Common Pastures in France
Diversity – Pastoral laws – impacts of the new CAP

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About us

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Context
French Common pastures
an history started 6 000 years ago (neolithic era)

Can you realize ? My grand-grand-grand-
Grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-grand-mother lived there !

I'm so affected !
Current location of French common pastures

Essentially in mountain areas

But also in the coastal marshlands
Classic origins of common pastures: secure the access to the pastoral resources

Example of traditional organisation in Central Pyrenean Valley which continues today

- Every farmer of the valley has access to the various pastures
- Common summer pastures of several villages
- Common spring and autumn pastures of one village
- Private pastures and fields

Outside farmers

Local farmers

Local farmers
Few figures about French common pastures

- 1,500,000 ha

- 60,000 French farms use common pastures
  - 18% French breeding farms
  - 30% to 50% French mountain breeding farms

- 22% French livestock use common pastures
  - 3,900,000 sheep (34% French sheep breeding)
  - 2,560,000 cattle (12% French cattle breeding)
  - 54,000 goats
  - 20,000 horses
## Various forms of common pasture in France

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owners</th>
<th>Users</th>
<th>Common Pasture ?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property of the State</td>
<td>One graziers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communal property</td>
<td>Many graziers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undivided property of several municipalities</td>
<td>Pastoral group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property of a part of locals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private owner(s)</td>
<td>Many graziers</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Association of Land holders</td>
<td>Pastoral group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A private owner</td>
<td>One grazier</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example of common pastures diversity

- Lawns
- Woods
- Marshes
- Barrens
Diversity of issues
Pastoral laws and tools in France
A pastoral law since 1972

Context in 60's:

• French agricultural policy centred on modernization and productivity
• Agriculture underestimates it in difficult zones, in particular in mountain
• New societal expectations about moutain: tourism, environnement, ...
A pastoral law for mountains

A recognition of pastoralism:
- Engine of economic development
- Preservation of the landscapes
- Limitation of the natural risks
- Etc.

Creation of 3 tools to support the pastoralism:
- Pastoral Association of Land holders
- Pastoral Groups
- Multiannual agreement of pasture

Creation of specialized technical services
Pastoral Association of Land holders

Possibility of creating a pastoral association of holders if a qualified majority as owners agree

50 % of owners possessing 50 % of grounds

If there are a common pasture, only second condition is necessary

The owners who do not express their opinion are considered as agreeing

The state confirms the constitution
Pastoral Association of Land holders

Classic example

Three main activities:
- Pastoral association
- Represent the owners
- Development work

One or several graziers or a pastoral group

Restart of pastoralism and rational use of grounds

Use officially the « new » common pasture
Areas grazed through collective registered Pastoral Association of Land holders in 2012

350 Pastoral Association of Land holders including:
- 33,000 owners
- 205,000 ha
Pastoral groups

Pastoral group = association of users of a same ground

• It signs a lease or a multiannual agreement of pasture with the different owners or with a pastoral association of land holders

• It decides on the use of the ground

• It makes works of development

• It represents all the graziers
Areas grazed by registered Pastoral Groups in 2012

Nearly 1,000 pastoral groups including more than 5,500 farmers.
Multiannual agreement of pasture

= Rental agreement for pasture (minimum 5 years) but other activities are possible except the period of pasture

**USERS**
- One grazier
- Several graziers
- Pastoral group

**OWNERS**
- One or several owners
- Owner of common or private pasture
- Pastoral association of land holders

Summer

Winter
Pastoral Technical services

At least 1 by department of mountain

To set up the national policy

Help technically the graziers and the administators of common pasture
Issues related to the application of the new CAP
On common pastures
New rules of eligibility for base payments (1st pillar)
The principles

- Common pastures allow the activation of base payments for the farmers who use them (no base payments for pastoral groups)
- Same rules of eligibility for all permanent pastures: prorata + right to declare according to the reality on the ground (photo-referential)
But with the same technical issues than for big individual pastoral farms: drawing all the non-pastoral areas bigger than 10 ares is nearly impossible...
Surfaces areas are shared between farmers to activate base payments

Collective summer pasture
800 ha → 500 ha after prorata

In the past, there were maximum areas per livestock unit

Farmer A
45 cows (30% of the total) : 150 ha activated for BP

Farmer B
65 cows (43%) : 217 ha

Farmer A
40 cows (27%) : 133 ha
What happens if a new farmer wants to join the pastoral group?

Collective summer pasture
800 ha → 500 ha after prorata

Farmer A
45 cows : 150 ha
before / 113 after

Farmer B
65 cows : 217 ha
before / 163 after

Farmer C
40 cows : 133 ha
before / 100 after

Farmer D
50 cows
(If rights activated)
125 ha
NEW CAP: CONFLICTS ON THE COMMON PASTURES?

I understood very well the new CAP rules.

On our common summer pasture, everything is now calculated...

From now, we got rid of all the farmers who don't live in the village and have no grazing rights...

So that we can share the maximum Base payments.

Farewell to my delicious grass...

Strangers and young farmers get out!

Uncle Scrooge
Base payments on common pastures?

Possibility to activate surfaces from common pastures → a good way to encourage the use of those exceptional places and to sustain cattle drove

But in absence of regulation:
- A system that encourages under-grazing
- Inequality between farmers that practice cattle drove
- Strong difficulties to install new young farmers if they can't find a place for the summer in a common pasture
2\textsuperscript{nd} pillar: zoom on agro-environmental schemes concerning common pastures
A new result-based “system” measure for the common pastures

The engagements:

Number of animals to maintain for each pasture (adapted to the pastoral resources) and number maximal of animals: to avoid desertification and overgrazing.

No percentage of engagement: the collectives responsible can choose where they can respect the engagement.

Results: level of grazing.

Simple: 1 ha engaged = 1 ha payed

→ a simple measure, rather adapted to the common summer pastures. Payments for the pastoral group (or eq)
Result-based engagement on the raw permanent pastures

- **No grazing** (0)
- **Very light grazing** (1)
- **Light grazing** (2)
- **Irregular grazing** (3)
- **Important grazing** (4)
- **Total grazing** (5)

- **No undergrazing**
- **No degradations**
- **Eutrophication**
- **Overgrazing**
And a lot of other measures that existed before

Ex:

Pastoral plan

Pastoral works (cutting trees or shrubs)
Agro-environmental schemes on common pastures?

- Measures that are rather adapted
- Political will to sustain good practices

- Regional additional rules → complex implementation
- Call for projects: not all the pasture can benefit from those measures
- Few money compared to the first pillar
Diversity of situations toward the agro-environmental schemes in 2015

**Aquitaine**: Nearly all the collective pastures benefit from schemes.

**Midi-Pyrénées**: “System” measure for common pasture not allowed → No contracts in 2015.

**PACA**: The majority of pastoral groups have contracts (but cheap).

**Languedoc-Roussillon**: Half of the pastoral groups benefit from contracts in 2015.
What will be the balance between 1st pillar and 2nd pillar?

1st pillar: much more money
The whole surface is shared and activates DPB for each individual farm. No payment for the collective pastoral manager.

2nd pillar: less and less money
For measures to sustain collective good practices → How will the collective pastoral manager go on paying shepherds, cowboys, pastoral works...?
Thank you for your attention!