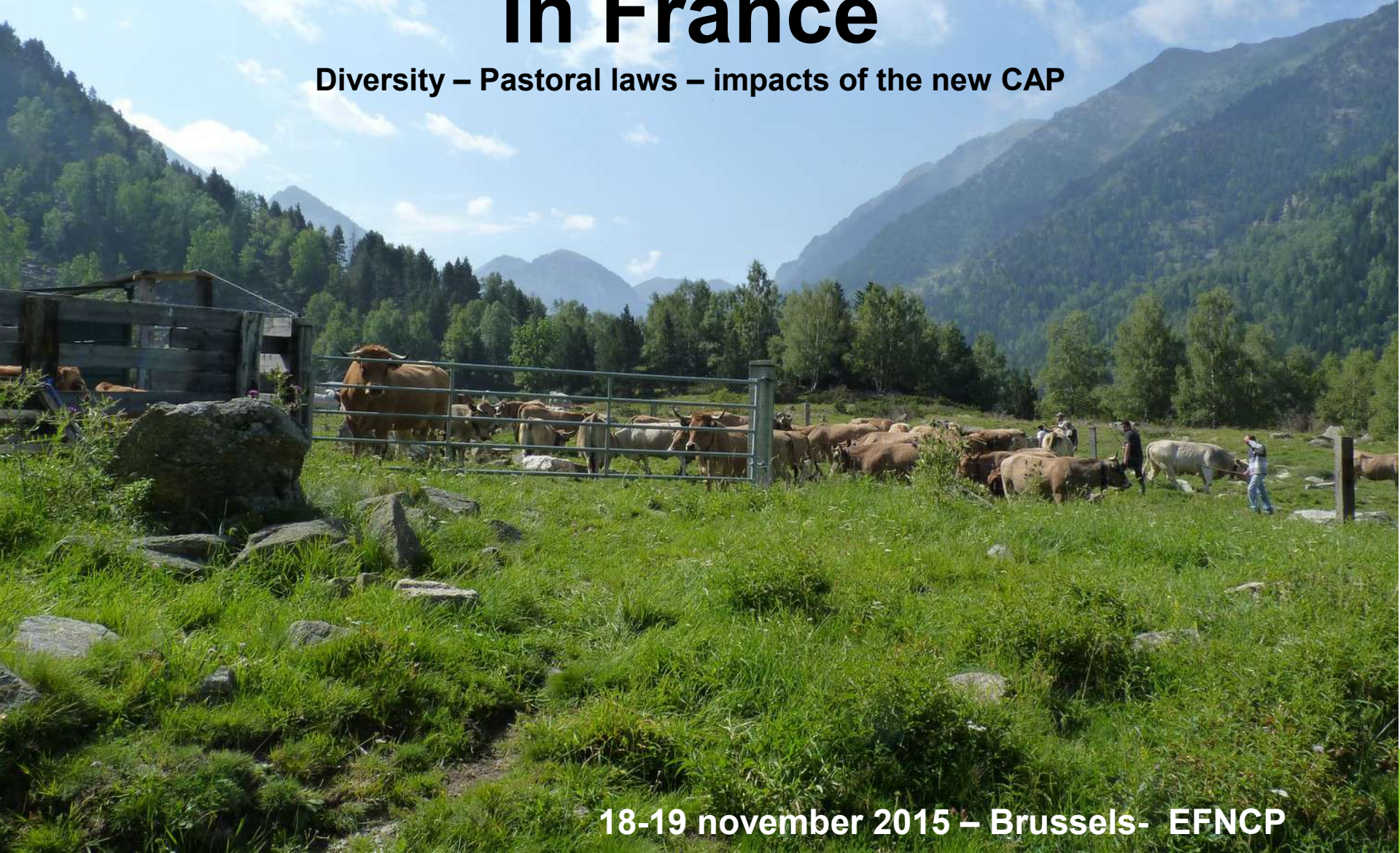


# Common Pastures in France

Diversity – Pastoral laws – impacts of the new CAP



18-19 november 2015 – Brussels- EFNCP



# About us



Our network :  
French Pastoralism  
Association



Service  
pastoralisme

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# Context

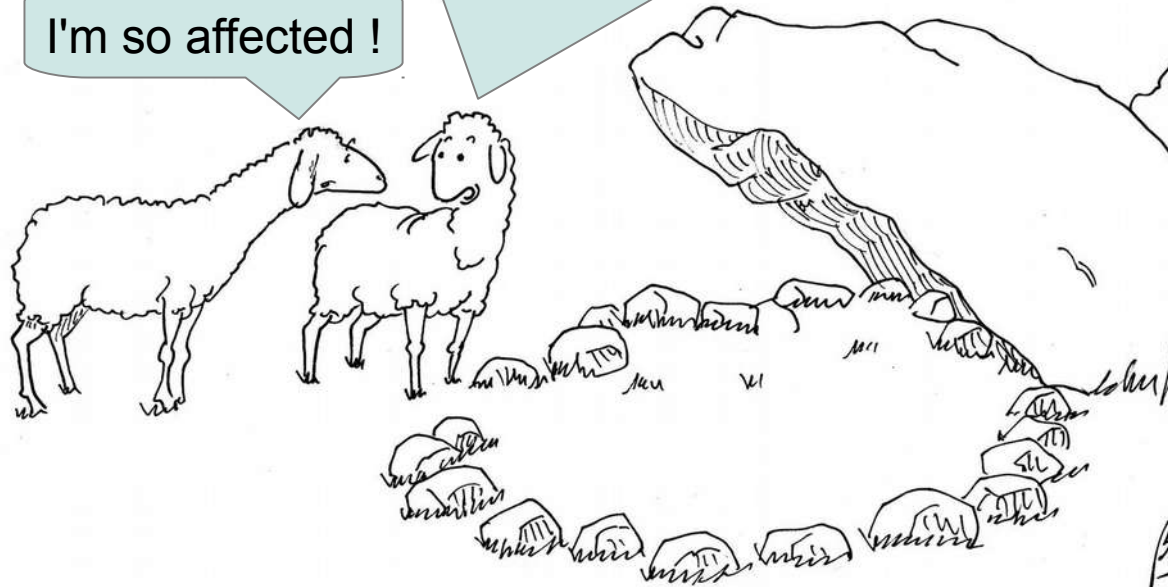




# French Common pastures an history started 6 000 years ago (neolithic era)

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

I'm so affected !



