

Agri-environment-climate Measures - for the protection of the Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Farming in harmony with the natural environment brings benefits for the endangered Lapwing.

EAFRD-funded projects

Location: Dubné, Czech Republic

Programming period: 2014-2020

Priority: P4 – Ecosystems management

Focus Area: Biodiversity's restoration, preservation & enhancement

Measures: M10 – Agri-environment-climate

Funding:

Total budget	71 305.00 (EUR)
EAFRD	53 479.00 (EUR)
National/Regional	17 826.00 (EUR)

Timeframe: 2015 to 2021

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- The fertility and erosion resistance of the soil on the farm is increased by sophisticated sowing practices (e.g. the use of grass clover, the use of mustard as an intercrop, the incorporation of high-quality manure, etc.).
- The farm won the 2019 Farm of the Year award and a gold medal in the Diverse Landscapes 2020 programme for its thoughtful approach to farm development and interventions aimed at preserving a diverse and rich landscape.

Lessons & Recommendations

Without CAP's support for biodiversity conservation, it would often be difficult for farmers to carry out nature conservation work that doesn't not provide clear commercial benefit for a farm business.

Context

The Placand family farm covers 226 hectares of the South Bohemian countryside near České Budějovice. Approximately 130 hectares are arable land and 96 hectares are meadows and pastures used to produce roughage for the cattle. In addition to cattle, the farm raises pigs and sheep for meat production. A small on-farm meat butchery allows the farmer to process and sell the meat to customers directly 'from the farm gate'.

All the meadows and pastures of the farm are covered by agri-environment-climate measures. To enable this to happen, the owners have successfully implemented numerous EU funded investment

Summary

The Placand family farm achieves long-term sustainability by balancing crop and livestock production with a sensitive management of the landscape. When in 2015 the Lapwing was noticed residing on its land, the farm entered a CAP funded conservation programme for the preservation and recovery of this endangered bird.

Since then, numerous activities have been implemented for the protection and recovery of the Lapwing. This includes actions such as planting a specific mix of crops to encourage pollinators; regulating the mechanical cultivation of the relevant land; limiting farming activities; and collaborating in partnership with the Czech Society for Ornithology.

Project results

The main results of the initiative include:

- Conservation and gradual increase of the population of Lapwing in the area.
- The use of agri-environment-climate measures with specific conditions that preserve these natural areas for future generations.

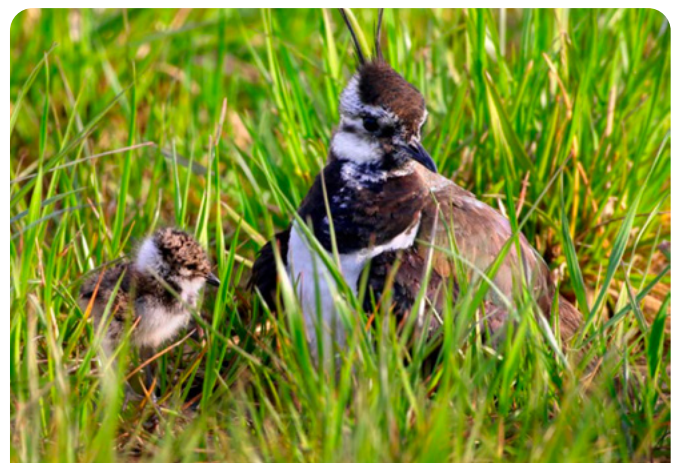


Photo by: Libor Sváček, archive of The State Land Office of the Czech Republic



projects in support of environmental and climate-conscious conservation actions over the years. Nowadays, the farm utilises landscape-friendly farming practices in all business activities of the farm. Its land hosts biodiversity protected by EU laws including the Lapwing bird species (*Vanellus vanellus*).

Objectives

The main aims of this project were to develop the presence of town markets in the valley as a way to stimulate the sale of local crops and products by producers and, in time, to increase the local demand for more and different products and processing. In addition, reviving and expanding the town markets would improve the quality of life for local people by providing a network of convivial social hubs.

Activities

Since 2015, approximately 15 hectares of arable land are included in the programme for the preservation of the Lapwings. The following activities are implemented for the birds' protection:

- > A specific mixture of crops is planted on the 15 ha (this is used for fodder and to encourage pollinators).
- > In selected locations, where the presence of the birds is demonstrably recorded, farming is limited and the use of mechanical cultivation is substantially regulated.
- > The overall area is monitored by the Czech Society for Ornithology.
- > Each action and development on this area is jointly assessed between the farm and the members of the Czech Society for Ornithology.
- > Additional attention is given to individual parts of the land that require specific approaches and conditions for their treatment. These are, for example, moisture-loving non-fertilised meadows and ponds that are located in a Protected Landscape Area and are part of Natura 2000 sites.

Main results

The main results of the initiative include:

- > Conservation and gradual increase of the population of Lapwing in the area.
- > The use of agri-environment-climate measures with specific conditions preserves these natural areas for future generations.
- > The fertility and erosion resistance of the soil on the farm is increased by sophisticated sowing practices (e.g. the use of grass clover, the use of mustard as an intercrop, the incorporation of high-quality manure, etc.).
- > The farm won the 2019 Farm of the Year award and a gold medal in the Diverse Landscapes 2020 programme for its thoughtful approach to farm development and interventions aimed at preserving a diverse and rich landscape.

Key lessons

Farmland supports a significant proportion of the EU's protected species and the CAP is the main EU support mechanism available for safeguarding the quality and quantity of farmland biodiversity.

Additional information:

n/a



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