Thematic Group on "The CAP's role in supporting sustainable and competitive livestock systems"

Background Paper

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1. Introduction and context

Livestock systems play an important economic, social, environmental and cultural role in the EU. As well as producing meat, dairy and other products (e.g. wool) and supporting rural livelihoods, sustainable livestock systems can provide a range of services, such as maintaining semi-natural, high nature value habitats, supporting biomass management and carbon storage in the soil, enabling nutrient recycling and shaping the cultural and landscape characteristics of many local rural and remote mountain areas.

In the EU there is a great diversity of livestock production systems, with the importance and type of livestock farming as well as livestock densities varying greatly between Member States and regions. As is the case for all forms of agriculture, livestock also has to play its part in addressing agriculture's environmental and climate footprint. However, there is no one size fits all solution. Different pathways exist for different types and intensities of systems and include improving nutrient management and promoting nutrient circularity, reducing emissions through enhancing the development of sustainable production models, as well as enhancing the economic viability of extensive systems to reduce the risk of land abandonment to maintain semi-natural, high nature value habitats.

Finding ways of transitioning to more sustainable livestock production systems in the EU is key therefore, reflecting on both their diversity and the different benefits they provide. The Vision for Agriculture and Food highlights this as a priority. It recognises that sustainable livestock systems are '*crucial for the EU economy, viability of rural areas and preservation of the environment and of rural landscapes'*, and highlights a key challenge is to find ways to '*address its climate/environment footprint, including ways to valorise the link between livestock production and maintenance of environment- and climate-valuable grasslands through more extensive livestock systems beneficial to the preservation of biodiversity and landscapes* '. This requires finding ways to support livestock farming towards greater sustainability in environmental and climatic terms while recognising and accelerating the efforts already made, taking into account the diversity of systems and territorial specificities. To this end, the European Commission has established a dedicated workstream on livestock, with a focus on exploring policy pathways for a competitive, future-proof, sustainable and fair livestock sector in the EU.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) offers a range of interventions that Member States can use to support the sustainability and competitiveness of livestock production systems, both extensive and intensive ones. However, despite this potential, some Member States are more advanced than others in taking action in this sphere and face challenges in finding the best solutions to both reduce their climate/environmental footprint where necessary, as well as maintain those systems that are beneficial for biodiversity and landscapes, taking into account the economic and socio-cultural implications of such changes to make them resilient and economically viable for the future.

Finding solutions to the challenges faced and identifying the necessary conditions that must be in place to facilitate the range of pathways available that take account of territorial specificities will be the focus of this Thematic Group (TG).

2. Diversity and sustainability of livestock systems in the EU

2.1 Key facts and figures on European livestock systems

In 2020 45% of agricultural holdings had livestock (4.1 million), down from 56% (6.7 million farms) in 2010[1]. Total livestock numbers have also declined over the same period (from 119 million in 2010 to 113 million in 2020), albeit not at the same rate, due to restructuring in different parts of the sector. Ireland has the greatest proportion of farms with livestock (91%, followed by Luxembourg and Austria (72% and 71%). In contrast less than a quarter of farms have livestock in Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Spain and Italy.

The greatest declines in the number of farms with livestock between 2010-2020 were in Bulgaria and Hungary (over 70%), followed by Croatia, Greece and Estonia (over 50%). The majority of the decline in ruminant livestock has been from mixed livestock systems[2]. The European Commission's Analytical Briefing on grassland and livestock dynamics[3], highlights the continued structural shift towards larger, more specialised livestock enterprises and the reduction of livestock production in more marginal areas. For example, in a number of Member States, suckler cows have decreased as beef production has shifted towards dairy calves raised in feedlot or mixed systems, while intensive dairy and beef operations have increased in size, concentrating animals on fewer holdings with less land per head and increasing reliance on imported feed, which can also increase vulnerability to infectious disease outbreaks and a risk of zoonotic spillovers.

In 2020, cattle (dairy and beef) form almost half of all livestock in the EU (measured in livestock units), with pigs accounting for about a third, poultry 15% and sheep and goats less than 10%[4]. Despite declines in total numbers since 2010, this overall pattern has remained relatively unchanged. For the distribution of livestock types by Member State, see Figure 1.

