

Best Practice examples on natural carbon sinks in agriculture

Category: CAP measure

Field: Extensively managed grasslands



©LPV Thüringer Wald

Name	Eco-scheme DZ.0405: Result-oriented extensive management of permanent grassland with evidence of at least four characteristics
Country	Germany
Type of measure	Eco-scheme
Region	Germany, nation wide
Landscape/ Eco system/ protected area	Permanent grasslands, species-rich grasslands
Agricultural Use	Pastures and hay meadows
How it works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Result-oriented extensive management of permanent grassland: Permanent grassland areas are eligible if at least four plant species from the list of species or groups of indicator species for species-rich grassland are present. - The species lists are established at regional level (Federal States).



<p>Measures addressing climate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The eco-scheme can indirectly lead to reduced nitrogen emissions from fertilizers with positive effects for climate protection. - The measure indirectly supports grassland, which protects soils by reducing soil erosion and fosters humus building and thus carbon storage in the soils.
<p>Measures addressing biodiversity, water, soil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity: This eco-scheme promotes species-rich permanent grassland with species that are typical in the region. This contributes to the preservation and the promotion of biodiversity. - Water: Additionally, reduced nitrogen emissions from fertilizers improve water quality and thus contribute to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).
<p>Funding / Financing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eco-scheme measures are fully financed by the EU without co-financing of the regions. - The premium was 312€/ha in 2023, in comparison to the direct payment of 170.93€/ha - The premium for 2024 is 240€/ha.
<p>Administration</p>	<p>The verification method is determined at regional level, e.g. Schleswig-Holstein: Taking a picture and geotagging with a specific app „Profi-SH“ App:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 3 plants per species - Min. 3m distance to edge - Min. 10m distance between plants of the same species - At least 12 pictures (3 per indicator species)
<p>Popularity</p>	<p>Farmers strongly supported the introduction of the measure in. 181% of farming land (1,156,572 ha) compared to what the Ministry for agriculture had planned (640,605 ha) was covered by the eco-scheme. In total 42,501 (out of > 276,000) farmers applied the eco-scheme.</p>

<p>Relation to other CAP measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The premium for eco-scheme 4 (extensively managed grassland) is only 149.5€ and eco-scheme 6 (no use of chemical fertilizer) 65€ for grassland. - There are result-based agri-environmental schemes for more than four indicator species available in certain regions in Germany (e.g. Sachsen for 6 or 8 indicator species) with higher premiums.
<p>Role of Landcare Associations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consulting on administrative issues and possibilities to combine the eco-scheme with other measures. - Providing material for plant recognition & trainings for farmers - Supporting farmers by identifying and mapping plant species
<p>Summary advantages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Result-oriented payment schemes leave the farmers with more management flexibility - financially attractive - encourages farmers to engage in plant recognition and reflect on the ecological impact of their management - enables a regional approach to indicator plant species and administration
<p>Further information</p>	<p>In German: https://www.bmel.de/DE/themen/landwirtschaft/eu-agrarpolitik-und-foerderung/direktzahlung/direktzahlung_node.html</p> <p>In English: https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardCapPlan/catalogue_interventions.html</p>

Author: Corinna Friedrich, Landcare Germany



© DVL Schleswig Holstein