

Ireland

National Sheep and Goats Census

December 2005



THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE & FOOD
AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA AGUS BIA

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Sheep

Census returns indicate that at December 2005 there were just over 37,000 (37,209) sheep flocks in the country, with just over 4 million (4,006,744) sheep, an average of 108 sheep per flock. However this average is somewhat skewed as 25,389 flocks, or **over 68% of the total number of flocks**, contain sheep numbers **below** this average. Indeed 42% of flocks in the country contain 50 or less sheep.

Nationally sheep and sheep flocks are concentrated in greatest numbers on the Western sea-board – counties Donegal, Mayo, Galway and Kerry. However the flock size in the first three of these counties is below the national average. The highest average flock size is found in the Eastern counties of Wicklow, Kildare, Carlow and Waterford.

There were just over 95,000 rams in the country, with greatest numbers once again on the Western sea-board.

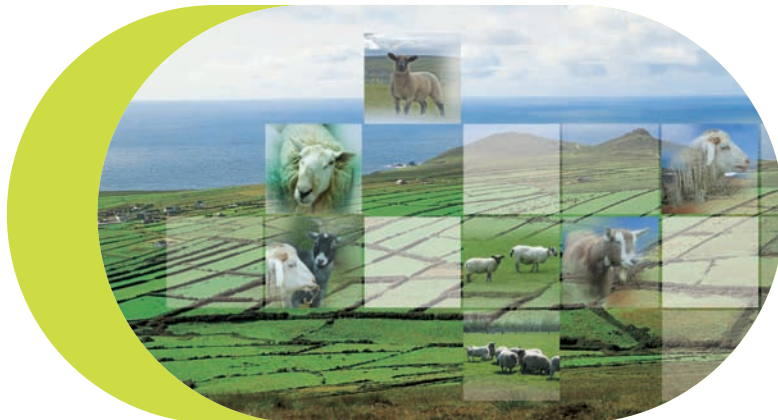
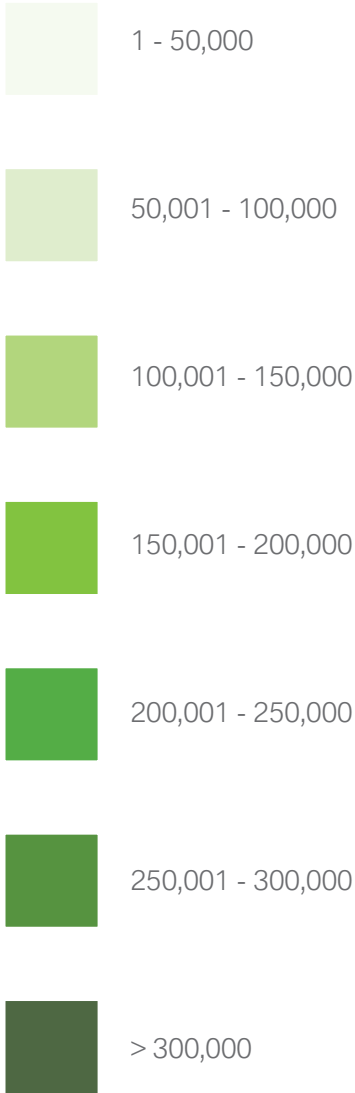
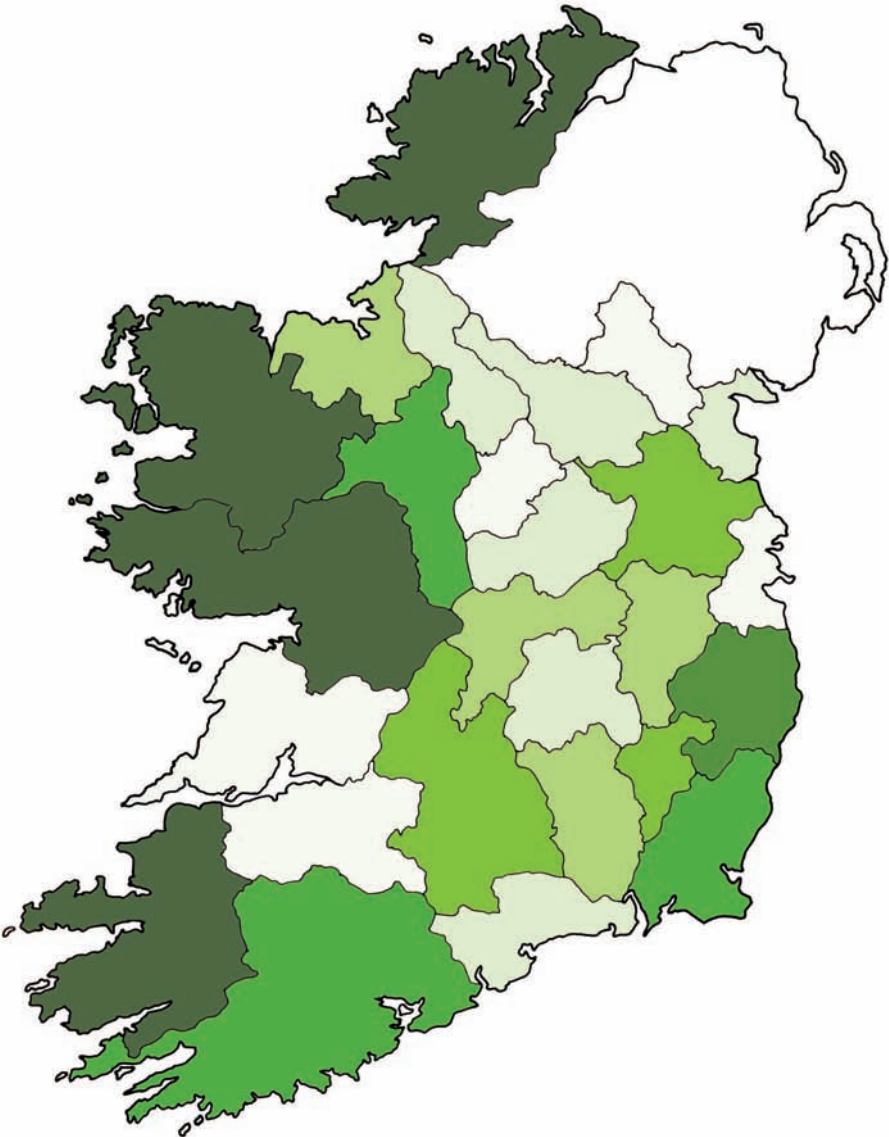


