



23rd General Meeting
European Grassland Federation
2010 / Kiel

**Extensive grasslands beyond the
year 2013 – present situation
and options for the future?**

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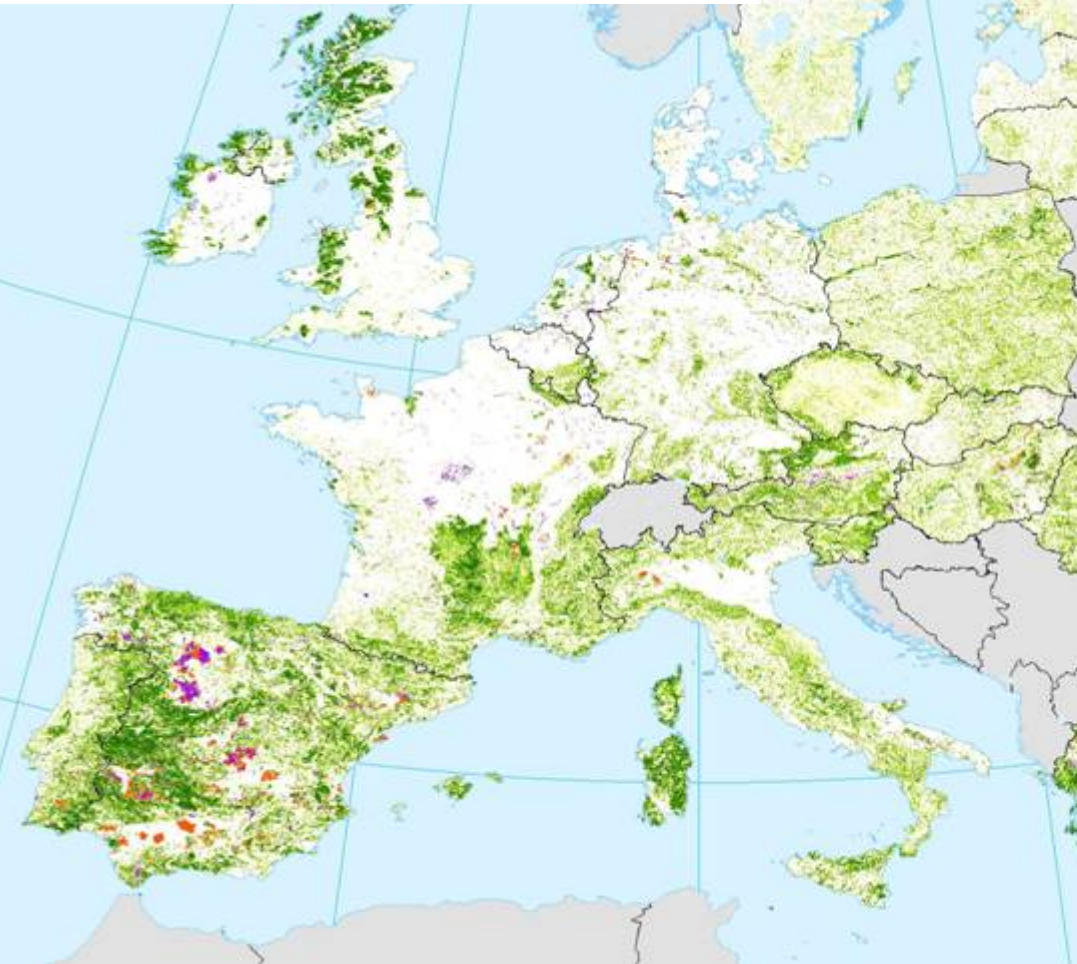
Background of this paper is a research project with the objective of a status analysis of extensive grasslands in the South-West of Germany

- Pulling together existing data (e.g. statistics, mappings)
- Interviews with farmers (n= 70) in areas with distribution / concentration of hnv grasslands



