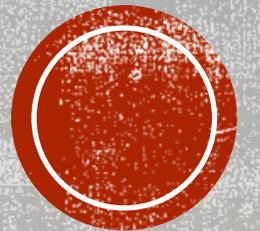




FARMERS IN IRELAND AND THEIR ANNUAL CALENDARS

By Ingrid Tientcheu



FARMERS

- Farmers continue to work the longest hours per week in Ireland, according to latest statistics sent out by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).
- Of the 14 economic sectors, the CSO figures show that the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector had the highest average usual hours worked per week (seven days) at 50.4 hours in 2015 with the Education sector having the lowest at 29.7 hours worked per week in the same period.
- The average usual hours worked per week in 2015 was 35.7 hours.
- Farmers worked longer hours so far this year than any year since 2010. Last year farmers only worked 47 hours per week – some three hours less than this year.





FARMING IN THE PAST

- The earliest humans hunted and gathered their food. Then humans discovered how to farm the land.

The Middle Stone Age

- Long ago, about 9,000BC, there were Stone Age people living in Ireland. This was the Middle Stone Age. People did not know how to farm the land or tame animals. They got food by hunting animals, fishing and gathering fruits and nuts.
- They made tools such as harpoons and spears from wood and stones which helped them to hunt and fish.





© David Lucey

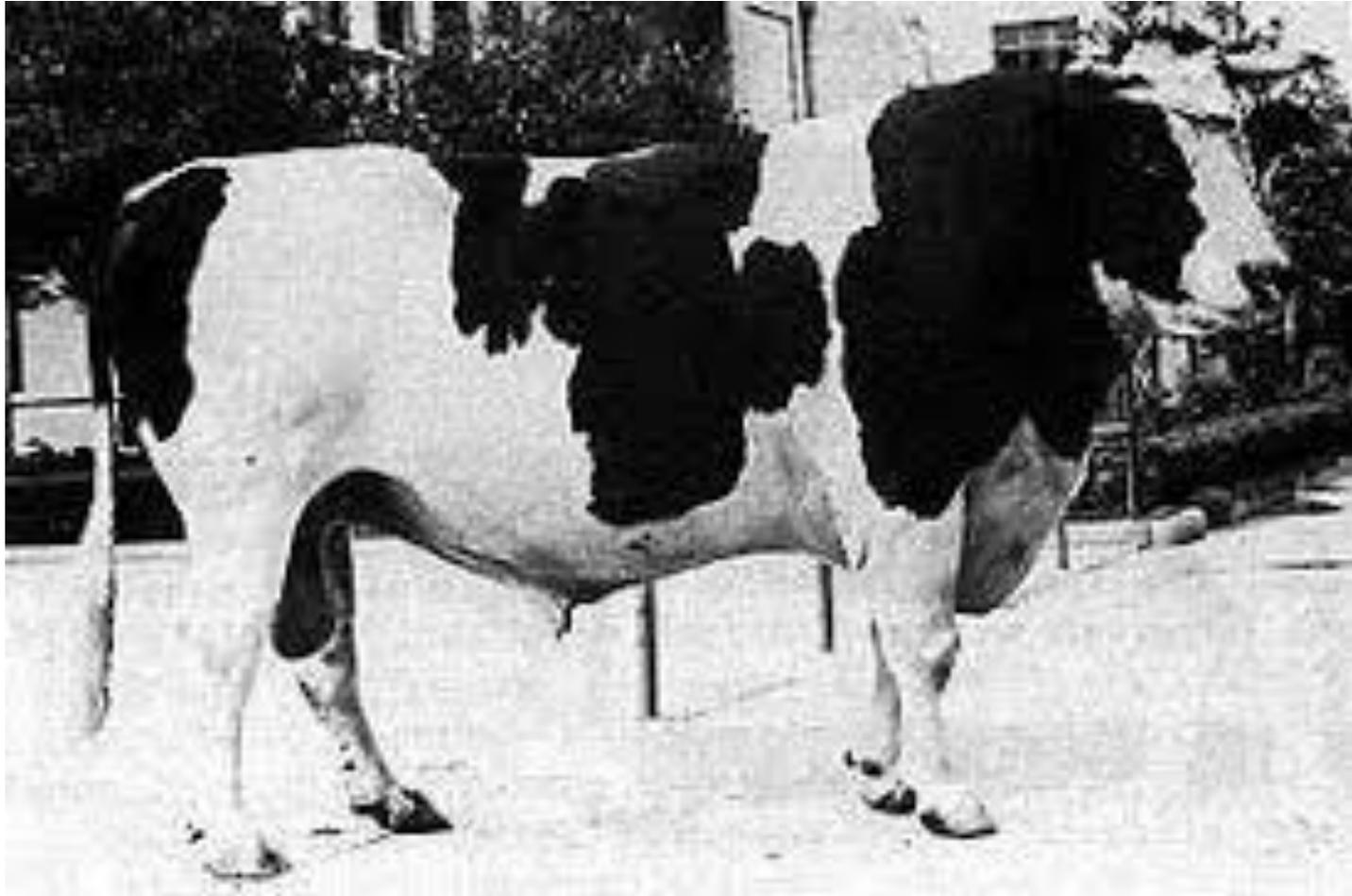
The New Stone Age

- Later on, in about 4000BC, more people came to Ireland. They came from places now called Britain, France and Spain. They brought with them a new invention called farming. They became Ireland's first farmers. This was the beginning of the New Stone Age in Ireland.

Advantages:

- People did not have to move around in search of food.
- People did not run out of food as often as before. It was a better way of life.





IRELAND'S FIRST FARM ANIMALS

- The first farmers also brought the first farm animals to Ireland. They brought animals such as cattle and sheep over seas on wooden crafts and canoes cut out of tree trunks.
- Farm animals were used to help farm the land. They were also eaten as food.



FARMING IN THE PRESENT: CHANGES

Since our grandparent's time there have been a lot of changes in Irish farming. Today machinery does a lot of the work. This means that less people are needed to run farms.

