



Food system challenges and opportunities: a perspective from Scotland

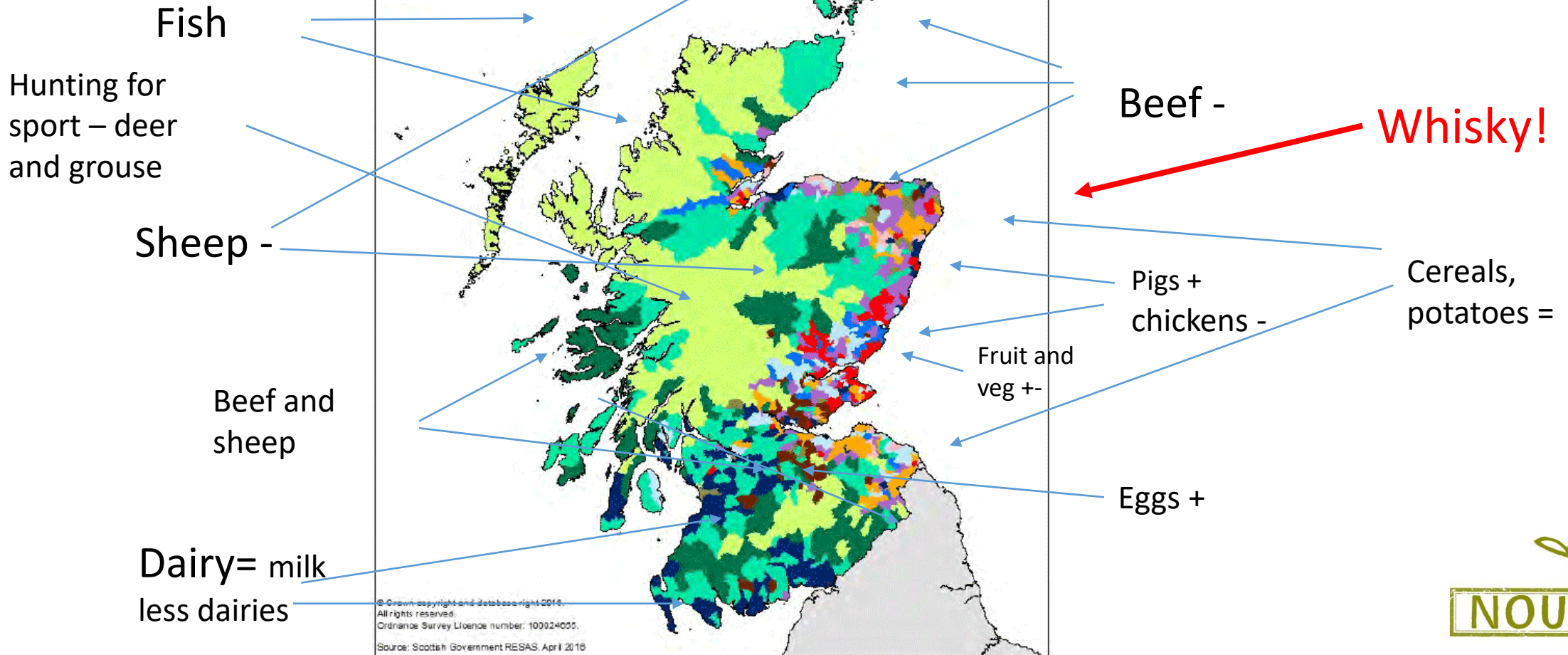
Pete Ritchie,
Director, Nourish
Scotland



Parishes have been assigned the farm type that has the largest Standard Output (SO) within the parish. Where LFA cattle and sheep is the dominant type, the map shows whether the parish is mainly specialist sheep, specialist cattle or mixed cattle and sheep.



About 15% of Scotland is arable - East coast is drier, flatter and sunnier



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What we grow in Scotland on 2000m²



Barley

Wheat

Rapeseed oil

Potatoes

Oats

Fruit and Vegetables

Stock Feeding Crops

85% of Scotland's land is only suitable for grazing by cattle, sheep and deer. Only 15% of the land is arable and most of this grows cereals, especially barley, for whisky and animal feed.



