Making Direct Payments work for seminatural habitats in Germany

German Association for Landcare (DVL)
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Topics

1. What is DVL and what are Landcare Associations?
2. How do we finance nature conservation / extensive grazing in Germany?
3. Current situation in Germany: What are the main problems?
4. What solutions do we suggest?
Landcare Germany
cooperting with various stakeholders
The ideal case: Combination of 3 elements:

1. Direct Payments (strongly linked to farmers who produce goods)

2. Agri-environmental Programs

3. Land Management Programs to preserve our Natural Heritage based on the current Article 57 of the EU Agricultural Financing Regulation
Situation in Germany

Importance of CAP for extensive livestock farmers

Ertragsstruktur der Mutterkuhbetriebe

- KULAP 15%
- Ausgleichszulage 10%
- Betriebsprämie 27%
- Umsatzerlöse tierische Erzeugung 27%
- sonstige Umsatzerlöse 7%
- übrige betriebliche Erträge 12%

Strümpel 2010
Relevance of extensive pastures

Extensive pastures = Natura 2000

Foto: LCA Lichtenfels
Extensive pastures are future

- Big potential for
  - Rehydration and use of organic soils
  - Maintenance and use of inundation zones (Potential 250,000 ha)
- Extensive pastures are often seen as a historical way of use – but not as a modern land use in the future (climate protection, protection of water bodies)
Current Situation in Germany

**Germany: Direct payments completely decoupled**

After decoupling: Definitions of grasslands play a central role

- What is agricultural land? How is permanent grassland defined?
- What is agricultural use?
- What is a forage crop?

Homogeneous grassland is easier to define as an eligible area than historical pastures.
Current situation in Germany:

extensive pasture
No solution: evaluation of the area by details
Problems with direct payments

Problems with eligibility of target areas for nature conservation:

1. **Permanent grassland** which is not dominated by forage crops (grass species) are not eligible (e.g. Heath lands, Arid grassland)

2. In areas with many **CC-relevant landscape features** shrubs can only be removed under certain exceptions.

3. **Risks for sanctions** is very high for land users (e.g. due to little measuring tolerance)
Solution: overall evaluation regarding its goals (land use but nature conservation)
Integration of extensive pastures to eligible areas

solution 1: Dedicated land use code "agriculturally used nature conservation areas"

Not characteristics of the area, but "extensive grazing" is the eligible criteria. Nature conservation and landcare can be the main goals of land use.

solution 2: Extension of the definition of eligible areas

either:
(a) Extension of the definition of permanent grassland in Art. 4 Abs. 1 (h) VO 625;
  e.g. heather is a forage crop

or:
(b) Inclusion of an exceptional case for extensive pastures in Art. 34 VO 1122/2009

solution 3: Landscape features are part of the eligible area without CC-protection

up to 50% surface ratio of landscape features in the area are eligible without CC-protection

Request:
• Dedicated land use code
• Nature conservation can be a goal of land use
Thank you very much

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Relevance for nature conservation: e.g. Natura 2000

In 20 habitat types extensive grazing is reasonable/ of importance/ absolutely essential for maintenance

Additionally: traditionally grazed woodlands, grazed orchards, edges of the forest, other extensive pastures with a variable proportion of shrubs

Relevant FFH-sites ca. 6% of grassland area in Germany

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most important habitat types in Germany listed after their area for pastures</th>
<th>Fläche</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humid to dry heath (LRT4030)</td>
<td>48.000 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raised bogs (LRT 7120)</td>
<td>46.900 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrophilous tall herb fringe (LRT 6430)</td>
<td>39.800 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry grassland on calcareous substrates (LRT 6210)</td>
<td>39.500 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aus Jedicke & Metzner 2012
Landcare Germany
extensive pasture

Challenges:

1. Heath, arid grassland, Semi-open pastures with wood, former military areas are eligible for funding

2. Landscape features on pastures like woods and shrubs can integrate into the eligible area (without having to digitise them)