



The current CAP reform

- threats and opportunities for common grazings

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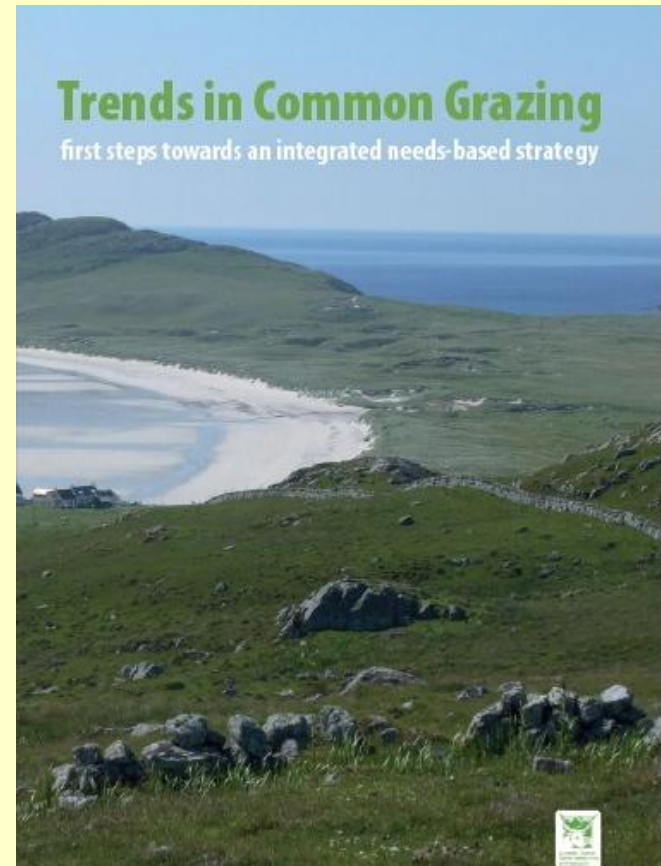


EUROPEAN FORUM ON
NATURE CONSERVATION
AND PASTORALISM



Content of talk

- *Discuss some of the main threats to common graziers (and therefore common grazings) in CAP proposals*
- *Discuss some opportunities*



Proposals of October 13th 2011

- *Draft Reg on Direct Payments (DP)*
- *Draft Reg on Rural Development (EAFRD)*
- *Draft Reg on Common Market Organisation (CMO)*
- *Draft Management Reg (MR)*



Will touch on....

- *Definition of agricultural land*
- *Allocation of forage for Basic Payment*
- *Opportunities to support common grazings*



Definition of agricultural land (DP Art. 4.1.h)

- *Can only be*
 - Arable
 - Permanent crops (orchards, olives, vines...)
 - Permanent grassland (NOT 'pasture' any more)



Definition of permanent grassland_(DP Art. 4.1.h)

- “Permanent grassland” means land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage naturally (self-seeded) or through cultivation (sown) and that has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding for five years or longer; it may include other species suitable for grazing provided that the grasses and other herbaceous forage remain predominant;”
- *Excludes vegetation dominated by woody plants, e.g. heathers*
- *A case for immediate attention?*

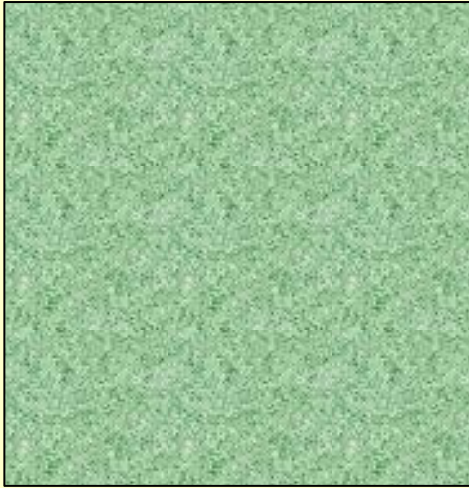


Basic Payment (SPS replacement)

- *To be non-historic, standard per ha payment, possibly differentiated regionally*
- *To be given only to active farmers (but very weak definition) (DP Art 9)*
- *To be established in 2014, but only by those claiming SPS in 2011 (DP Art 21)*

