

# PHAE II in France

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# Why speaking of PHAE?

- 🐄 PHAE = prime herbagère agri-environnementale  
= agri-environmental grass premium
- 🐄 Is PHAE a tangible starting point for an HNV scheme?



# From Grassland premium to PHAE II

## « Grassland premium » in 1993 (Premium for the maintenance of extensive livestock)

- ✓ 75% grassland and less than 1.4 LU/ha
- ✓ Mainly a compensation to livestock breeders in the 1992 CAP reform
- ✓ 45 €/ha

## PHAE I in 2003

- ✓ Idem + conditions on fertilisation (max 120 uN and 50 u mineral N)
- ✓ 76 €/ha

## PHAE II in 2009

- ✓ Budgetary issues



# Eligibility criteria of PHAE

## 1. Minimum 50-75% of grassland on UAA (level of grass specialisation, 50/75% adapted at nuts 3 level)

🌿 « grassland » = all types of grassland, inclusive of intensive temporary grassland

## 2. $0.35 < \text{Stocking rate} < 1.4 \text{ LU/ha}$

🌿 LU are those declared or getting payments through CAP (sheep, goat)

🌿 Common lands are not counted, except in Atlantic marshes

## 3. Be aged between 18 and 60 years

## 4. Having paid tax to water agency



# Payments

- 76 €/ha
- Max 7600 €/farm and min 300 €/ha
- A pre-requisite for other grass-related AEM (e.g. extensive management)



# Commitments

- ✘ **Hold the surfaces for 5 years**
  - ✓ Cultivate no more than 20% of temporary grassland every year
- ✘ **Register fertilisation with a maximum of 125 uN/90 P/160 K (max 60 uN mineral for each element)**
- ✘ **No use of herbicides**
  - ✓ Clearance of wooded elements and/or « refus » (what is left un-grazed by animals) with machines (no herbicides)
- ✘ **Have on the surface of the farm at least 20% of « biodiversity features » and maintain them**



# The biodiversity features

- ❖ Moor lands, rangelands, altitude pastures, wetlands,... as defined at département (Nuts3) level
- ❖ Permanent grassland (s.l.) under N2000
- ❖ Set-aside, environmental cover under GAEC,...
- ❖ Traditional orchards
- ❖ Peat bogs
- ❖ Hedges, trees in line and isolated, coppice
- ❖ Ditches, streams, ponds
- ❖ Stonewalls, terraces
- ❖ => **SNV + HNV landscape features**



# A complex system of scores

- ❖ The « equivalent biodiversity surface » index (how to reach the 20%?)
- ❖ 1 ha of permanent grassland = 1 ha of BS
- ❖ 1 ha of permanent grassland in N2000 = 2 ha of BS
- ❖ 1 ha of traditionnal orchards = 5 ha of BS
- ❖ 100 m of hedge = 1 ha of BS
- ❖ Etc.



# The control system

## Documents provided by the farmer

- ✓ Livestock book
- ✓ Fertilisation book
- ✓ Calculation table of BS by the farmer

## Visual control in the field by the controller

- ✓ Maintenance of permanent grassland
- ✓ Maintenance of biodiversity element (« obvious statement of destruction »)



# What has it achieved so far?

- ❖ **PMSEE, PHAE 1 and PHAE 2 are quite the same at the end**
- ❖ **They filled a large part of the payment gap of the main beef systems in grassland regions**
  - ✓ But public money has been for private investments (animal housing, inputs)
- ❖ **Very limited impact on biodiversity**
  - ✓ Farms tend to converge to the 1.4 LU/ha limit in order to optimize the payments and the gross product



# Discussion

## In its present form, PHAE II is (intentionally) too weak...

- ✓ Criteria are not demanding enough: stocking rate, fertilisation
- ✓ The equivalence system is recognised as being too permissive
- ✓ Control system allows flexibility (why not BE on the LPIS?)

## ... but

- ✓ Introduction of SNV and HNV landscape features ! Combined with stocking rate
- ✓ Shows concrete ways to strengthen the scheme

