

EGF 2018

17TH - 21ST JUNE 2018 | CORK, IRELAND

27th EGF General Meeting

17th – 21st June, 2018

Cork, Ireland

Conference Summary



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An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
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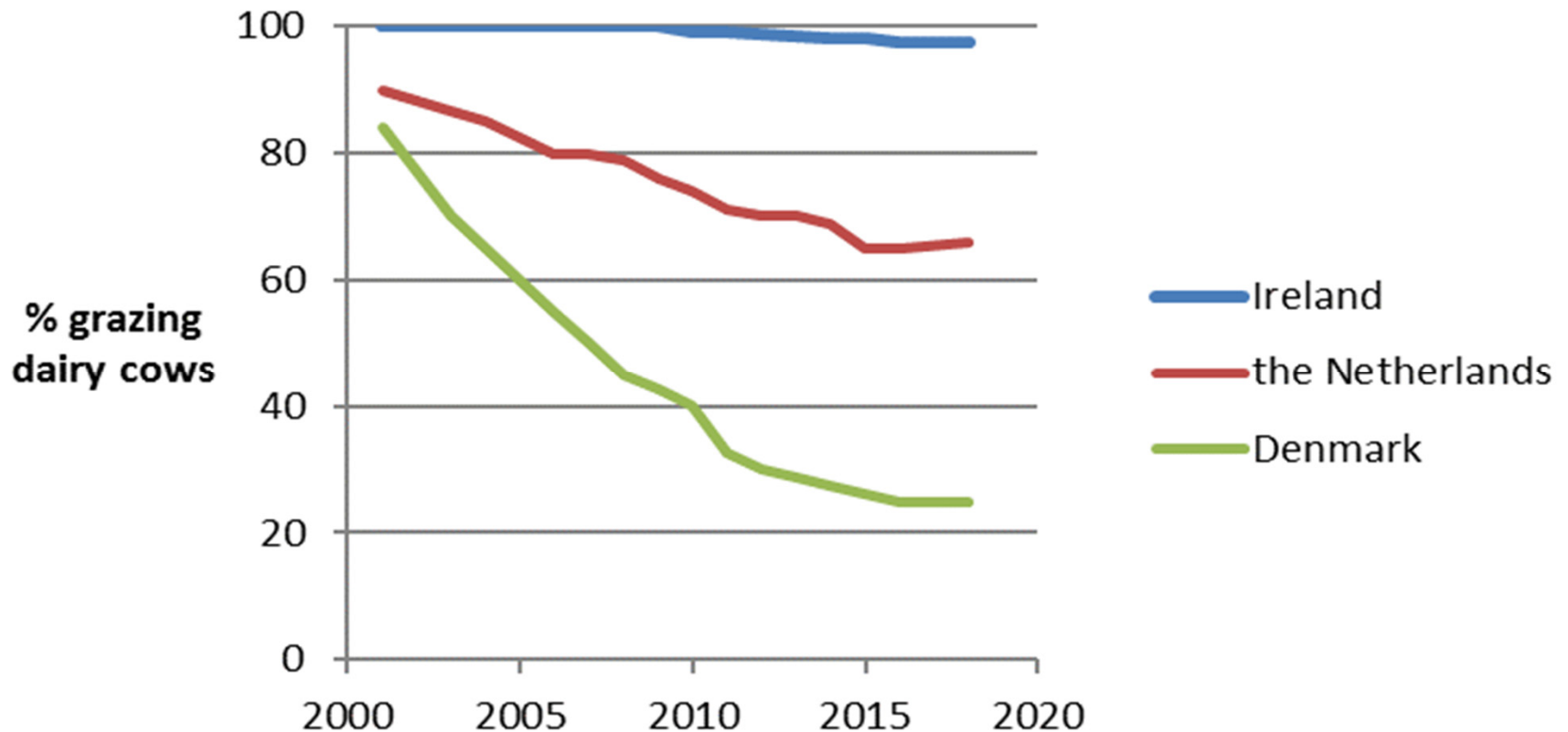


Conference Theme

Sustainable Meat and Milk Production from Grasslands



Grazing under threat



EGF Working Group Grazing

Van den Pol-van Dasselaar, Hennessy, Isselstein, De Vliegheer, 2018

Session themes

- ✿ **Resilient plants for grass based ruminant production systems, adapting grassland systems to the dynamics of climate and resource availability**
- ✿ **Resilient plants**
- ✿ **Are we breeding for farm performance?**
 - ✿ **need to re-evaluate breeding objectives in line with farmer requirements**



