

Dairy systems: Farming today

Irish pasture-based dairy systems in 2023

Opportunities

- **+25% sector value**
- Highly skilled people
- Consumer demand

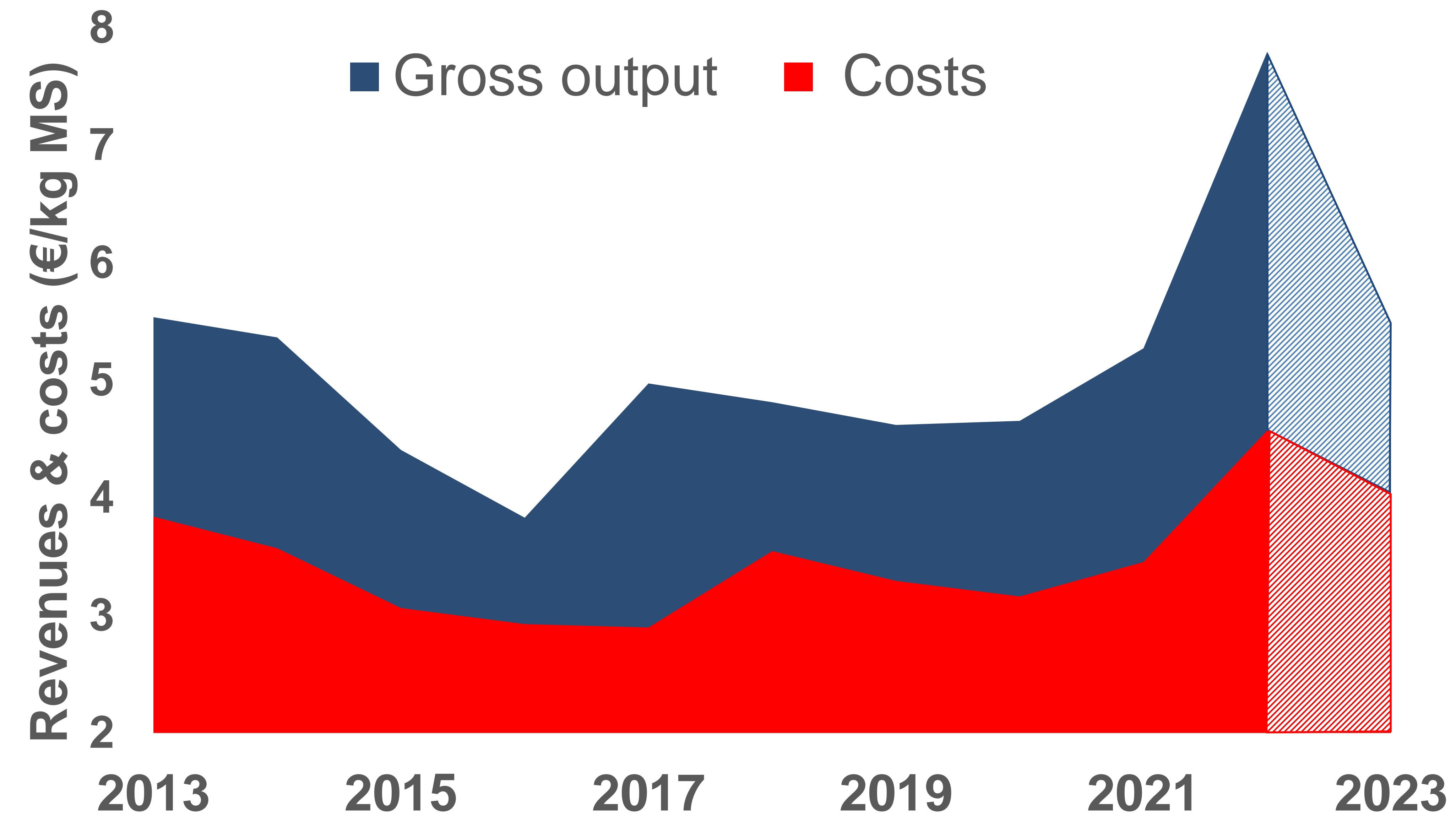
Challenges

- **+32% production costs**
- Increased expectations
- Increased competition

KPIs for pasture-based systems

Indicator	2013	Current	Target
6 week calving rate (%)	59	67	90
Herd maturity (calvings/cow)	3.4	3.6	> 4.5
Grazed pasture in the diet (%)	60	57	>70
Pasture utilised (t DM/ha)	6.7	8.0	13.0

