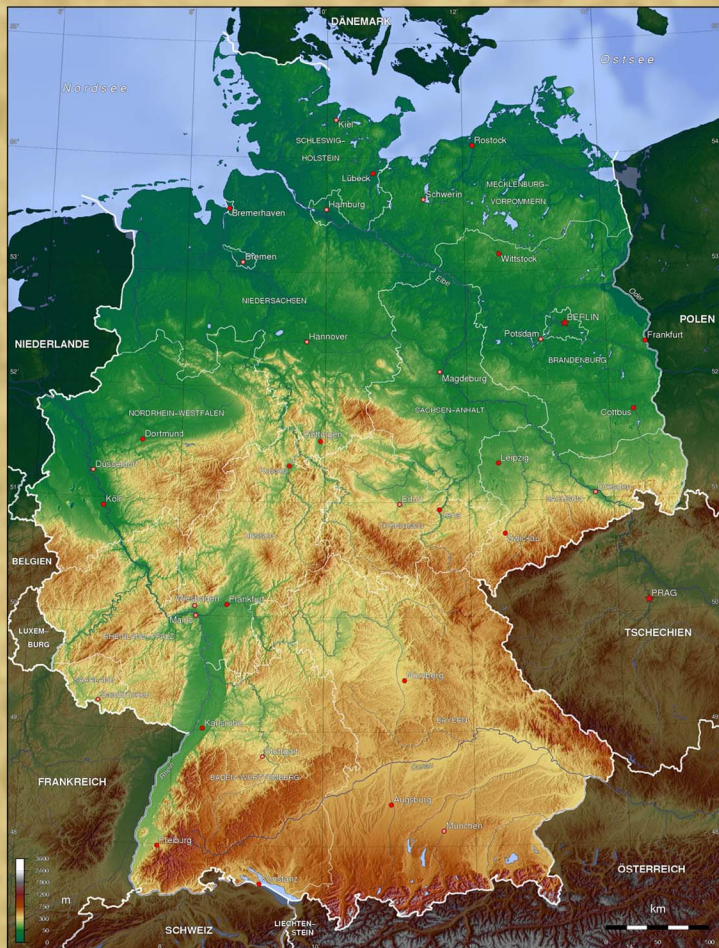


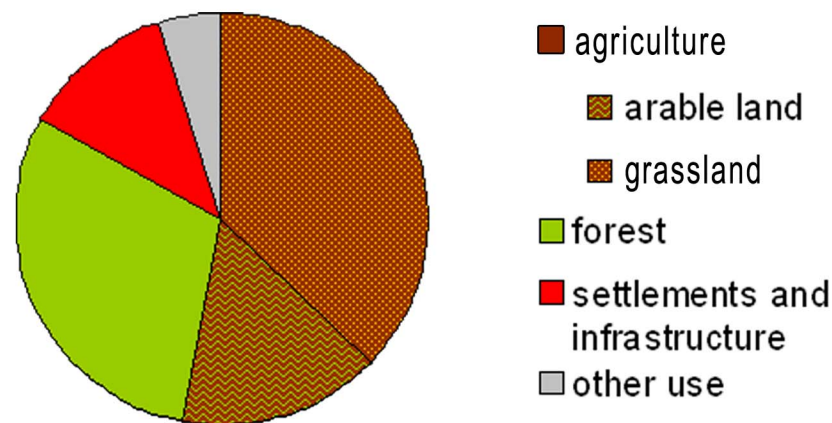
HNV-farmland in Germany



map source: www.wikipedia.com

Population: 82 million (2008)
Land area: 357.100 km²
Density: 230 inhabitants/km²

Land use in Germany



Germany extends over nearly 880 km from Denmark in the north to the Alps in the south, and from east to west it stretches over 640 km at the widest point. Agriculture is highly influenced by a varied topography and changing soil fertility: northern Germany was strongly shaped during the glacial period and features many flat and open landscapes. Soils range from fertile loess and marsh to poor geest and sand soils and impoverished heath lands. The middle and south of Germany have a considerably more varied terrain and many low-mountain ranges of various sizes rise from the river valleys.

HNV Farmland



Species rich meadows of all types from wet to dry, and from lowland type to mountain type and from calcareous to acidic type form the majority of the HNV farmland heritage in Germany.



The HNV-farmland of Germany comprises about 16% of German farmlands and consists predominantly of different grassland types. A part of this extensive and mostly species-rich grassland is semi-natural grassland and is part of the Natura 2000 habitats in Germany.



Traditional orchards are still present in many landscapes in Germany. In the picture there is an example of a very extended orchard area at the foothill of the Swabian Jura.

Traditional orchards are common in some parts of Germany. They are a regional and a significant part of the HNV farmland. They are mainly present in the warmer regions of south and western Germany, e.g. in the foothill regions of the Swabian Jura and the Black Forest. Traditional orchards are characterised by a standard-type tree and great variability in fruit varieties. Thus about 2000 kinds of apples and pears can be found only in the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg.



