The Irish Suckler Cow in 2030.

Dr. Andrew Cromie, ICBF.
### Key Performance Indicator Suckler Cow 2019 (cows = 6,662)
- **Genetic Merit Replacement Index (€):** €89
- **Cow & Calf Perf.**
  - **Cow Weight (kg):** 633
  - **Calf Weight (kg):** 280
  - **Weanling Efficiency (%):** 44%
- **Female Fertility**
  - **Age at 1st Calving Mths:** 29.8
  - **Calving Interval Days:** 386
- **Dams Other Calves Performance.**
  - **Carcass Weight kg:** 380
  - **Age at slaughter Mts:** 23.4
  - **Carcass Conf Grade:** U-

### Suckler Cow 2030 (cows = 289)
- **Genetic Merit Replacement Index (€):** €169
- **Cow & Calf Perf.**
  - **Cow Weight (kg):** 637
  - **Calf Weight (kg):** 290
  - **Weanling Efficiency (%):** 46%
- **Female Fertility**
  - **Age at 1st Calving Mths:** 28.9
  - **Calving Interval Days:** 374
- **Dams Other Calves Performance.**
  - **Carcass Weight kg:** 389
  - **Age at slaughter Mts:** 22.7
  - **Carcass Conf Grade:** U-

### Diff. 19 vs 30
- **Genetic Merit Replacement Index (€):** +€80/calf
- **Cow Weight (kg):** No diff
- **Calf Weight (kg):** + 10 kg
- **Weanling Efficiency (%):** + 2%
- **Age at 1st Calving Mths:** -29 days
- **Calving Interval Days:** -12 days
- **Carcass Weight kg:** + 9kg
- **Age at slaughter Mts:** -22 days
- **Carcass Conf Grade:** No diff
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Extra Slides.

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• Past focus on terminal traits => decline in maternal traits & no gain in replacement index. Beef genomics scheme introduced (2014), replacement index has turned around => Major gains in calves/cow/year and carcass traits.

• Clear evidence that commercial beef farmers are responding positively to new technologies such as €uro-Stars & beef genomics.
Background; BDGP Goal => €150 gain in cow profitability with a 10% reduction in GHG output/cow.

![Graph showing herd emissions and replacement index over years]

- Replacement Index (euro per cow)
- CO2e reduction

AgTech – it’s in our DNA
Why weanling efficiency is important?

- Contributes almost 50% of the weighting into the replacement index.
- Ideally we want a medium sized cow, with heavy weanling, e.g., 630 kg cow & 300 kg weanling => 48% weanling efficiency.)