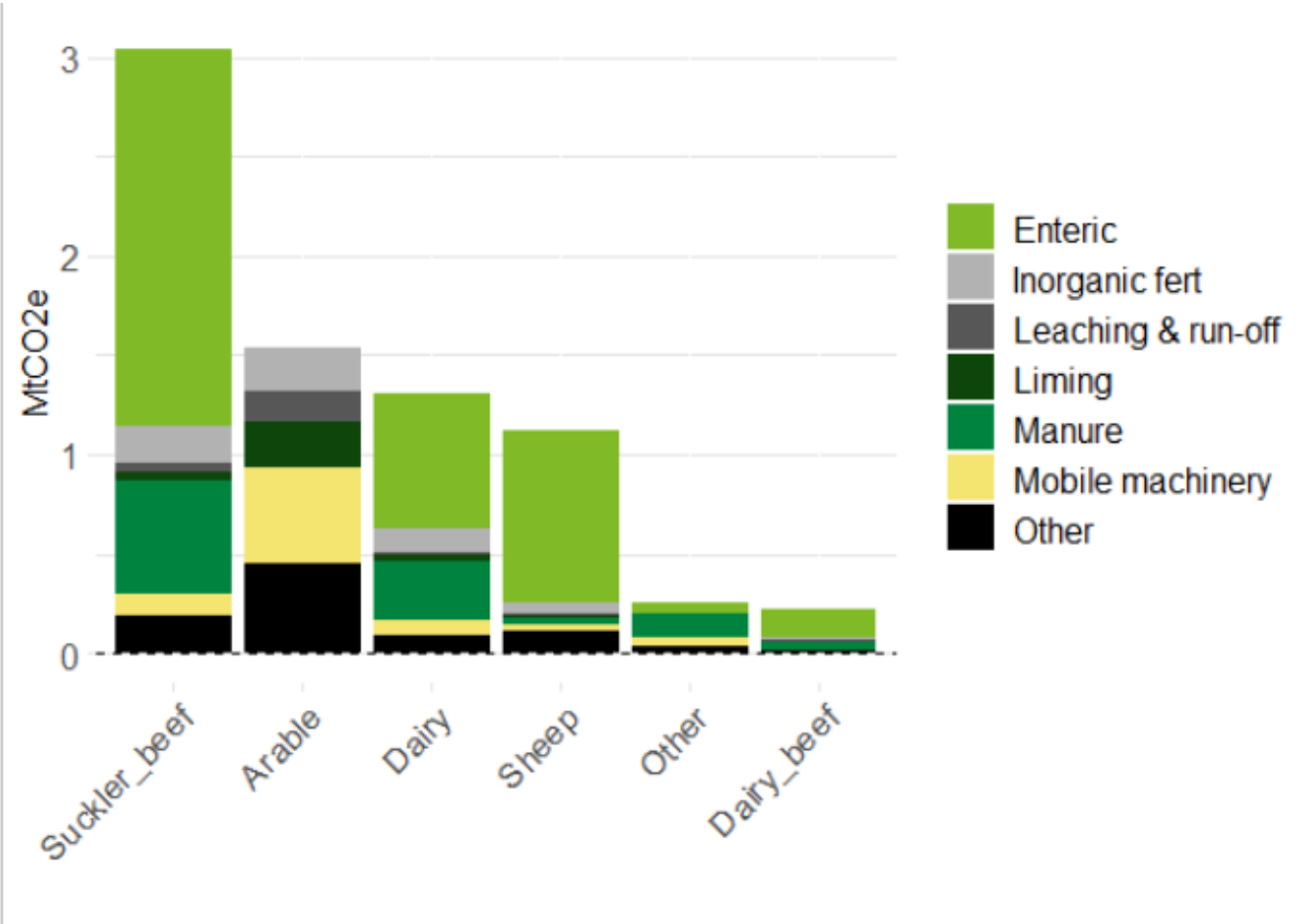
Challenges

- Poor diet and poor health
- Food insecurity – especially now – and two-tier food system
- Profitability – esp sheep and beef – and long tail
- Brexit, public finances
- Land market, ownership, carbon
- Greenhouse gas emissions and nature loss
- 2045 and 2032 climate targets
- Wishful thinking, DATA : rock, hard place