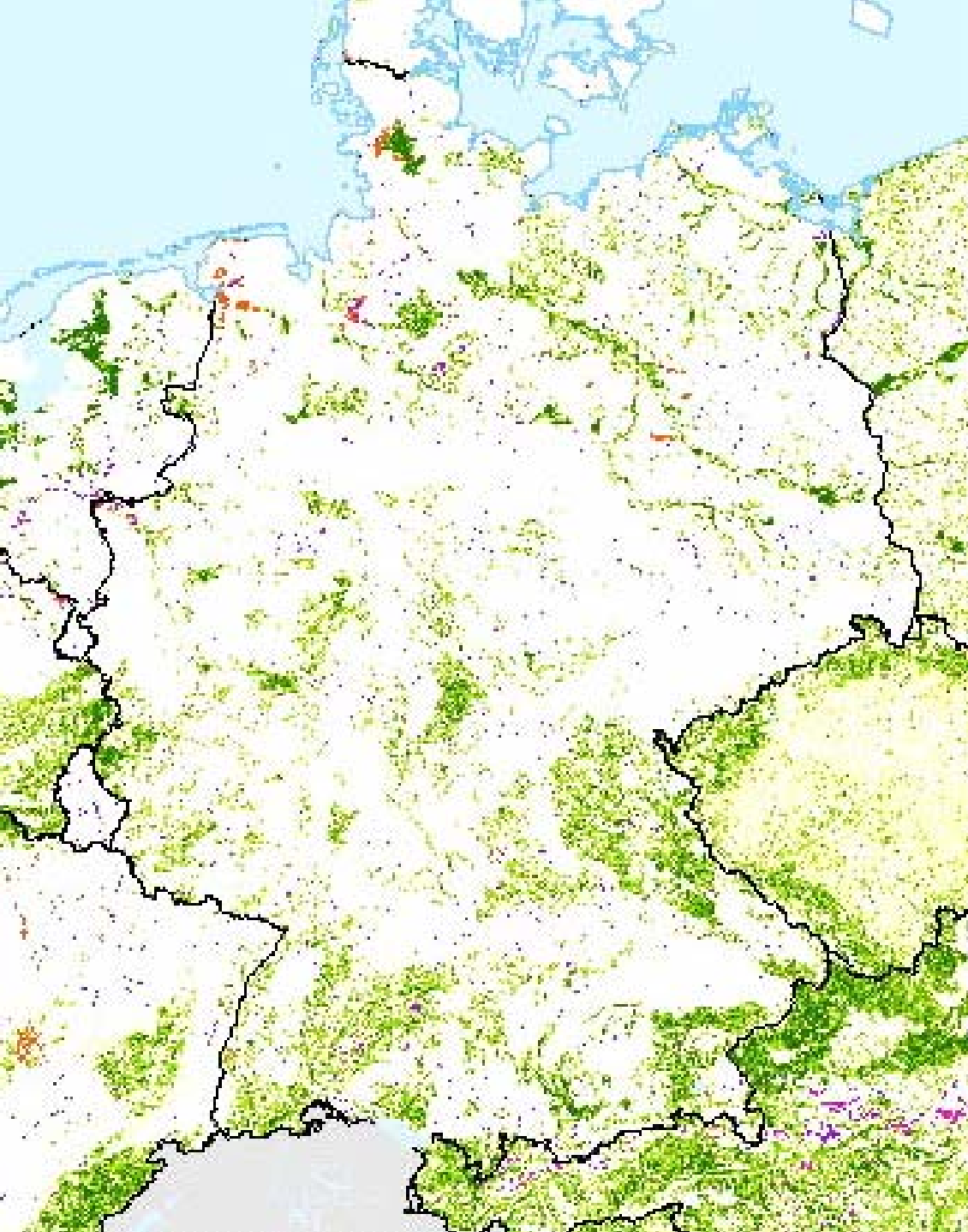
Remarks on the biodiversity issue

HNV farmland distribution based on the inventory of semi-natural grassland vegetation in the EU



Legal obligations:

- ▷ Convention on Biodiversity from Rio de Janeiro (1992)
- ▷ Gothenburg aims / obligations of the EU-member states
- ▷ IUCN Countdown campagne 2010 "stop the loss"
- ▷ EU Habitats & Birds directives / NATURA 2000 approach
- ▷ National plans of the EU-member states to challenge the biodiversity decline



lowland hay-meadows (6510)

mountain hay-meadows (6520)

dry heathland (4030)

formations with *Juniperus communis* on calcareous heaths
grassland (5130)

alpine calcareous grasslands
(6110)

alpine sand calcareous grasslands
(6120)

formations on calcareous
substrates (6210)

formation with *Nardus stricta* on
calcareous substrates in mountain
meadows (6230)

Festuca ovina meadows on chalk or clay
(6410)

alkaline fens (7330)



Lowland hay-meadows (6510)

Mountain hay-meadows (6520)

Wet heathland (4030)

Formations with *Juniperus communis* on calcareous heaths
and grassland (5130)

Arctic calcareous grasslands
(6110)

Temperate sand calcareous grasslands
(6120)

Formations on calcareous
substrates (6210)

Formation with *Nardus stricta* on
calcareous substrates in mountain
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Festuca ovina meadows on chalk or clay
(6410)

Alkaline fens (7330)



