



# Protecting permanent pastures in France

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# Protecting permanent pastures

## Maintain the envelope

**Not in the scope of CAP**

Conversion into artificialised land

## Maintain the ratio of PP/UAA

Conversion into arable land

**GAEC ratio PP**

Abandonment

**Admissible areas SFP**

## Maintain the quality of PP

Intensification

**Eligibility criteria of payments**

Encroachment

**Admissible areas SFP  
(GAEC good maintenance)**



# Definitions of permanent pastures in France

## ❑ Agricultural science

- ❑ Areas not included in rotational systems (i.e. succession of different crops) and used as forage for livestock
- ❑ Grass is not the only forage
- ❑ The case for moorland/heather (« landes ») in habitat directive: explicit pastured ligneous vegetation

## ❑ Official definition of PP

- ❑ “areas devoted to grass production or other herbaceous forage crops, in place for 5 years or more (except fallow lands). These permanent pastures are named whether permanent grasslands, temporary grassland more than 5 years old, moorland, heath and rangelands”

- ❑ Should comply with the “local usual norms” as set at *départemental* level (NUTS 3 – 95 départements in France)



# A CAP form

Surfaces en herbe			
Prairie permanente production foin commercialisé	F1		X
Prairie permanente	PN		
Prairie temporaire production foin commercialisé	F2		X
Prairie temporaire	PT		
Prairie temporaire de plus de 5 ans production foin commercialisé	F3		X
Prairie temporaire de plus de 5 ans	PX		
Estives, alpages	ES		
Landes et parcours	LD		
Parcours ligneux (Corse)	C6		

NOTA : vous ne devez pas déclarer les estives collectives, elles seront prises en compte ultérieurement (voir en page 5 : cas particulier des estives à usage collectif).

## Grassland

permanent grassland devoted to hay sold off farm [F1]

permanent grassland [PN]

temporary grassland devoted to hay sold off farm [F2]

temporary grassland more than 5 years devoted to hay sold off farm [F3]

temporary grassland more than 5 years [PX]

alpine and summer mountain pastures ("*alpages et estives*") [ES]

Moorland, heath and rangeland ("*landes et parcours*") [LD]

ligneous rangeland (for Corsica only) [C6]



# Payments attached to surfaces

## All forage areas:

- Decoupled SFP
- SFP productive grassland “herbe productive”
- LFA payments (in designated areas only)

## On grassland only:

- Pillar 2 AE grassland premium (PHAE II)



# The importance of « local usual norms »

- ❑ « *Arrêté préfectoral* » (local decree) sets:
  - ❑ The admissible forage area and defines permanent pastures (a *de facto* GAEC as it sets effective use by cattle)
  - ❑ The minimal maintenance rules (GAEC):  
minimum stocking density and productivity  
By default in France: 0.2 LU/ha – 1 t dry matter/ha
  - ❑ Management of landscape features (hedges, ponds,...) and their share in admissible forage area
- ❑ Some départements issue photographic reference guide



# 3 exemples



**Saône et Loire**

**Gard**

**Ariège**

# Example 1 : Saône-et-Loire

- ❑ Definition of permanent pastures: strictly grass – need to be used for livestock production

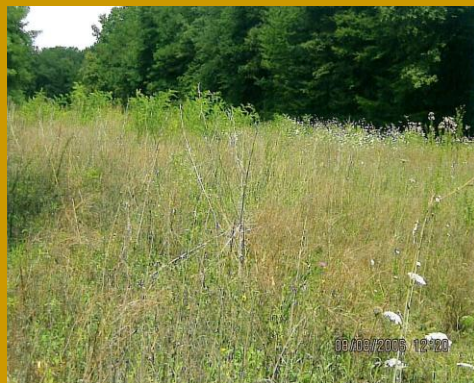
Admissible GAEC OK



Non admissible



Admissible but GAEC not OK





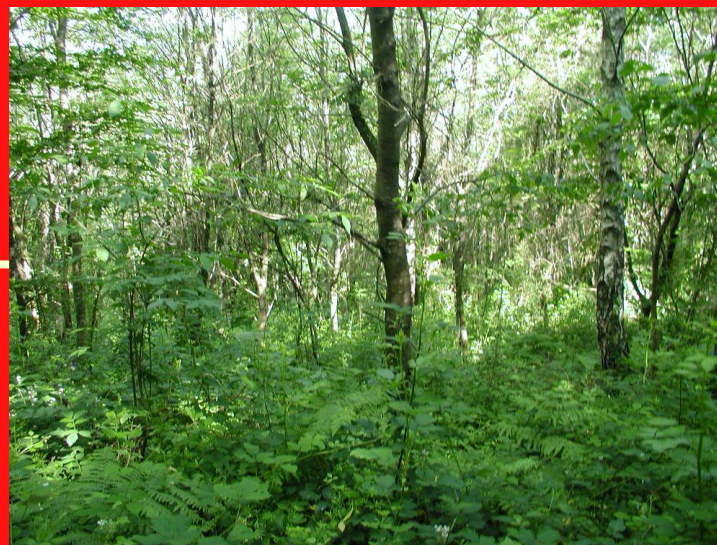
## Example 2 : Ariège

- ❑ Definition of permanent pastures: mainly grass, but particular cases – need to be used for livestock production

Admissible GAEC OK



Non admissible



Admissible but GAEC not OK



# Example 3 : Gard

(photos from a technical note Aude)

- ❑ Definition of permanent pastures: need to be used for livestock production, ligneous admissible

Admissible GAEC OK



Non admissible



Admissible but GAEC not OK



# Synthesis

Admissible GAEC OK

**ACTUAL USE BY  
LIVESTOCK AND DEGREE  
OF “OPENING”**

Non admissible

**NOT USED BY  
LIVESTOCK (OR TOO  
OCCASIONALLY)**

MA  
(DE  
LIV

Setting the limits and thresholds  
is crucial

Adm

Find a balance between control simplicity  
and variety of livestock systems

AC

**LIVESTOCK BUT DEGREE  
OF “OPENING” ALTERED,  
REFUSALS SHALL  
INCREASE**



# Maintenance of permanent pasture

- ❑ Loss of 160.000 ha of permanent grassland in 2009
  - ❑ 2005 ratio altered by 2.3%
- ❑ Implementation of a on farm requirement from 2010 onwards
- ❑ Maintenance of the surface of each category
  - ❑ Temporary grassland more than 5 years old
  - ❑ Permanent grassland
  - ❑ (50% of area of temporary grassland <5 years must be maintained)
- ❑ Not applicable for designated area:
  - ❑ Possible to plough a PP and declare a field newly seeded with grass as a PP (!)
- ❑ Reference year: 2010 (re !)



# Intensification

- ❑ A background trend in France
- ❑ A payment system favourable to an intensification up to 1.4 LU/ha of forage area
  - ❑ Maximum for PHAE II (76 €/ha)
  - ❑ Productive grassland premium 80 €/ha if LU/ha > 0.8 and 50 €/ha below
- ❑ A logical strategy: decrease the permanent pasture area lowering the stocking density
  - ❑ Concentrate on the 'easiest' areas
  - ❑ In larger farms, replace natural forage with purchased feed
- ❑ A side effect on land abandonment



# Three key messages

- ❑ Needs of local norms in order to adapt to the variety of livestock systems — France shows that it is feasible
  - ❑ Science based studies in order to set the limits
  - ❑ Most important criteria: effective use by livestock
- ❑ On-farm requirements for the maintenance of permanent pastures: a major step but needs to be more explicit on the PP aimed at (extensive ones)
- ❑ Risk of on-going intensification not addressed: towards a pillar 1 payment?