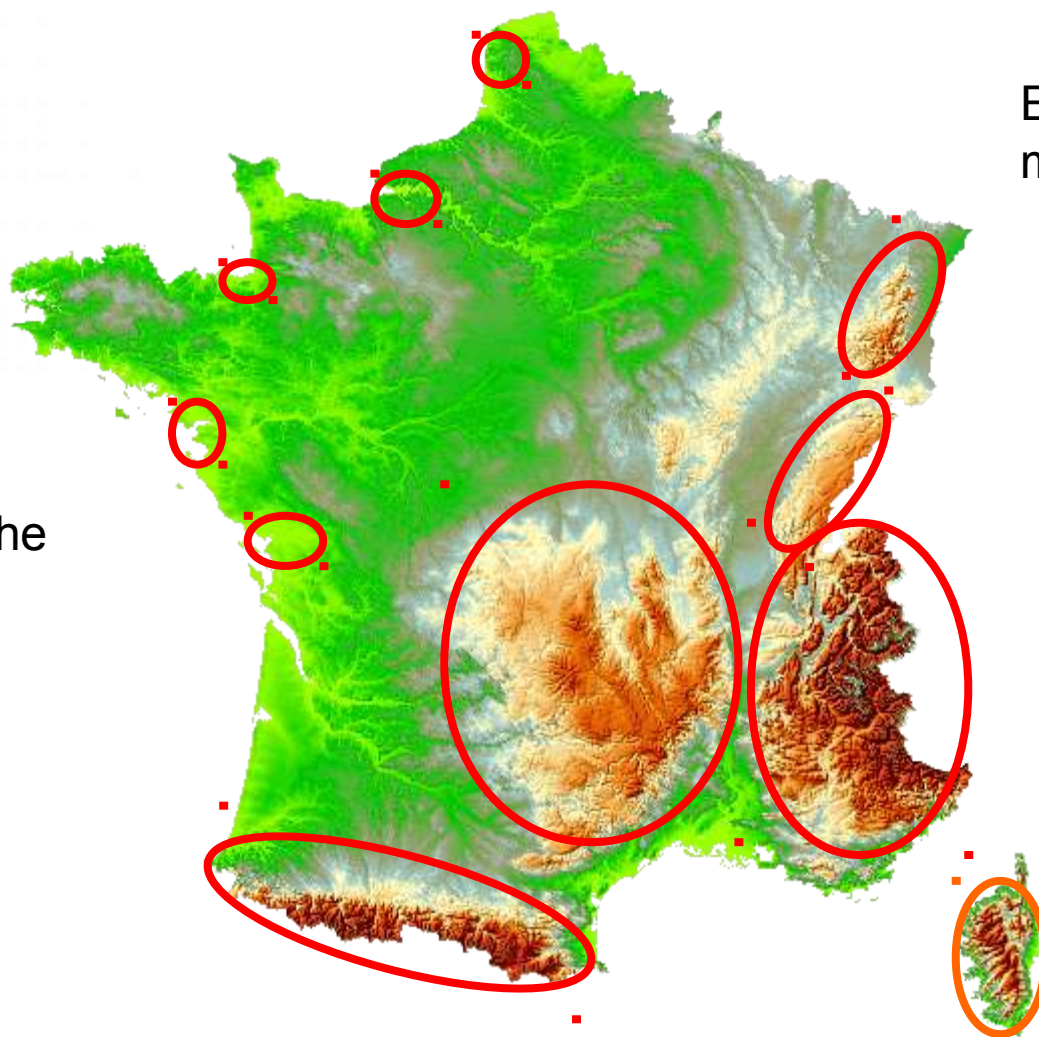
*B. Nicolas*  
Bernard NICOLAS  
www.danselombre.com



## 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 wich continues today

Outside farmers

Local farmers

Local farmers

Common summer pastures of several villages

Common spring and autumn pastures of one village

Private pastures and fields

Every farmer of the valley has access to the various pastures



# 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

Owners		Users	Common Pasture ?
Public	Property of the State	One graziers	Yes
	Communal property	Many graziers	
	Undivided property of several municipalities	Pastoral group	
	Property of a part of locals		
Private	Private owner(s)	Many graziers	Yes
	Pastoral Association of Land holders	Pastoral group	
	A private owner	One grazier	No





## Example of common pastures diversity



Lawns

Woods



Marshes

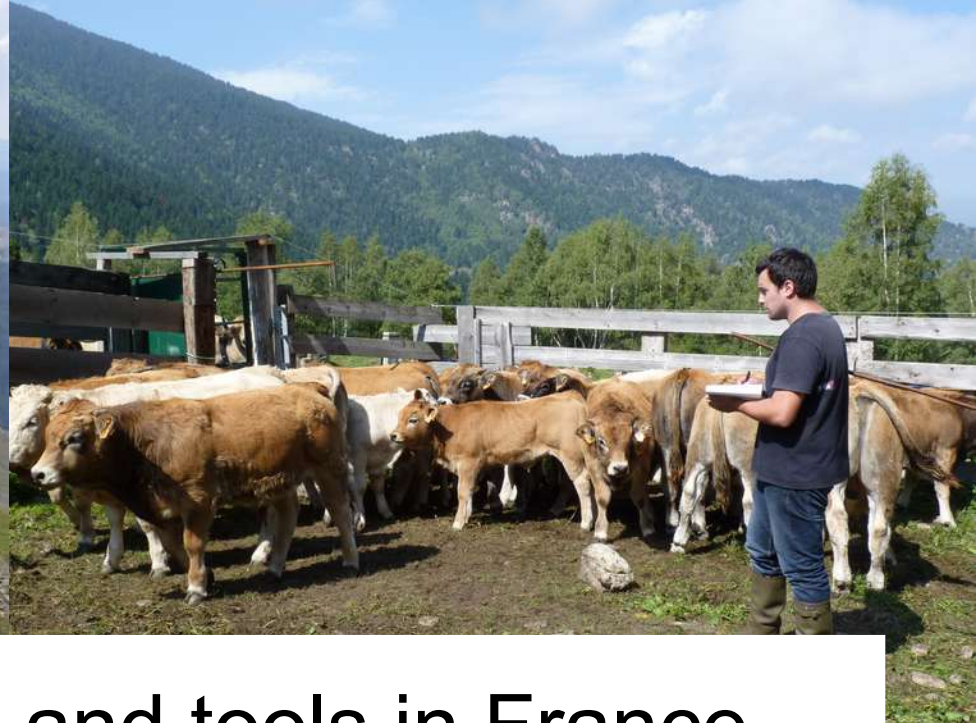
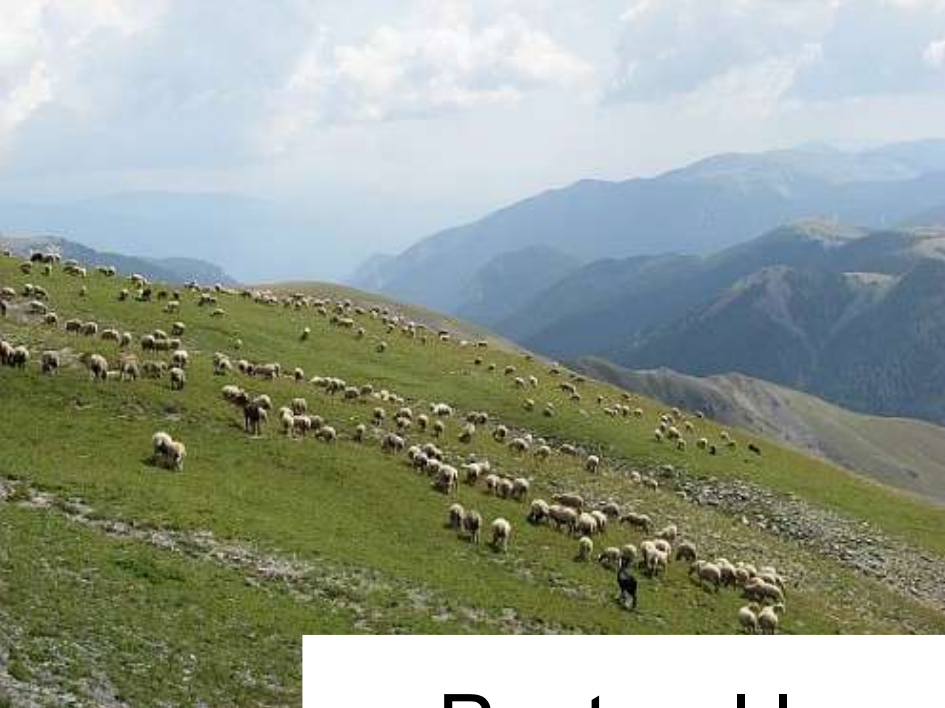
Barrens