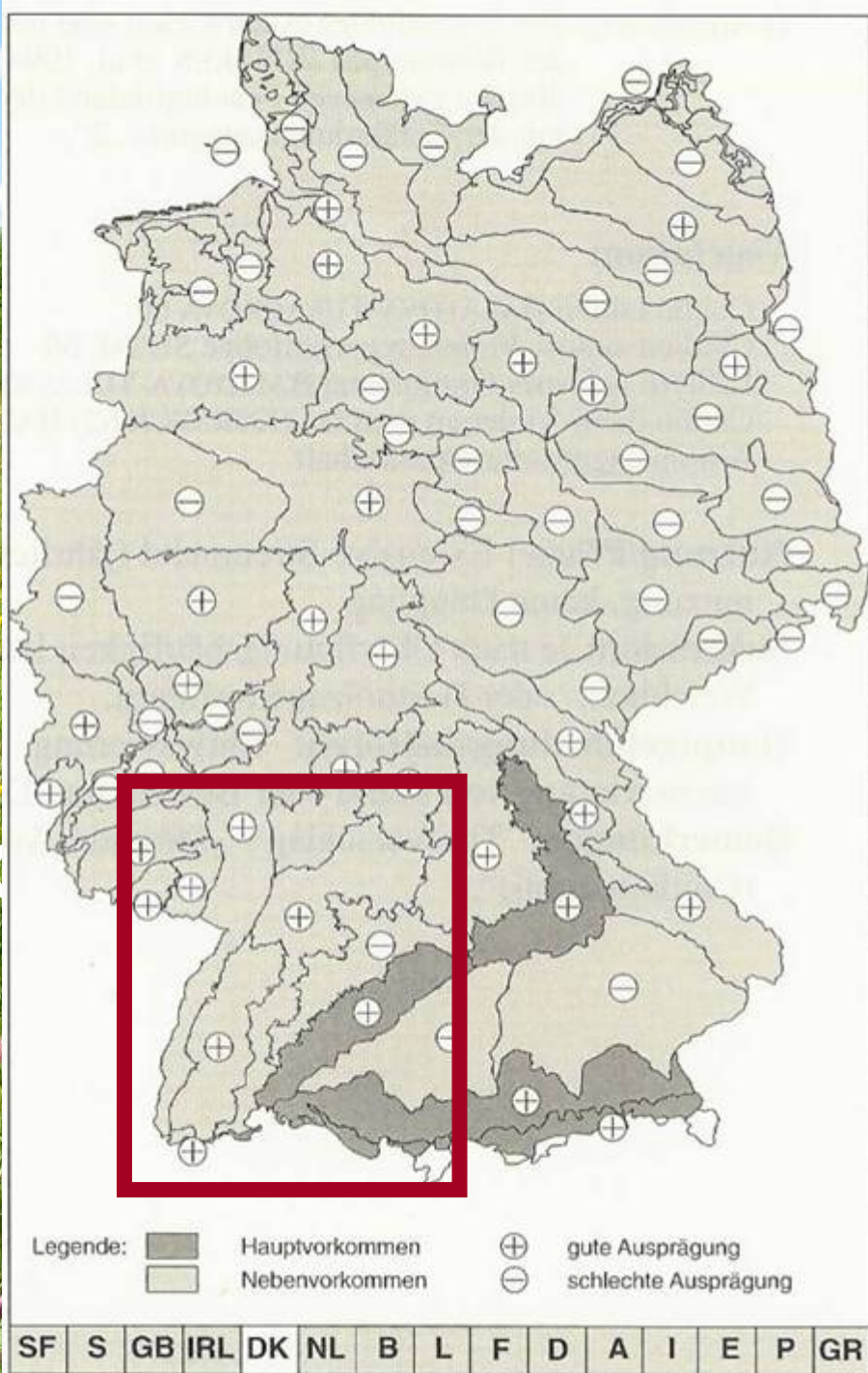
**Species-rich
Lowland Hay
Meadows
(=Arrhenatherion
communities),**


