

Europe's wood pastures:
condemned to a slow death by the CAP?
A test case for EU agriculture and biodiversity

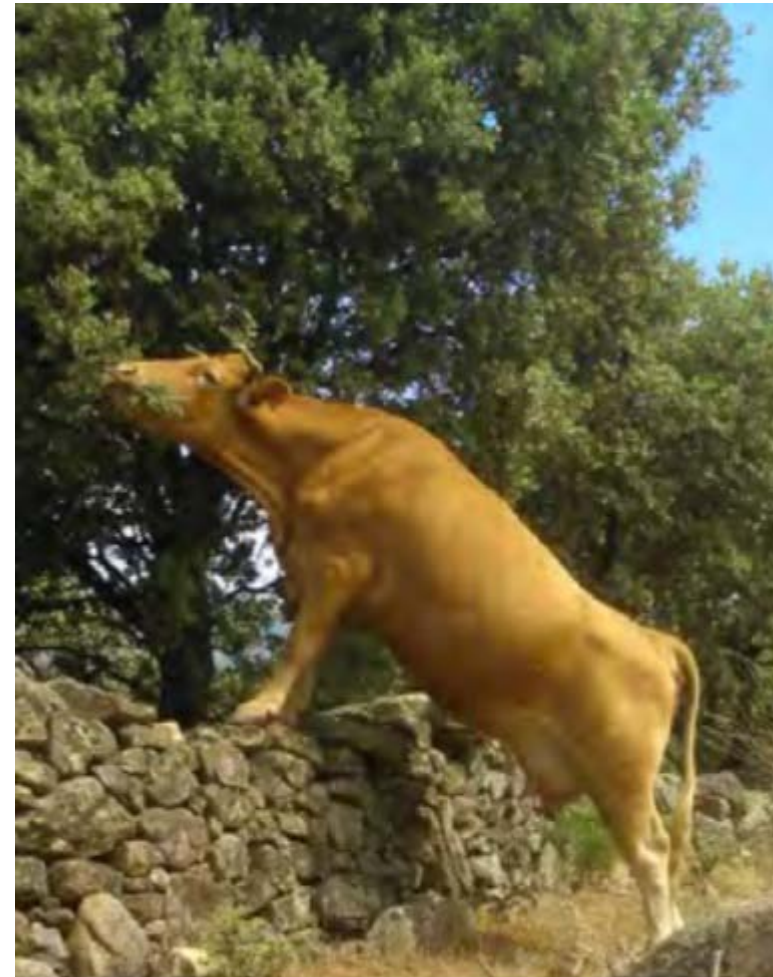
“Wood pastures in Spain”



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Objectives of this presentation

- 1.-To **present** the diversity,
relevance &
richness
of “**wood pastures**” in **Spain**
- 2.-To describe the **elegibility system for permanent pastures**
used on Pillar 1 Payments
- 3.-To draw your attention on the **problems associated** to the
system
- 4.-To request EU and Spanish authorities to **modify the system**
and to guarantee that **wood pastures** are **fully supported by**
CAP direct payments



Spain is a *pastoral country*

Its landscape and
its habitats
were conformed by millenia of **pastoral use**







Grass pastures are only a
minor part of total (13%)



Pastures with brushes and
trees are predominant

Permanent pastures occupy more than 18,5 mill.ha

Grass pastures	2,5 mill.ha	13% of pastures
Brush pastures	11,1	60%
Tree pastures	5,0	27%
Wood pastures	16,1 mill.ha	87%
"Forest"	8,7	

According to Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS), 2015
called SIGPAC in Spanish

Wood pastures occupy more than 16,1 mill.ha

32% of total national area

**Therefore, the consideration of this land type by the CAP
is a major and relevant national question**

Grazing even takes place on forests !



“Monchina” cows under Basque pine forests

There is a great diversity of wood pastures in Spain



Tudanca cattle on Cantabrian shrublands



Monchina cows under Basque pine forests



Latxas sheeps under Navarre oak forests



Cows in Zamora's oak forests



Cows in Soria's pine forests



Iberian pigs in dehesas from Extremadura feed on accorns



Goats on steep Malaga's brushlands



Sheeps on Gran Canaria's pine forests

Local races have adapted to harsh conditions, ...

11

like this “cachena” cow from Galice



**Maintaining productive wood pastures is essential
for the survival of these adapted races, a valuable European heritage**

Celtic pigs on “montanera” in chestnuts forests in Galice

12



The scientific Spanish Society for the Study of Pastures (SEEP)

has systematized the different types of pastures and the extensive farming systems



**Sociedad Española
para el Estudio de los Pastos (SEEP)**

Spanish Society for the Study of Pastures (SSSP)



**Proyecto
"Cartografía, Tipología y Evaluación de los Pastos Españoles"**

Financiado por el INIA (70%) y las comunidades autónomas (30%), la SEEP ha promovido, entre los años 2000 y 2004 un gran **proyecto de transferencia de resultados de investigación**, de síntesis de la información disponible sobre los pastos españoles.