# Diversity of issues







## Pastoral laws and tools in France



(c) Parc national du Mercantour

# 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 mountain : 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

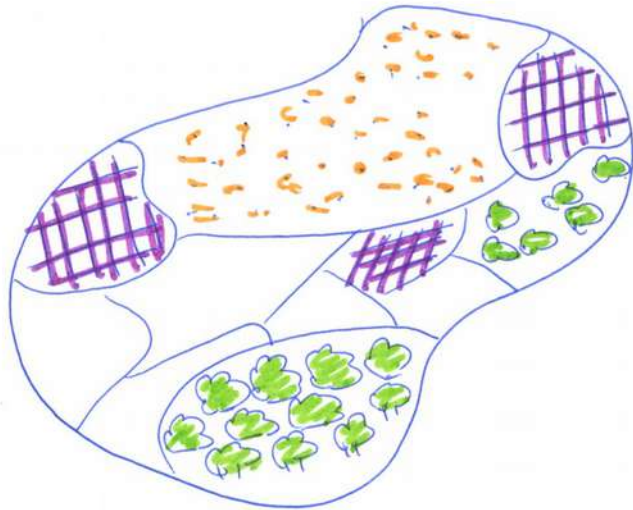
Creation of specialized technical services



# Pastoral Association of Land holders



Grounds of various owners



Unknown land holders

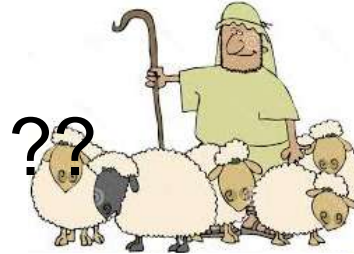


Not used grounds



Common pasture

??



