



VIDENCENTRET FOR LANDBRUG

# Regulation and inspection examples of grassland and natural areas in Denmark



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## **Environmental schemes (pillar 2)**

### **- Grazing regulations**

From 31.08. grassland and natural areas as a whole have to appear grazed - meaning:

- Dense low vegetation 31. 08. = 50% of the vegetation have to be clearly grazed
- Height of less than 40 cm at more than 50% of the area
- However, areas under 100 m<sup>2</sup> are accepted, if the rest of the areas are eligible for aid
- Regulations create problems at the most extensive areas




## Environmental schemes (pillar 2)

### - Grazing regulations

- As a new regulation from 2012, the farmers can choose for areas to be inspected according to the number of animals for a period of 3 months
- Non-grazed sub-areas will be deducted in the aid
- More flexible inspection, but still not sufficiently wide when it comes to extensive areas and areas of year-round grazing






88-a  
-EB  
- MVJ

## Inspection example

Not sufficiently grazed

12.11.2010 10:11



A photograph of a grassy field, likely a golf course, with a white label in the upper center and red text at the bottom. The field is covered in tall, dry grass and some green patches. The sky is blue with some clouds.


90-7  
- MVJ

**Inspection example**

**Not sufficiently grazed**

12 11 2010 12:06





97-1a  
- MVJ

**Inspection example**

**Not sufficiently grazed**

11.11.2010 10:14



## Heathland failed for Environmental Scheme



**Not sufficiently grazed**





# Pillar 1:

## Support requirements for Single Area Payment

### Inspection of plant species (national regulations):

- Areas of the field with more than 50% of the area covered by other plant species than **grass or other forage crops** are not eligible for aid:
- **Aquatic and wetland plants** (eg. Soft rush, Cotton grass, Club rush, Glasswort, Reed mace, Tussock grass, Common reed and Water mannagrass)
- **Stiff grass species** (eg. Lyme grass, Sea couch, Canary reed grass, Marram grass, Rice grass, Mat grass and Elephant grass)
- **Woody plants** (fx trees, bushes, Heather, Broom, Blackberry and Crowberry)
- **Aggressive plant species** (eg. Stinging nettles, Thistles and Wild oat)
- **Poisonous plant species** (fx Groundsel, Foxglove, Horsetail and Giant hogweed)
- **Other species**, not grass or other green fodder (eg. Ferns, Willowherb, Rosebay, Meadowsweet, Wild chervil, Dock species and Butterbur)





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**Eligible for Single Area Payment – no problems!**

12.11.2010 11:49



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## Areas failed for the Single Area Payment system



Photo examples





## Dunes

Area not eligible  
for aid (Dunnes,  
grass < 0,3 ha)



## Area failed for the Single Area Payment system

**Natural areas,  
heathland and heather**

Area in the front not eligible for aid (Heather). Bright area in the middle is doubtful (trees)







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## Area failed for the Single Area Payment system



**Stumps, shrubs and trees**

Area not eligible for aid (Sweet gale).



## Area failed for the Single Area Payment system


**Humid areas**

Area not eligible for aid (tussock grass).





**Area failed for the Single Area Payment System  
because of Heath rush – more than 50% stiff  
grass species**



**Close up – the area is  
grazed**



## Funding conditions for grassland

Max. number of trees and shrubs above the height of 1 metre

- You are allowed a maximum of 50 scattered trees and shrubs above 1 metre per ha







## **GAEC requirements 4.5**

**(Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition)**

**Maintenance of vegetation on permanent pasture**

- The purpose of GAES is to preserve agricultural land for cultivation
- GAES on pasture must be respected regardless of application for Single Area Payment or not!
- Permanent pasture must be cut at least once a year in July or August. In the case of permanent pasture, mowing can be replaced by grazing
- In case of grazing, the area must appear with a max. height of 40 cm grass from 15 September (areas of 100 m<sup>2</sup> can however, be approved)
- Extensive pasture must bear clear signs of grazing, but unclear interpretation



