



Hay meadows are in decline - what should the EU do about it?

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EUROPEAN FORUM ON
NATURE CONSERVATION
AND PASTORALISM



Hay meadows are an example of what the EU2020 priorities mean for farmland

- **Biodiversity targets mean that we MUST halt hay-meadow decline:**
 - 1) **habitats and species targets**
 - 2) **ecosystem services targets**
 - 3) **Biodiversity measures in agriculture policy targets**
- **Resource efficiency**
- **Low-carbon economy**
- **Inclusive jobs, including marginalised communities**



Instruments for delivering EU2020 for hay meadows – CAP Pillar 2 is the KEY

- **Pillar 1 greening proposals have NOTHING to offer hay meadows and HNV farming systems.**
- **But Pillar 2 has an explicit Priority 4 (a):**
“restoring and preserving biodiversity, including in **Natura 2000** areas and **high nature value farming**, and the state of **European landscapes**”



Relevant CAP Pillar 2 instruments

- **Agri-environment and Natura 2000 payments**
- **Areas with Natural Constraints payments**
- **Farm investment aids**
- **Farm advisory services**
- **Local co-operation projects**
- **LEADER**
- **RDP sub-programmes for HNV farming**
- **Etc.**



So the EU has agreed the aims and provides the instruments – but are countries delivering?

- **Romania – ambitious scheme for HNV grasslands, but needs extending and better adaptation for hay meadows**
- **England – long history of agri-environment schemes, and of transferring funds from Pillar 1 to finance them**
- **Agri-environment schemes are essential but not enough – we need measures to support the farming systems and economy**
- **And it is LOCAL PROJECTS that make the crucial difference – they multiply the benefits of top-down schemes**



2 speed EU

- **Some countries are lagging far behind in using the tools provided by the EU to pursue EU priorities**
- **E.g. Spain has vast areas of HNV farming and hay meadows, but has VERY LIMITED agri-environment schemes for them**
- **The EU institutions and governance systems do not ensure consistent effort to deliver EU priorities, or best practice**
- **This situation makes a mockery of EU goals and institutions**
- **EP resolution on the Biodiversity Strategy called for greater efforts from Member States in use of Pillar 2 programmes**



How can we ensure that the EU provides effective support for hay meadows and HNV farming post-2013?

- **Continue to transfer funds from Pillar 1 to agri-environment**
- **Agri-environment schemes better adapted and supported by other measures, including local projects funded by Pillar 2**
- **Rigorous ex ante evaluations for Priority 4 (Natura 2000 and HNV farming), and measures that are a SUFFICIENT RESPONSE to the identified needs**
- **Will the EU institutions insist on this rigorous approach from all Member States??**



How will we know if we are succeeding?

- **We need monitoring systems using sample surveys of:**
 - **Extent and condition of hay meadows**
 - **Farming systems and practices**
- **All countries should be doing this under the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF) for Pillar 2, but most are NOT doing it**
- **From 2013, the indicators apply to the whole CAP, so it becomes even more important that they are implemented**
- **Will the EU institutions make it happen??**



What EFNCP is doing about it...

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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-Documnt (29 Dec 2008)
- HNV farming - Explaining the concept and interpreting EU and national policy commitments - PDF-Documnt (13 Oct 2008)
- CAP Health Check Consultation - a response from EFNCP (15.01.2008) - PDF-Documnt (23 Sep 2008)

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Examples of what EFNCP is doing....

- **petition on permanent pastures and CAP eligibility: supported by 80+ organisations !!!**



Book on HNV farming in 35 countries...