**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

Pastoral  
association

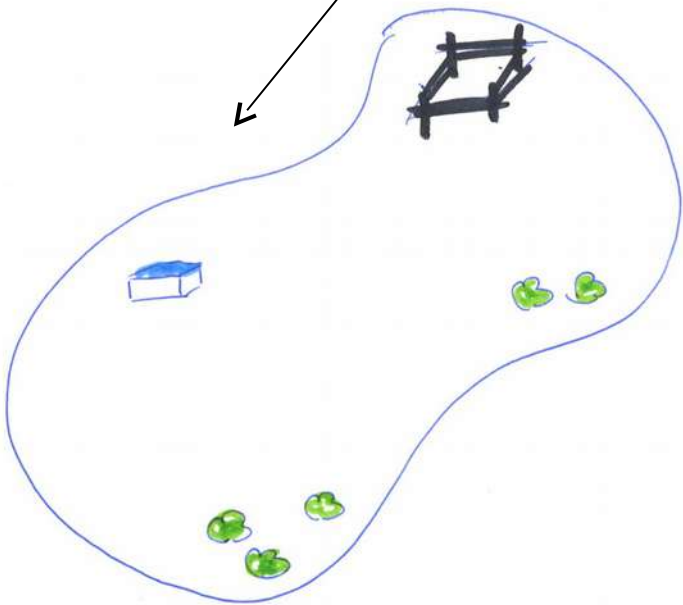
Development work

Represent the  
owners

One or  
several  
graziers  
or a  
pastoral  
group

Use officially the « new »  
common pasture

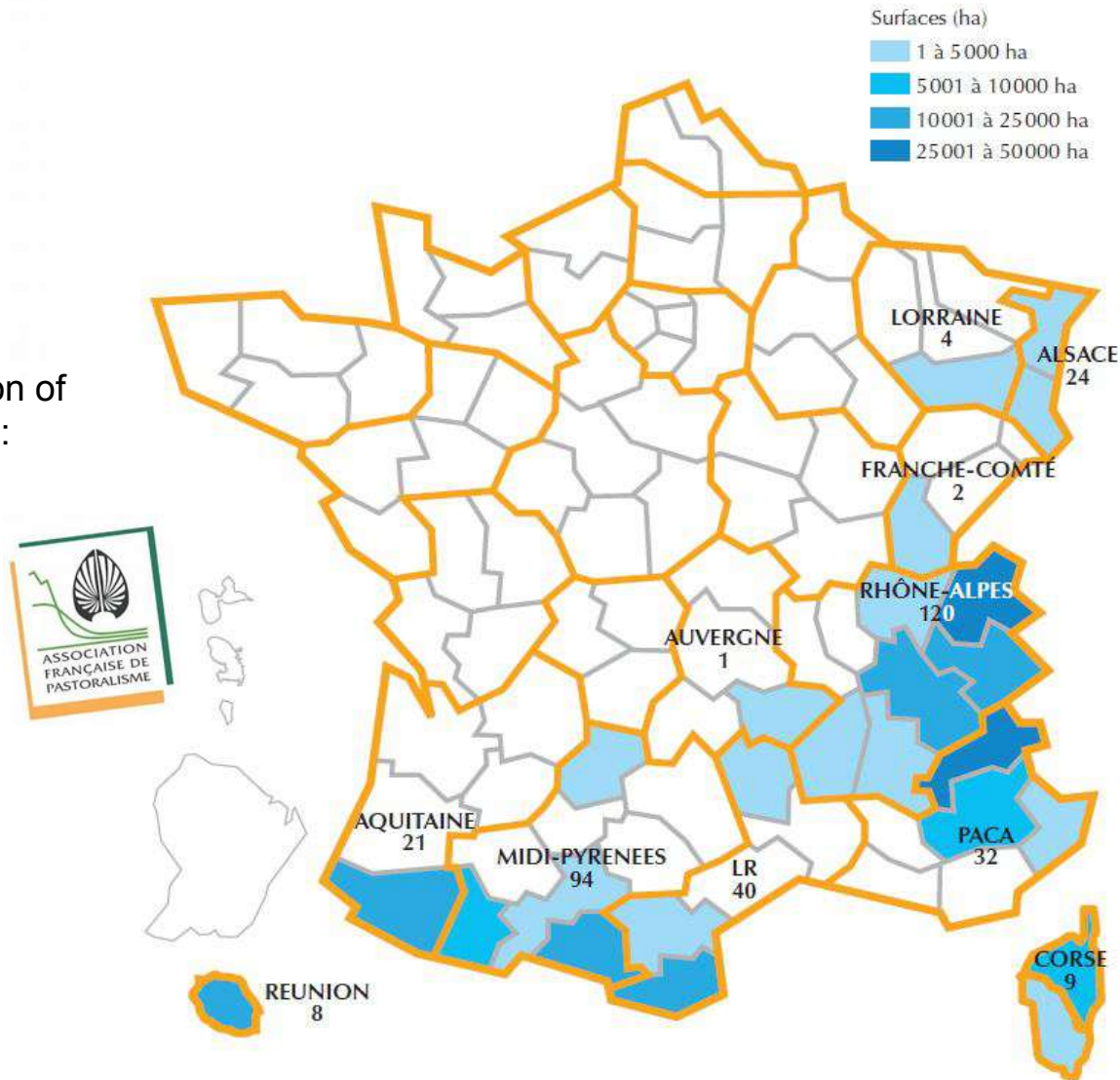
**Restart of pastoralism and rational use of  
grounds**



# 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**

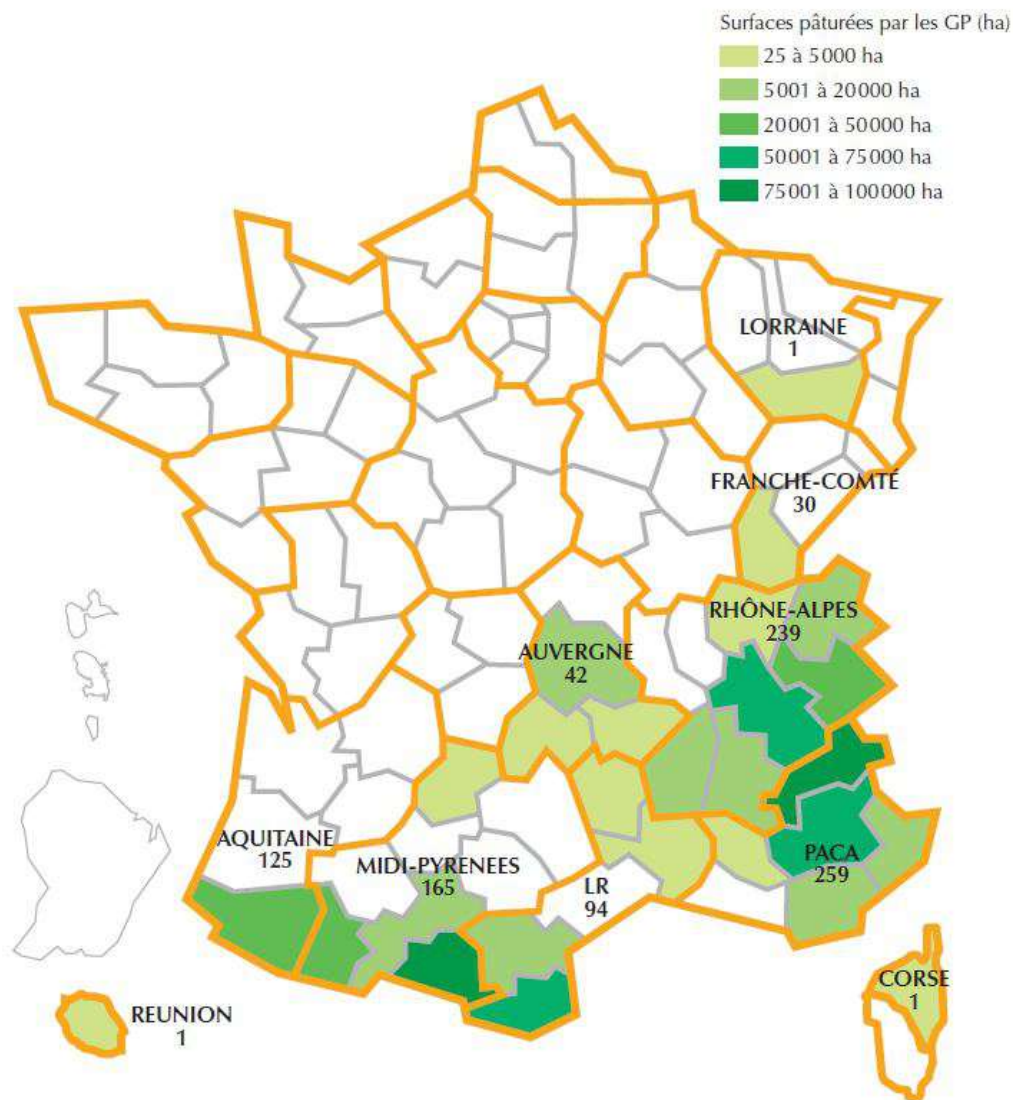
- It signs a lease or a multiannual agreement of pasture with the different owners or with a pastoral association of land holders
- It decides on the use of the ground
- It makes works of development
- It represents all the graziers