At the evaluation the field is divided into areas that are fairly uniform

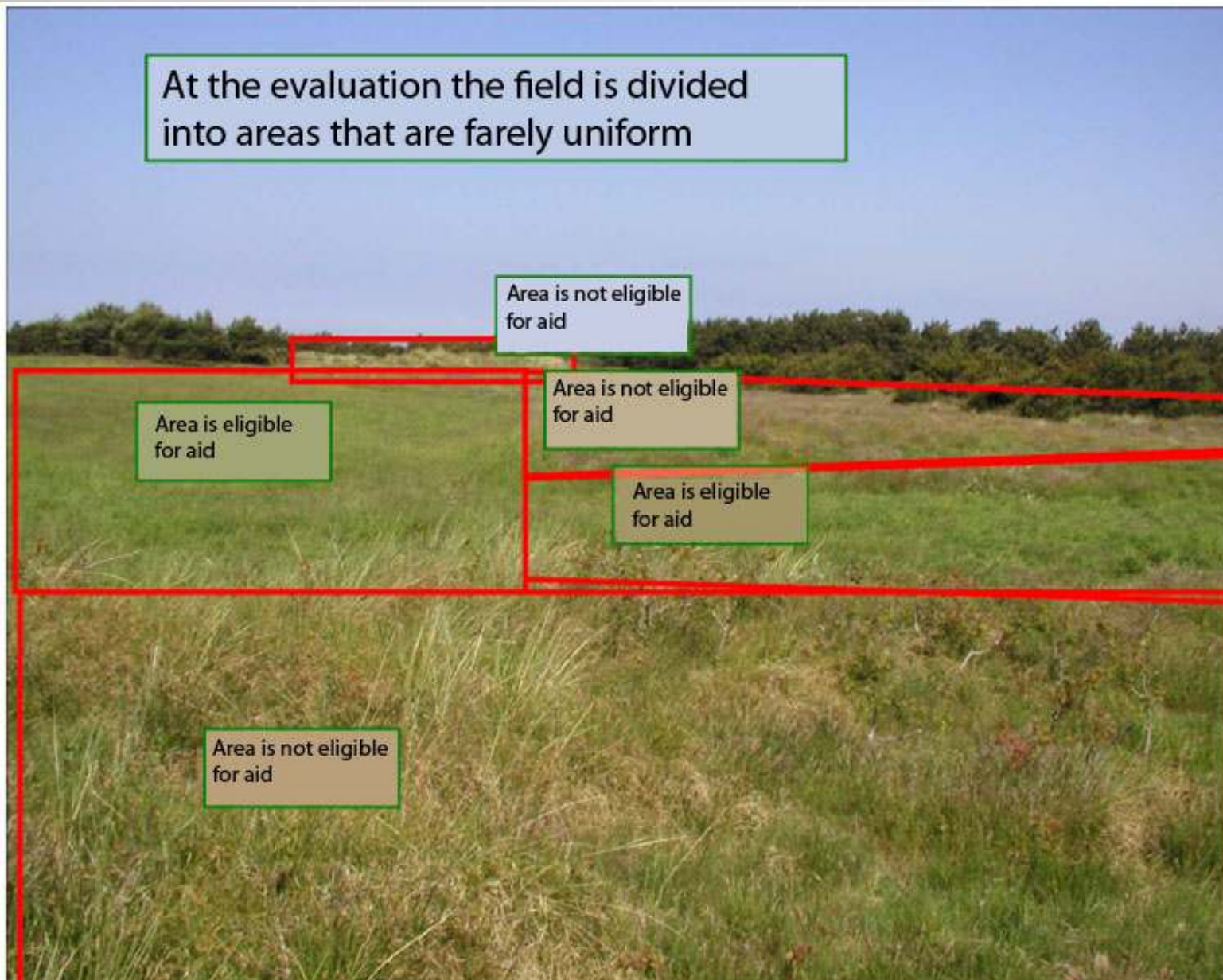
Area is not eligible for aid

Area is eligible for aid

Area is not eligible for aid

Area is eligible for aid

Area is not eligible for aid







# Complexity requires advisory

- The rules are complicated
- The Environmental Schemes often provide much additional administrative hassle
- Violations are very expensive for farmers
- The consequence is that many farmers do not apply for the schemes
- The use of coordinators to advise the farmers is not used in Denmark





## Desires

- Simple and transparent inspections
- Focus on management of areas. Holistic thinking
- Nature targets (Habitat Directives and national targets) should be reached through the schemes
- Schemes must be attractive to farmers