Figure 1

Total number of sheep by county



Absolute Figures
Table A

Table A

Total
number
of sheep
by county



County Number of sheep

Carlow	152,636
Cavan	58,187
Clare	27,511
Cork	213,399
Donegal	406,721
Dublin	25,022
Galway	509,074
Kerry	311,657
Kildare	126,298
Kilkenny	110,476
Laois	68,401
Leitrim	89,598
Limerick	24,782
Longford	36,243
Louth	50,686
Mayo	357,820
Meath	158,402
Monaghan	34,309
Offaly	103,043
Roscommon	204,001
Sligo	106,006
Tipperary	171,826
Waterford	75,462
Westmeath	92,942
Wexford	216,252
Wicklow	275,990

Total **4,006,744**

Table B

Total
number
of sheep
flocks
by county



County Number of Flocks

Carlow	911
Cavan	846
Clare	713
Cork	1,982
Donegal	5,008
Dublin	201
Galway	5,095
Kerry	2,273
Kildare	697
Kilkenny	784
Laois	574
Leitrim	893
Limerick	287
Longford	494
Louth	376
Mayo	4,681
Meath	1,172
Monaghan	436
Offaly	786
Roscommon	2,054
Sligo	1,447
Tipperary	1,225
Waterford	498
Westmeath	919
Wexford	1,448
Wicklow	1,409

