Massive policy shifts are occurring in:

1) CAP

- New goals - public goods, greener, better targeting, better evaluation and monitoring
- Shifting from management of production sectors to management of land

DATA AND ADMINISTRATION SYSTEMS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW LAND-BASED APPROACH

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY DIFFERENT TYPES OF FARMLAND AND THEIR USE
Massive policy shifts are occurring in:

2) Biodiversity Strategy

- Maintaining and restoring ecosystems and their services
- So not just Natura 2000 sites and habitats, it’s about wider farmland and the services it delivers

DATA AND ADMINISTRATION SYSTEMS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW GOALS

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY DIFFERENT TYPES OF FARMLAND AND THEIR USE
Policy must be CLEAR about which farmland types are priorities for delivery of public goods and services
Proposed CAP “greening” offers almost nothing for semi-natural farmland, despite the fine words...

... ensure that all farms deliver environmental and climate benefits through the retention of soil carbon and grassland habitats associated with permanent pasture, the delivery of water and habitat protection by the establishment of ecological focus areas and improvement of the resilience of soil and ecosystems through crop diversification. They will reinforce the ability of land and natural ecosystems to contribute to address major EU biodiversity and climate change adaptation objectives.
Biodiversity Strategy is equally silent on the place of semi-natural farmland in its Targets:

**Target 1** – **no mention** that all HD Annex 1 farmland habitats are semi-natural pastures and meadows.

**Target 2** – …maintain and enhance ecosystems and their services… **which ecosystems?**

**Target 3** – …maximise areas under agriculture …covered by biodiversity-related measures under the CAP… **which areas?**
Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

CAP eligibility

- SNP should have PRIORITY for CAP support, with payments sufficient to prevent abandonment.
- Separate registration on LPIS would be the basis for this targeting.
- Minimum activity should be the key criterion for eligibility on SNP (not necessary for other farmland?).
- This could be defined specifically for different SNP types.
Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

CAP rules on trees, hedges etc.

- EU Guidance should refer to the special considerations of SNP
- Are EU rules on trees and hedges really needed?
- Let Member States define rules for different SNP types where necessary
Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

GAEC and greening rules

• These rules should be TAILORED for SNP, e.g. to prevent ploughing, reseeding and intensification (as currently under GAEC in the UK).
• For “other” permanent pasture, the aims are different, e.g. preventing conversion to maize.
• Does it make any sense for SNP to NOT count as Ecological Focus Area (EFA)?
• And is EFA the same as Green Infrastructure???
Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP)

HNV farming indicators

- SNP is the core of HNV farmland, in extensive grazing systems (Type 1) AND in mosaics (Type 2)
- The CMEF indicator for HNV farmland is VERY difficult to implement without a separate data set for SNP
- With SNP and landscape features recorded on LPIS, the extent and condition of HNV farmland can be monitored
To address the pasture issues under the CAP, LPIS classes need urgent up-dating

- We need less arable detail, more pastures detail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semi-natural Vegetation codes</th>
<th>Arable Codes</th>
<th>Feature Codes (Ineligible for SPS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GR2 Permanent grassland &gt; 5 yrs.</td>
<td>BA1/3 Barley</td>
<td>ZZ90 Bracken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE3/HE7 Heathlands</td>
<td>MC1 Cereals Mixed fodder</td>
<td>ZZ93 Ponds, Rivers and Streams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR1 Orchards</td>
<td>FA1 Fallow</td>
<td>ZZ96 Scrub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GW1/BW1/WS1 Woodland</td>
<td>OA1/3 Oats</td>
<td>ZZ98 Individual trees, stumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC2 Streamside corridors</td>
<td>SW3 Swedes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE3 Reed beds</td>
<td>TU1 Turnips</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WH1 Wheat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WB1/WB2 Wild bird Cover</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP):

**EIA Directive and “semi-natural land”**

- How can there be NO integration of EIA with CAP instruments?
- Is it “duplication” for EIA requirements to be integrated with GAEC, as in the UK? Or is it integration?
- By defining and identifying SNP on LPIS, the EIA Directive can be made to work, at last.
Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP):

Renewable Energy Directive

- How can “highly biodiverse grasslands” be protected from conversion to biofuels if there is no consistent definition or data base of these grasslands?
Issues for Semi-Natural Pastures (SNP): Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services MAES

- MAES is impossible for grassland ecosystems so long as SNP is NOT separated from cultivated grasslands on data sets
- The idea of “making do” with existing data to deliver new and ambitious policy goals makes no sense
Currently the integration is only in the rhetoric, not in the practice

- Different terms and concepts – permanent pastures, semi-natural land and highly biodiverse grassland, Habitats Directive Annex 1, EFA and Green Infrastructure
- No clarity in CAP and Biodiversity texts of how things fit together, of how they are integrated, or even what they mean.
- LPIS, Farm Structures Survey, CORINE, LUCAS... have different categories and data.
- None of these distinguish SNP from other grasslands
- How can we make EU policy less dysfunctional?
Start with a harmonised definition of SNP

- **Permanent Pastures** - land used to grow grasses or other forage (self-seeded or sown) and that has not been ploughed or sown for 5 years or longer.

- **Semi-natural Permanent Pastures** consist of predominantly self-seeded forage maintained by livestock grazing and/or harvesting. The vegetation has not been substantially modified by agronomic improvement (reseeding, fertilisation).

- Record these categories on LPIS and other data sets in a consistent way

- Then we will know the extent of SNP and where it is, and we can target it, monitor it, etc.
Conclusion – whether building a policy or a bookcase, you need the right parts and the right tools

Ted’s Bookcase Plans Are Detailed & Easy To Use

Click Here To Learn More
Policies affecting millions of farmers and hectares cannot consist just of a few “big ideas”

- The pieces should be designed on the basis of science.
- To function efficiently, the pieces must fit together.
- The right tools are needed to fit the pieces and to make the whole thing function.
- The manual needs to explain to the user how the pieces fit together and how to use the tools.
- Look what happened with the Euro - a big idea with a very poor manual and tool kit!
What EFNCP is doing about it...
For more, see our book on HNV farming in 35 countries...