



European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism

Trends in extensive grazing systems in Europe

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How it was



- > Local farming had to feed the population
- Farming had to be self-sufficient in nutrients somehow
- > Livestock key to moving nutrients even in arable systems
- Semi-natural areas not only a valuable grazing resource, but a source of nutrients
- > Economic opportunities limited
- > Legal and political constraints

How things have changed



- > Transport and trade creating relative advantage
- Science and techniques reduced dependency on animal manures and the semi-natural
- Intensification of systems and their specialisation became possible (also leading to abandonment)
- Share of farming in GDP declined from 50% to ~2% today
- Economic opportunities outwith agriculture became huge not only locally but across large distances
- Not primarily a result of policy, but policy reinforced and supported

Effect on semi-natural pastures



- Survive where economic return for intensifying system is not high enough (geographical factors mostly)
- Or where for some reason it cannot happen (poverty, political issues)
- IDEAL-HNV project in Ireland sees the spectrum as being divisible in to three, depending on the geographical and socio-economic context
 - Remnant
 - Partial
 - Whole landscape



Area in central Sweden

> Overall system has its own socio-economics > That said, the fate of semi-natural pastures there is largely unrelated to that system's viability AECM, reinforced with regulation, might be 'all' that's needed Can be very sensitive to signals at the field scale (But reintroduction/extension of semi-natural pastures and grazing might be a huge challenge) Google Ea **Google** Earth

58°22'35.30" N 13°04'19.75" E elev 63 m eye alt 4.97 km 🔘

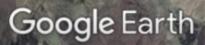
Area in NW Scotland

Maligar

Marishader

N

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Area in central Spain

La Vihuela The fate of semi-natural grazing IS the fate of the system Everything about farming can be challenging The return to farming labour >> The social attractiveness of farming and living there The huge relative opportunities elsewhere or in other occupations in the same regions Abandonment a clear and present danger > A matter not only for all CAP instruments but for structural policy etc. and a whole range of national policy But ongoing maintenance could have low unit cost

magery Date: 10/23/2017 41°02'01.67" N 3°23'55.49" W elev 1207 m eye alt 4.32 km 🔘

Policy influences on extensive grazing



- > Only policy can reward for the provision of public goods
- It can do so by the realistic use of income forgone and additional cost considerations
- Policy regulates the external trade and internal markets which are partially responsible for lack of system competitiveness
- > On-farm regulation has but a minor role

Some reflections for policy



- The issue has a scale which is central to success but seems to be poorly integrated into policy in reality (and often poorly quantified)
 - Area of habitat.....
 - No. of livestock necessary.....
 - Minimum wage & minimum living conditions for those delivering.....
- The issue has a very high degree of reliance on policy and on the integration of a high number of policies, but responses so far are mostly single-silo and modest
- The issue is spatially-differentiated, with political implications (evident....); how can these be overcome?