Total **37,209**

Figure 3

Total number of sheep flocks by size of flock

Absolute figures Table c

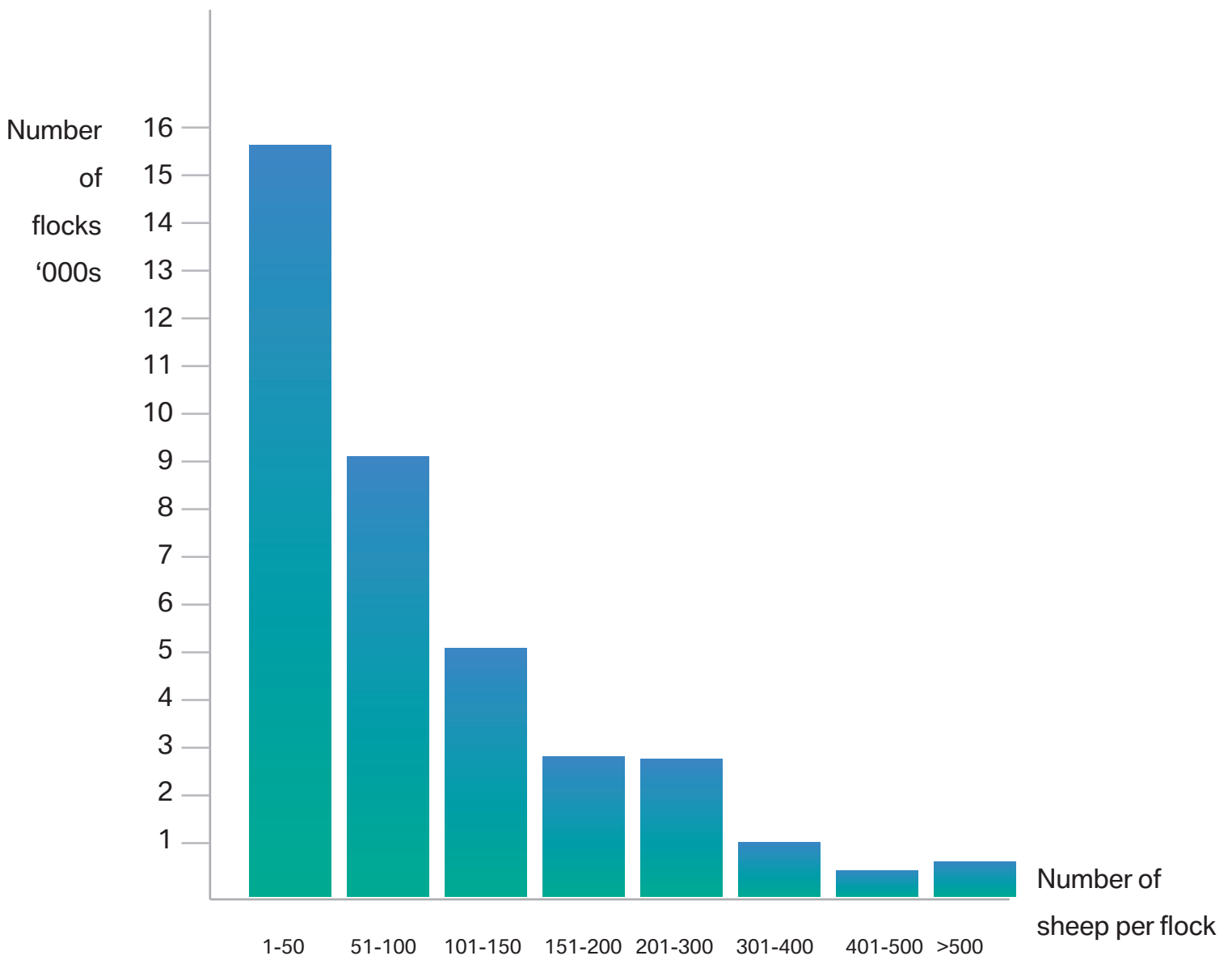


Table C

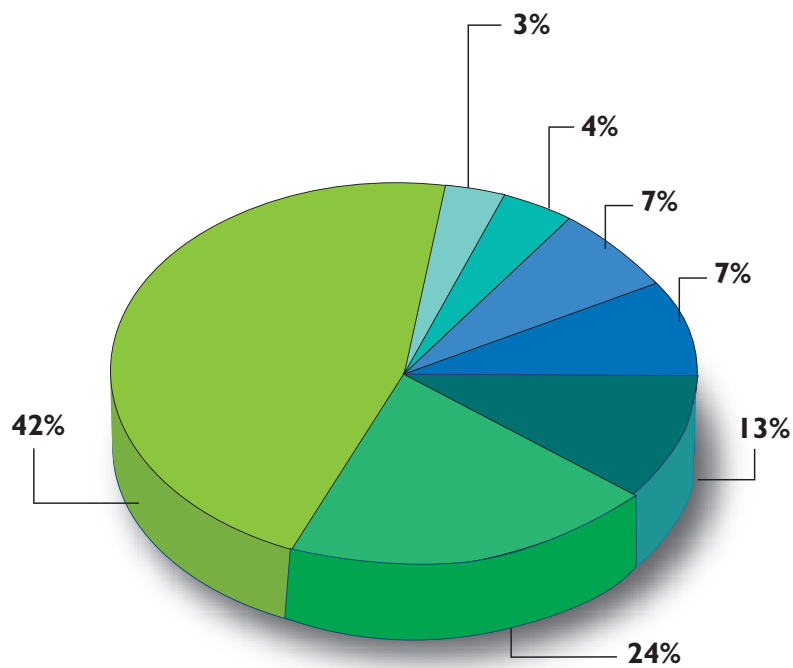
Total
number of
sheep
flocks by
size of flock



