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LIFE BaltCoast – Final seminar August 2012

**Reintroduction of grazing: The “delicate triangle”
between conservation needs, landowner interests and financial resources
as LIFE, agri-environmental schemes, rural development funds and
recommendation for the future**

v/ Biologist Annita Svendsen, Danish Nature Agency



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Need for grazing animals

“Green Growth” political agreement.

Implementing the Natura 2000 plans.

150.000 hectares of semi natural nature areas have to be managed by grazing or mowing during the next years.

In total Denmark has approx. 300.000 ha semi natural nature areas.



*Helnæs Made
Mosaics of nature types*



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Need for grazing animals

With a year-round grazing regime one cow will be able to manage 2-5 hectares of semi natural nature areas.

In Denmark we have about 104.000 suckler cows where most of them are intensive meet cows.

There are less than 20.000 robust cattle in Denmark.



Need for more robust cattle



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Need for Nature cattle

Extensive cattle like highlander, galloway and hereford cattle will be suitable for managing low productive nature areas.

A report from Institute of Food and Resource Economics in 2011 shows that year-round grazing regimes with Nature cattle will be the most cost efficient solution when it comes to the grazing of nature areas.

We need more robust cattle for grazing nature areas.



Year-round grazing in Svanninge Bakker



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Concept for Nature cattle - 1

Year-round grazing with Nature cattle will be a very attractive solution:

- **It will be cost-effective .**
- **It will produce biodiversity and nature quality.**
- **Example of High nature value farming.**
- **It will reduce the climate food print from eating meat.**
- **It will produce healthier meat.**



Bombina also needs extensive grazing



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Concept for Nature cattle - 2

We need to motivate more farmers and stakeholders to establish extensive herds of Nature cattle.

We will like to suggest development of a concept for Nature cattle with regulations that give the cattle special rights and nature management obligations.

Nature cattle are robust cattle which in regulation are allowed to stay out side year-round.



Nature cattle grazing habitat for Bombina at Avernakø



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Concept for Nature cattle - 3

As part of the concept there should be none or only very limited supplied feeding of the cattle and only with hay or straw.

No supplied feeding of offspring or animals for slaughtering should be part of the concept.

Special support schemes and a meat labelling concept could be developed as well.



Calves resting – Svanninge Bakker



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Concept for Nature cattle - 4

The nature areas for grazing could be part of a nature management agreement with the competent authority.

Grazing must be extensive with 2-5 ha pr. animal.

Inspiration from the existing “Nature calves concept”.



Robust cattle – also a concept in Germany



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Concept for Nature cattle - 5

In Denmark nature areas are fragmented with a lot of small and isolated areas.

It is expensive and time consuming to manage such areas.

We are working with buffer zones to make small nature areas bigger and coherent.

Buffer zones are made on former arable land.

A declaration is registered at the land for nature conservation purpose - nature development.



*Communication is important ...
from one manager to the other*



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Nature cattle lending - 1

To make grazing of nature areas more attractive it can be necessary to deliver different grazing facilities like fencing, round about and water access.

Here besides the Nature Agency have made agreements about Nature cattle lending as part of year-round grazing regimes in EU LIFE projects (LIFE Bombina, LIFE BaltCoast, LIFE Dry grassland II).



Happy cattle lenders at Avernakø



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Nature cattle lending - 2

The agreement principle is lending a number of Nature cattle to a farmer.

The farmer can keep the offspring and has all obligations for the cattle according to regulations and animal welfare – as a permanent agreement.

The agreement can be terminated by the farmer or by the Nature Agency, and the cattle will be returned to the Agency.

When the farmer has built his own herd from the offspring, he can those to give back the lending cattle, and they can go for at new project area as part of a new agreement.



Nature cattle are suitable for management of habitats for Liparis loeselii - Helnæs Made



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Nature cattle lending - 3

In 2013 a total of about 100 Nature cattle are lent to different farmers and stakeholders in 15 project areas as part of agreements for loans.



Habitats for meadow birds like ruffs are managed well by robust cattle grazing



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CAP and Nature - 1

**Common Agricultural Policy –
CAP form 42 % of the EU budget**

CAP is divided into 2 pillars

**Pillar 1 include the Single
Payment Scheme – SPS**

**Pillar 2 include the Rural
Development Programme – RDP**

**In general 80% of the budget is
spend in Pillar 1 and 20 % in
Pillar 2**

**In Denmark 90% of the DK-
budget is spend in Pillar 1**



*Robust cattle grazing in
Svanninge Bakker*



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CAP and Nature - 2

Common Agricultural Policy

Pillar 1

Single Payment Scheme

**Decoupled from production /
obligations of cross-compliance:**

**Good agricultural and environmental
condition (GAEC) and a number of
laws must be respected**

Permanent grasslands

Definition 1:

**“agricultural area means any area
taken up by arable land, permanent
pasture or permanent crops.”**



*Robust cattle grazing in
Svanninge Bakker*



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CAP and Nature - 3

Permanent grasslands

Definition 2:

“... land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage (self-seeded or sown) and that has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding for five years or longer, ...”