N2000-Code: 6510



Species-rich Lowland Hay Meadows (=Arrhenatheric communities),

N2000-Code: 6510





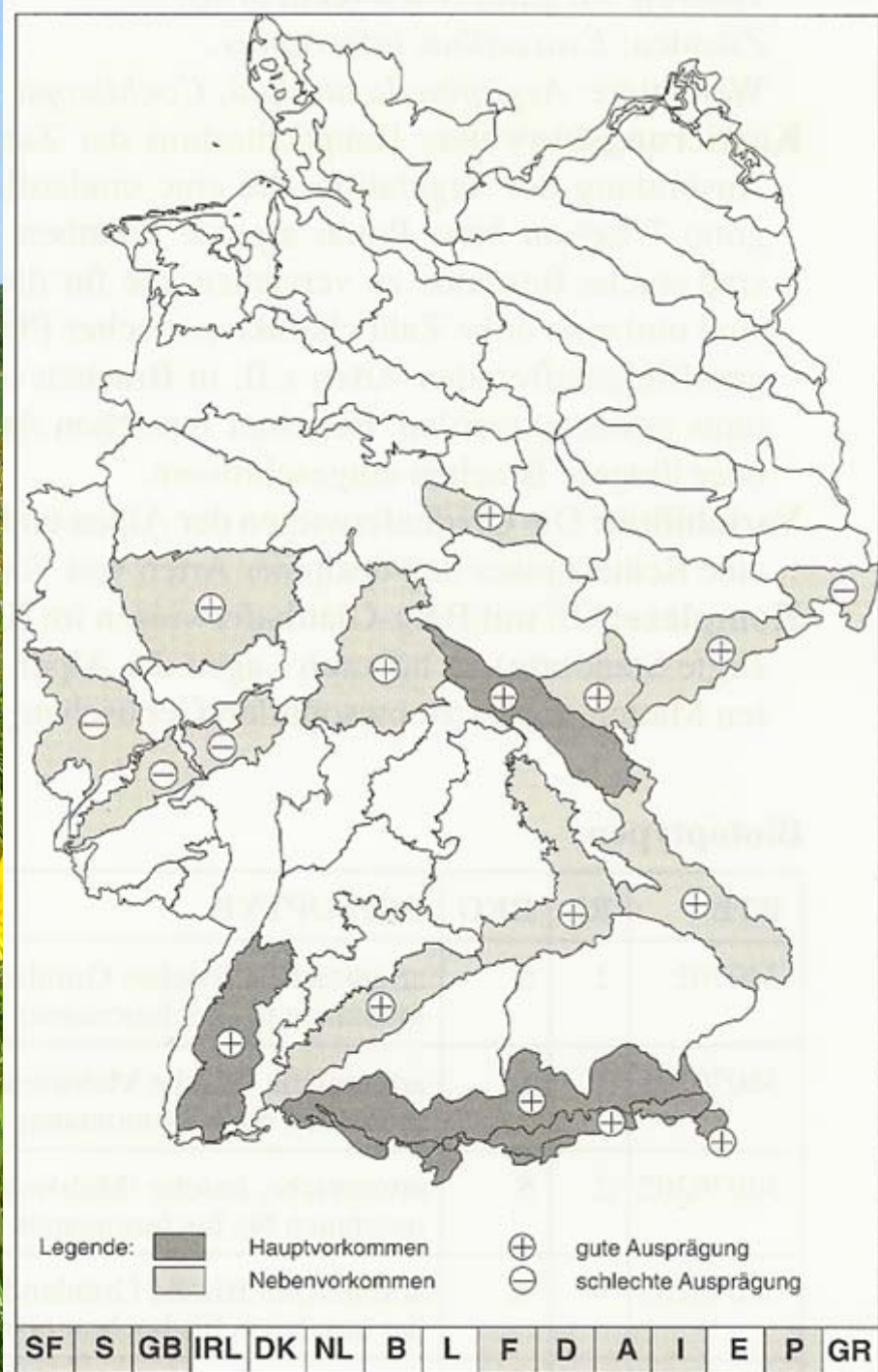
Species-rich
Mountain Hay
Meadows
(*e.g. Geranio-
Trisetetum*),

N2000-Code: 6520



Species-rich Mountain Hay Meadows (*e.g. Geranio- Trisetetum*),

N2000-Code: 6520




Development of grasslands with hnv properties for the State of Baden-Württemberg according to expert opinions and monitoring programmes

	1950	1980	2010
total grassland	884.000	650.000	545.000
hnv %	90 %	20 %	10 %

Type & Natura 2000-Code	Dimension
Lowland hay-meadows (6510)	<p>50.000 ha are still considered to be grasslands of hnv-value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ca. 30.000 ha are lowland hay-meadows, - Ca. 10.000 ha are mountain-hay meadows - Rest is mainly calcareous heathland with <i>Juniperus</i>.
Mountain hay-meadows (6520)	
Dry heathland (4030)	
Formations with <i>Juniperus communis</i> on calcareous heaths or grassland (5130)	
Karstic calcareous grasslands (6110)	
Xeric sand calcareous grasslands (6120)	
Formations on calcareous substrates (6210)	
Formation with <i>Nardus stricta</i> on silicious substrates in mountain areas (6230)	
<i>Molinia</i> meadows on chalk or clay (6410)	
Alkaline fens (7330)	

A photograph of a cornfield in the foreground, with three large green metal silos and a green-roofed building in the background under a cloudy sky.

Legal land-use changes for bio-energy production (maize)

A photograph showing a large area of dark, rich soil being plowed, with a small stream of water flowing through the furrows.

Illegal turnover of riverine grasslands into crop fields for bio-energy production

Decline due to:

A photograph of a wide, flat landscape with tall, dry grasses and a fence line in the foreground, suggesting an abandoned or overgrown field.

Abandonment (in mountainous as well as in lowland regions)

A photograph of a green landscape with a dense line of trees in the background and a grassy field in the foreground under a cloudy sky.

