



Semi-natural pastures - an integrated EU policy please!

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www.efncp.org



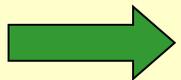
EUROPEAN FORUM ON
NATURE CONSERVATION
AND PASTORALISM



Massive policy shifts are occurring in:

1) CAP

- **New goals - public goods, greener, better targetting, better evaluation and monitoring**
- **Shifting from management of production sectors to management of land**



DATA AND ADMINISTRATION SYSTEMS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW LAND-BASED APPROACH

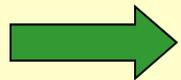
WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY DIFFERENT TYPES OF FARMLAND AND THEIR USE



Massive policy shifts are occurring in:

2) Biodiversity Strategy

- **Maintaining and restoring ecosystems and their services**
- **So not just Natura 2000 sites and habitats, it's about wider farmland and the services it delivers**

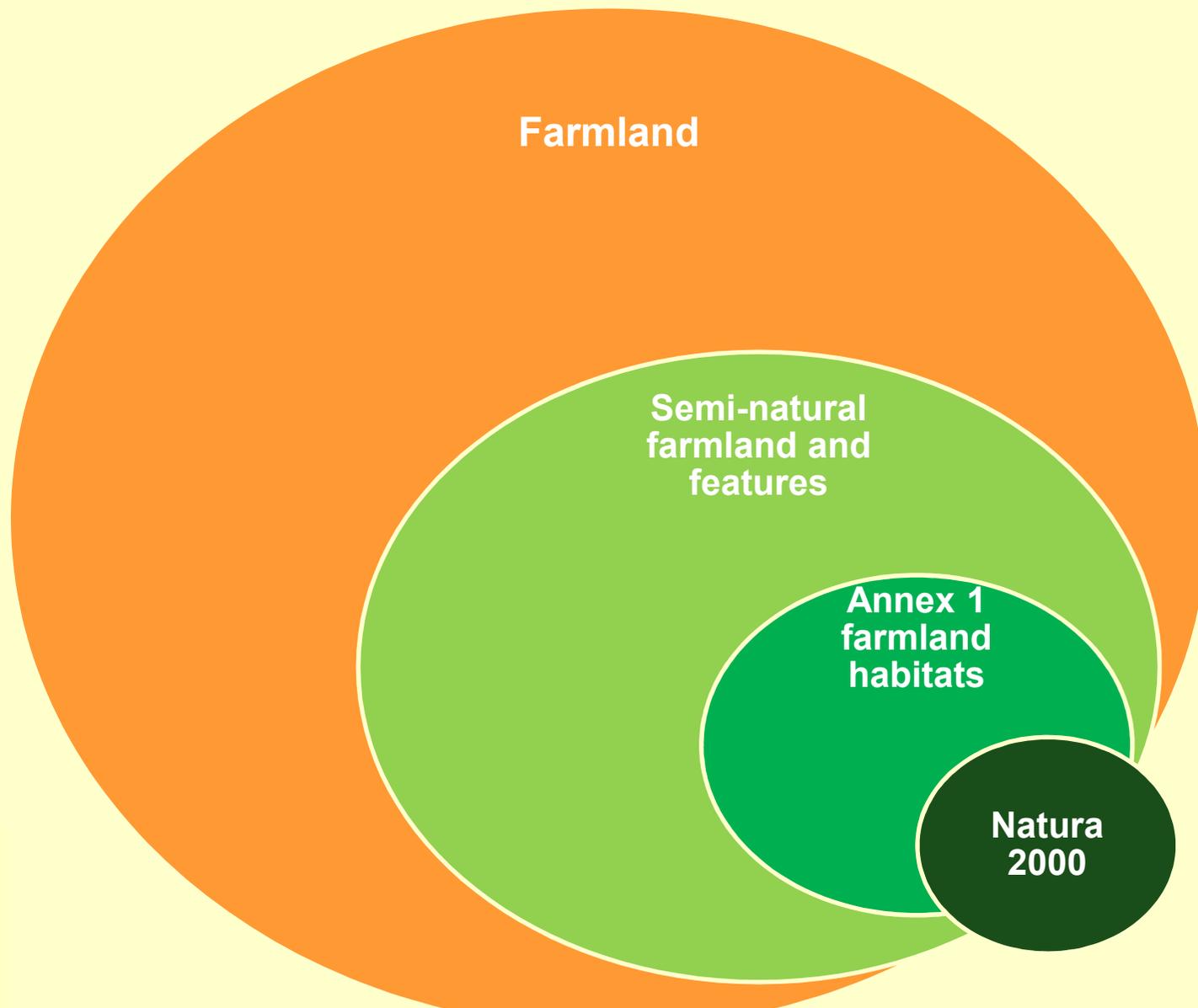


DATA AND ADMINISTRATION SYSTEMS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW GOALS

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY DIFFERENT TYPES OF FARMLAND AND THEIR USE



Policy must be CLEAR about which farmland types are priorities for delivery of public goods and services



Proposed CAP “greening” offers almost nothing for semi-natural farmland, despite the fine words...

