



DEMONSTRATING ELIGIBILITY OF AGRICULTURAL AREA


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Flanders / Belgium
Flemish paying agency



Agenda

- Agricultural area: what 's in a name?
- Eligible hectares: definition & impact
- Airport areas: agricultural area - eligible?



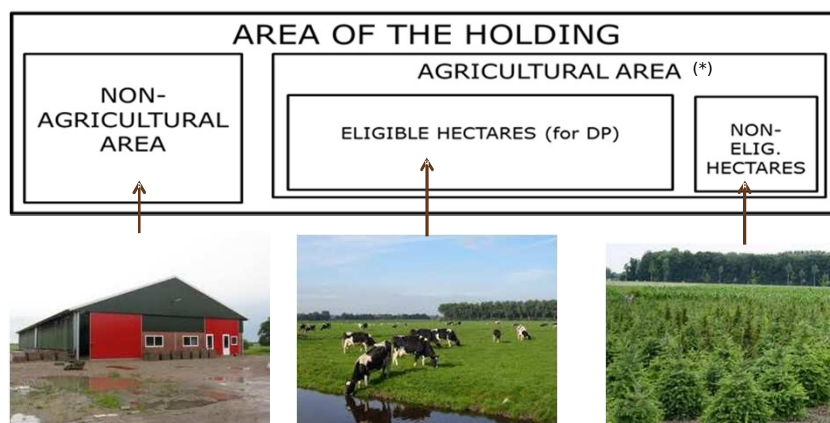
AGRICULTURAL AREA

What's in a name?

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Agricultural area

- **Definition** agricultural area



*: arable land, permanent pasture, permanent crop

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ELIGIBLE HECTARES

Definition & impact

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Definition - eligible hectares

Eligible ha

| Reg. 73/2009 | Proposal new CAP |
|---|---|
| <u>Artikel 34/2</u> (a) Any agricultural area of the holding, and any area planted with short rotation coppice (CN code ex 0602 90 41) that is used for an <u>agricultural activity</u> or, where the area is used as well for non-agricultural activities, predominantly used for agricultural activities; and (b) ... | <u>Artikel 25/2</u> (a) Any agricultural area of the holding that is used for an <u>agricultural activity</u> or, where the area is used as well for non-agricultural activities, predominantly used for agricultural activities including...; or (b) ... |

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Definition – agricultural activity

| Agricultural activity | |
|--|---|
| Reg. 73/2009 | Proposal new CAP |
| <p><u>Artikel 2c</u></p> <p>The production, rearing or growing of agricultural products including harvesting, milking, breeding animals and keeping animals for farming purposes, or <u>maintaining the land in good agricultural and environmental condition</u> as established in Article 6.</p> | <p><u>Artikel 4/1c</u></p> <p>Agricultural activity means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rearing or growing of agricultural products, including harvesting, milking, breeding animals and keeping animals for farming purposes - <u>maintaining</u> the agricultural area in a state which makes it suitable for grazing or cultivation without any particular preparatory action going beyond usual agricultural methods and machineries, <u>based on criteria to be defined by Member States</u> on the basis of a framework established by the Commission, or - carrying out a <u>minimum activity, to be established by Member States</u>, on agricultural areas naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation |

First conclusion



Expected changes in the agricultural area

- Conclusion**

- The definition of agricultural activity is very important
- Looking for a balance between
 - a wide definition = more doubtful (agricultural) area (in ETS)

a strict definition = \leftrightarrow natural areas



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AIRPORT AREAS

Agricultural area – eligible?

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Situation in Flanders

- Large airports: Airport areas are excluded
 - Brussels-national-airport, Oostende
- Smaller airport areas are used for:
 - Arable crops (cereals, mais,...) by farmers;
 - Production of dried fodder (grasses) by farmers
 - Maintenance by farmers

Conclusion:

- Before 2013:

airports areas were sometimes accepted (agriculture activity is predominantly) and sometimes rejected (when activity = **only maintaining**)

- 2013: all airport areas are rejected

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Problem

- ETS inspection 2012 (doc JRC)
http://marswiki.jrc.ec.europa.eu/wikicap/index.php/LPISQA2012_3.c.ii

Examples of non-agriculture land cover



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Control results



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Control results



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Control results



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Discussion and questions

- Are airport areas considered as agricultural area?
 - Article 2 73/2009
 - Article 2 1120/2009
- Are airport areas considered as eligible area?
 - Article 34 73/2009
- Is a different treatment necessary for:
 - Airport areas used for production of arable crops (cereals)?
 - Airport areas used for the production of dried fodder?
 - Airport areas under maintenance -contract?

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Examples

- Koksijde
 - Agricultural production of cereals, mais, sugar beet,...
 - Production of dried fodder
 - Narrow (4 tot 10m) strips of grass along runways and taxi lanes
- Deurne
 - Production of dried fodder
 - Narrow strips of gras along runways and taxi lanes

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KOKSIJDE – production of arable crops

- sown parcels



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KOKSIJDE – production of arable crops

- For arable crops...



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DEURNE – production of dried fodder

- Mowing



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DEURNE – production of dried fodder

- Harvesting



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DEURNE – production of dried fodder

- Harvesting



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DEURNE – production of dried fodder

- Harvesting



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Results: reviewed checklist

Production of arable crops is acceptable.

Grassland is acceptable when:

1. declared by a real farmer (no airport operator)
2. The farmer is able to demonstrate with a legal contract that there is either
 1. A normal freedom of choice of crops
 2. A normal possibility of dried fodder production (without extreme limitations)
3. The parcels are not situated within the safety zones and are not designated for the airport infrastructure (lights, signals, buildings, etc.)
4. The farmer effectively uses the harvested grass for normal dried fodder production (= more than just recurrent mowing for maintenance)

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Practical problems

- How to determine 'normal fodder production'?
- Difficulties obtaining contracts (military airports, private companies without interests in agricultural problems)
- Interference with Nitrate Directive (Flanders)
- Loss of permanent pasture

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General conclusions

- Parcels with a lot of discussion are:
 - Maintained grassland parcels
 - And in the future also the parcels with a minimum activity
- A good, correct and clear definition of agricultural activity will be very important

... but even with such a definition we will have practical problems

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Questions

Thank you for your
attention