[1] Eurostat Agri-environmental indicator – livestock patterns.
[2] Eurostat, Main livestock indicators by NUTS 2 region [ef_lsk_main].
[3] European Commission (2025) Grassland and livestock dynamics: How grazing management sustains and shapes European Grasslands, Analytical Brief No 13, November 2025.
[4] Eurostat Agri-environmental indicator – livestock patterns – to note that in terms of actual numbers of livestock, 2024 figures show there were 132 million head of pigs, 72 million bovine animals and 67 million sheep and goats in the EU.

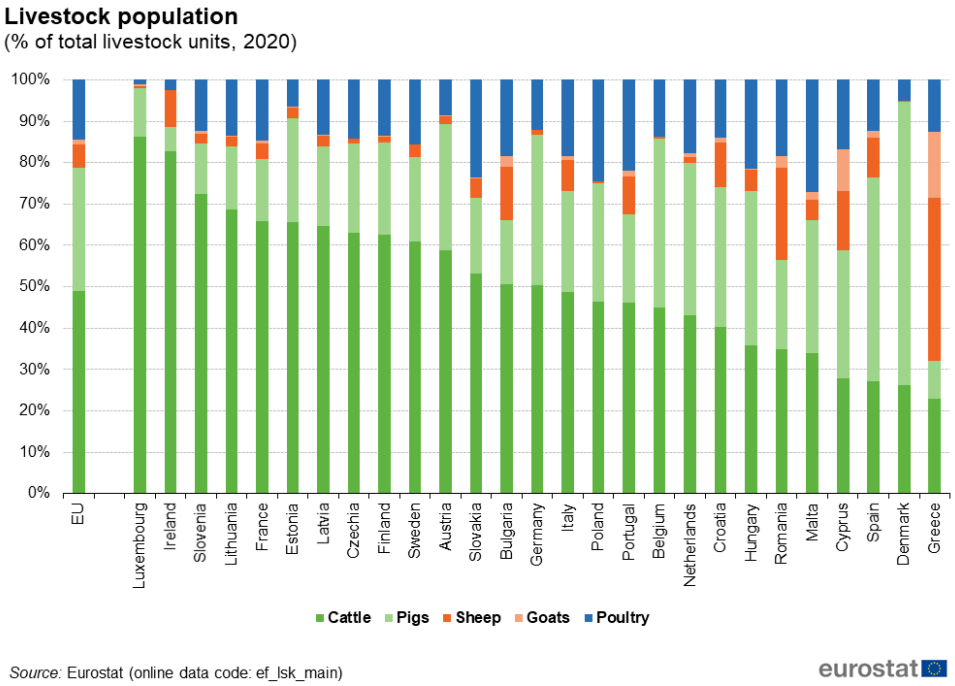


Figure 1: Structure of the livestock population by Member State (2020 figures)

Although present in almost all regions of Europe, the majority of the EU's livestock (in livestock units) is concentrated in a small number of Member States (France, Spain, Germany, Poland and Italy)[5].

About one fifth (21.6 %) of the EU's farms were classified as specialist livestock[6] in 2020, with approximately a further 14% classified as mixed farming, with some form of livestock[7]. Generally, specialist livestock farms are more prevalent in northwest Europe (Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria). Consequently, livestock density varies greatly. Although the average livestock density in the EU is 0.7 LU/ha, this ranges from very high densities in some regions (2.2 LU/ha – 4.4 LU/ha) to regions with very low densities of 0.2-0.3 LU/ha[8] (see Figure 2).

[5] Eurostat Agri-environmental indicator – livestock patterns.
[6] Farms that specialise in livestock production without any other production focus e.g. crop production, horticulture.
[7] Farms and farmland in the European Union - statistics - Statistics Explained - Eurostat – the figure for mixed farming with livestock is calculated as the total for 'mixed farming' minus 'mixed cropping'.
[8] Eurostat (2023) Agri-environmental indicator – livestock patterns.

