Salted Sweet Cream
Solid Milk Fats	Whey
	Ghee
Cheese	AMF
	White Cheddar
	Red Cheddar
	Red Leicester
	Monterey Jack
	Cagliata
	Mozzarella
	Emmental
Nutritional Powder	Others
	Infant Formula
Milk Powders	Full Cream Milk Powder
	Fat Filled Milk Powder
	Buttermilk Powder
	Skim Milk Powder
	Skim Milk Yoghurt Powder
	Whey Protein Concentrate
	Whey
	Permeate
	Demineralised Whey
	Powder
Casein	Acid Casein
	Rennet Casein
	Caseinate
	Sodium Caseinate
	Calcium Caseinate
Blended Powders	Skim/Whey Blends
	Other Blends



Dairy Ingredients - Produced and sold in bulk SKU formats, usually decanted or combined with other ingredients in a manufacturing facility to produce a finished product. Numerous specifications of Butters, Cheeses, Powders Key ingredient to provide both nutrition and mouthfeel to the end products.



Foodservice Dairy - Produced and sold in large SKU formats and with specific applications in mind. Typical formats include blocks, grated, sliced, diced, and shredded. Numerous specifications of Butters, Cheeses, Powders.



Consumer / Retail Ready Dairy - Produced in smaller SKU formats for direct purchase and consumption by a consumer. Formats are "portable", table and fridge ready.



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For more information on European dairy from Ireland, please
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