Ornua
Global Dairy Company Headquartered in Dublin

Food waste inventory – January to July 2018
About Ornua

Ornua is a dairy co-operative which markets and sells dairy products on behalf of its members; Ireland’s dairy processors and, in turn, the Irish dairy farmer.

Ornua is Ireland’s largest exporter of Irish dairy products, exporting to around 110 countries worldwide. Headquartered in Dublin, it has annual sales of over €2 billion and has a strong global team of 2000 people.

It operates from 19 business units worldwide, including 14 production facilities, and has sales and marketing teams working in countries across all four corners of the globe.

In 2017 we made a commitment to reduce food waste in our global operations by 50% by 2030.

Our initial target is to reduce food waste in our own operations by 25% by 2021.
What we are doing to tackle food waste

We recognise the huge challenge and the potential benefit to society if we act effectively to reduce food waste and we believe ground-breaking initiatives such as Champions 12.3 are key. Our own sustainability framework; ‘Our Way Matters’ is aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Reducing waste at our sites

Waste occasionally occurs for various reasons across our sites such as machine malfunction, human error and issues with product consistency. In the majority of cases it is not fit for human consumption. Practically, we hope to reduce food waste from the products we make, including cheese, butter and milk powder processing, across all our global operations. Where food doesn’t meet certain requirements, but is perfectly safe to eat, we work with partners in Ireland, UK and Germany to link with food redistribution organisations. Many of our sites are sending food which is not suitable for human consumption to be used as animal feed.

Helping our supply chain reduce food waste

We are also committed to taking the steps needed to reduce food waste in our supply chain, as well as innovating to make it easier for consumers to reduce waste in their homes.

We are already seeing the benefit of being involved in this initiative. We had been sending deli cheese to Tesco in the UK in 2.5kg blocks. Once store colleagues cut these blocks for a customer they have to typically sell the cheese within 10 days; a significant challenge. Through reducing the size of the block to 1kg, we have reduced waste associated with this product by 40%.

Measuring our waste for future success

In 2017 we created the ‘Our Way Matters’ working group tasked with leading sustainability across Ornua. Members of this group are working on our food waste commitments to ensure we capture our food waste baseline and to work towards reaching our target. At each site, we have a lead working to gather data on food waste and to look at ways to reduce food waste.

We hope that knowledge sharing, in addition to support from valued partners such as Tesco and other organisations involved in Champions 12.3, can contribute to more successes in this area.

Reaching our targets will be a big undertaking but we are proud to embrace this challenge by being part of the first supplier agreement struck between Tesco and its food suppliers.
Total food produced
164,867 tonnes

Waste as a % of production
0.1%

Overall food waste
191 tonnes

Food waste data commentary

- We measured our food waste from January to July 2018 across our global sites in Ireland, UK, Germany, US, Saudi Arabia, China and Nigeria.
- Waste is comprised of butter, cheese and milk powder, with 56% of our waste made up of mixed dairy where processes occur that mean it is not possible to separate the products.
- Food waste in this inventory goes to anaerobic digestion, land spreading and landfill.