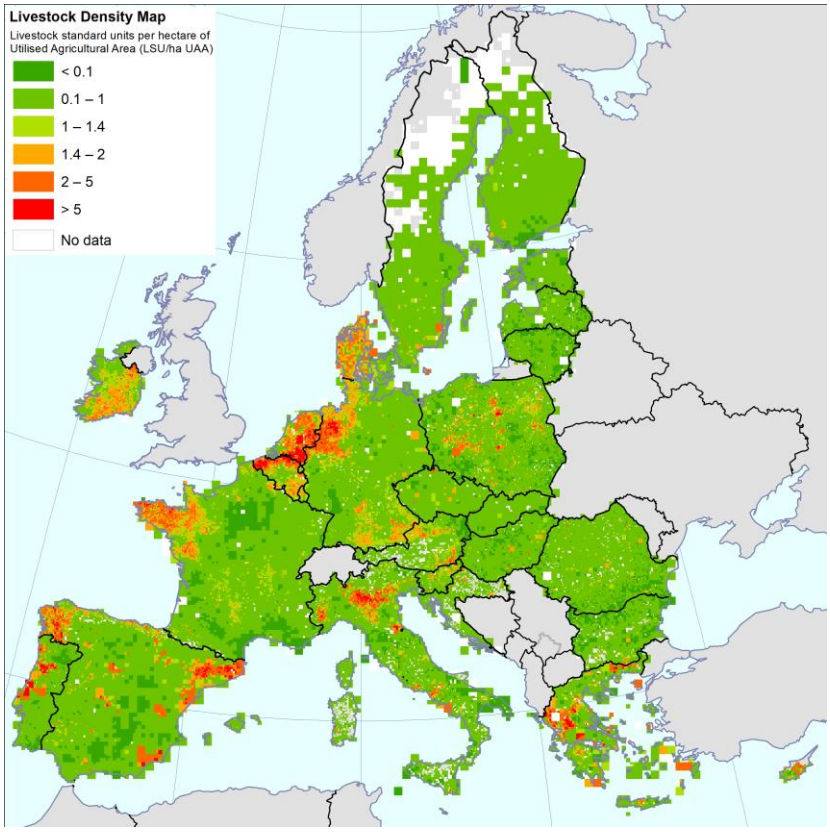


Figure 2: Livestock density at regional level (2020 figures) [9]

2.2 Diverse impact of diverse livestock production systems

The environmental and climate impact of the diverse livestock production systems and the trends identified are varied.

Extensive grazing systems are important for biodiversity, supporting a wide range of plant and insect diversity[10]. Indeed, more than one third of all habitat types protected under the EU Habitats Directive depend, directly or indirectly, on the existence of appropriate livestock management and grazing systems[11]. Yet, the decline in extensive grazing impacts upon grassland management, with reduced livestock numbers impacting biodiversity and declining habitat quality. Abandonment resulting from reduced agricultural activity is a growing concern,

[9] European Commission Analytical Briefing 13 on grassland and livestock dynamics – from EUROSTAT Farm statistics Map based on Agricultural Census 2020 for Livestock density in EU Member States, Farm statistics map, 06/10/2025, Lampach N et al. (2025). Statistical Atlas of European agriculture: gridded data from the agricultural census 2020 and the *spatial distribution of CAP contextual indicators. Earth System Science (see: Geospatial data from agricultural census - Experimental statistics - Eurostat).*

[10] Fraser MD, Vallin HE, Roberts BP (2022) Animal board invited review: Grassland-based livestock farming and biodiversity, animal, Volume 16, Issue 12

[11] European Environmental Agency (2022). Conservation status of habitat types and species: datasets from Article 17, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC reporting. Available at: Solutions for restoring Europe's agricultural ecosystems | European Environment Agency's home page.

with projections suggesting that up to 3% of EU agricultural land could be abandoned by 2030[12].

At the same time, a 2020 study, '*Future of EU livestock: how to contribute to a sustainable agricultural sector*'[13] highlighted the impact that regional concentrations of livestock production can have on air and water quality. It cites analysis showing that more than 80% of the nitrogen of agricultural origin present in all European aquatic environments is linked to livestock farming activities[14]. The analysis also shows that livestock farms are the principal emitters of ammonia, accounting for 90%[15] of ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector if emissions linked to the fertilisers used for the production of feed are taken into account. Beyond local air pollution, ammonia from manure and fertilised feed is deposited as reactive nitrogen, exceeding critical loads in many livestock-dense European hotspots and indirectly driving biodiversity loss[16]. Livestock are also responsible for phosphorus leaching into river and coastal water. These effects vary regionally depending on the volume of excess nutrients generated by livestock production.