Number of sheep in flock	Number of flocks	% of total
1-50	15,547	42
51-100	8,966	24
101-150	4,857	13
151-200	2,737	7
201-300	2,659	7
301-400	1,121	3
401-500	547	2
>500	775	2
Total flocks	37,209	

Figure 4

Analysis of
sheep flock
size



Number of sheep in flock:

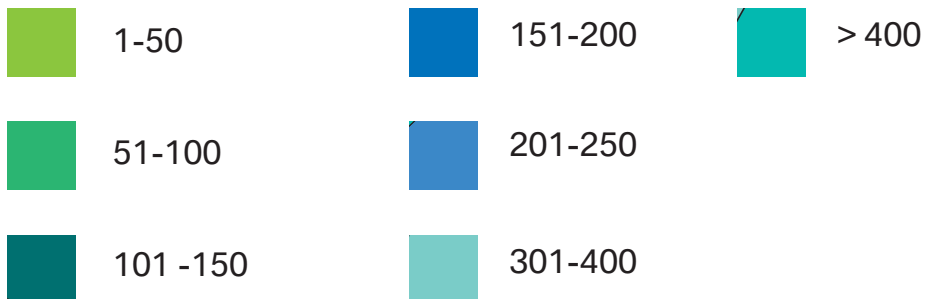
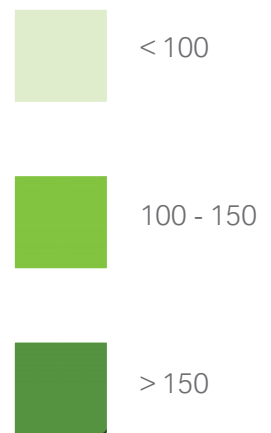
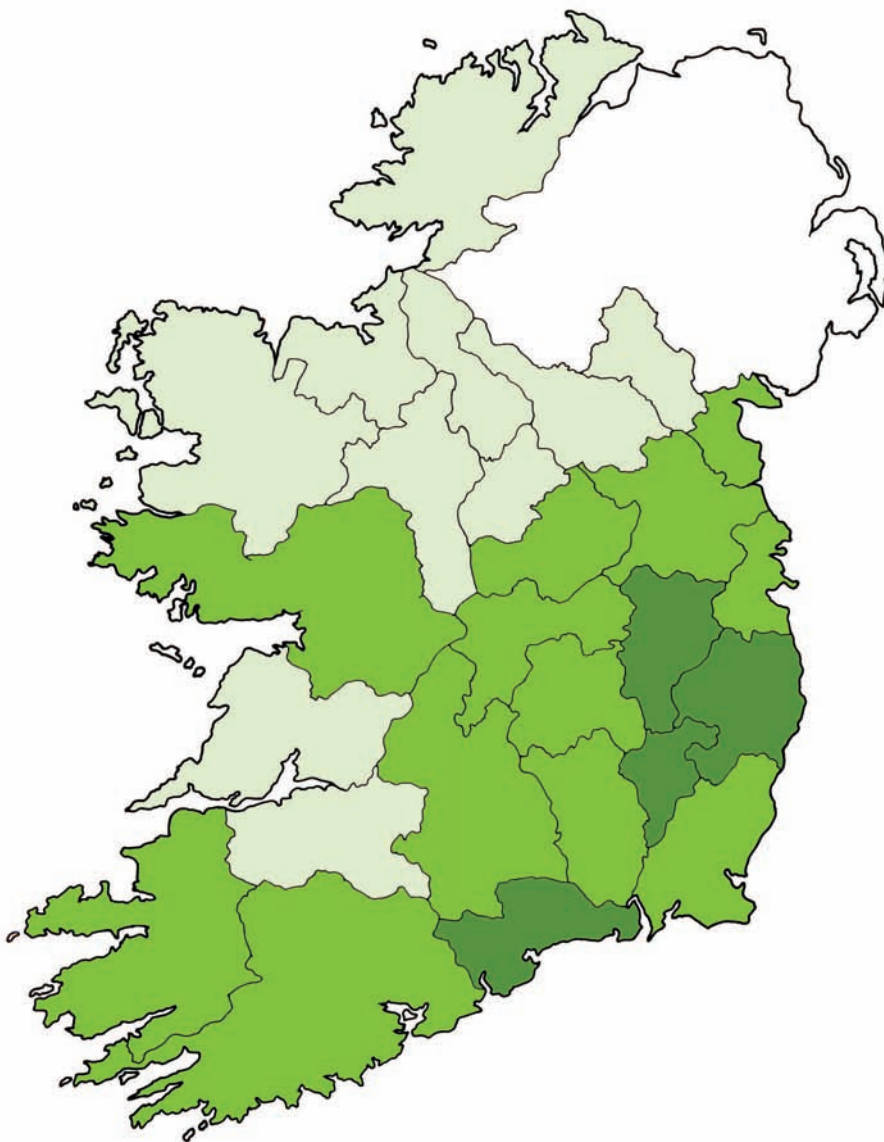


