

# Stimulation of grazing in Europe

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7 September 2014, Agnes van den Pol-van Dasselaar



# Method

- Surveys were conducted among members of the EGF Working Group Grazing



# Legislation

- New EU-policy concerning CAP2014-2020 promotes grazing
- EU: area permanent grassland should remain stable (prevents conversion to arable land)
- Agri-environmental programmes, cross compliance
- Organic agriculture needs grazing
- Grassland preservation precept in certain areas of Germany
- Animal welfare laws in Scandinavia

# Manure legislation

- Derogation, Manure Action Plan: no grazing leads to less administration and makes an acceptable N balance easier
- Limits for nitrogen leaching (complicated for grazed lands)

# Subsidies

- Lux: after 2015 special subsidy for grazing cows
- Germany: subsidies for renewable energies promoting land use other than grazing
- Germany: subsidies when cows have access to pastures > 3 months/yr (€30 per cow or €60-80 per ha)
- Switzerland: farmers can obtain higher subsidies if they graze a certain % of their farmland. Outdoor-program: May-Oct at least 26 days per month access to pasture, other months 13 days to an outdoor place with solid ground

# Subsidies

- Initiatives of dairies to pay more for pasture milk
- NL: Dairy industry provides grazing premium:
  - 0.5 ct/kg; 1.000.000 kg milk: 5.000 Euro
  - Definition of grazing for the premium: minimum 120 days 6 hours per day
- Sweden: subsidies on grasslands and organic production

# Retail

- Special grazing labels of milk and meat
- Cheese exclusively based on grazing-milk

# Other

- Courses
- Advice
- FarmWalk
- Issuance of permits
- NL: “Treaty Grazing”
  
- Tailor made solutions for different farm systems / grazing systems





# Conclusions

- Limited number of laws/regulations/subsidies
- Some special cases for specific regions
- Majority stimulates grazing, minority stimulates no grazing



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