In 2023, the agricultural sector accounted for 12.3% of total EU GHG emissions. Around two-thirds of these are associated with livestock production, with methane (CH_4) emissions from enteric fermentation responsible for 49% and CH_4 from manure management accounting for about 17%[17] of total agricultural emissions. Ruminant methane is a biogenic emission and therefore a so called "hard to abate" emission that is difficult to eliminate fully and does not necessarily need to reach absolute zero because it cycles naturally, but total methane emissions across all sectors exceed earth's natural removal potential[18] so urgent reductions, including from livestock, are needed wherever feasible[19]. Raising livestock also causes indirect

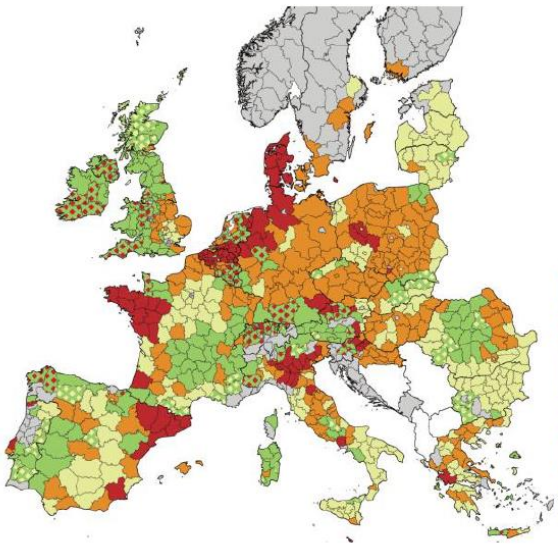
[12] Perpiña Castillo C, Jacobs-Crisioni C, Diogo V, Lavalle C. (2021). *Modelling agricultural land abandonment in a fine spatial resolution multi-level land-use model: An application for the EU.* Environ Model Softw;136. – cited in European Commission (2025), Analytical Briefing 13 on grassland and livestock dynamics.
[13] European Commission: Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (2020), *Future of EU livestock – How to contribute to a sustainable agricultural sector?* – *Final report*, Publications Office, 2020,
[14] Westhoek H., Lesschen J.P., Leip A., Rood T., Wagner S., De Marco A., Murphy-Bokern D., Pallière C., Howard C.M., Oenema O., Sutton M.A. 2015. *Nitrogen on the table: The influence of food choices on nitrogen emissions and the European environment. European Nitrogen Assessment Special Report on Nitrogen and Food,* Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Edinburgh, UK, 70.
[15] European Environment Agency, 2018. *Air quality in Europe* - 2018 report. EEA, Copenhagen, 88 p.
[16] Posch, M., Aherne, J., Hettelingh, J.-P., (2011). Nitrogen critical loads using biodiversity-related critical limits. Environmental Pollution, Nitrogen Deposition, Critical Loads and Biodiversity 159, 2223–2227.
[17] https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/indicators/greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-agriculture
[18] Saunois, M., Martinez, A., Poulter, B., Zhang, Z., Raymond, P.A., Regnier, P., Canadell, J.G., Jackson, R.B., Patra, P.K., Bousquet, P., Ciais, P., Dlugokencky, E.J., Lan, X., Allen, G.H., Bastviken, D., Beerling, D.J., Belikov, D.A., Blake, D.R., Castaldi, S., Crippa, M., Deemer, B.R., Dennison, F., Etiope, G., Gedney, N., Höglund-Isaksson, L., Holgerson, M.A., Hopcroft, P.O., Hugelius, G., Ito, A., Jain, A.K., Janardanan, R., Johnson, M.S., Kleinen, T., Krummel, P.B., Lauerwald, R., Li, T., Liu, X., McDonald, K.C., Melton, J.R., Mühle, J., Müller, J., Murguia-Flores, F., Niwa, Y., Noce, S., Pan, S., Parker, R.J., Peng, C., Ramonet, M., Riley, W.J., Rocher-Ros, G., Rosentreter, J.A., Sasakawa, M., Segers, A., Smith, S.J., Stanley, E.H., Thanwerdas, J., Tian, H., Tsuruta, A., Tubiello, F.N., Weber, T.S., van der Werf, G.R., Worthy, D.E.J., Xi, Y., Yoshida, Y., Zhang, W., Zheng, B., Zhu, Q., Zhu, Q., Zhuang, Q., (2025). Global Methane Budget 2000–2020. Earth System Science Data 17, 1873–1958.
[19]Nisbet, E.G., Manning, M.R., Dlugokencky, E.J., Fisher, R.E., Lowry, D., Michel, S.E., Myhre, C.L., Platt, S.M., Allen, G., Bousquet, P., Brownlow, R., Cain, M., France, J.L., Hermansen, O., Hossaini, R., Jones, A.E., Levin, I., Manning, A.C., Myhre, G., Pyle, J.A., Vaughn, B.H., Warwick, N.J., White, J.W.C. (2019). Very Strong Atmospheric Methane Growth in the 4 Years 2014–2017: Implications for the Paris Agreement. Global Biogeochemical Cycles 33, 318–342.