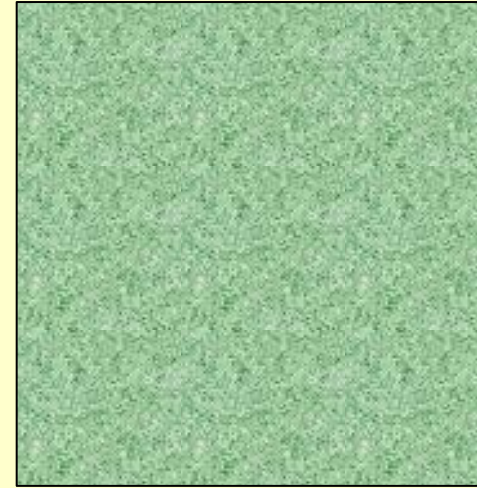


Regionalised SFP - an example of the problem:



Hill farm A

- 1000 ha
- 1000 ewes
- 1 farmer
- £17000 of historic SFP
- 1000 ha claimed forage
- £17/ha = £17000
- Assuming Basic payment rate is £40/ha
- £40000 Basic Payment?



Common grazings B

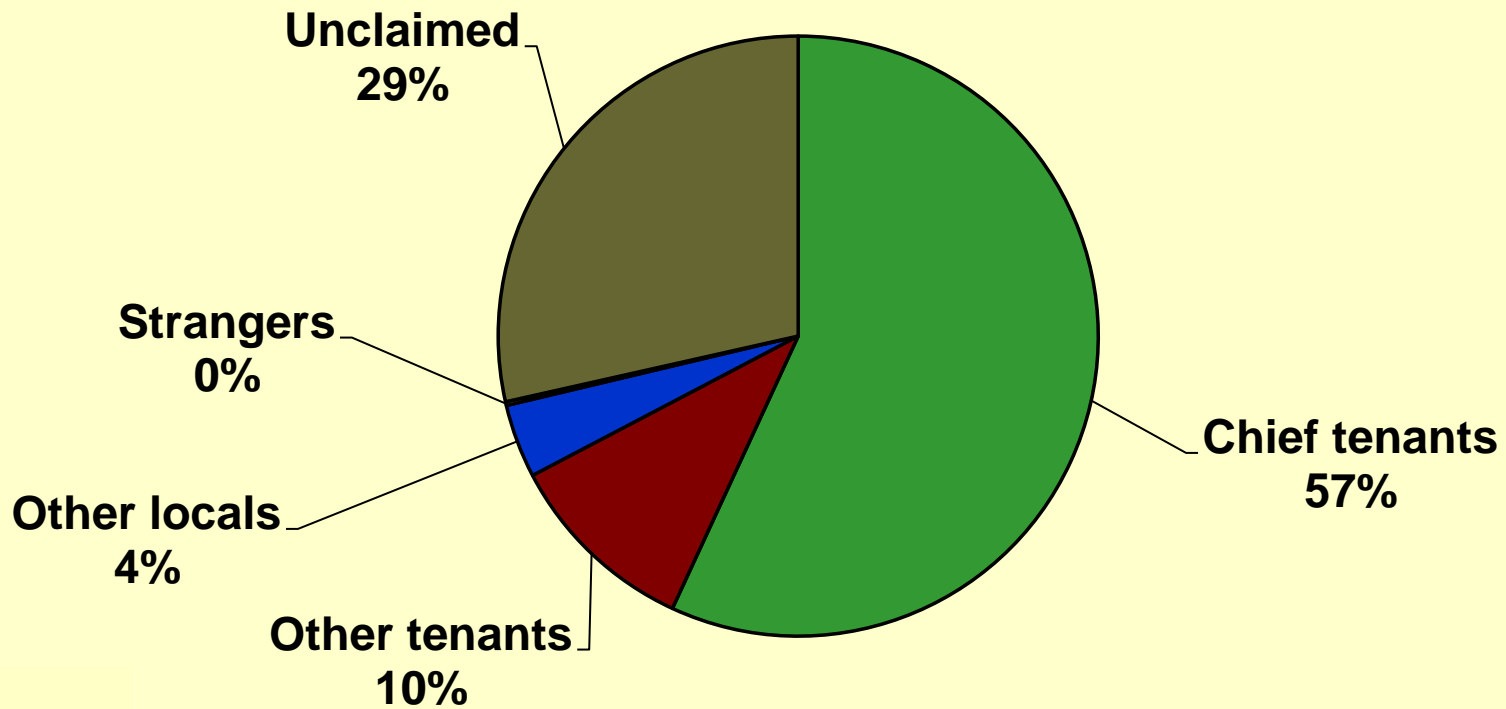
- 1000 ha
- 1000 ewes
- 10 shares, 4 active
- £17000 of historic SFP
- 400 ha claimed forage
- £42.50/ha = £17000
- Assuming Basic payment rate is £40/ha
- £16000 Basic Payment?