Figure 5

Average
sheep
flock size
by county



Absolute Figures
Table D

Table D

Average
flock size
by county



County Average Flock Size

Carlow	168
Cavan	69
Clare	39
Cork	108
Donegal	81
Dublin	124
Galway	100
Kerry	137
Kildare	181
Kilkenny	141
Laois	119
Leitrim	100
Limerick	86
Longford	73
Louth	135
Mayo	76
Meath	135
Monaghan	79
Offaly	131
Roscommon	99
Sligo	73
Tipperary	140
Waterford	152
Westmeath	101
Wexford	149
Wicklow	196
National average	108

Table E

Total
number of
rams
by county



County	Number of rams
Carlow	3,268
Cavan	1,614
Clare	928
Cork	5,267
Donegal	11,231
Dublin	545
Galway	11,391
Kerry	6,917
Kildare	3,044
Kilkenny	2,351
Laois	1,585
Leitrim	2,165
Limerick	547
Longford	1,164
Louth	1,307
Mayo	8,602
Meath	4,360
Monaghan	1,129
Offaly	2,252
Roscommon	4,054
Sligo	2,613
Tipperary	3,831
Waterford	1,741
Westmeath	2,325
Wexford	4,906
Wicklow	6,081
National average	95,218

Goats

Census returns indicate that at December 2005 there were 5,497 goats in Ireland (this does not include the wild goat population) in 278 herds, an average of 20 goats per herd. However this average is very skewed with a very small number of large herds masking the fact that the majority of herds are extremely small. Almost 70% of goat herds contain 5 goats or less. The vast majority of domestic goats are kept on a non commercial basis, with only 18 herds in the country containing over 50 goats.