Financial focus – Protecting margins



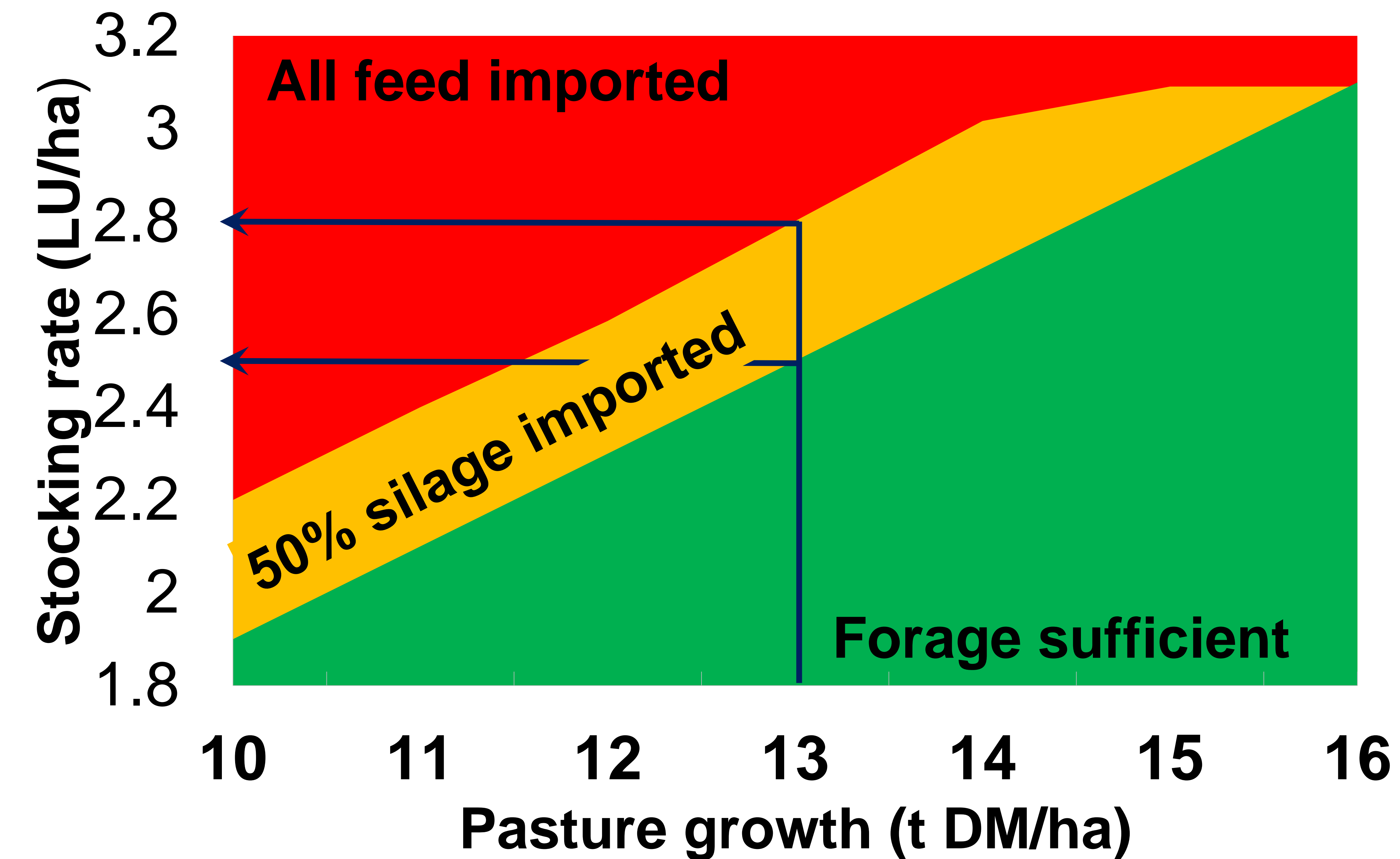
Key actions in 2023

- Financial & fodder budget prepared
- Reappraise discretionary capex & shop around
- Identify & make decisions early - fodder

with tomorrow in mind

Optimum stocking rate – the sweet spot

National stats (LU/ha)	2013	2017	2022
Overall	1.9	2.1	2.1
Milking platform	2.0	2.4	2.7



A 50 hour week in spring – it can be done!

From 1 st Feb to 30 th June	Top 25%	Bottom 25%
Hours worked per week	51	70
Start time	06:47	07:00
Finish time	18:25	19:58
Labour efficiency (h/cow)	17.4	20.9

Simple system

- ✓ Efficient grass based system
- ✓ Easy care cow
- ✓ Work organisation - outsourcing
- ✓ Facilities and technologies

Labour efficient farms are **more** profitable

Take home messages

- Focus on the basics
- Budget and cost control now
- Become the 50 hour farmer!!!