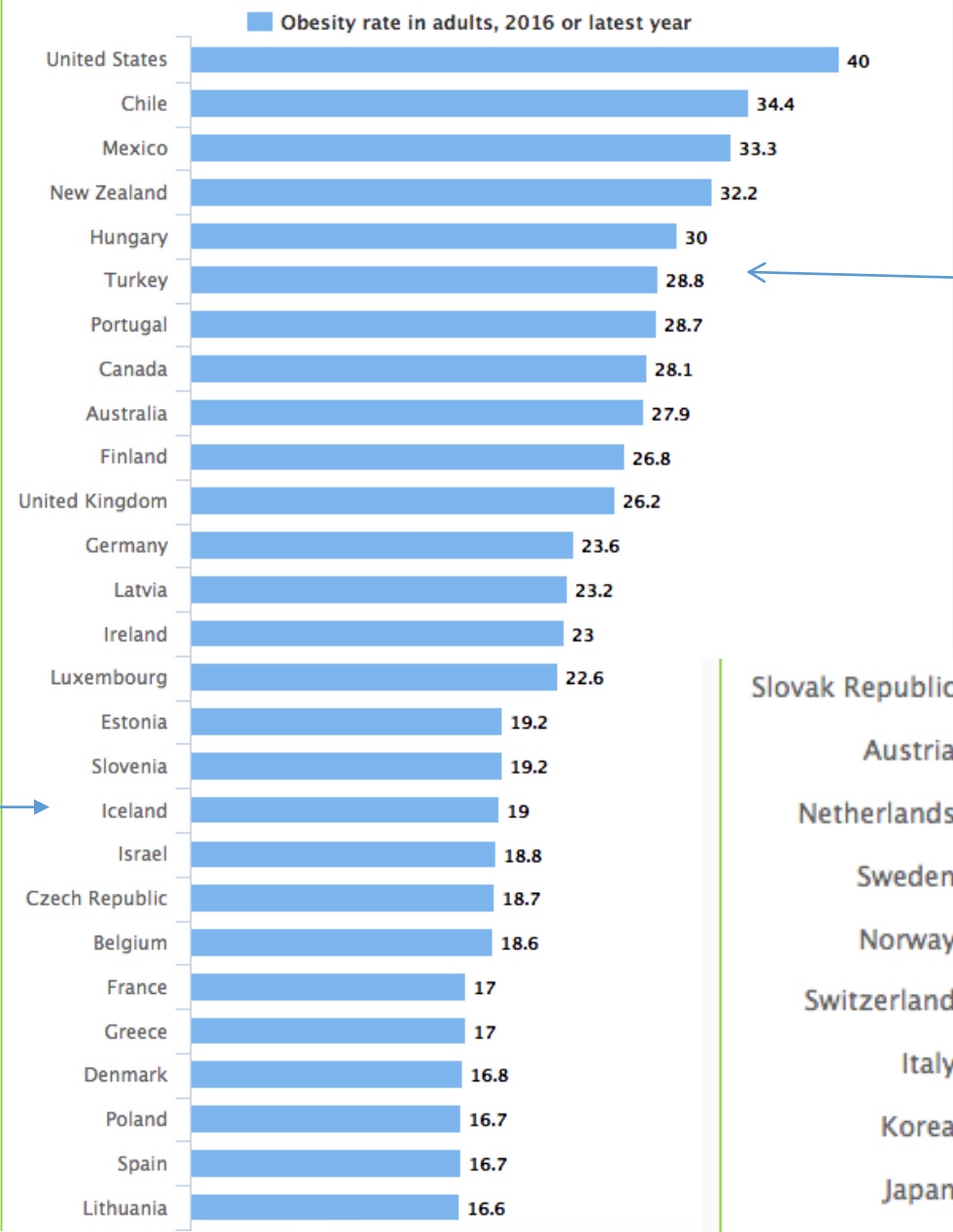
How does agriculture look just now?

Pollutant	GHG Emissions (MtCO ₂ e)			
	1990	2020	Change	% change
CH ₄	4.86	4.11	0.75	-15.4%
CO ₂	1.13	0.99	0.14	-12.4%
N ₂ O	2.64	2.25	0.39	-14.8%
Total	8.64	7.35	-1.29	-14.9%

- In 2020 18.5% of Scottish emissions came from agriculture
- Emissions fell by 0.2 MtCO₂e from 2019
- Primarily due to reduced fertiliser from winter weather conditions
- Despite the reduction **agriculture missed its 2020 envelope** of 7.0 MtCO₂e.



Obesity rates
As % of total adult population (aged 15 years and over), 2016 or nearest year

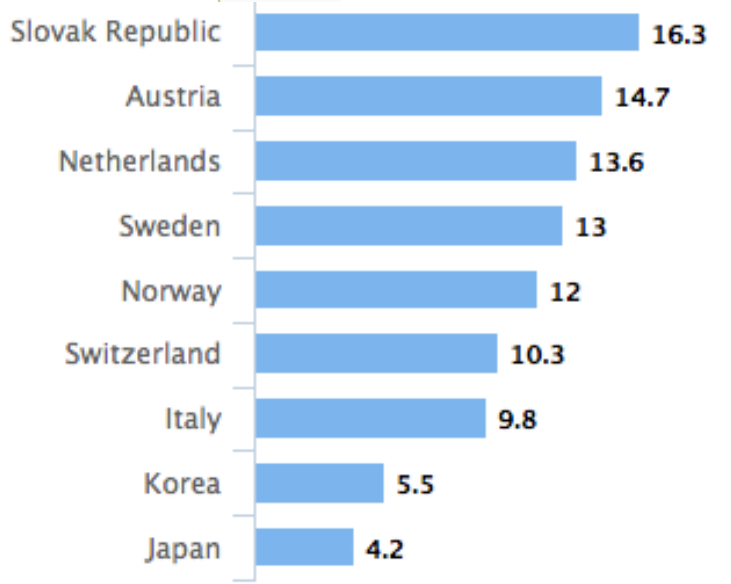
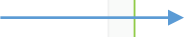