The picture behind shows how ploughing and planting seeds has changed. Today large machines do most of the work. In this way the tradition of the Meitheal is no longer needed in Irish country life.



THE TWO TYPE OF CALENDARS THAT WE WILL BE LOOKING AT TODAY ARE :

1) Shepherd's Calendar

- We will follow a mid-season lambing schedule.



2) Pig Farmers Calendar

- Pork producers face public scrutiny of their operations.



SHEPARD'S CALENDARS

- The calendar on the next few slides shows some of the various husbandry activities that take place on an Irish sheep farm throughout the working year.
- Each farmer and each part of the country is different, but they will be involved in similar activities at different times throughout the year depending if the farmer houses sheep or not. Also when the farmer lambs depends on which market he aims for.
- There will be some duplication of tasks within the months of the year.
- Most farmers consider their sheep year starts the month before the Ram goes to the Ewes . This depends on which season they are lambing for. If they want to lamb in March the Ram goes to Ewes in October so they start preparing Ewes in September.



Month		
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check feet: dip and clip • New Sheep Vaccinate with Clostridial, Toxoplasmosis, and Pasteurella. • Dose for Worms (internal parasites-lead to death) • Dagging (clip wool about the tail area of all Ewes) • Nutrition should be improved (increase of good grass and supplementary food.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clostridial-only universally-recommended vaccine for sheep and lambs is for clostridial diseases • Pasteurella:vaccine for pneumonia - requires two injections - nasal spray
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Ram • Ewes on good grass/nutrition 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch feet and condition of Ram and Ewes • Remove Ram after 6 weeks; this has enabled the Ram to be present through 2 of the Ewes breeding cycles. • Keep Ewes on good nutrition, do not over feed. 	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing sheep • Mid pregnancy Ewes should be safely pregnant so nutrition can be kept at maintenance levels. • 90 days after mating, scan Ewes for lamb numbers. 	
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Nutrition 6 weeks out from 1st lambing date if Orf is a problem Vaccinate 	