# Areas grazed by registered Pastoral Groups in 2012

Nearly 1 000 pastoral groups  
including more 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

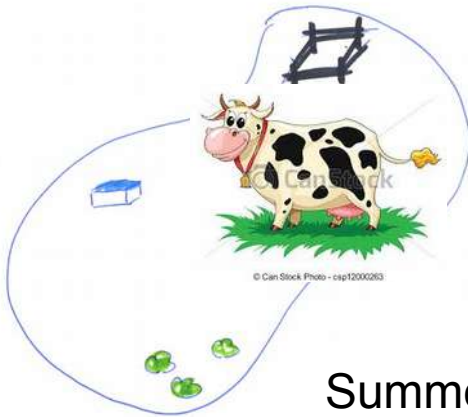
- One grazier
- Several graziers
- Pastoral group

*Multiannual agreement  
of pasture*

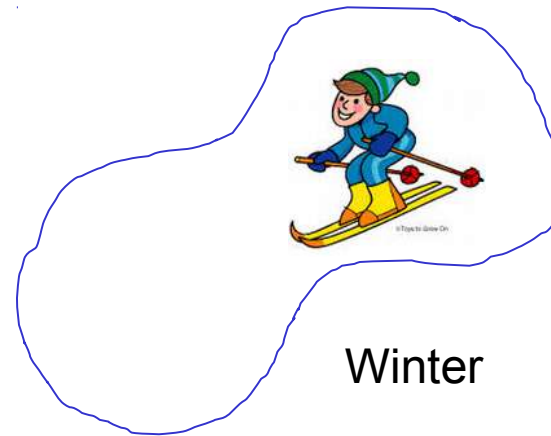


## OWNERS

- 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 administrators of common pasture





# Issues related to the application of the new CAP On common pastures





# New rules of eligibility for base payments (1<sup>st</sup> pillar)





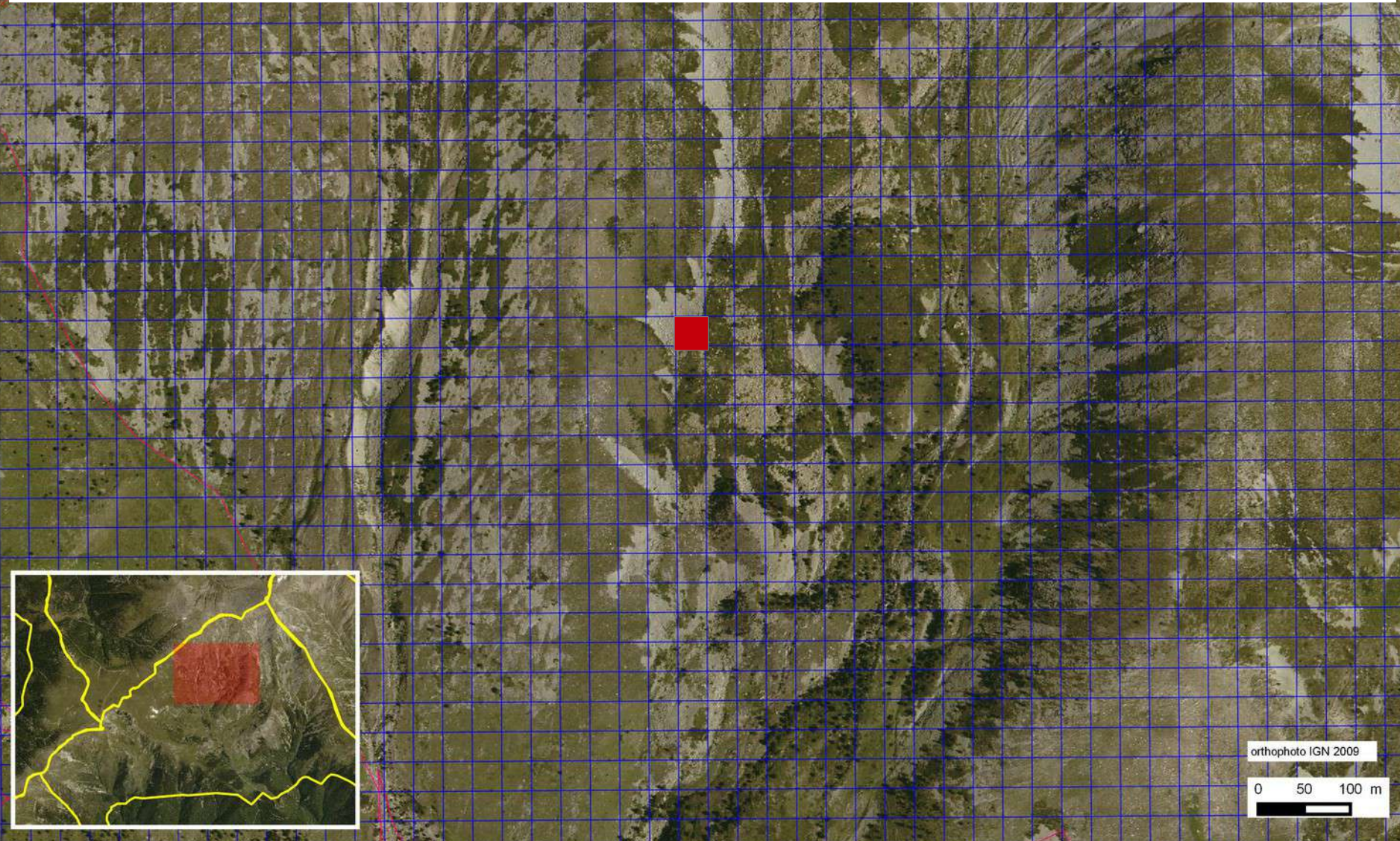
# The principles

- 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)

<small>RÉGION NATURELLE</small> <b>Montagne sèche</b>	<small>UNITÉ DE PAYSAGE</small> <b>Pelouses et landes à ligneux bas</b>	<small>CATÉGORIE DE LA GRILLE</small> <b>30-50% (60% admissible)</b>	<small>RÉGION NATURELLE</small> <b>Montagne sèche</b>	<small>UNITÉ DE PAYSAGE</small> <b>Bois sans strate arbustive intermédiaire</b>	<small>CATÉGORIE DE LA GRILLE</small> <b>0-10% (100% admissible)</b>
					
<small>Date</small> 08/2013			<small>Date</small> 22/08/2013		
<small>Localisation de la prise de vue</small> Ristolas / Hautes-Alpes / Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur			<small>Localisation de la prise de vue</small> Coordonnées 865376_6390255 / Rhône-Alpes		
<small>Éléments admissibles</small> Pelouse clairsemée. <small>Éléments non admissibles, pour lesquels le prorata est utilisé</small> Cailloutis, sol nu.			<small>Éléments admissibles</small> La strate herbacée est uniforme et recouvre tout le sol, elle peut être entièrement pâturée. <small>Éléments non admissibles, pour lesquels le prorata est utilisé</small> Troncs des arbres.		



