



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

National Pig Census

2022



Tamworth Pigs – Dublin Zoo

NATIONAL PIG CENSUS 2022

Any person who keeps any pigs is legally required to conduct a census on their holding, at least annually, at a time determined by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The date chosen for the 2022 Pig Census was Sunday the 23rd of October 2022.

In October 2022, pig census forms issued to the 3,038 pig keepers registered with the Department. Completed returns were received in respect of 2,712 holdings, representing a response rate of over 89%. 1,171 of the respondent holdings were not active.

Note: for the purpose of this report, an active herd is a herd that is currently populated, or which was reported to have been populated at some point in the immediate preceding 12 months.

The information published in this Report relates to data returned from the country's 1,541 active pig herds, as provided to the Department by **24th April 2023**.

2022 National Pig Census - Summary Details

- The national herd consisted of 1,541 active herds keeping 1,640,141 pigs, which comprised 135,652 breeding pigs, 1,503,538 fattening pigs and 951 non-production pigs.
- Total 2022 recorded pig numbers reflect a decrease of 155,153 pigs (-8.64%) on the 2021 national herd.
- The total number of fattening pigs decreased by 146,254 (-8.86%) and the number of breeding pigs decreased by 8,941 (-6.18%).
- Overall pig numbers increased in five counties – Leitrim, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly and Westmeath.
- The average number of pigs kept on an active pig herd was 1,064 which shows a slight increase on the average of 1,060 pigs per active herd in 2021.
- 1,115 active herds (some 72.35%) recorded keeping 20 or fewer pigs.
- 43 herds (2.79%) each kept in excess of 10,000 pigs, accounting for 42.80% of the total pig population (702,006).
- 96.23% of all pigs (1,578,252) were recorded in 263 herds, each keeping more than 1,000 pigs.
- The 53 herds keeping between 501 and 1,000 pigs accounted for only 2.5% of the overall pig population (41,067 pigs).
- 1,444 pigs, accounting for just under 0.1% of the population, were recorded by 988 respondents keeping a maximum of 5 pigs. Such herds represented some 64.11% of total active herd numbers.
- As has been the case since 2016, Cavan recorded the largest pig population with some 314,418 pigs, representing 19.17% of the total numbers. Cork again recorded the second highest population with 270,558 pigs (16.5%) and Tipperary recorded the third highest number with 170,604 pigs (10.4%).
- Cork continued to record the largest number of active herds (228), accounting for 14.8% of the total number. Wexford and Tipperary were the next highest with 109 and 108 (7%) active herds respectively.
- The counties with the smallest numbers of active herds were Dublin (20), Louth (21), and Leitrim (22)
- The smallest pig populations were recorded in Dublin (46), Galway (2,875) and Leitrim (3,518).

Full analysis of the data returned in respect of the 2022 Census is detailed in the Tables and Maps following, which show the national distribution of pig numbers and herd sizes across the country.