Afforestation (mainly in mountainous regions)

Most important factor:



Most important factor:

**Qualitative losses
due to the general
intensification of
grassland
management
practises**



Type & Natura 2000-Code

Land-use systems

Lowland hay-meadows (6510)

Mountain hay meadows (6520)

Dry heathland (4030)

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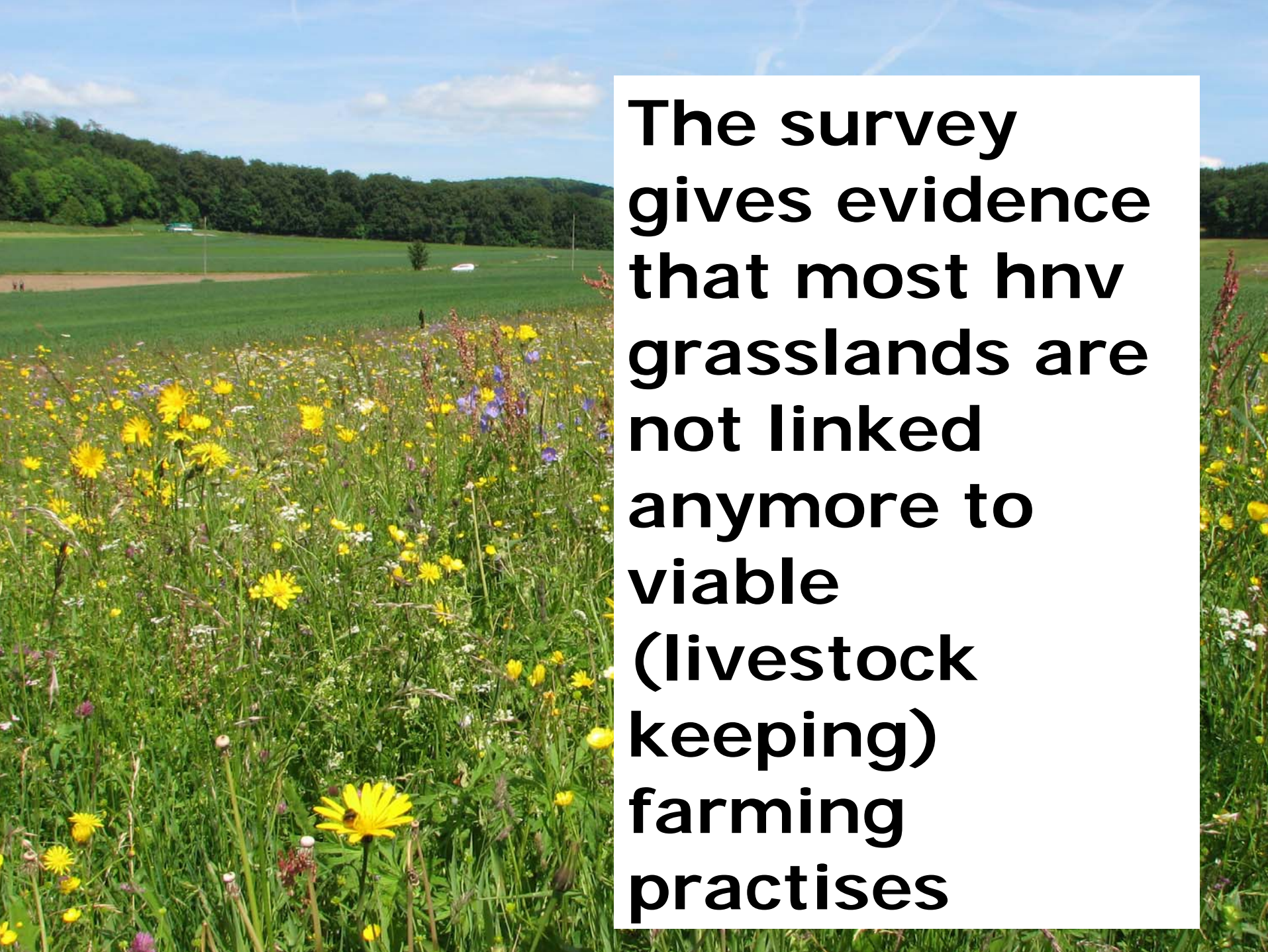
Molinia meadows on chalk or clay (6410)

Alkaline fens (7330)

No surprise but worth to mention it:
all grasslands have evolved along side with livestock keeping systems and actually depend on them



