

Consequences of abolishment of the set-aside obligation in the EU CAP

In 2007, the European Union set the set-aside obligation to 0.

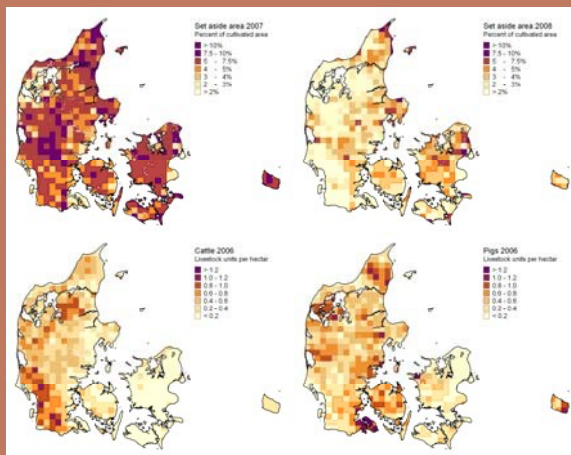
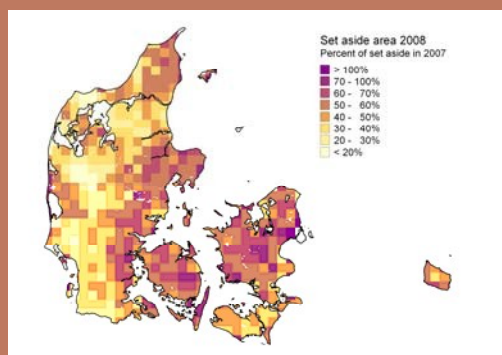
At first hand, it was meant as a temporary solution only concerning the harvest year 2008, but in connection with the negotiations on the "health check" of the European Union CAP (common agricultural policy), the Commission has put forward a formal proposal with several elements - including the abolishment of the set-aside obligation from 2009.

DIAS at Aarhus University has made a mapping of the set-aside fields in Denmark in 2007 and 2008.

On the basis of this mapping, a change analysis has been made to estimate the effect of the reset of the obligation to set-aside in 2008. The mapping was based on the LPIS (Land Parcel Identifications system) and the yearly claims for area based subsidy from the Danish farmers.

Geographical analysis:

The largest reduction in the set-aside area was in the cattle intensive areas in Jutland (Western part of Denmark). In the pig intensive areas, the reduction is less.



The analysis is based on:

Ministry of Food:

- Single Payment Claims from 2007 and 2008
- Digital LPIS Aarhus University (www.djfgedata.dk):

- Digital map of soil types
- Digital map of low lands
- Animal holdings 2006

Ministry of Environment:

- Digital map of Natura 2000 areas
- National Mapping Agency:
- Grid

Creation of change maps:

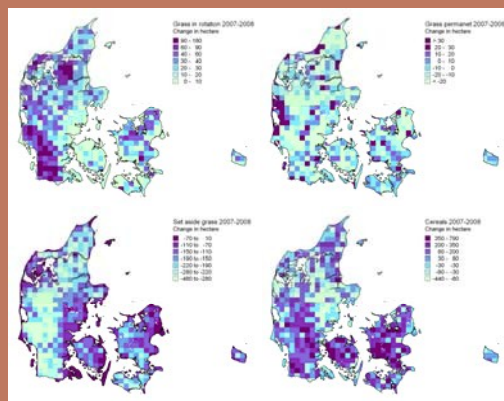
Data from claims on LPIS reference parcel level aggregated to 10 km grid level and data for 2007 compared with 2008 data.

Crop type analysis:

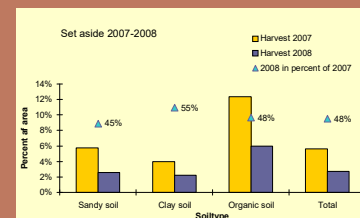
The set-aside area was halved.

Areas with cereals and grass were increased from 2007 to 2008. Other areas are almost the same.

	Harvest 2007		Harvest 2008		Change 100 ha	2008 in percent of 2007
	100 ha	Percent of area	100 ha	Percent of area		
Set aside	1.651	6%	823	3%	-828	50%
Uncultivated	129	0%	118	0%	-11	92%
Grass in rotation	2.784	10%	2.951	11%	167	106%
Grass permanent	2.192	8%	2.144	8%	-48	98%
Cereals	14.181	53%	15.005	55%	824	104%
Non-food and rapeseed	1.831	7%	1.768	6%	-62	97%
Other	4.470	16%	4.539	17%	69	102%
Total	27.557	100%	27.369	100%	-188	99%



Soil type analysis :



The largest reduction in set-aside and uncultivated areas was on the sandy soils. The smallest was on the clay soils.

Example of the change from set-aside to cereal production

A farmer removed some oak scrub and hedge between a set-aside field and a cereal field and flattened it out to make a larger continuous field with cereals. Only this way, it was possible to benefit from the abolishment of the set-aside in 2008. It will also result in the old set-aside field being less interesting to turn into a set-aside field again.

Photo: Søren Torp



2006 - @COWI



2008 - @BLOMINFO

Photo: Søren Torp