... ensure that all farms deliver environmental and climate benefits through the **retention** of soil carbon and **grassland habitats associated with permanent pasture**, the delivery of water and **habitat protection** by the establishment of ecological focus areas and improvement of the **resilience of soil and ecosystems** through crop diversification. They will reinforce the ability of land and natural ecosystems to **contribute to address major EU biodiversity** and climate change adaptation **objectives**.



Biodiversity Strategy is equally silent on the place of semi-natural farmland in its Targets:

*Target 1 – **no mention** that all HD Annex 1 farmland habitats are semi-natural pastures and meadows.*

*Target 2 – ...maintain and enhance ecosystems and their services... **which ecosystems?***

*Target 3 – ...maximise areas under agriculture ...covered by biodiversity-related measures under the CAP... **which areas?***



Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

CAP eligibility

- **SNP should have PRIORITY for CAP support, with payments sufficient to prevent abandonment.**
- **Separate registration on LPIS would be the basis for this targetting.**
- **Minimum activity should be the key criterion for eligibility on SNP (not necessary for other farmland?).**
- **This could be defined specifically for different SNP types.**



Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

CAP rules on trees, hedges etc.

- **EU Guidance should refer to the special considerations of SNP**
- **Are EU rules on trees and hedges really needed?**
- **Let Member States define rules for different SNP types where necessary**



Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

GAEC and greening rules

- **These rules should be TAILORED for SNP, e.g. to prevent ploughing, reseeding and intensification (as currently under GAEC in the UK).**
- **For “other” permanent pasture, the aims are different, e.g. preventing conversion to maize.**
- **Does it make any sense for SNP to NOT count as Ecological Focus Area (EFA)?**
- **And is EFA the same as Green Infrastructure???**



Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

HNV farming indicators

- **SNP is the core of HNV farmland, in extensive grazing systems (Type 1) AND in mosaics (Type 2)**
- **The CMEF indicator for HNV farmland is VERY difficult to implement without a separate data set for SNP**
- **With SNP and landscape features recorded on LPIS, the extent and condition of HNV farmland can be monitored**



To address the pasture issues under the CAP, LPIS classes need urgent up-dating

- We need less arable detail, more pastures detail

Semi-natural Vegetation codes	Arable Codes	Feature Codes (Ineligible for SPS)
GR2 Permanent grassland > 5 yrs.	BA1/3 Barley	ZZ90 Bracken
HE3/HE7 Heathlands	MC1 Cereals Mixed fodder	ZZ93 Ponds, Rivers and Streams
OR1 Orchards	FA1 Fallow	ZZ96 Scrub
GW1/BW1/WS1 Woodland	OA1/3 Oats	ZZ98 Individual trees, stumps
SC2 Streamside corridors	SW3 Swedes	
RE3 Reed beds	TU1 Turnips	
	WH1 Wheat	
	WB1/WB2 Wild bird Cover	



Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP):

EIA Directive and “semi-natural land”

- **How can there be NO integration of EIA with CAP instruments?**
- **Is it “duplication” for EIA requirements to be integrated with GAEC, as in the UK? Or is it integration?**
- **By defining and identifying SNP on LPIS, the EIA Directive can be made to work, at last.**



Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP):

Renewable Energy Directive

- **How can “highly biodiverse grasslands” be protected from conversion to biofuels if there is no consistent definition or data base of these grasslands?**



Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP): **Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services MAES**

- **MAES is impossible for grassland ecosystems so long as SNP is NOT separated from cultivated grasslands on data sets**
- **The idea of “making do” with existing data to deliver new and ambitious policy goals makes no sense**



Currently the integration is only in the rhetoric, not in the practice

- **Different terms and concepts – permanent pastures, semi-natural land and highly biodiverse grassland, Habitats Directive Annex 1, EFA and Green Infrastructure**
- **No clarity in CAP and Biodiversity texts of how things fit together, of how they are integrated, or even what they mean.**
- **LPIS, Farm Structures Survey, CORINE, LUCAS... have different categories and data.**
- **None of these distinguish SNP from other grasslands**
- **How can we make EU policy less dysfunctional?**