Obesity rates

Scotland 29%



Iceland 19%



Opportunities

- Public support for (better) farming
- Generational renewal, land reform
- Blended finance, community benefit
- Glasshouses and market gardens
- Low methane genomics and low opportunity cost livestock
- Agroforestry and organics
- Procurement, free school meals and short food chains
- **Joined up food policy – cultural change**

Scottish Government's Vision for Agriculture



SG Proposal – CAP replacement

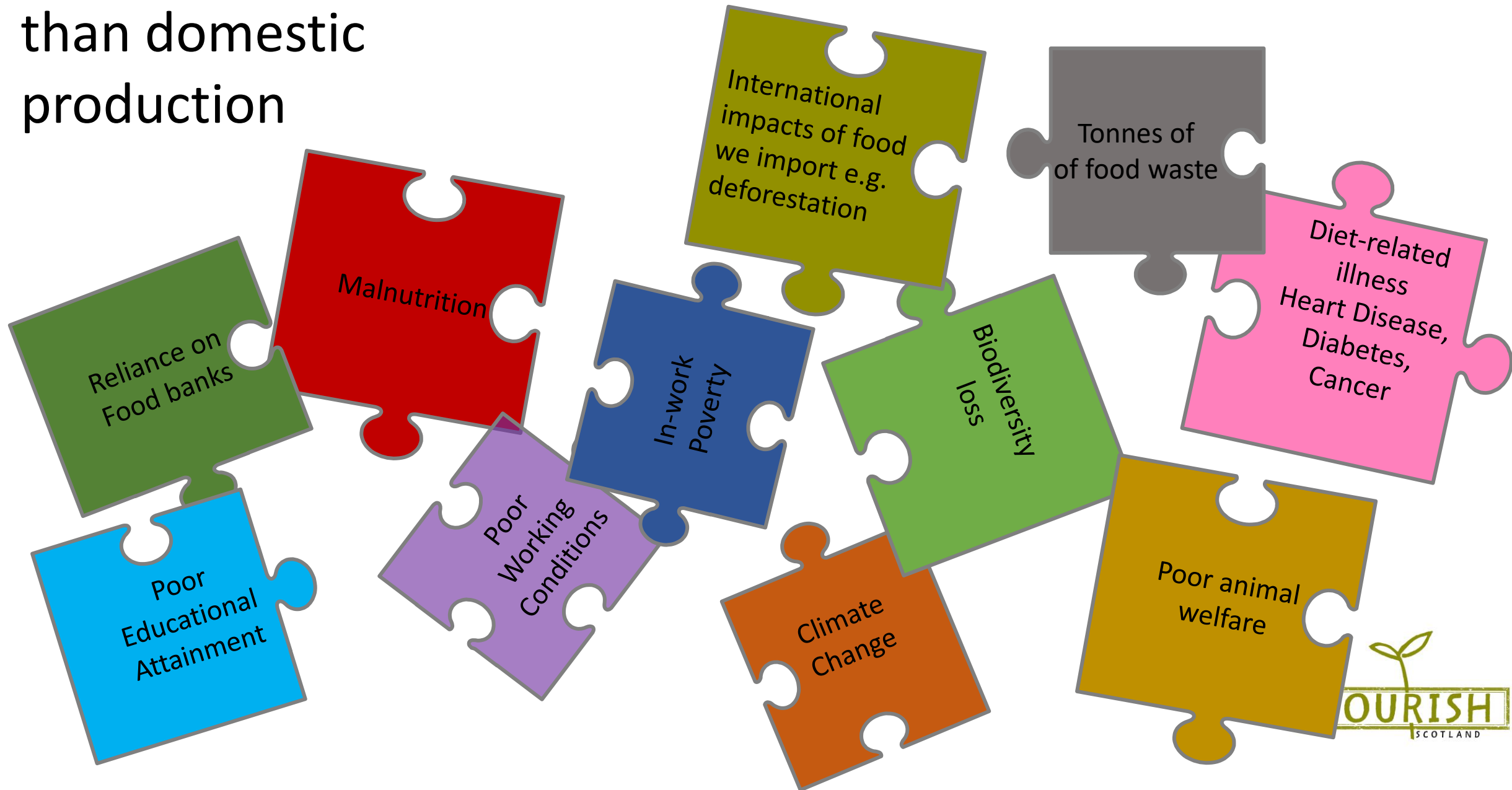
We're shifting to a '**made in Scotland, paid in Scotland**' policy from 2025 onwards. Currently about £600m support for £3bn production.