Permanent grasslands

Definition 3:

“grasses or other herbaceous forage’ means all herbaceous plants traditionally found in natural pastures or normally included in mixtures of seeds for pastures or meadows in the Member State (whether or not used for grazing animals).”



Robust cattle grazing in Svanninge Bakker



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CAP and Nature - 4

Definition 4:

**“eligible hectare shall mean:
any agricultural area of the holding, ...
that is used for an agricultural activity
or, where the area is used as well for
non-agricultural activities,
predominantly used for agricultural
activities; ...”**

Definition 5:

**“agricultural activity means the
production, ... or maintaining the land
in good agricultural and environmental
condition ...” (GAEC)**



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Svanninge Bakker*



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CAP and Nature - 5

In accordance with these definitions natural permanent grasslands like dry grassland, salt and fresh meadows and some fen types would be eligible for SPS when sufficient managed by grazing or mowing (GAEC demands)

More than 50 trees pr. ha is not allowed

- Permission from the Commission



Robust cattle grazing in Svanninge Bakker



CAP and Nature - 6

Pillar 1. Apply of single payment scheme (SPS) to natural permanent grassland in Denmark, Sweden and Germany (SH)

	Denmark	Sweden	Germany SH
<p>SPS used on natural grasslands, meadows and fens</p> <p>Good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC) must be respected</p>	<p>Only minor</p> <p>Specific requirements for plant cover</p> <p>List of ineligible plants like stiff and high grasses or carex species</p> <p>Only 50 trees pr. ha are allowed</p>	<p>Yes, if the vegetation is eaten by the animals</p> <p>In general only 60 trees pr. ha are allowed</p> <p>On valuable areas up to 100 trees pr. ha are allowed</p>	<p>Yes but practically not due to rules below</p> <p>List of ineligible plants like stiff and high grasses or carex species, more or less all typical grasses of N2000 habitat types!!! (if ineligible plants cover >6 % per ha, whole sub-area not accepted)</p> <p>Scrub of up to 50 m² is not Accepted (if scrub groups cover >6 % per ha)</p> <p>Scrub above 50 m² is accepted as landscape "element"</p> <p>Only 50 trees pr. ha are allowed</p>
<p>If SPS can not be used on the nature area</p>	<p>Minor compensation by the Rural Development Programme</p>	<p>Full compensation for valuable areas in the Rural Development Programme</p>	<p>No compensation</p>



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CAP and Nature - 6

**Pillar 2
Rural Development**

**Axis 2
Improving the environment and the
countryside**

Agri-environmental payment

**There is great opportunity for member
states to define national support schemes**



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Svanninge Bakker*



CAP and Nature - 6

Denmark	Sweden	Germany SH
<p>General schemes for grazing and Mowing No specific management obligation for the area</p> <p>Natura 2000 schemes for clearing overgrowth, fencing and hydrology No specific management obligations 100% of the cost is covered</p> <p>Individual project schemes – only minor budget 50-75 % of the costs is covered</p> <p>Nature peal scheme with higher support Only few ha and no specific management obligations</p>	<p>General schemes for grazing and mowing Special schemes for valuable areas based on a specific management plan for the area Higher support for valuable areas – specific management obligations for the area Higher support when using manual management (le for mowing)</p>	<p>No support for public areas</p> <p>If not eligible for SPS – no support from RDP</p>
		<p>Special bird programme</p>



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CAP and Nature - 6

SPS can be used in natural permanent grasslands to provide at general level for management

To preserve specific nature qualities it will be necessary to use targeted agri-environmental schemes based on management plans



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CAP and Nature - 7

CAP – next program period from 2014:

The proposed green elements can give a boost to the general nature values but are not considered to play a crucial role in ensuring the quality of nature in relation to the open habitats

Instead, we need targeted support schemes under Pillar 2

Modulation of funds from Pillar 1 to 2

New definition of permanent grasslands which allows trees and scrub as part of the pasture



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Thank you for your attention !



- ***The cattle ferry “Yrsa” sailing animals to islands in the Natura 2000 site Archipelago***



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CAP and Nature - 1



***Robust cattle grazing in
Svanninge Bakker***



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CAP and Nature - 1



***Robust cattle grazing in
Svanninge Bakker***