What are the issues?

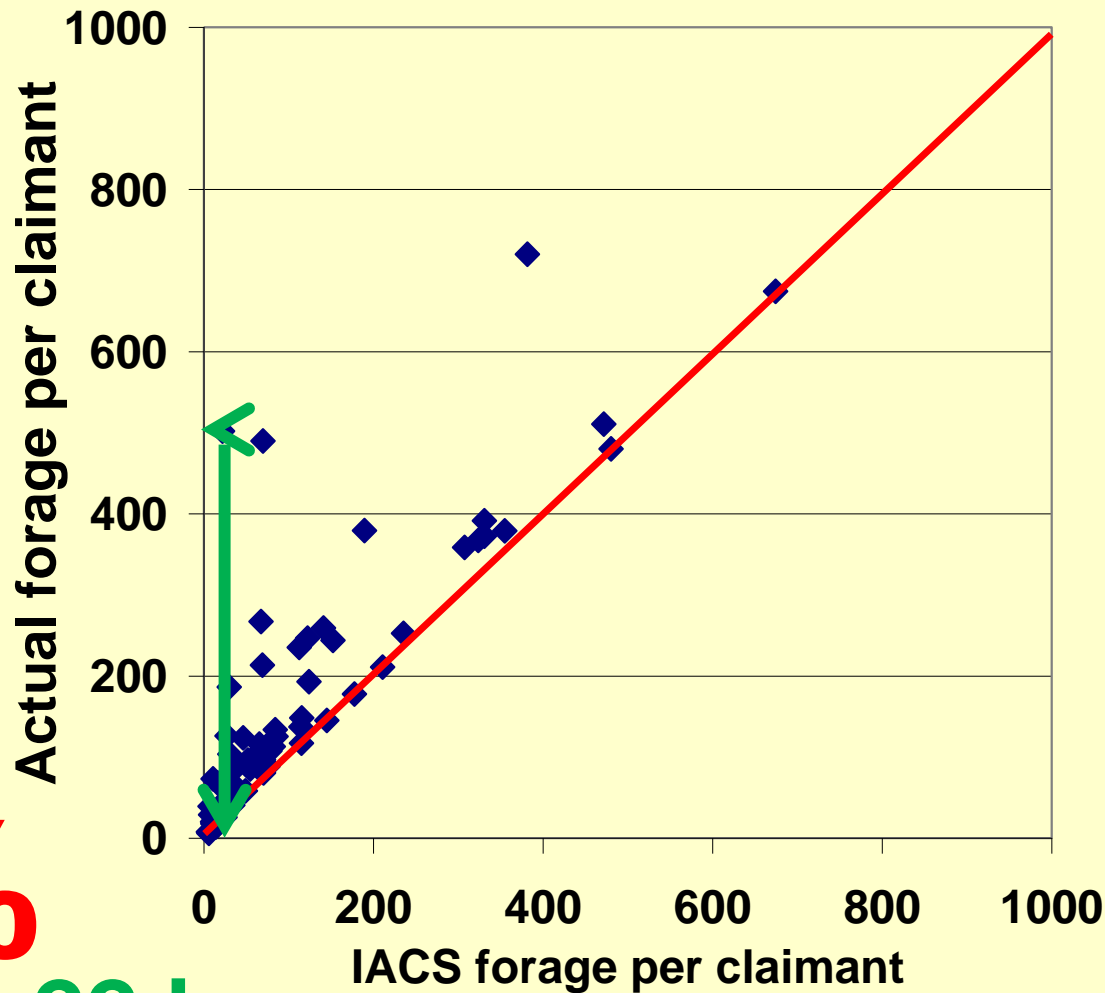
- *Issue of regions is important of course ...*
 - Look at lessons from England.....
- *BUT this is just about being paid for the forage you ACTUALLY MANAGE*
- *On Scotland-wide basis*
 - 360,360 ha claimed in IACS
 - 537,615 ha of parcels SOME of which are claimed
 - 177,255 ha also managed, but not claimed (33%)
 - Another 54,286 ha not declared in IACS at all