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...

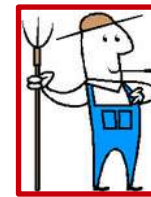
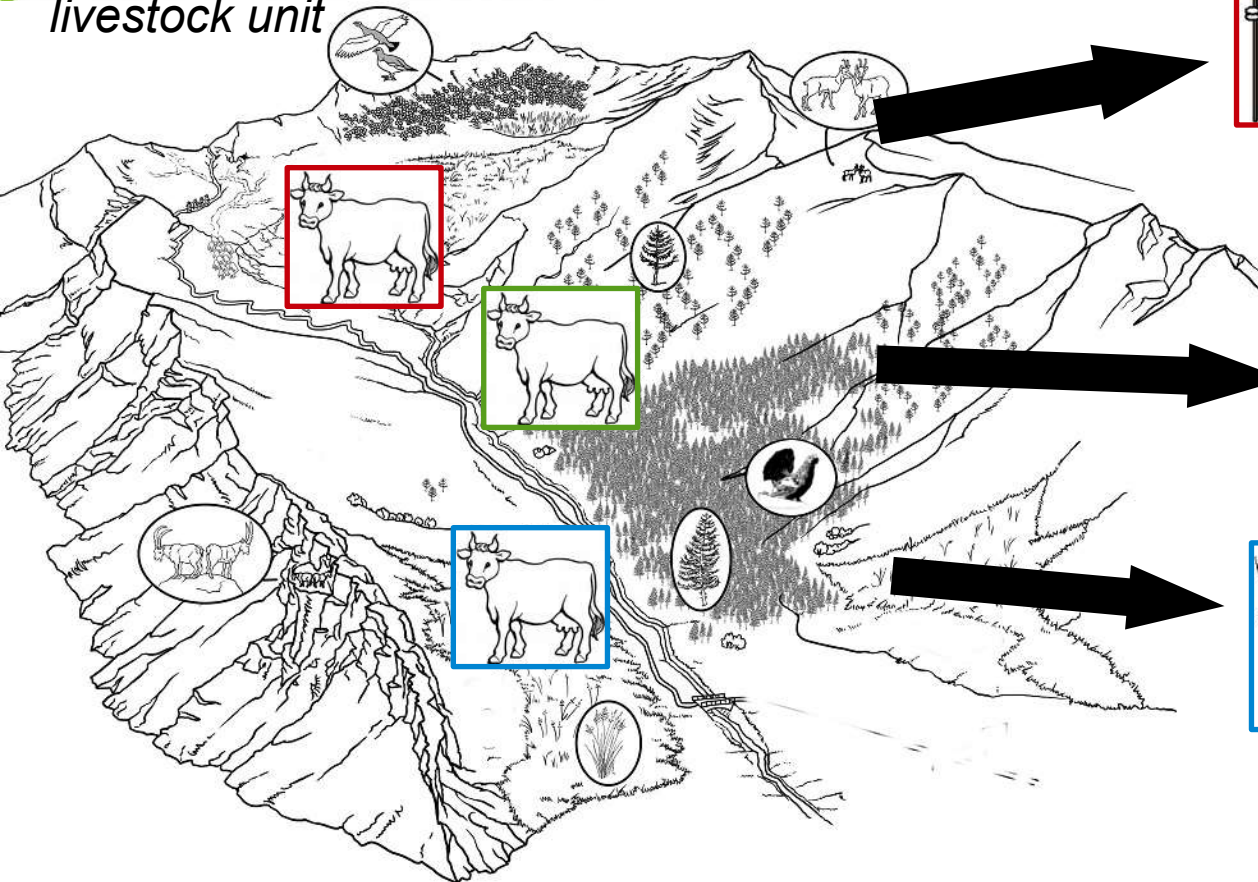




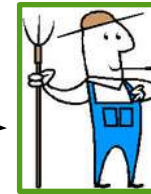
# Surfaces are shared between farmers to activate base payments

Collective summer pasture  
800 ha → 500 ha after prorata

*In the past, there where maximum areas per livestock unit*



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



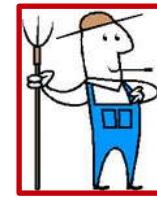
Farmer B  
65 cows  
(43%) : 217 ha



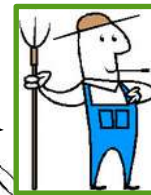
Farmer A  
40 cows  
(27 %) : 133 ha

# What happens if a new farmer wants to join the pastoral group ?

Collective summer pasture  
800 ha → 500 ha after prorata



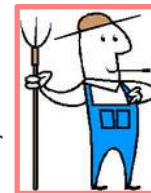
Farmer A  
45 cows : 150 ha  
before / **113 after**