Month	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 - 6 weeks out from 1st lambing vaccinate for Pasteurella and give Clostridial booster which protects new lambs for up to 100 days after birth
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Nutrition - as ewes enter the final third of pregnancy, it is important to get nutrition right because 75pc of foetal growth takes place in the last seven weeks of pregnancy. This is why getting ewe nutrition right in the last third of pregnancy is so important.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lambing • Trim feet deal with foot-rot • Dose Ewes for spring rise of worms • Turn out Ewes and young lambs to sheltered fields • Lambs very vulnerable to Magpie, Fox, Hooded Crow, Stray Dogs. • Improve nutrition for lactating Ewes
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st dose lambs at 5 – 6 weeks old for Nematodirus(a severe disease affecting lambs between six-to-12 weeks of age, leading to a reduction in lamb growth rates and in severe cases death)
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for fly strike(myiasis condition, in which domestic sheep are infected by one of several species of flies which are external parasites of sheep) • Lambs 10 weeks old dose for worms • Dosing, Foot maintenance, Dipping, Shearing
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect against fly strike • Pick out replacement Ewe lambs • Shearing, Dosing, Foot maintenance, Dipping • Weight & Draft sell lambs

Month	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shearing • Weaning, sell market ready lambs before weaning. • Dose for worms • Put Ewes on poor pasture and keep eye out for Mastitis • Start Clostridial Vaccinations for replacement Ewe lambs
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check condition of Ewes • Put replacement Ewe lambs into their own flock on good grass.



Ewe: female
Ram: male



Sheep dip is a liquid formulation of insecticide and fungicide which shepherds use to protect their sheep from infestation against external parasites such as itch mite blow-fly, ticks and lice.



A group of sheep in a pen.



- The general public often remains unaware of the steps involved in pig farming or the choices farmers face at each stage of that process. An overview of a basic pig production model reveals numerous points where farmers must make choices that influence the health, fecundity and biosecurity of the herd.



PIG FARMER'S CALENDARS



- **Breeding**

- Swine farmers may choose to use natural reproduction, or artificial insemination with their herd.

- **Gestation (112-115 days)**

- The pregnant females, called “in-pig,” may then be housed individually or in groups. In group sow housing, the layout will be based on the feeding system. However, in general, group sow housing can be divided into either fully open or partial stall access.



▪ Farrowing (3-5 weeks)

- As sows near the time to give birth, most farms move the females to individual enclosures that are equipped with an area, called a creep, where piglets can avoid being crushed by the mother or other pigs.
- Some farmers may then use creep feeding, or supplementation of the sow's milk with pelleted feed. For piglets to fully benefit from creep feeding, they must have sufficient time to consume about 500 grams of feed before weaning (detaching them from their mother/sow).
- Piglets are usually weaned between three and five weeks of age. Weaning piglets young can reduce the time to the next litter. However, a higher growth rate, and feed intake often result from increasing weaning age and by providing liquid diets and creep feeding.



