

# Framing Wider Societal Contributions of Farmers

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# Have your say!

**‘What do you think should be the two main responsibilities of farmers in our society?’**

## Instructions

Go to

[www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)

Enter the code

**6933 6238**



Or use QR code

[#ValuingFarmers](https://twitter.com/ValuingFarmers)

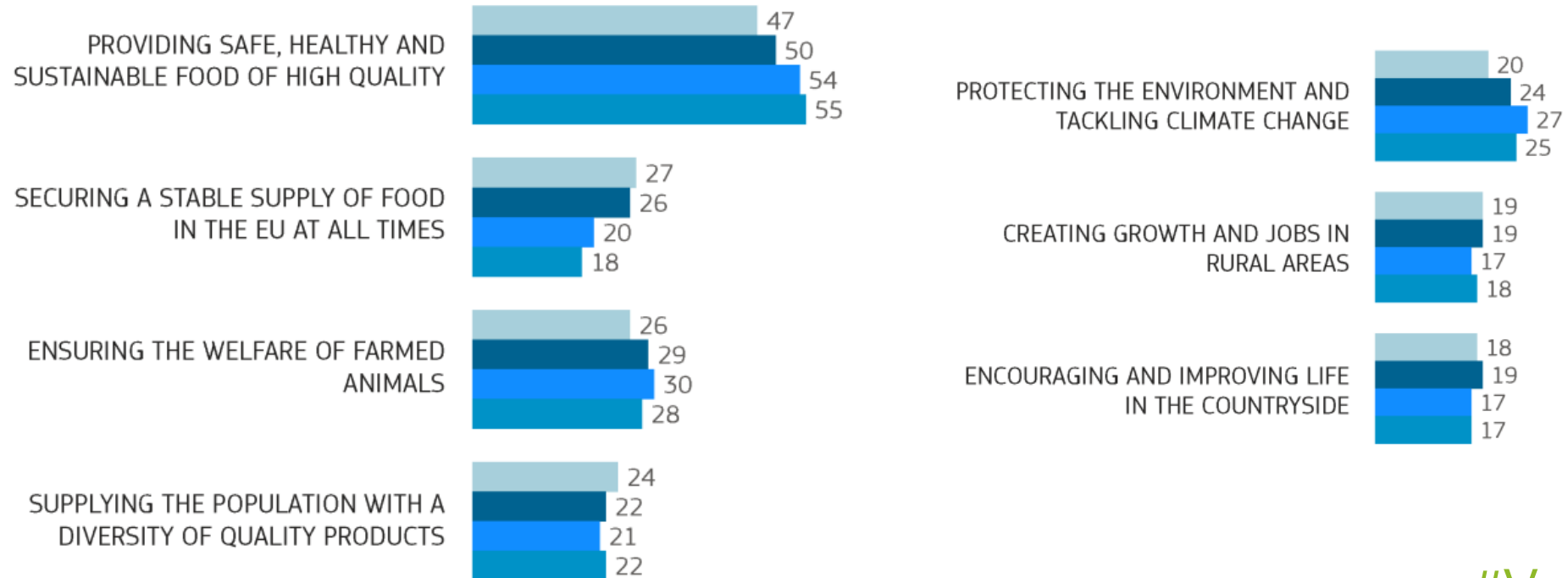




# Eurobarometer survey

**‘What do you think should be the two main responsibilities of farmers in our society?’**

● Summer 2024 ● Winter 2022 ● Summer 2020 ● Autumn 2017



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Source: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3226>



# Context matters

## Knowledge gaps

- Scale
- Practices
- Different local realities





# Food providers

Food security

High-quality and local traditional food



Shortening food supply chains

Healthy diet

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# Municipal Farm

## Context:

- › Mouans-Sartoux, a city of 10,000 inhabitants on the French Riviera, where land pressure is very high and where agriculture has decreased significantly since the 1960s.
- › Faced with a lack of local organic produce, the city established a municipal farm to supply its school canteens.
- › Farmers cultivated organic vegetables on the municipal farm, producing approximately 26 tons of organic fruits and vegetables annually, and meeting 96% of the needs of the city's school canteens.