A further type of Germany's HNV farmland is the species-rich arable land which is mostly found on organically cultivated fields, which in some cases support a high biodiversity of weeds. They appear especially in regions with a shallow depth of tillage, such as on the lime soils of Jura and Muschelkalk or in the poor and sandy regions of Northern Germany.

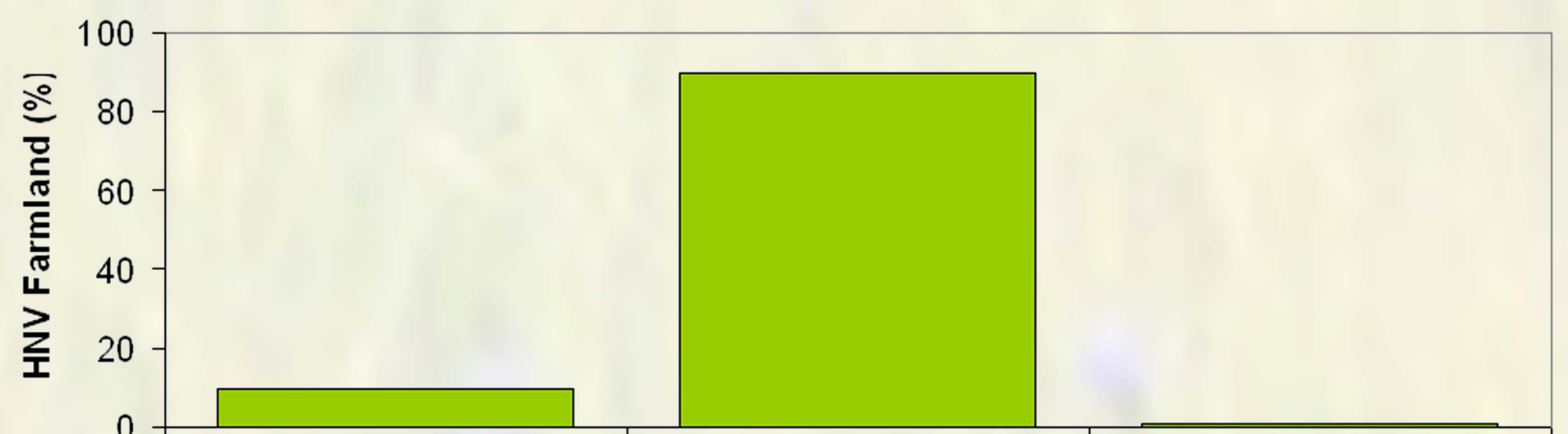
Species-rich arable land with wild flower species



In cropland with wild flowers not only the plant species have a place to live but also birds, insects and other animals.

The German landscape is used intensively for agriculture. There are almost no regions which are used predominantly for extensive agriculture. But in almost all regions of Germany there are areas of varying extent that are used extensively, and can be regarded as HNV-farmland. Overall, there are three main types of farms and farming systems which cultivate and maintain HNV farmland:

Farms and farming systems cultivating and maintaining HNV farmland



- HNV farming systems**
- transhumant shepherds
 - resident shepherds with extensive grazing systems
 - dairy and cheese farms in the upper mountain regions
 - extensive suckler farms
 - hay producers



Extensively grazing shepherds maintain the species rich mountain meadows on the Swabian Jura.

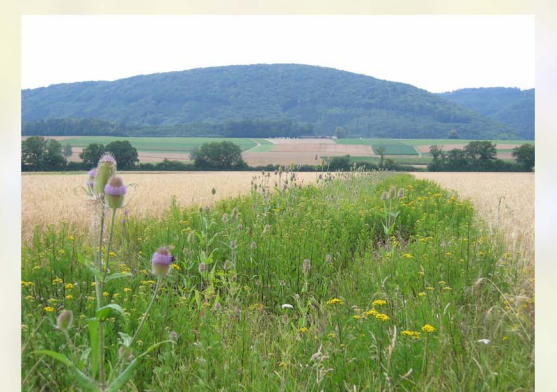
- Traditional farmers**
- full-time/part-time/hobby and organic farmers
 - partly extensively used grassland and/ or traditional orchards
 - most of them are really interested in maintaining/ preserving their species rich habitats



In more fertile landscapes some farmers keep suckler cows in order to manage their pastures which are often steep or small or difficult to manage by machines.

- Special nature conservation farmers**

There are a very few examples of specialised landscape conservation and management farmers, who work with the specific aim of maintaining HNV farmland. They are paid either by agri-environment measures and contracts, or they are employed by organisations caring for the environment.



Flower stripes in midst an intensively used agricultural landscape.