**Table 1 – Total Recorded Pig Numbers in Ireland
2018 – 2022**

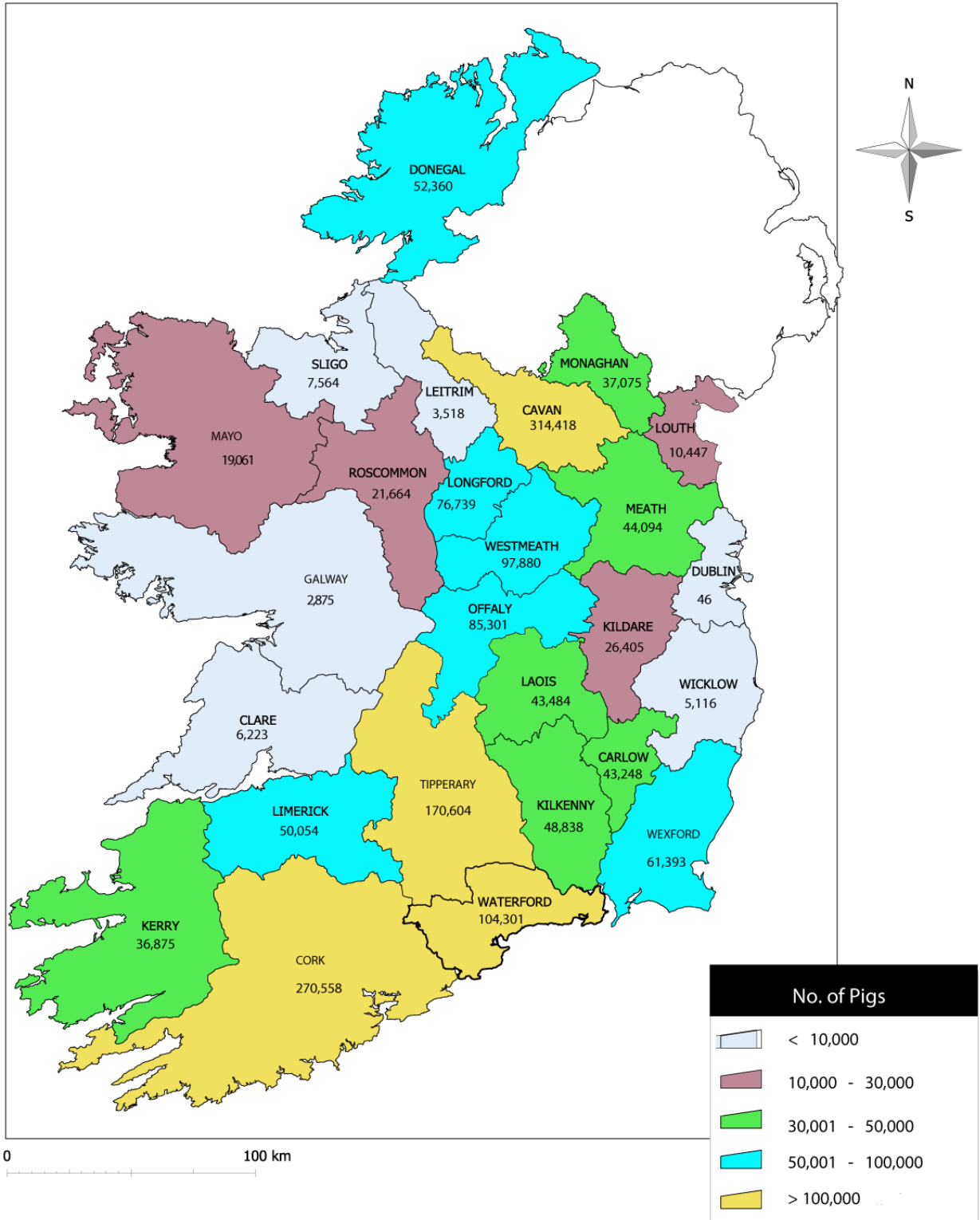
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Pigs	1,724,346	1,644,121	1,702,921	1,795,294	1,640,141
Annual Change	+ 24,781	-80,225	+ 58,800	+92,373	-155,153
Annual % Change	+1.5%	-4.7%	+ 3.6%	+5.4%	-8.64%
Fattening Pigs	1,585,708	1,501,791	1,552,436	1,649,792	1,503,538
Annual Change	+ 39,213	- 83,917	+ 50,645	+97,356	-146,254
Annual % Change	+2.5%	-5.3%	+ 3.4%	+6.3%	-8.86%
Breeding Pigs	137,891	141,622	149,689	144,593	135,652
Annual Change	- 13,297	+ 3,731	+ 8,067	-5,096	-8,941
Annual % Change	-8.8%	+2.7%	+5.7%	-3.4%	-6.18%
Non-Production Pigs	747	708	796	909	951
Annual Change	-1,135	- 39	+ 88	+113	+42
Annual % Change	-60.3%	-5.2%	+12.4%	+14.2%	+4.62%

* Fattening pigs includes piglets, weaners, fattening and finishing pigs

** Breeding Pigs includes all sows, gilts and boars

*** Non production pigs are kept for purposes other than entering the food chain - including pigs used in scientific research, show pigs (on pet or open farms), pigs used for educational purposes and pet pigs held on holdings for personal reasons. Two refuges operated by Animal Welfare Organisations also figure in this category.