# Municipal Farm

## Impact:

- › **Sustainable Short Supply Chain:** Directly provide local and seasonal produce to school canteens, reducing reliance on external suppliers and minimising food miles.
- › **Food Safety and Security:** Ensure a consistent and reliable source of nutritious food for over 1,000 meals served daily to local students.
- › **Community Engagement:** Enhance awareness of sustainable agriculture and healthy eating habits among students and the broader community.

Link: <https://urbact.eu/thinking-out-box-setting-municipal-farm>

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# Environmental stewards

Preservation  
of  
biodiversity

Preservation  
of  
landscapes



Carbon  
sequestration  
and climate  
change  
mitigation

Environmentally  
beneficial side  
practices

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- › Farming approach focusing on restoring and enhancing ecosystem health.



# Regenerative Farming

## Context:

- [Kraľovany-Stráže](#), an agricultural cooperative in Slovakia with 54 shareholders and 640 hectares of farmland.
- Prior intensive farming and chemical use led to degraded soil health and financial losses.
- Gradual adoption of the regenerative agricultural practices.

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# Regenerative Farming

## Implemented Practices:

- Reduced soil tillage to minimise disturbance.
- Decreased machinery usage to prevent soil compaction.
- Incorporated cover crops to enhance soil fertility and structure.
- Switched to no-till, directly sowing into the remains of the pre-crop or cover crop.
- Stopped using fungicides, insecticides and artificial fertilisers.



# Regenerative Farming

## Environmental benefits:

- › **Soil Health Restoration:** Improved soil structure and fertility.
- › **Erosion Control:** The amount of carbon sequestered has gone up and there has been no soil erosion in the past 12 years.
- › **Biodiversity Enhancement:** Increased presence of beneficial soil organisms and wildlife.
- › **Water Management:** Enhanced water retention and reduced runoff.

Link: [https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/agricultural-cooperative-slovakia-applies-regenerative-farming-restore-soil-health\\_en#tab\\_id=description](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/agricultural-cooperative-slovakia-applies-regenerative-farming-restore-soil-health_en#tab_id=description)

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# Community builders

Strengthening  
rural  
communities

Generational  
renewal



Mainstays of  
community  
life

Preservation  
of cultural  
heritage

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# Social Farming Ireland

What is social farming?

- A social support service offering **people with social, physical, mental, or intellectual challenges** an opportunity to spend time on a family farm.
- Provides a **healthy, supportive, and inclusive** environment.
- Helps participants live ordinary lives while **interacting with their community** and **developing their potential**.





# Social Farming Ireland

Among the benefits:

- Physical Health: Improves general fitness and farming skills; promotes a **safe and peaceful** environment, reducing aggression.
- Mental Health: Boosts **self-esteem, well-being, and confidence**; Restores **feelings of worth and personal identity**.
- Social growth: **social skills and community integration**; Encourages **acceptance, independence, and willingness to try new experiences**; Helps tackle **social exclusion** by creating **meaningful interactions**.



# Social Farming Ireland

## Outcomes:

- › Development of **new interests**.
- › Strengthened **sense of self-worth and belief**.
- › Increased **social confidence and communication skills**.
- › Opportunities for **further education, training, or employment**.
  
- › It creates truly inclusive opportunities, allowing participants to engage in meaningful activities, build confidence, and feel a sense of belonging.
- › More info [here](#).



## Questions for the discussion

- What contributions of farmers are currently missing in existing societal discourse and narratives about farming?
- Why the image of farming sector is still perceived rather negative, despite so many societal contributions?
- What are the compelling narratives that need to be promoted (i.e. farmers as capable entrepreneurs, use of innovative practices etc.)

