Sweden's wood pastures under the CAP

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How much wood pasture?

- Don't really know
- Pasture total: 436 000 ha (15 % of UAA)
- Probably well over half with trees/shrubs
  = say 250 000 ha

- Uneven distribution
- Most in the south
CAP helpful

- Agri-environment support (1995)
- LFA support (1995)
- Area payments (2005)

- Pasture area increased
- Better management

- Low cost: typically EUR 300 / hectare
CAP unhelpful

• DG Agri audits after 2005 led to:
  – reduced eligibility for area payments (2008)
  – limit of 60 (100) trees / hectare
  – cumbersome administration
  – re-mapping of all wood pastures
Consequences

• Pasture area decreased again
• Panic clearings to reduce tree numbers
  – mosaic structure destroyed
  – many large old trees removed
• Loss of confidence in CAP
New implementation 2015

• Pro-rata model
• 10 % tree/shrub cover allowed
• Preliminary results:
  – more than half of ineligible patches eligible again
  – pro-rata reductions on less than 1 % of parcels

= Clear improvement
But...

• New threat: redesigned LFA support
  – full support only for grass on arable
  – grazing on pasture = lower or no LFA support
  – again, DG Agri pressure

• Several types of wood pasture still ineligible
  – pastures on mountain summer farms
• Several types of wood pasture still ineligible:
  – pastures on mountain summer farms
  – grazed forests
But...

• Several types of wood pasture still ineligible:
  – pastures on mountain summer farms
  – grazed forests
  – alvar pastures
Conclusion

• Not only technical issues (definition, delineation)
• Two different concepts of agriculture clashing
• **Livestock farmers**: manage entire landscapes
  – field, pasture, forest
  – multiple uses overlapping on same land
• **CAP administrators**: arable farming mindset
  – fields only
  – single use, strictly defined areas (100 m²)
What to do

• CAP support to all well-managed farmland
  – management key criterion
  – **not** "objective" data (tree counts)

• Challenge for CAP administrators
  – more complex realities
  – stop applying arable farming models to pasture
  – develop new, appropriate tools
Real greening

• Wood pastures already deliver:
  – resource efficiency with low external input
  – high nature value, high cultural value
  – ecosystem services
  – multiple products and functions

• Right place to reduce CAP support?
Thank you

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