Coordinado por los Dres Carlos Ferrer (Universidad de Zaragoza) y Alfonso San Miguel (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid) ha englobado a más de 200 investigadores en toda España, distribuidos en **19 grupos de trabajo territoriales** y seis áreas temáticas: **Cartografía, Pastos naturales, Pastos agrícolas, Valoración bromatológica, Producción animal y aspectos de Estadística, Economía y Sociología.**



These farming systems:

BENEFITS

- 1.-Maintain profitable holdings
- 2.-Provide animal products of extraordinary quality:
 - Iberic ham
 - Diverse cheese
- 3.-Create employment
- 4.-Sustain population on remote and less favoured areas
- 5.-Conserve endangered local races
- 6.-Provide highly valuable ecosystem services
- 7.-Prevent forest fires



And the area really grazed changes with time

It was **34,4 M ha in 1940**

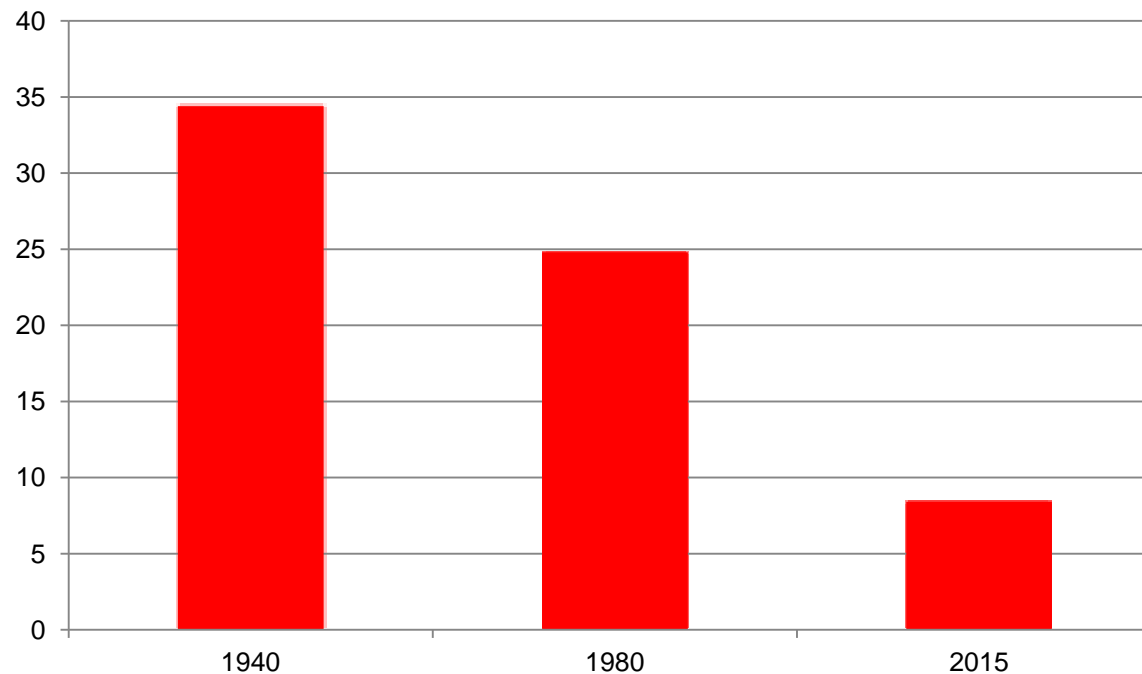
24,8 M ha in 1980


8,4 M ha in 2015

but only

(24,4 % of 1940)

Area grazed in Spain (mill.ha)





In this context of **such a strong reduction** in grazing
is where we have to consider
the sensitivity of the CAP effects on pastoralism



One of the aims of Pillar 1 payments is to prevent abandonment

Because

**the major risk is a
really sensitive question
for Spanish and
Mediterranean societies . . .**

A photograph of a volcanic eruption. A massive, dark plume of ash and smoke rises from a mountain in the background, partially obscuring the sky. In the foreground, several houses with red-tiled roofs are visible, suggesting a residential area near the volcano. The text is overlaid on the image.

A link between pastoralism and forest fires that European and national policies are not considering

... The main reason for not finding a solution to that problem !



PAC 2014-2020

**In this national context,
the last CAP revision (2013)
*is worsening the situation !***



PAC 2014-2020

**European Regulations
have improved considerably . . .**



**But their *application*
in Spain
*is not being adequate !***



**Elegibility of wood pastures
is the problem**

and it's a serious one !