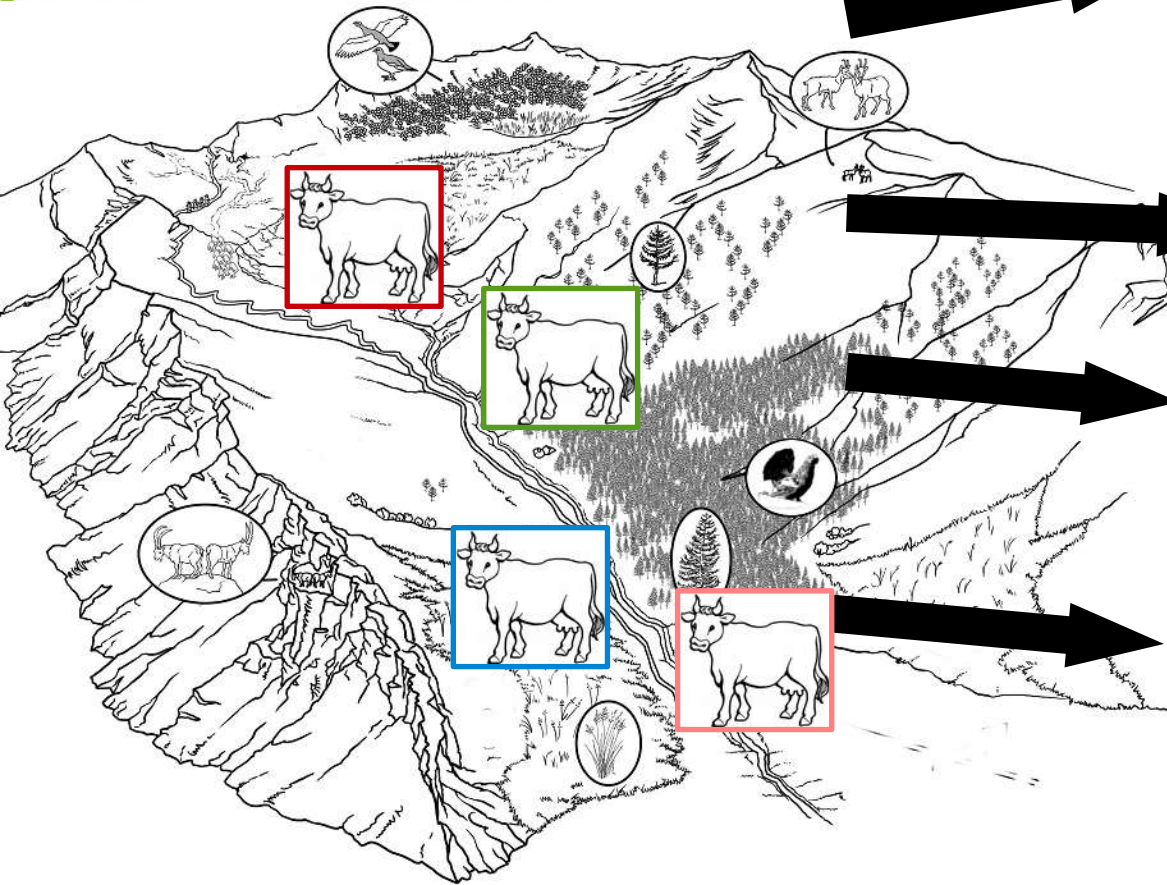
Farmer B  
65 cows : 217 ha  
before / **163 after**



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 caculated...

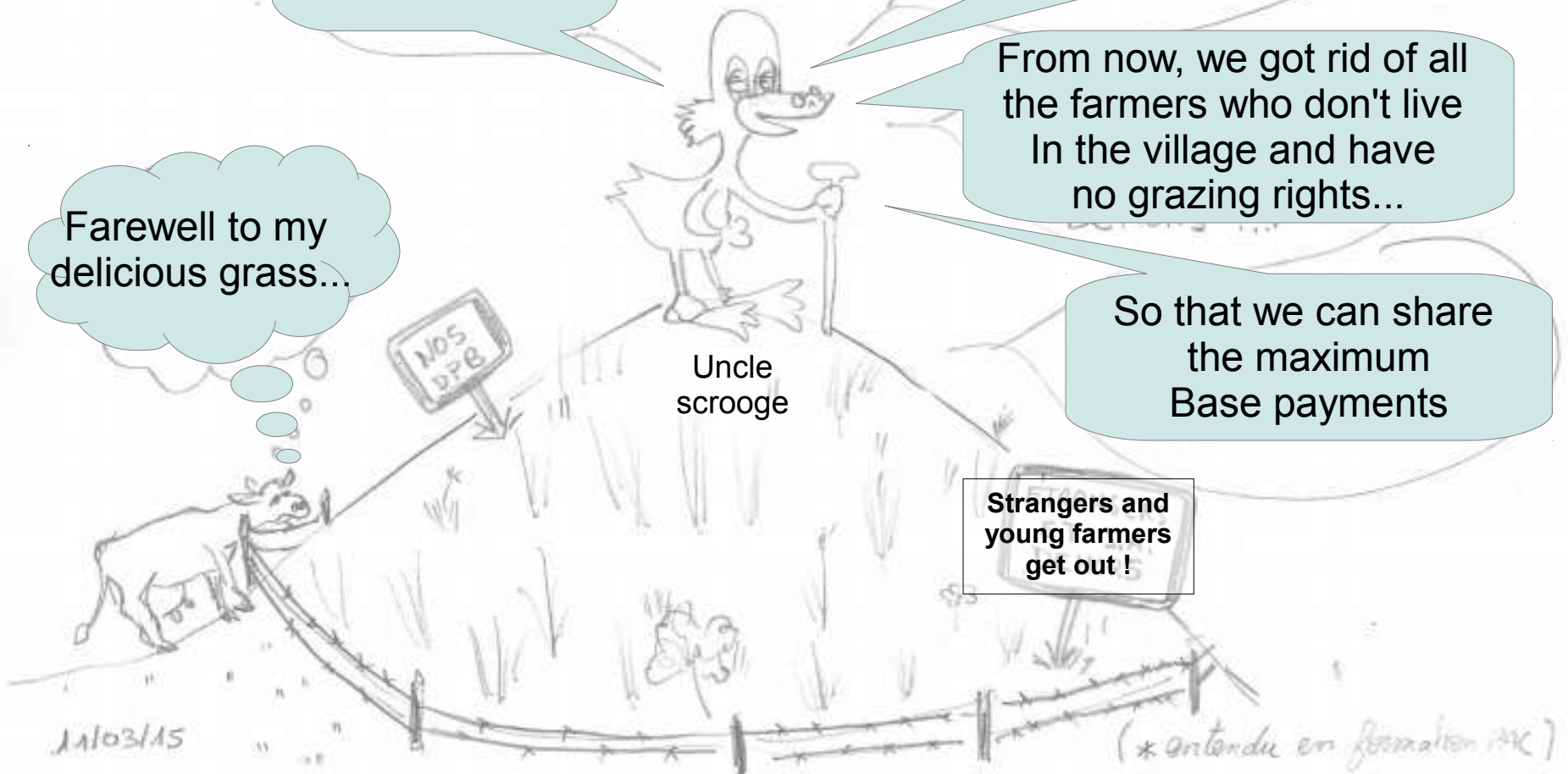
From now, we got rid of all the farmers who don't live in the village and have no grazing rights...

So that we can share the maximum Base payments

Uncle scrooge

Strangers and young farmers get out !

Farewell to my delicious grass...



