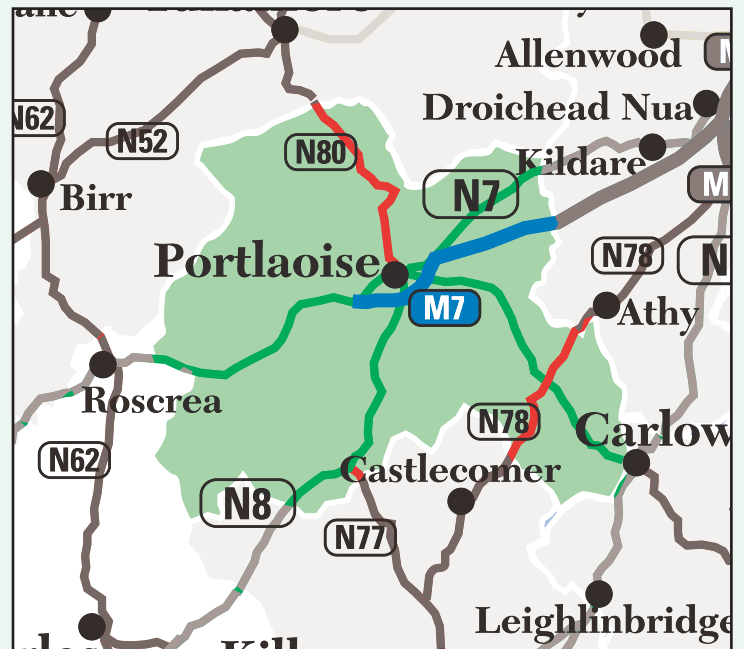


Importance of Farming and the Agri-food Industry

LAOIS



Farm Structure

- Number of Farms – 3,329
- Average Farm Size – 37 ha
- Land area farmed – 123,174 ha
- Numbers employed at farm level (FTE) – 4,207
- Stock on farm
 - Number of dairy cows – 30,686
 - Number of other (beef) cows – 37,901
 - Number of ewes – 31,804
 - Number of sows – 3,904
 - Land area under tillage – 16,920 ha
 - Land area under other crops, fruit & horticulture – 3,150 ha
 - Number of poultry – 22,816

Forestry

- Land area under private forestry – 9,860 ha
- Output from private forestry – 15,511 m³

Farm Income and Direct Payments

- Farm Income – €42m
- Direct Payments
 - Basic Payment - €38.4m
 - ANCs – €3.2m
 - BDGP - €1.2m
 - Agri-environment payments - €2m
 - Forestry Premium – €2.4m

Value of Output and Exports

- Value of Agricultural Output - €215m
- Value of Agricultural Exports arising from the agricultural output in county - €315m

Agri-Industry Employment

- Agriculture in Laois supports thousands of jobs in the rural economy, both directly in food & drink processing and also in the wider agri-industry, including input suppliers, agricultural contractors, jobs in auctioneering, transport and engineering and in accountancy, legal, veterinary and other advisory services.
- Number of food and drink processing jobs supported by agricultural output of county – 1,512
- Number of food and drink processing jobs based in the local region (Midlands – Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath) – 4,091