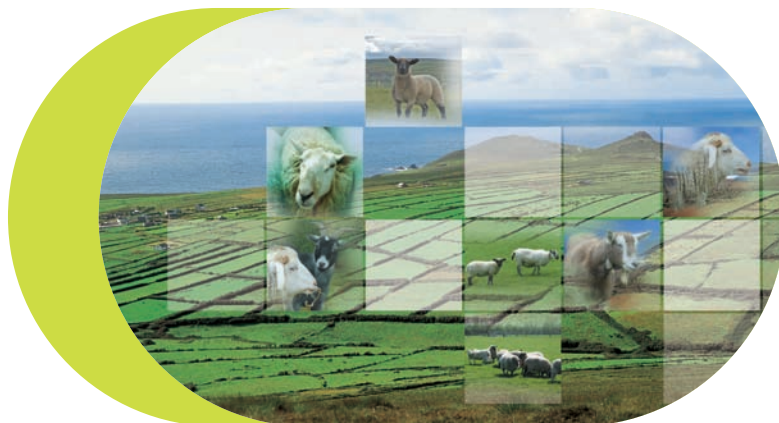
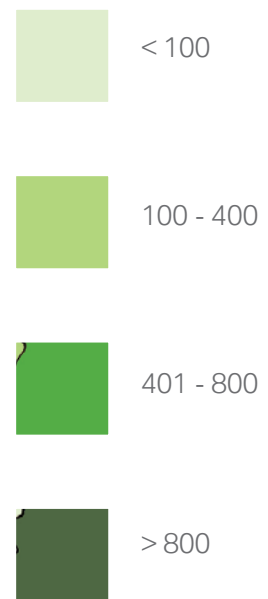
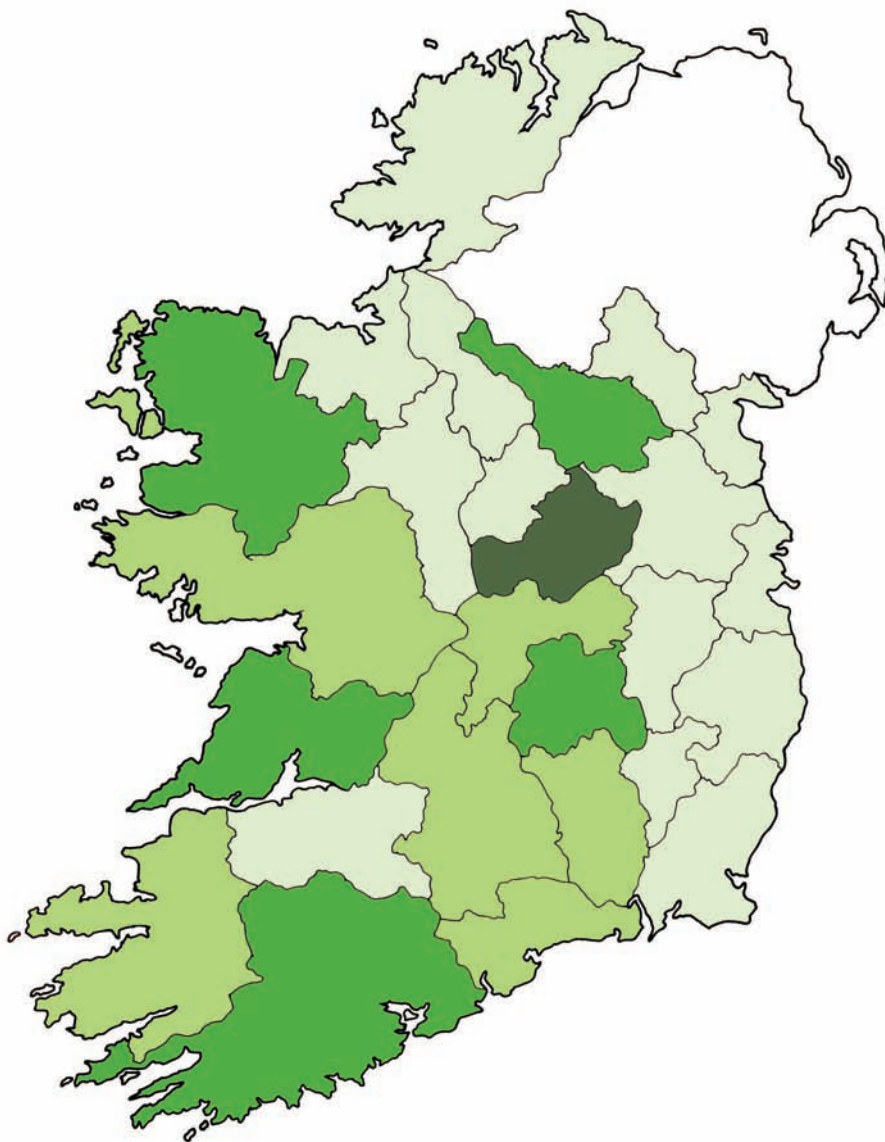