But

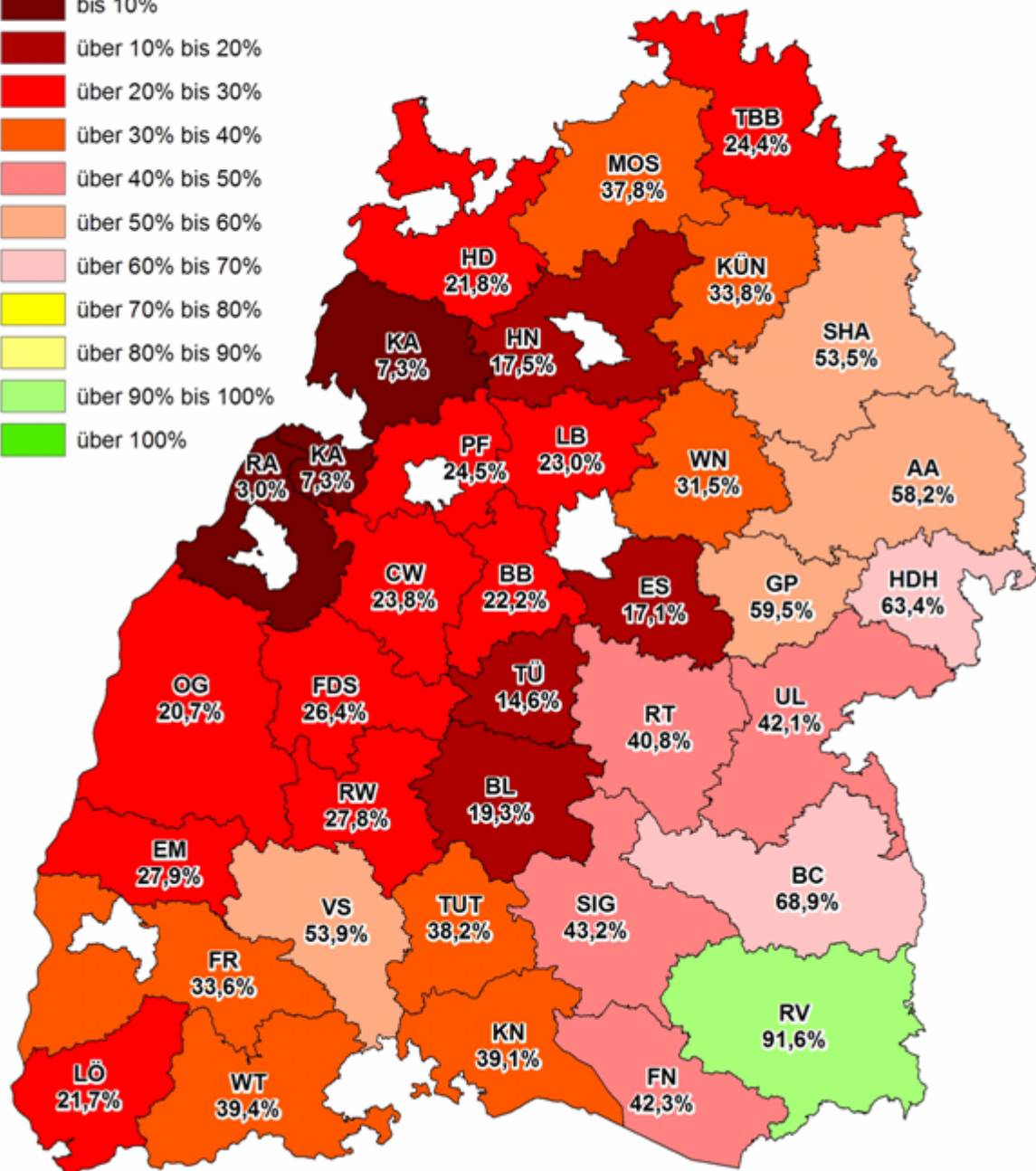
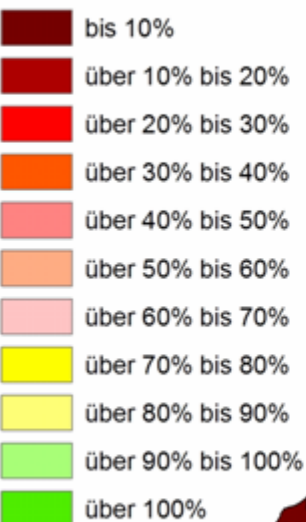


**The survey
gives evidence
that most hnv
grasslands are
not linked
anymore to
viable
(livestock
keeping)
farming
practises**



Remarks on the socio-economic situation

Milchviehbestände des Jahres 2007
in Prozent des Ausgangswertes aus
dem Jahre 1960



Decline of dairy cows in the State of BW from 1960 - 2009

Decline:

897.791 → 378.600

- 58 %

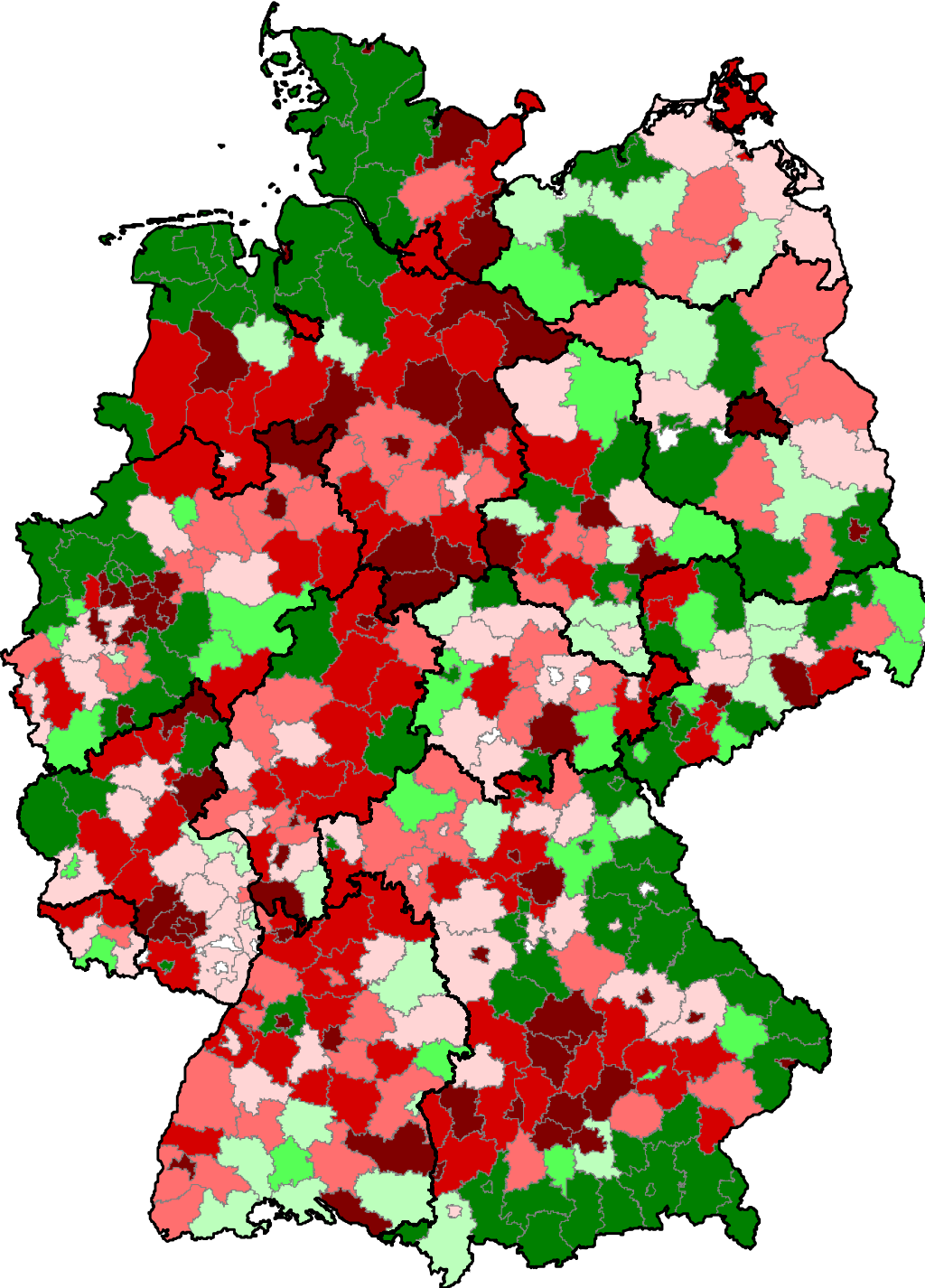
Decline of dairy farms in the survey areas

	1979	1999	2009	%
Enz-District	681	133	85	- 88
Hohenlohe-District	2.096	520	265	- 87
Ravensburg-District	5.150	2.669	1.818	- 65
Reutlingen-District	2.127	585	304	- 86
Waldshut-District	2.857	814	434	- 85

Decline of dairy cows in the survey areas

	1979	1999	2007	%
Enz-District	5.531	3.333	2.868	- 48
Hohenlohe-District	17.465	9.656	7.498	- 47
Ravensburg-District	100.202	80.690	70.319	- 30
Reutlingen-District	16.542	11.039	8.690	- 47
Waldshut-District	18.987	12.348	10.184	- 46

Milk quota trading in kg / hectare aa



LASSEN vTI 2010

Results of milk quota trading in Mio. kg according to the German stock region West since the introduction in 2007

1) responsible for Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg und Bremen, 2) responsible for Rhineland Palatinate and Saarland.

Baden-Württemberg	- 86.773
Bavaria	- 36.202
Lower Saxony 1)	+ 160.911
Nordrhine-Westfalia	+ 76.127
Hesse	- 77.208
Rhineland-Palatinate 2)	- 24.278



Remarks on the policy issue / future of extensive grasslands

Situation in the survey areas

▷ The existence of all hnv grassland types / extensive management practises depend entirely on pillar 1 and pillar 2 subsidies.

▷ Pillar 2 programmes like agri-environment schemes (MEKA III) and tailored conservation programmes for areas of conservation interests (e.g. NATURA 2000 areas) make up 60 % and more of all farming payments in the survey areas.

▷ For mountain farmers and sheep keepers 80 to 100 % of the net income derives from pillar 1 and pillar 2 transfers.

