



Dig in to CAP!

Curriculum Links:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| • Science | Living things
Environmental awareness and care |
| • Geography | Human environments
Natural environments |
| • SPHE | Myself and the wider world |

Lesson objectives:

To illustrate the important role of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to the life of an Irish person, including the role that CAP plays in: (a) assisting farmers in making quality food affordable for people; (b) keeping our countryside beautiful, which is enjoyed by Irish people and also attracts tourists to Ireland; (c) contributing to the Irish economy, as many jobs come from agriculture, and (d) making sure that our animals are well cared for.

Teacher guidelines

This module may be beyond the scope of some pupils thinking. As such, this module (combined) may prompt the teacher to discuss with students how we all need help in our jobs, how farmers might help each other, and how we all need to work together. Students may also be more likely to consider co-operation between farmers, the EU and the CAP. It is suggested that teachers should ensure that their students are familiar with the vocabulary and concepts introduced in previous lessons before starting this lesson.

Keywords and concepts introduced in previous modules:

farmer	food	countryside	community	job	environment
		protection	population	affordability	

CAP is the name given to a set of rules for farmers. The role of CAP is to ensure that the farmer can produce enough high quality food for everybody to eat and for people to be able to afford to buy this food. Farmers work directly with a number of other people in the community to ensure that safe, high quality and affordable food is produced and that the countryside and environment are protected. Irish food is in demand across the world because of its high quality, traceability and the high animal welfare standards that Irish farmers deliver.

After revision of the above, teachers should discuss more keywords for this lesson as detailed below

Keywords for this lesson:

quality	sustainability	reputation	affordable	income	export
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Why is CAP important to Ireland?

Ireland has long been a very important world food producer, exporting €14.5 billion in 2019. The Irish countryside is green due to the high levels of rainfall and mild temperatures experienced here. This climate means that Ireland is very well suited to growing crops. It also provides animals like sheep and cattle with sufficient grazing so that they can live outside for the majority of the year. A diet rich in green grass is very healthy for farm animals and for humans that eat meat and drink milk.

Ireland has gained a worldwide reputation for high quality food. Irish food is exported to over 180 countries across the world each year. As demand for this high quality food continues to increase, it is important that farmers practice sustainable farming practices when producing food. In agriculture terms, sustainability means that farmers produce food for today without compromising their ability to produce food in the future, whilst caring for the environment.

Farmers must ensure that the land is not over-used when growing crops and feeding animals. The farmer must also ensure that farming practices are safe and environmentally friendly.

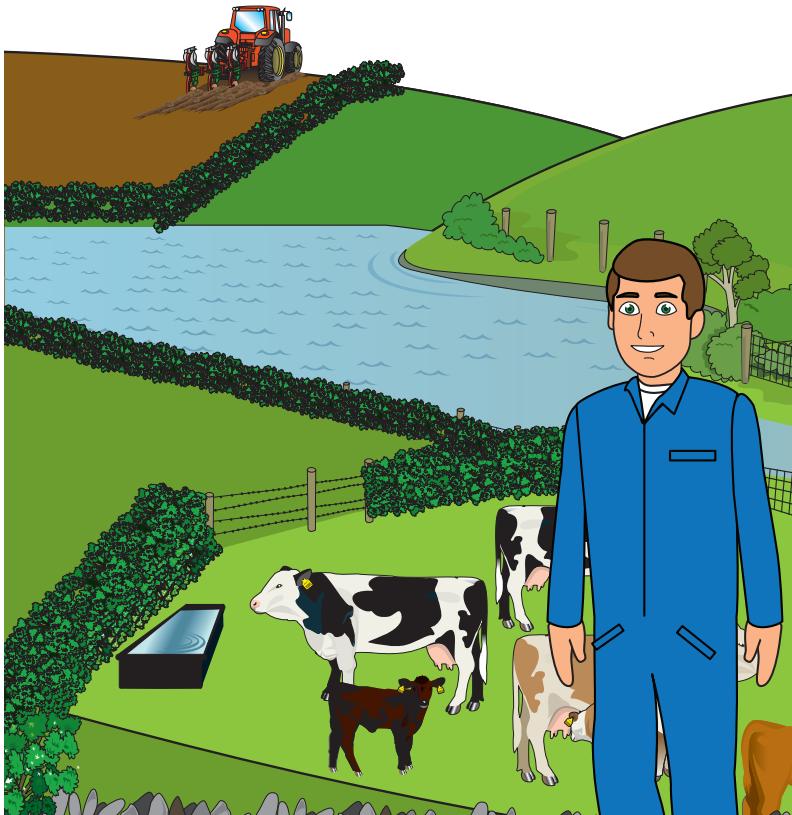
Sustainable farming is important to ensure that the beautiful Irish landscape is maintained for all Irish people and for tourists to enjoy and CAP allows this to happen by supporting farmers in their job as 'custodians' of the land. This is particularly important to Ireland's tourism industry, with over 11 million visitors coming to Ireland each year. Tourism plays an important role in Ireland's economy, with many tourists visiting Ireland's beautiful countryside and enjoying local food.

There are over 7.5 billion people in the world today, and this is expected to grow to nine billion

people by 2050. As a result, food supply and food security is more important than ever and Irish farmers play a very important role in helping to feed this growing world population, whilst caring for the land, animals, waterways and wildlife.

The export of Irish food across the world provides jobs in Ireland, with one in eight jobs in Ireland being agriculture related. The food and drink that we export is worth €14.5 billion to the Irish economy each year.

CAP ensures that everyone has access to high quality food at an affordable price.



Suggested activities

- Photocopy the activity sheet on page 57
- Research the role that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) plays in Irish farming. You can find out more at www.agriaware.ie/CAP
- Write an essay entitled: 'The importance of CAP to the Irish farmer and consumer'
- Research the variety of farm products that Ireland exports annually and discuss their importance. Find out more about Irish exports at www.bordbia.ie
- Compare and contrast the role that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) plays in the life of the consumer, the farmer and those who work with the farmer

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this lesson, students should have a clear understanding of the role of Irish food in a global context and how the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) plays an important role in ensuring guaranteed access to high quality traceable and affordable food for Irish consumers.

Additional resources:

- www.agriaware.ie/CAP
- www.agriculture.gov.ie
- http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-overview_en



Dig in to CAP!

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 What does C.A.P stand for:

C _____

A _____

P _____

2 Fill in the blanks using the words listed below:

countryside, food, CAP, environment, farmers, populations, quality

_____ is the name given to the policy which provides
_____ with assistance to provide enough _____ for
everyone in the community and in other parts of the world, where
there is increased pressure to feed large _____.
Farmers work directly with a number of other people in the community
to ensure that safe, high _____ food is produced and that the
_____ and _____
are protected.

* To be used with teacher guidelines, page 34