Figure 7

Total
number of
goats
by county



Absolute Figures
Table F

Table F

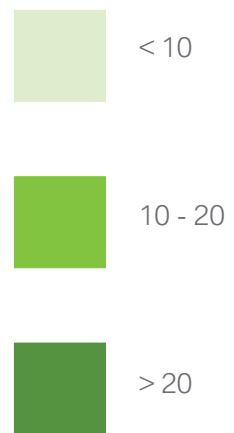
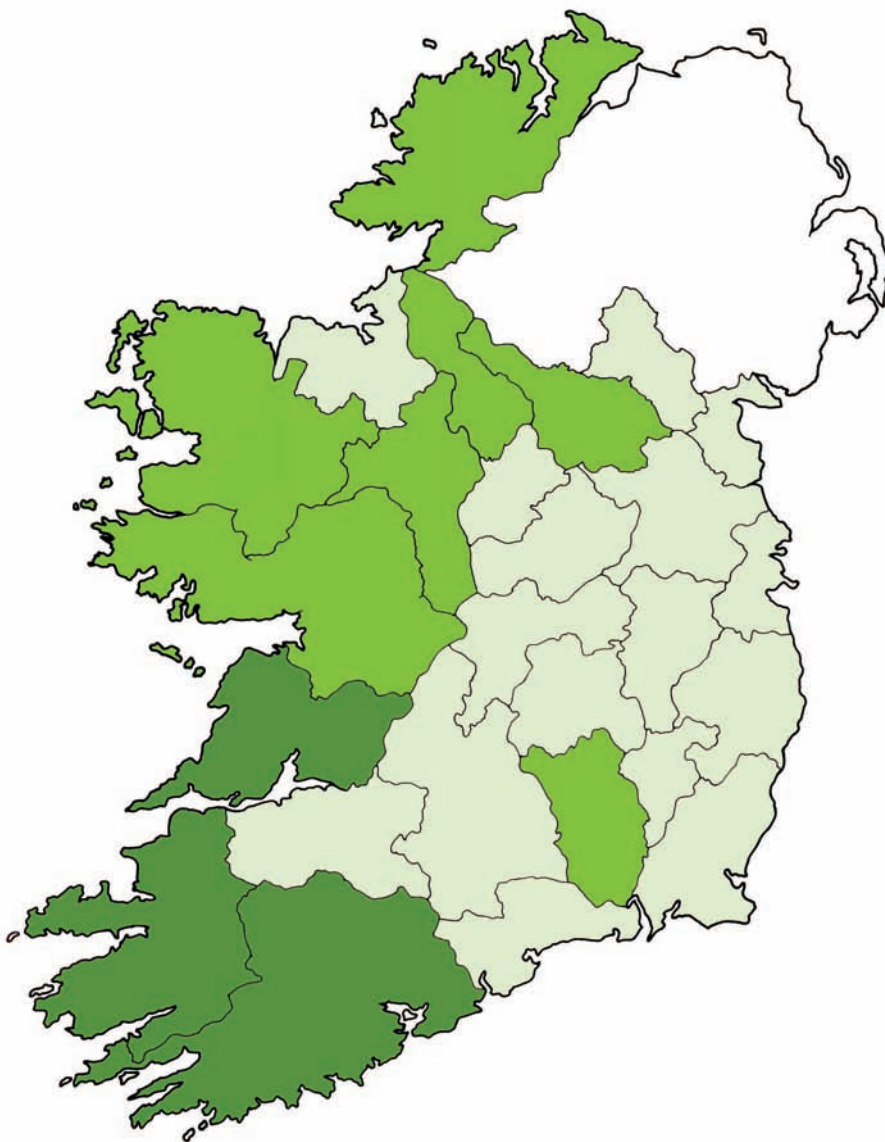
Total
number of
goats
by county



County	Number of goats
Carlow	9
Cavan	413
Clare	733
Cork	668
Donegal	65
Dublin	50
Galway	194
Kerry	180
Kildare	37
Kilkenny	110
Laois	493
Leitrim	68
Limerick	6
Longford	47
Louth	20
Mayo	463
Meath	8
Monaghan	31
Offaly	250
Roscommon	45
Sligo	60
Tipperary	375
Waterford	240
Westmeath	876
Wexford	40
Wicklow	16
Total	5,497

Figure 8

Total
number of
goat
herds
by county



Absolute Figures
Table G

Table G

Total
number of
goat herds
by county



County	Number of herds
Carlow	1
Cavan	18
Clare	27
Cork	38
Donegal	13
Dublin	7
Galway	19
Kerry	24
Kildare	4
Kilkenny	12
Laois	5
Leitrim	13
Limerick	2
Longford	8
Louth	2
Mayo	19
Meath	1
Monaghan	4
Offaly	7
Roscommon	14
Sligo	6
Tipperary	8
Waterford	5
Westmeath	9
Wexford	8
Wicklow	4
Total	278