SG proposing a payment system organised into 4 tiers:

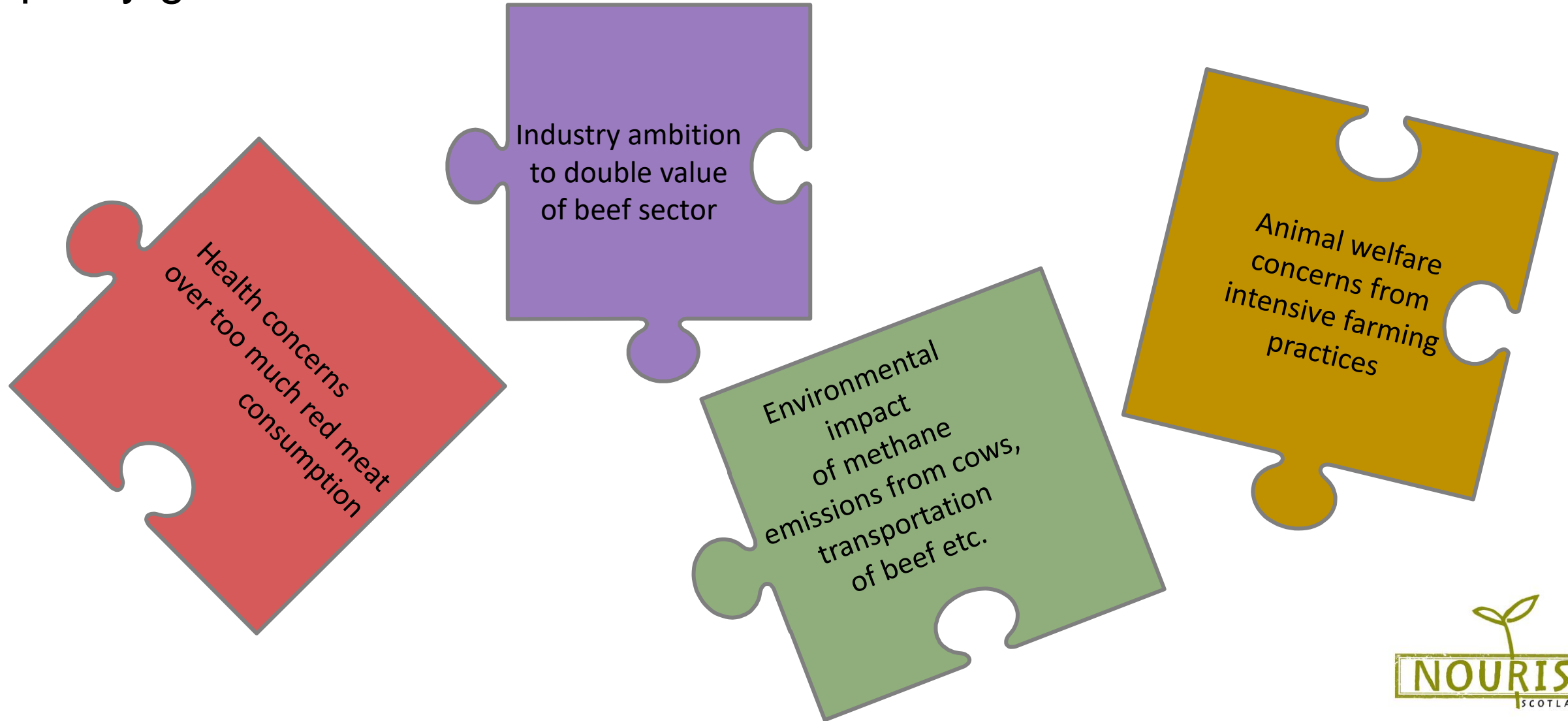
- Tier 1: Base Level Payment
- Tier 2: Enhanced Level Payment
- Tier 3: Elective Payment
- Tier 4: Complementary Support



Food policy is more than domestic production



Food Policy is fragmented - with different Government departments creating separate strategies according to diverse policy goals



Good Food
Nation Bill



Conclusion

- Food policy is more than production
- There is room for some ruminants, but climate change is everyone's business
- Changing food culture takes a generation or more
- Joined up government is a good start