emissions related to feed production and energy use. These emissions mostly come from land-use changes and fertiliser use for growing protein feed. With many processes and sectors involved, these indirect emissions are hard to measure. The Commission's Vision for Agriculture and Food highlights the adoption of 'innovative practices…ensuring decarbonisation and competitiveness go hand-in-hand'[20]. The level of emissions will vary depending on the type and management of the livestock system concerned. Estimates show that a range of cost-efficient mitigation options to reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions from livestock could lead to a reduction of around 25% in livestock emissions[21]. However, grazing systems can also help reduce emissions through supporting carbon storage as long as grassland is not ploughed, as carbon accumulates in root systems and soil over time. Research suggests that sustainable grazing practices could potentially offset about 12% of past soil carbon loss through improved practices[22].

2.3 Typology of European livestock systems

The same 2020 study acknowledges that livestock farming systems are diverse and will be shaped by the territories within which they are operating. As such there is no 'one size fits all solution' for resolving issues they face and different transition pathways will be relevant in different situations. As a possible way of conceptualising this diversity, the authors cite a previous study which proposed a typology to describe the diversity of such systems across Europe. The six types of system defined were based on the share of permanent grassland in utilised agricultural area and livestock density) and assessed according to the diversity of services provided (markets, environment, use of inputs, rural vitality and social-cultural issues), as highlighted below: Figure 3.

[20] https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en#provide-the-conditions-for-a-future-proof-sector.
[21] Pérez-Domínguez et al. (2020) *Economic assessment of GHG mitigation policy options for EU agriculture: A closer look at mitigation options and regional mitigation costs – EcAMPA 3*
[22] Ren, S., Terrer, C., Li, J. et al. (2024): Historical impacts of grazing on carbon stocks and climate mitigation opportunities, Nat. Clim. Chang. 14, 380–386, cited in European Commission (2025), Analytical Briefing on grassland and livestock dynamics.



	Agricultural area million ha	% total	Livestock population million LU	% total	Stocking rate (LU/ha)
	18.9	10.5	40.8	29.5	2.15
	12.0	6.7	20.1	14.6	1.70
	34.7	19.3	25.6	18.5	0.75
	12.2	6.8	2.9	2.1	0.25
	56.8	31.6	36.8	26.6	1.20
	44.9	25.0	11.9	8.6	0.30

In areas with intensive farming and little grassland local environmental impacts are a huge challenge. They are characterized by high production per unit of area and per unit of work, at relatively low costs, with significant use of inputs, mainly for animal feed purchased outside the territory. Negative environmental impacts on water, air, soil and biodiversity are prevailing. The spatial concentration of production amplifies the impacts of nitrogen pollution: eutrophication and acidification still constitute an important limit despite significant progress. Conversely the emissions of GHG are often low per unit of product. Improvement of animal welfare is also a huge issue notably for the intensive farming systems.

In areas with intensive grassland based systems, the eutrophication is low and GHG emissions per unit of product is relatively low. The important place of grazing makes it possible to obtain very low production costs and high production per unit of area and per unit of work. Biodiversity (flora, insects and birds) is relatively low because grassland are dominated by highly fertilized perennial ryegrass and the proportion of habitat is low. It is important to preserve the remaining landscape infrastructures and the landscape mosaic.

In marginal zones maintaining livestock farming is a challenge for the conservation of many heritage ecosystems of high ecological value. Marginal zones include territories specialized in extensive ruminant farming systems based on permanent grassland (humid mountains zones) and transhumant systems in Mediterranean zones. The environmental benefits are numerous including soil (carbon storage, no erosion), water purification and preservation of biodiversity (including avifauna), maintenance of open landscapes and natural habitat, regulation of flood (marshes) and preservation against fire in dry zone. Maintaining livestock farming which is subject to strong natural constraints requires an appropriate agro-environmental policy. The dynamics of the territories, through the promotion of quality products, also appear to be a lever to preserve livestock activities.