11/03/15

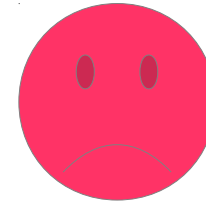
( \* entendu en formation AIC )



# 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<sup>nd</sup> 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 responsables 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



0 No grazing

1 Very light grazing



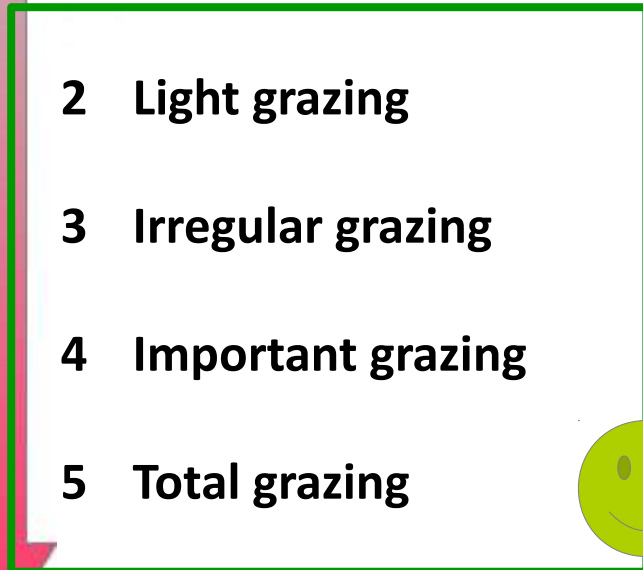
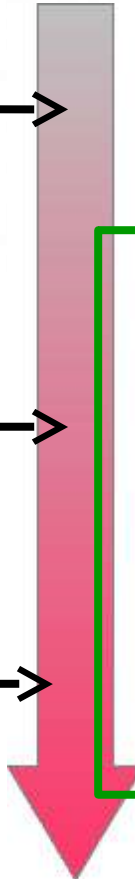
2 Light grazing

3 Irregular grazing

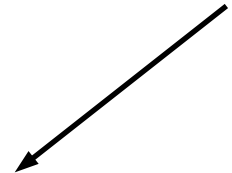
4 Important grazing



5 Total grazing



No undergrazing



No degradations



eutrophication



overgrazing

# And a lot of other measures that existed before

Ex :

## Pastoral plan

Pastoral works  
(cutting trees or shrubs)



	Quartiers	Effectifs UGB (hors veaux)	juin	juillet	août	septembre	octobre
	Baret (hors GP)						
	Campilles (hors GP)						
	Aumet	155					
Orry	Aixèques	61					
	Orry bas	61					
	Grimaude-Forcat Pla del Bosc Estanyol, Neu Fons	61					
	Jaça de la Valleta	61					
	Jaça de Formiguères	39					
Carança	Ras de la Carança	117					
	Coma Mijanes	22					
	Bassibès Mourens	29					
	Vallée de la Carança	66					

Ouverture ensemble  
des quartiers et  
repassse sur toute  
l'estive.

Sortie progressive  
des différents  
troupeaux

Husson

Moragas

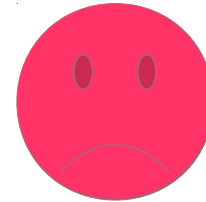
Solé

Berjoan + bobé

# 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

PACA : the majority of pastoral groups have contracts (but cheap)



Aquitaine :  
Nearly all the  
collective  
pastures benefit  
from schemes

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

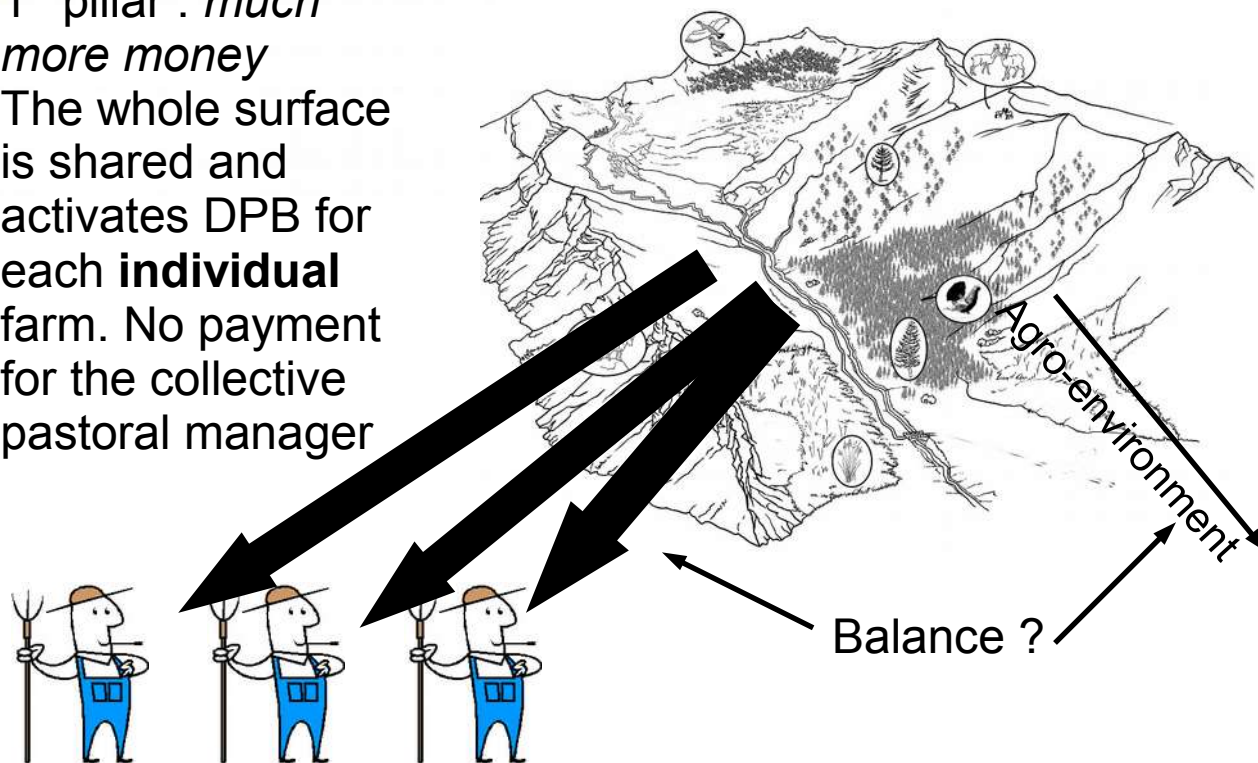
Languedoc-Roussillon :  
Half of the pastoral groups  
benefit from contracts in 2015



# What will be the balance between 1<sup>st</sup> pillar and 2<sup>nd</sup> ?

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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 !**