- **Nursery/growing (6-9 weeks)**

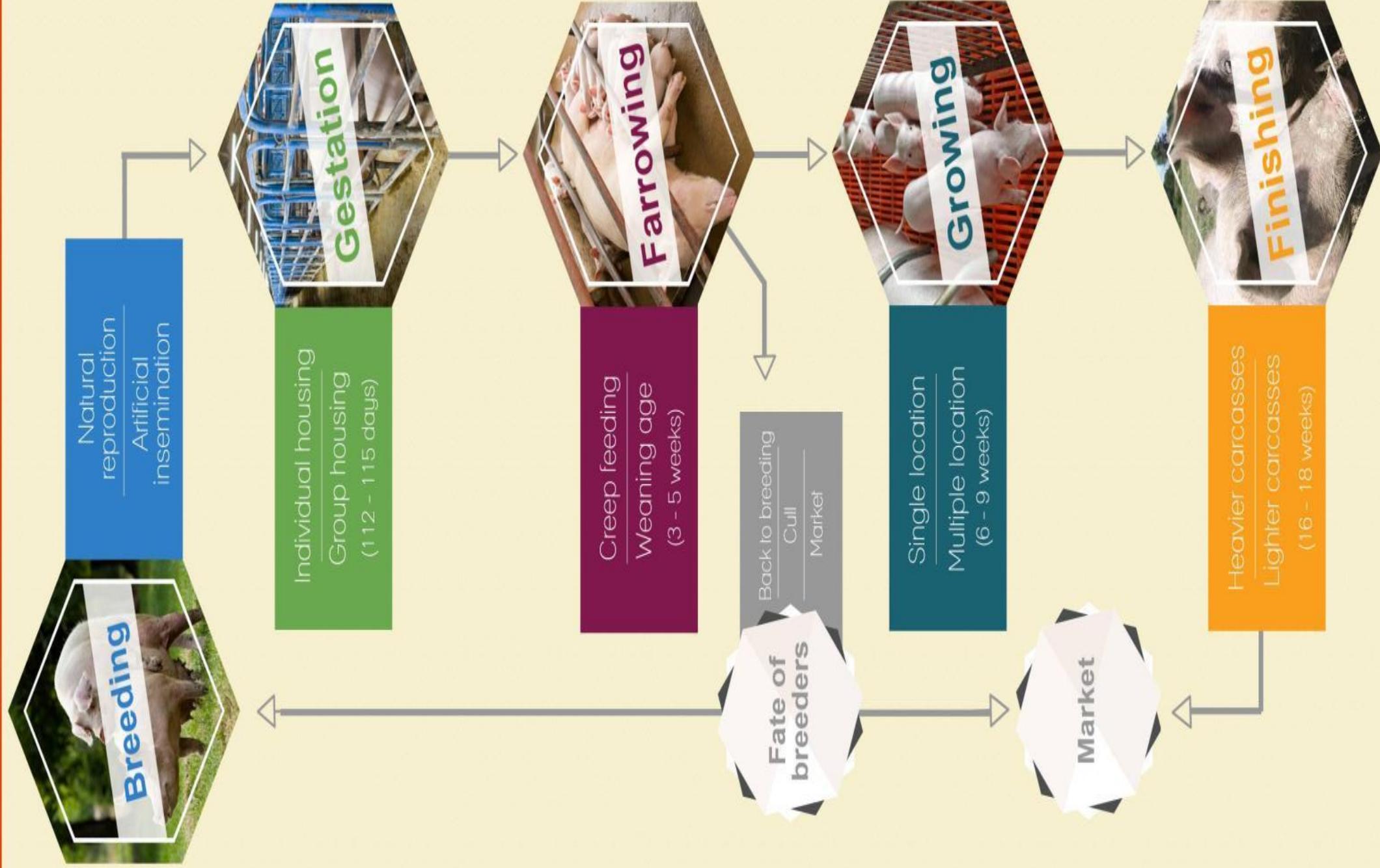
- Some farms have separate buildings for different pig life stages. Others divide a single building into three stages to be able to use the space as the pigs grows from weaner to grower to finisher. Dividing the piglets by age group allows greater biosecurity and efficient use of space.

- **Finishing (16-18 weeks)**

- Pigs that are fed and managed properly during the weaning transition can better reach their full potential at finishing. At finishing, a pig may weigh 250 pounds or more.
- From the pig processor's point of view, increasing pigs trunk weight can have financial benefits because, depending on equipment, the cost of processing a heavier pig may be no higher but would provide saleable meat.



Pig farming guide from start to finish



A collection of various farm animals is shown against a white background. On the left is a large tan horse. In the center is a brown cow with horns. On the right is a dark brown donkey. In the foreground, there are several sheep, a pink pig, a group of chickens (including a rooster), and a small brown dog. A white rectangular box with a black border is centered over the image, containing the text "THE END, THANKS!".

**THE END,
THANKS!**