Figure 9

Total
number of
goat herds
by size of herd



Absolute figures table H

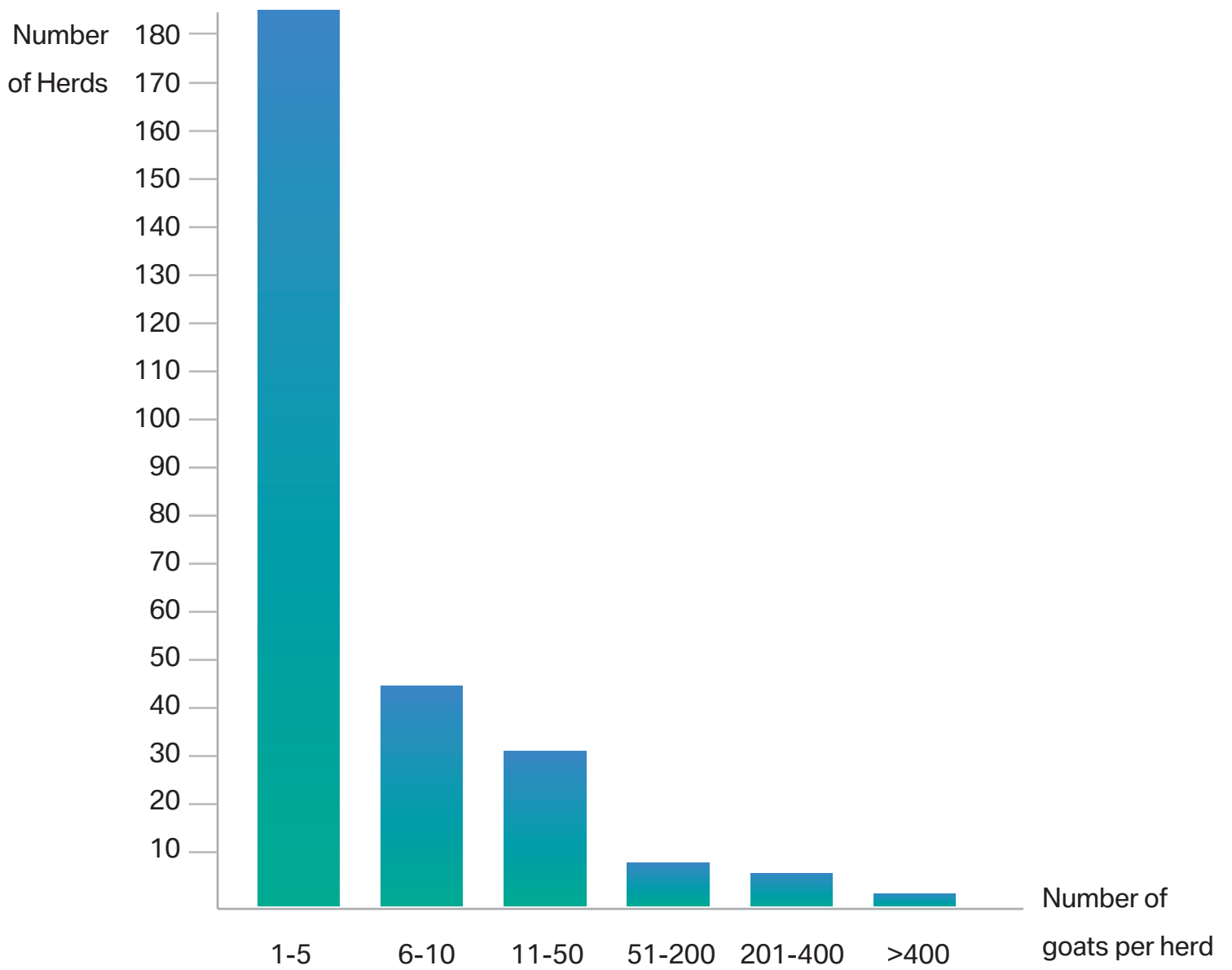


Table H

Total
number of
goat herds
by size of
herd



Number of goats in herd	Number of herds	% of total
1-5	185	67
6-10	44	16
11-50	31	11
51-200	9	3
201-400	7	2
>400	2	1
Total herds	278	