Session themes

- ✿ **Appropriate livestock for grasslands, key characteristics of animals adapted to and suitable for grasslands**
- ✿ **A robust animal is transparent – invisible and easy care**
- ✿ **Ability to cope with resource variability and to rebound**
- ✿ **Fertility is a key component**



Session themes

- ✿ **Environmental influences on grassland systems – consequences of climate change, mitigation strategies, and impacts on ecosystems**
- ✿ **Maintain or build existing soil C stocks and prevent C loss**
- ✿ **Trade off between herbage use for grazing and cutting and C sequestration**
- ✿ **To optimise multiple ESS, we could (or should) combine specific measures**



Session themes

- ✿ **Social and economic impacts of grass based ruminant production**
- ✿ **We must always remember that farmers are the key actors**
 - ✿ Researchers must engage with farmers
- ✿ **We need to set standards to identify pasture based products**
 - ✿ Can be identified
 - ✿ Many health benefits

Session themes

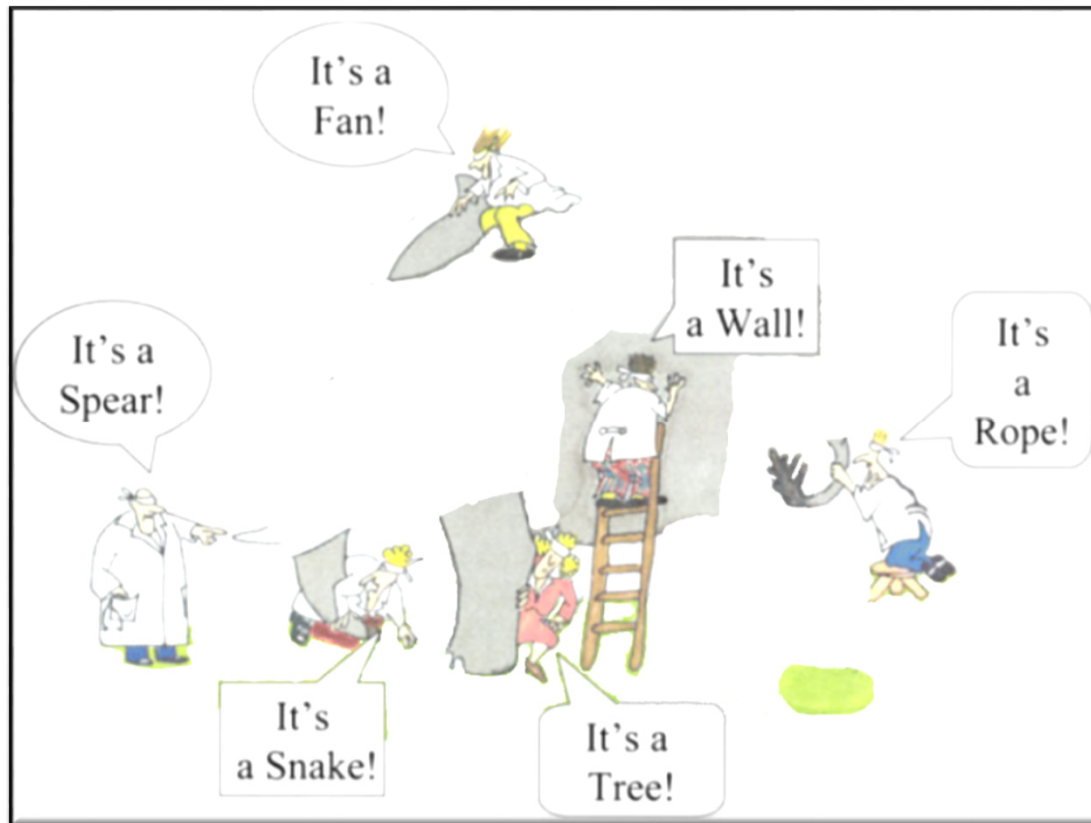
🌿 **Big data and smart technologies in grassland**

- Potential to increase sustainability in pasture based systems
- Precision technologies will have a significant role but we need to provide integrated solutions
 - Timely information
 - Interpreted decisions
 - Appropriate medium



Session themes

- ✿ Knowledge transfer to stakeholders
- ✿ Knowledge “sharing” instead of “transfer”



What next?

- Engage the farmer
 - In all stages of research
- Engage the consumer
 - Is grass fed?
 - Can we prove it?
 - Proper/standard criteria
- In research ask the questions
 - Is it applied?
 - What will it tell/show/achieve....?
- We need clear goals in everything we do
 - What do we want to achieve?

Sustainability.....

- We need to know the answer
- We need to share the answer
- We need to be open with the answer

Organising and Scientific Committees



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General Secretary – Dr. Deirdre Hennessy

Organising Committee

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