Figure 3: Typology of European livestock systems and their associated impact on a range of services[23]

The EU Agricultural Outlook 2025-2035 predicts that the EU will remain self-sufficient in meat and dairy products in 2035 thanks to varied climate and growing conditions. While productivity gains are anticipated for milk and poultry, it is projected that the production of beef, pigmeat and sheep and goat meat will decline. At the same time, organic production is predicted to continue to rise, which may help stem any declines in grassland that might otherwise occur.

3. Challenges and barriers faced

As livestock sectors seek to move towards more sustainable production systems, they face important challenges, which vary depending upon the segments of the livestock sector concerned. Factors such as climate change, population growth and global demand for livestock-derived products place increased pressure on the environment and natural resources, requiring greater efforts to reduce livestock's environmental footprint. At the same time, the reduction of livestock numbers as well as land abandonment in more marginal areas negatively impacts on biodiversity and the character of cultural landscapes.

In addition, economic shocks to markets, price volatility and uncertainty, high labour costs, the spread of animal diseases and the economic impacts of climate change put pressure on the economic sustainability of these systems. According to the recent European Commission Analytical Briefing on grassland and livestock dynamics[24], the main reasons for the decline in small, extensive farms, particularly small-scale dairy and ruminants in mountain areas are low profitability, labour shortages and lack of succession.

Beyond the sector's challenges identified above, barriers identified[25] that hinder progress towards greater sustainability within livestock production systems can be summarised as:

[23] European Commission: Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (2020), *Future of EU livestock – How to contribute to a sustainable agricultural sector ?* – *Final report*, Publications Office, 2020, based on: Hercule J., Chatellier V., Piet L., Dumont B., Benoit M., Delaby L., Donnars S., Savini I., Dupraz P. 2018. Une typologie pour représenter la diversité des territoires d'élevage en Europe. INRA Prod. Anim. 30 : 285-302 and Dumont B. (coord), Dupraz P. (coord.), Aubin J., Batka M., Beldame D., Boixadera J., Bousquet-Melou A., Benoit M., Bouamra-Mechemache Z., Chatellier V., Corson M., Delaby L., Delfosse C., Donnars C., Dourmad J.Y., Duru M., Edouard N., Fourat E., Frappier L., Friant-Perrot M., Gaigné C., Girard A., Guichet J.L., Haddad N., Havlik P., Hercule J., Hostiou N., Huguenin-Elie O., Klumpp K., Langlais A., Lemauviel-Lavenant S., Le Perchec S., Lepiller O., Letort E., Levert F., Martin, B., Méda B., Mognard E.L., MouginC., Ortiz C., Piet L., Pineau T., Ryschawy J., Sabatier R., Turolla S., Veissier I., Verrier E., Vollet D., van der Werf H., Wilfart A. (2016). Expertise scientifique collective: Rôles, impacts et services issus des élevages en Europe. Rapport Inra (France), 1032 p. www.inrae.fr/sites/default/files/pdf/esco-elevage-eu-rapport-complet-en-francais.doc.pdf

[24] European Commission (2025) *Grassland and livestock dynamics: How grazing management sustains and shapes European Grasslands*, Analytical Brief No 13, November 2025

[25] Feedback from the Expression of Interest for this Thematic Group, as well as minutes of the October 2025 meeting of the Livestock Workstream.

- **High investment costs** - particularly for climate technologies and animal welfare
- **Knowledge** - Lack of awareness of the range of opportunities available to transform farm management due to limited advisory support in some countries and on some topics (e.g. technological solutions)
  - Uneven access to the latest scientific evidence, by both advisors and farmers – e.g. to define what is the Safe and Just Operating Space for EU livestock (SJOS)
- **Monitoring** - Lack of standardised / harmonised metrics and methodologies and costly verification systems for carrying out environmental and climate footprint calculations
- **Policy and governance** - Regulatory uncertainty and inconsistent policy signals which reduces farmers' confidence and slows transition
  - Misalignment of CSP content with priorities – e.g. a lack of support going to methane reduction actions
- **Mindset** - Resistance to change

Finding a way forward for livestock systems to become more sustainable, while remaining competitive, requires a systemic approach to be taken, considering all these challenges in the round and considering the possible trade-offs and implications for other parts of the agricultural system. Due to the diversity of the livestock production systems in Europe, there are different pathways towards achieving greater sustainability and competitiveness.