PAC
2014-2020



From Aragón,
to Andalucía . . .
through Salamanca

UPA-COAG alegará contra el Coeficiente de Admisibilidad de Pastos

CAMPO

Redacción 10 Julio 2015

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National and regional authorities have decided to establish a

pro-rata **Reduction Coefficient**

of the area of permanent pastures eligible for pillar 1 payments, called

Pastures Admissibility Coefficient,

That **reduces eligibility** for the presence of
3 factors:

- **Slope**
- **Rocks**
- **Woody vegetation**



It does not consider:

- 1.-Actual **farming use** of the parcel
- 2.-Many woody species do have a high **forage value**
- 3.-**Slope is not** a real **limiting** factor

The possibility of considering ***adapted local practices***
is not being applied



These
two oak forests
in Salamanca
might have the
same coefficient (0)

...



Although,
**one is actually
being grazed**
and . . .

***the other is
abandoned !***

**It's excluding payments in large areas actually
being grazed and
base of productive and highly valuable farms:**







M^o Carmen García











Changes are being of extraordinary magnitude !

PAC
2014-2020



SIGPAC y Pastos en 2015

✓ Resumen de nueva situación del CAP.

NUEVO CAP ARAGÓN

Provincia	Has declaradas	Has ajustadas	Coef ajuste
Teruel	375.671	234.143	0,63
Zaragoza	241.246	144.287	0,60
Huesca	256.400	107.016	0,42
TOTAL	873.317	485.446	0,56

Huesca	Has declaradas	Has ajustadas	Coef ajuste
Inicial	232.227	96.863	0,42
Añadidas (1)	24.173	10.153	0,42
TOTAL	256.400	107.016	0,42

(1) Improductivos CAP > 20 => se pasan a PR

CAP ARAGÓN 2014

0,53

**GOBIERNO
DE ARAGON**

europa **press**

andalucía / Sevilla

PLAZO HASTA EL 15 DE OCTUBRE

Gobierno señala "una revisión de oficio" del coeficiente de pastos en Andalucía para que "refleje la realidad"

Menéalo

f

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D Disqus



In Aragón or
Andalucía
around
**50% of pastures
are being rejected !**

Problems arise:

- 1.-**For farmers**, that have to look for (*and presumably pay for*) new pasture areas.
- 2.-There is a **risk for trees and brush to be cleared** from pastures, since they are perceived as “*problematic*”
- 3.-There is a derived **risk for biodiversity**, because a large proportion of these wood pastures are declared part of Natura-2000
- 4.-There is a widespread **increase in wildfire hazard**,
with accompanying **carbon release and soil erosion**

Worldly recognized farms are suffering the impacts . . .

<http://elcabrerodebolonia.blogspot.com.es/>



EL PAÍS

Bruselas se plantea multar a España por ayudas irregulares a pastos

• La Comisión Europea contempla una sanción de 290 millones a varias comunidades

VIDAL MATÉ | Madrid | 12 ABR 2015 - 22:30 CEST



Un rebaño de ovejas pasta en Santa Margarita (Mallorca). / TOLO RAMON

Enviar

Imprimir

Guardar

España afronta una posible multa de [Bruselas](#) que asciende a 290 millones. ¿La causa? Irregularidades en la catalogación de suelo propio para pastos de superficie, lo que permite el cobro de ayudas comunitarias procedentes de la [Política Agraria Común](#) (PAC). Junto

DG Agri auditors are insisting that the Spanish authorities take a very restrictive approach

The threat of a fine of 290 Million € is forcing the process to be even more strict

Different groups
have organized a

Platform for Pastoralism

that has proposed different
solutions to the
Spanish Ministry of Agriculture
and has written to **Eu Commision:**

D.G. Agriculture and
D.G. Environment



Solutions are needed !

Spanish farmers, foresters and conservanionists need
**a new and better adapted system for
elegibility of pastures**

- **A dynamic approach** is needed
- **Better coordination** among
 - national and regional
 - agrarian and forest

Administrations is needed

- The **Land Parcel Identification System** (called **SIGPAC** in Spanish) needs to be improved,
integrating **information on species composition** of
the tree, brush and grass vegetation layers

Solutions are needed !

Asturias Regional Government announced last week to be the first region to declare

Traditional Grazing Areas under Local Practices

(BOPA – 2015, Nov. 4th)

<https://sede.asturias.es/bopa/2015/11/04/2015-15921.pdf>



1.-The implementation of **CAP eligibility rules to pastures with trees and shrubs in Spain goes against** the overall objectives of both the

- **Common Agricultural Policy** and
- **EU Environmental Policy.**

2.-It will create serious **environmental problems**, it will worsen the problem of **forest fires** in Spain and it will **compromise** the **continuity** of **thousands** of farms increasing productive **land abandonment**.

3.-We request that the European Parliament ask the European Commission and the Spanish authorities to **revise the method** and to fully guarantee that ***all land that complies with the Permanent Grassland definition and is in active grazing use is fully eligible for CAP direct payments.***

***Thanks
for your attention !***

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