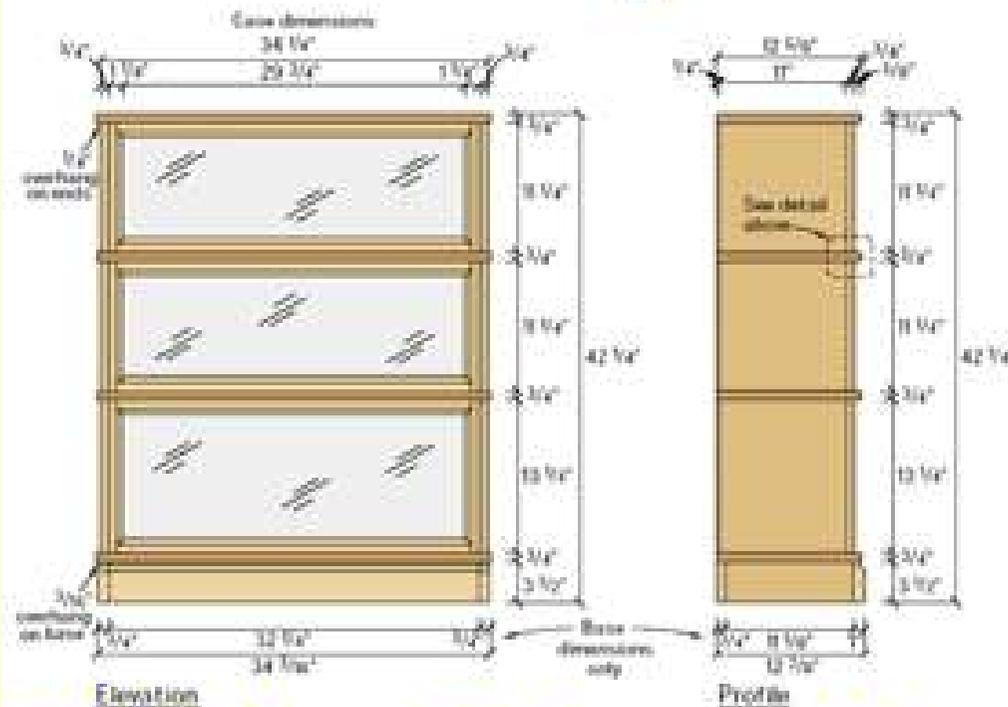
Start with a harmonised definition of SNP

- **Permanent Pastures** - land used to grow grasses or other forage (self-seeded or sown) and that has not been ploughed or sown for 5 years or longer.
- **Semi-natural Permanent Pastures** consist of predominantly self-seeded forage maintained by livestock grazing and/or harvesting. The vegetation has not been substantially modified by agronomic improvement (reseeding, fertilisation).
- **Record these categories on LPIS and other data sets in a consistent way**
- **Then we will know the extent of SNP and where it is, and we can target it, monitor it, etc.**



Conclusion – whether building a policy or a bookcase, you need the right parts and the right tools

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Policies affecting millions of farmers and hectares cannot consist just of a few “big ideas”

- The pieces should be designed on the basis of science.**
- To function efficiently, the pieces must fit together.**
- The right tools are needed to fit the pieces and to make the whole thing function.**
- The manual needs to explain to the user how the pieces fit together and how to use the tools.**
- Look what happened with the Euro - a big idea with a very poor manual and tool kit!**



What EFNCP is doing about it...

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HIGH NATURE VALUE FARMING



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European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism

The European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP) is a Europe-wide network which raises awareness of the importance of **low-intensity farming for nature conservation** and aims to improve the way public policies respond to the needs of these farming systems.

The maintenance of '**High Nature Value**' farming systems (**HNV farmland**) - now a central aim of the EU Common Agricultural Policy - raises huge challenges.

The Forum believes that securing a sustainable future for HNV farmland requires addressing a wide range of socio-economic and cultural questions, going far beyond traditional agri-environment policy.

EFNCP is the only organisation which regularly brings together

- **farmers,**



FROM THE FORUM ...

- ▶ Available now: - A comprehensive document on the characteristics of High-Nature-Value farming systems ... (10 Mar 2009)
- ▶ EU Commission: GREEN PAPER on agricultural product quality ... - a response from EFNCP (01 Jan 2009)
- ▶ Scottish Government consultation on the Less favoured Area Support Scheme - Joint response of SCF and EFNCP, PDF-Document (29 Dec 2008)
- ▶ HNV farming - Explaining the concept and interpreting EU and national policy commitments - PDF-Document (13 Oct 2008)
- ▶ CAP Health Check Consultation - a response from EFNCP (15.01.2008) - PDF-Document (23 Sep 2008)

Done

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