

Semi-natural grassland in Denmark

Political instruments aiming for nature



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Problems

In Denmark 343,000 ha grassland > 2500 m² is protected physically by law (§ 3 area).

But more than 50 % has an insufficient management practise

Danish farmers lack incentives for management of good quality natural grassland.

Needs for good management of grassland

- Payment for nature quality equal to or greater than aids per ha
- Focus on nature goals instead of common dates and rules of appearance
- Specific advise about management to farmer combined with control defined by nature
- Less complicated administration

Reference: Nielsen, A.L., Hald, A.B. & Buttenschøn, R. Accepted . Political instruments affecting management of semi-natural grassland in Denmark and possible improvements. NJF seminar 436, Norway, May 2011.

Management decisions

Only 110.000 ha protected § 3 grassland in Natura2000 and 40,000 ha § 3 areas outside Natura2000 can apply for stewardship management support. Only 40-45.000 ha are supported today. Management decision of protected grassland is up to farmers.

Stewardship management

1400 DKR ha⁻¹ (5 years contract period)

Plus aid per ha:
2200 DKR ha⁻¹



approx.
84% area
2010

§ 3 – low nature quality



No aid
per ha

approx.
16% area
2010

§ 3 – high nature quality

Abandonment



§ 3 – biodiversity loss

Expected to be:
50 % good forage species
Less than 50 trees/bushes per ha
No wet areas

Passed by control

Homogenous grassland
Relatively dry areas
Trees are cut
Sward is trimmed

Low production
Low forage quality
Control measures: Low and dense sward by 31 August

Disqualified by control
Too much nature
Cross compliance problems

Abandonment risk after 5 years stewardship management is high:
Too bad economy
Too many restrictions

Abandonment risk is high