Number of Pigs Per County 2022



**Table 2 – Number of Active Pig Herds and
Number of Pigs by County
In 2022**

County	Number of Active Herds	Number of Breeding Pigs	Number of Fattening Pigs	Non Production	Total Pigs
Carlow	35	2,034	41,200	14	43,248
Cavan	99	27,134	287,255	29	314,418
Clare	39	1,533	4,652	38	6,223
Cork	228	19,537	250,925	96	270,558
Donegal	80	3,465	48,845	50	52,360
Dublin	20	10	17	19	46
Galway	77	66	2,702	107	2,875
Kerry	56	3,270	33,585	20	36,875
Kildare	48	2,223	24,158	24	26,405
Kilkenny	56	4,420	44,388	30	48,838
Laois	53	3,589	39,811	84	43,484
Leitrim	22	68	3,429	21	3,518
Limerick	36	3,995	46,049	10	50,054
Longford	33	5,274	71,448	17	76,739
Louth	21	218	10,226	3	10,447
Mayo	49	1,231	17,783	47	19,061
Meath	78	7,470	36,577	47	44,094
Monaghan	32	2,680	34,376	19	37,075
Offaly	30	8,406	76,882	13	85,301
Roscommon	28	1,535	20,107	22	21,664
Sligo	23	707	6,830	27	7,564
Tipperary	108	11,334	159,243	27	170,604
Waterford	54	6,926	97,328	47	104,301
Westmeath	57	5,403	92,456	21	97,880
Wexford	109	12,703	48,622	68	61,393
Wicklow	70	421	4,644	51	5,116
Total	1,541	135,652	1,503,538	951	1,640,141

Note: For the purpose of this report, an active herd is denoted as a herd which is currently populated, or reported as having been populated at some stage in the immediate preceding 12 months.