Portree & Inverness areas – forage claimed, IACS 2009



Actual forage versus claimable forage, Portree & Inverness IACS 2009 claims



502 ha

-95%

22 ha

Possible solutions??

- *Not possible to claim for first time in 2014 (unless have allocation from reserve)*
- *Could use powers of grazings committees to reallocate shares for 2014 to 2011 claimants*
 - Easy (in theory)
 - But, once entitlements established by 2011 claimants, will probably ‘fossilise’ the situation; what about new entrants? What about people who become inactive in practice?
- *Would it be a good idea to use the National Reserve?*
 - Provide specifically for grazings committees to be eligible applicants
 - Set aside 200,000 ha, perhaps with time limit for application
 - Would require a LOT of capacity building and SG help

Rural development and grazings

- *Although grazings deliver significant benefits, little reward for managing them*
 - Poor range of schemes/measures
 - Little integration or joined-up thinking
 - High threshold for agreement
 - No recognition of extra effort required
 - No guidance on what is 'fair'
- *Poor uptake of schemes*
- *Very negative overall policy message*



Thematic sub-programmes (EAFRD Art. 8)

- *Can include them to address specific needs, esp. as regards:*
 - Mountain areas
 - Small farms
 - Young farmers
 - Short supply chains [sic.]
- *A common grazings sub-programme?*
- *Requires separate analysis (good thing – common grazings not mentioned at all in current RDP analysis!)*
- *Easy identification by CPH no. would help!*



Co-operation measures (EAFRD Art. 36)

- ...”co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes, sharing facilities and resources;”
- ...”collective approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices;”
- *Can cover costs of:*
 - *Planning*
 - *Set-up*
 - *Running costs*
 - *Cost of specific projects*
 - *Promotion activities*



Transaction costs (EAFRD Art. 29)

- *[in agri-environment can pay for] ...*”transaction costs to a value of up to 20% of the premium paid for the agri-environment-climate commitments. Where commitments are undertaken by groups of farmers, the maximum level shall be 30%.”
- *They include (Camilla Widmark):*
 - Collection and analysis of data before decisions made
 - Collective decision-making costs
 - Collective operational costs



An opportunity then?

- *Sub-programme for common grazings*
- *Measures for positive action (not just avoidance of damage)*
 - A properly thought-out measure for hill cattle
 - But very importantly also one for sheep
- *Support for existing grazings committees, and for setting up new ones (including under 1911 and pre-1955 Crofting Acts!), updating regs etc?*
- *Possibility of setting up a support infrastructure for common grazings (advisory services), at least as part of wider advisory package*
- *Recognition of transaction costs*



Aspects of the timetable

- *Should come into effect Jan 2014*
- *Subject to co-decision (Council and Parliament) for the first time*



Average duration in months of the procedure from Commission proposal until signature

	1999- 2004	2004- 2009	Shortest and longest procedure (2004-2009)
Agreement in			
First reading	13,8	15,2	1,8 / 47,9
Second reading	25,1	31,3	11,9 / 108,1
Conciliation	31,9	43,7	28,8 / 159,4



Aspects of the timetable

- *Should come into effect Jan 2014*
- *Subject to co-decision (Council and Parliament) for the first time*
- *Maybe Regs finished by end 2012??*
- *Budget may not be agreed until end 2013*
- *Commission has 6 months to approve an RDP*
- *Programme written in first half of 2013?*



**2012 is only real chance to
develop innovative
approaches!**

**Needs to come from people who
understand common grazings –
no use waiting for Dept to do it!**