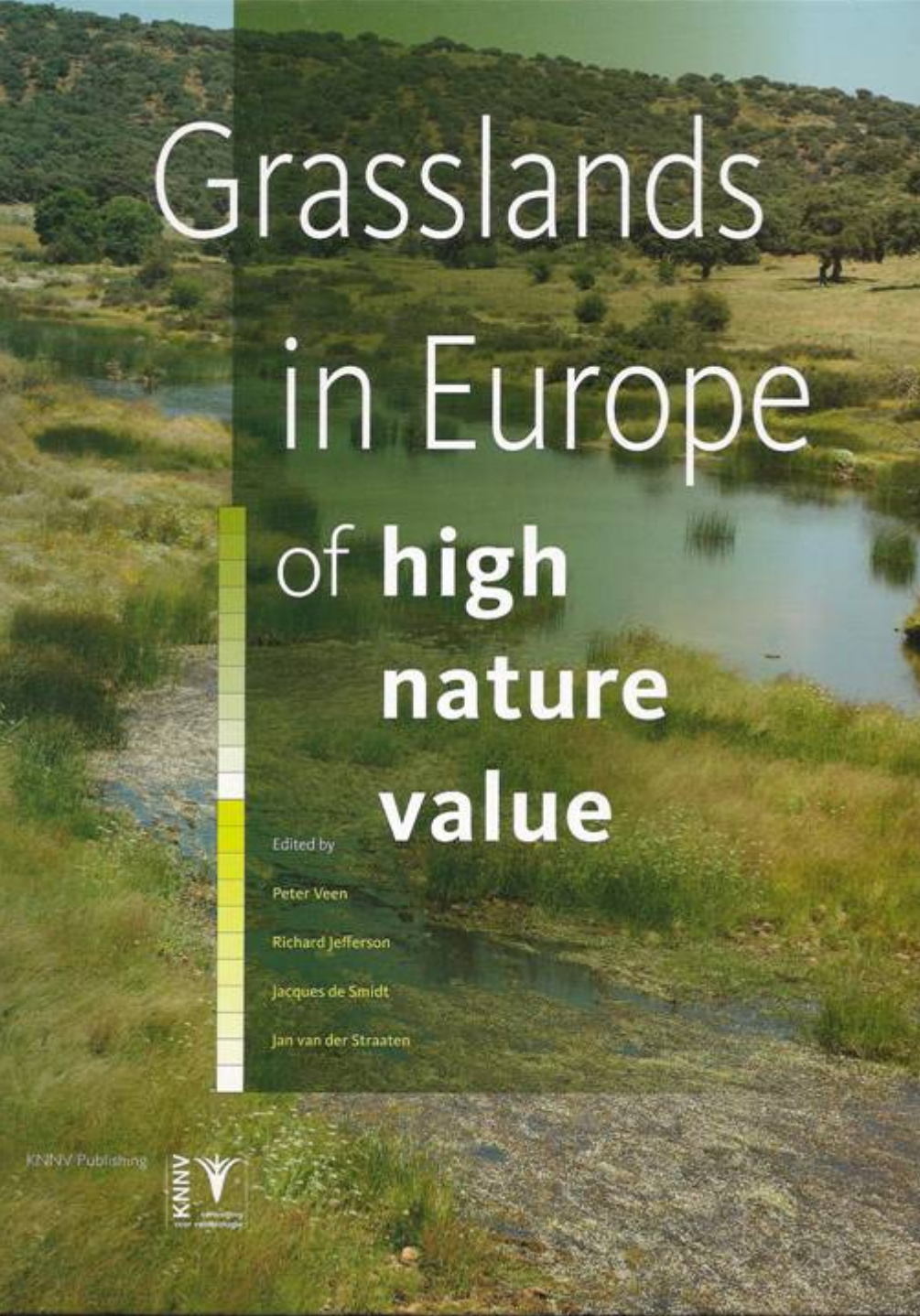


Take- home message

▷ We need new land use strategies to not further increase the demand for subsidies or even to minimize the financial needs

▷ There is not a single strategy. Proven best-practise examples or / and ideas which still need practical testing are e.g.

- large scale extensive grazing systems for beef production in various forms,
- adding-value concepts for dairy products (as elements of regional economic value chains)
- hay-pellets for combustion purposes?



Grasslands in Europe of high nature value

Edited by

Peter Veen

Richard Jefferson

Jacques de Smidt

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**Book to
recommend**

KNNV Publishing





Acknowledgements

The research project was cordially supported by the Nature Trust at the Ministry of Environment of the State of Baden-Württemberg

A scenic view of rolling green hills under a clear blue sky. The landscape features various shades of green, from vibrant grass to golden-brown fields, interspersed with clusters of trees. In the foreground, a large white text box is overlaid on the left side of the image. The text inside the box reads "Thank you for your interest!" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Thank you
for your
interest!**