Number of Active Herds by County in 2022

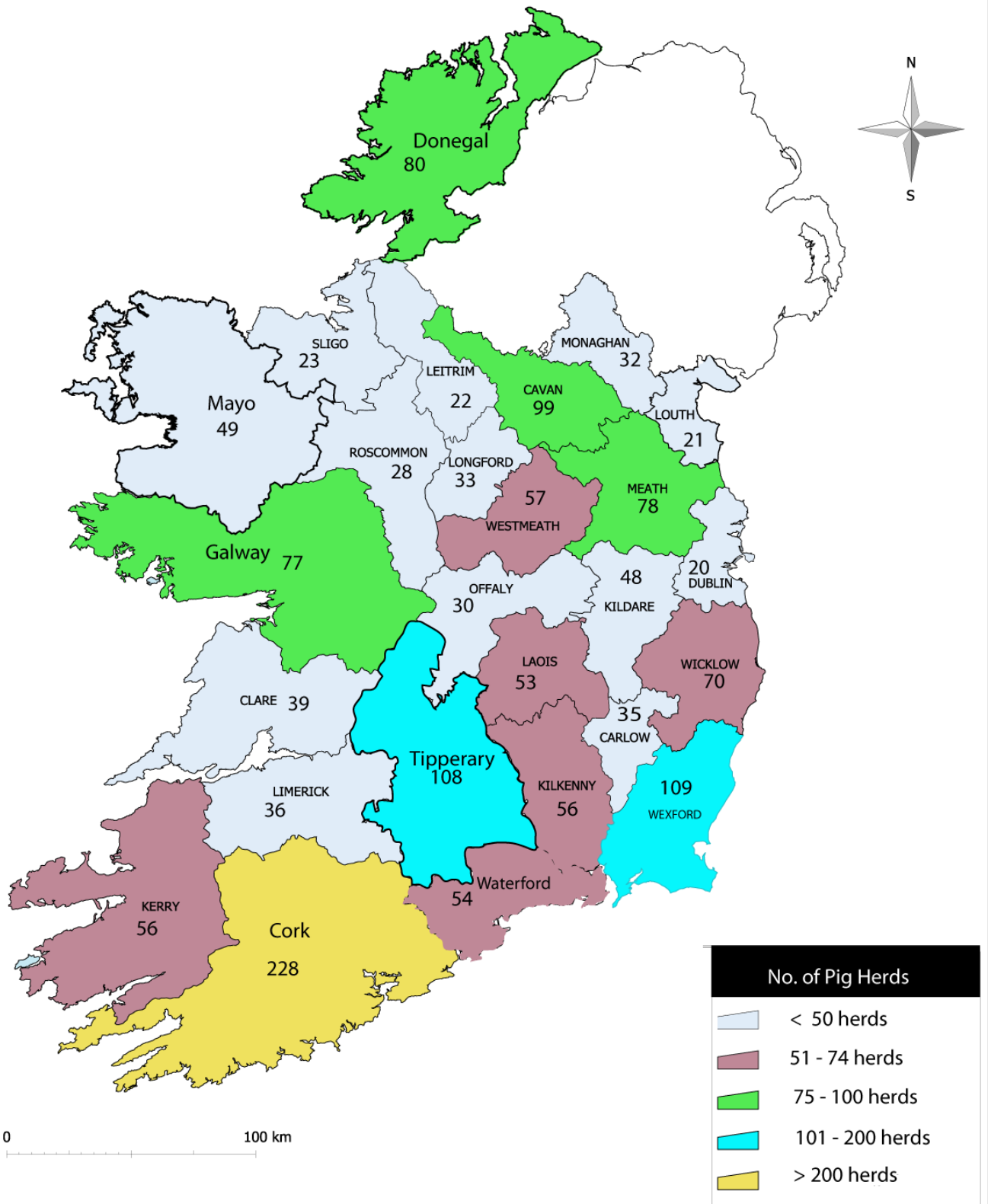


Table 3 – Number of Active Pig Herds

by Province by Size

In 2022

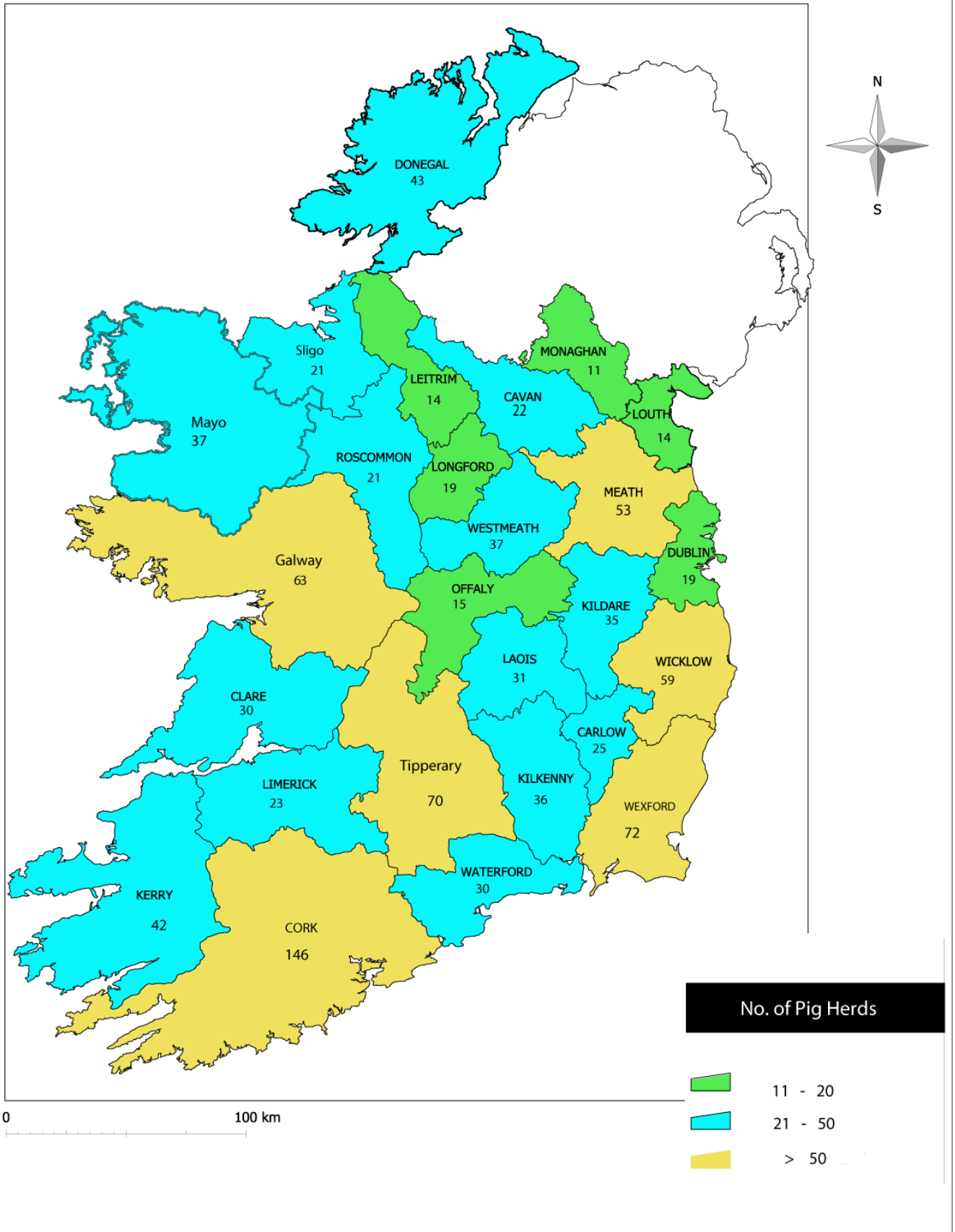
Number of Active Herds with:

Province	≤5 pigs	6-100 pigs	101-1000 pigs	>1000 Pigs	Total Herds
Ulster	76	27	35	73	211
Munster	341	58	36	86	521
Leinster	415	73	28	94	610
Connacht	156	26	7	10	199
OVERALL Total	988	184	106	263	1,541

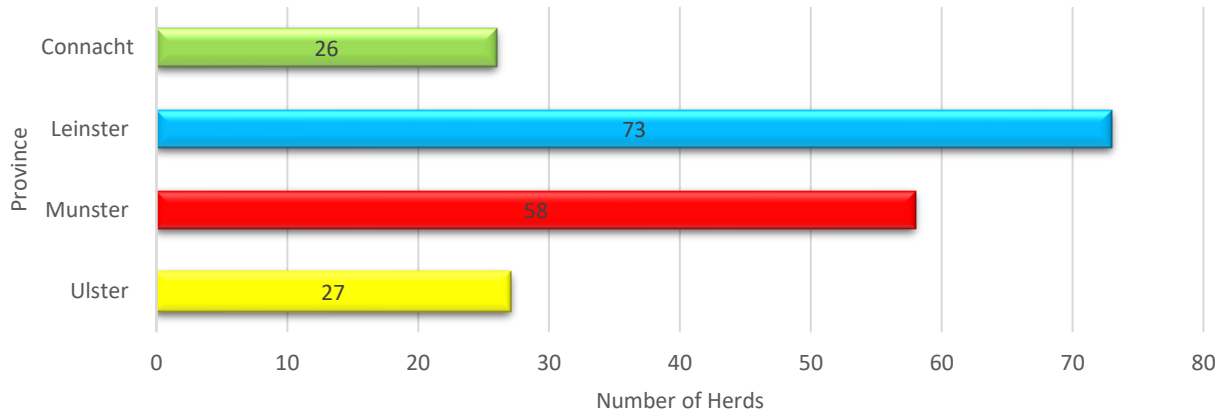
The information in this Table is represented visually overleaf, with data in respect of herds keeping five pigs or fewer displayed on a county basis. For data protection reasons, representation at that level was not possible for the other three categories displayed.

***Please note that, for the purposes of this Report, Ulster data relates to counties Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan.**

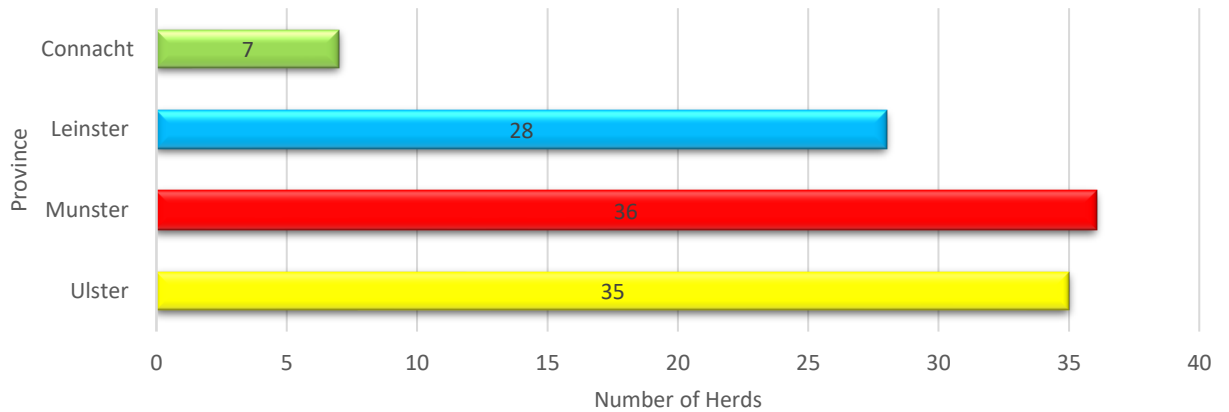
Number of Herds per County with 5 or fewer pigs 2022



Number of Active Pig Herds keeping 6 - 100 pigs in 2022 by Province



Active Pig Herds keeping 101 - 1,000 pigs in 2022 By Province



Active Pig Herds keeping >1,000 pigs in 2022 By Province

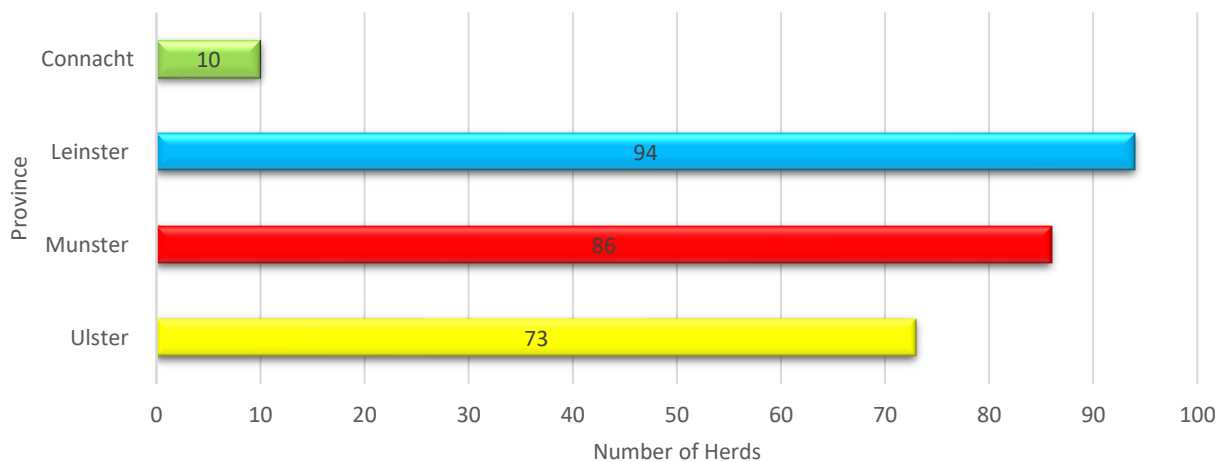


Table 4 - Number and Percentage* of Active Herds within certain Herd Sizes – Comparison with 2021 Figures

Herd Size (no. of Pigs)	2021		2022	
	Number of herds	Percentage of Total Herds	Number of Herds	Percentage of Total Herds
0-5	1,100	64.97	988	64.11
6-20	137	8.1	127	8.24
21-50	46	2.72	37	2.40
51-100	23	1.36	20	1.30
101-500	45	2.66	53	3.44
501-1000	54	3.19	53	3.44
1001-3000	108	6.38	100	6.49
3001-10,000	134	7.91	120	7.79
>10,000	46	2.71	43	2.79
Total	1,693	100%	1,541	100%

Table 5 – Number and Percentage* of Pigs from Active Herds within certain Herd Sizes Comparison with 2021

Herd Size (no. of Pigs)	2021		2022	
	Number of Pigs	Percentage of Total Pigs	Number of Pigs	Percentage of Total Pigs
0-5	1,656	0.09	1,444	0.09
6-20	1,509	0.08	1,383	0.08
21-50	1,525	0.08	1,220	0.08
51-100	1,702	0.09	1,503	0.09
101-500	12,282	0.68	15,272	0.93
501-1000	41,265	2.3	41,067	2.50
1001-3000	197,276	10.99	172,483	10.52
3001-10,000	781,345	43.53	703,763	42.91
>10,000	756,734	42.16	702,006	42.80
Total	1,795,294	100%	1,640,141	100%

*rounded to two decimal places