The Livestock Workstream members concluded in their recent meeting that to future proof livestock systems means moving towards circular, resilient, and fair food systems that operate within ecological limits – "*Environmental transition must go hand in hand with economic viability and social cohesion. Innovation and circularity—such as biogas, manure management, and feed autonomy—are crucial to balance the environmental, economic, and social dimensions equally. Transition requires a stable investment climate for new technologies, science-based policies with measurable indicators, and mechanisms that reward farmers' sustainability effort*".[26]

4. The role of the CAP

The CAP can play an important role in supporting the different pathways to sustainability open to the livestock sector. However, it is only one part of the picture. The CAP alone cannot provide all the solutions. Other policies, actors and market based initiatives will all need to play

[26] Minutes of the October 2025 meeting of the Livestock Workstream

their role too, e.g. with trade policies, value chain actors, and emerging market based initiatives, such as the Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Regulation (CRCF). Within the context of the EU CAP Network, this TG will focus on what the CAP can provide to support the transition towards more sustainable and competitive livestock systems.

The current CAP offers a range of interventions that Member States can use to support the sustainability and competitiveness of the livestock sector in all its diversity. This includes support for investments in infrastructure and area-based payments (eco-schemes and agri-environment-climate interventions) as well as support for cooperation, innovation and knowledge exchange. However, the way these interventions are designed and targeted is up to Member States and there is more that can be done to maximise their use within Member State CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs), for supporting the sustainability of livestock systems.

Analysis carried out by the European Commission[27] has identified that amongst the interventions programmed in the 2023-2027 CSPs, about one third of eco-schemes (46 out of 158) and about half of Agri-Environmental and Climate Commitments (AECC) interventions (197 out of 392) support either grassland or livestock. Annual eco-schemes are often used to support extensive grazing or organic production, while some more targeted schemes include support for transhumance (seasonal movement of livestock to different pastures) or mixed grazing of cattle and sheep to optimise sward use. Emissions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from enteric fermentation and manure management remain areas that are not well addressed through the CSPs[28]. Overall, although the CAP toolbox has the necessary instruments to support grassland-based livestock farming, the integration of these measures is often limited, and so is their impact on sustainable grassland management. Their implementation requires stronger coherence and a more strategic ambition.

Support to livestock systems is also provided via the payments in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC) and through Coupled Income Support (CIS), although these rarely include criteria to specifically target extensive systems. Analysis has shown that 61% of ANC support goes to extensive grazing farms[29]. Over 70% of the CIS budget is directed at cattle (beef and dairy) and small ruminants (sheep and goats). While CIS payments are intended to provide support per head of livestock for sectors facing socio-economic and environment challenges so as to prevent their decline, very few Member States have targeted their coupled support to specific systems or included environmental conditions, for example, providing higher payments for local breeds or for farms in mountainous regions, where grazing provides environmental services, as well as livestock density eligibility criteria.

[27] European Commission (2025) Grassland and livestock dynamics: How grazing management sustains and shapes European Grasslands, Analytical Brief No 13, November 2025
[28] European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development – Unit A.3 (2025) Rough estimate of the climate change mitigation potential of the CAP Strategic Plans (EU-27) over the 2023-2027 period | EU CAP Network
[29] European Commission (2023) CAP support crucial to maintain farming in areas with natural constraints, shows latest study, European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Brussels

The extent to which other interventions, such as investment support, advice and knowledge exchange and cooperation are targeted towards livestock systems is hard to identify from the available data.

While a wide range of interventions are available to support the sustainability of livestock systems, they are not always designed in a coherent way. For example, support to livestock systems under CIS and ANC is often not designed as part of a coherent package with that provided for environmental and climate purposes under eco-schemes and AECC. This can lead to tensions in terms of the intended outcomes and a lack of clear messaging to farmers.

5. Useful links

EU CAP Network resources that may be useful to inform the discussions of the TG include:

- Findings from CAP Implementation Thematic Groups:
  - Carbon Farming (2022)
  - Eco-schemes (2023),
  - Green Architecture (2024),
  - Enhancing biodiversity on farmland (2025),
  - Economic Vulnerability of Farming (2025)
- EIP AGRI Focus Groups on animal production systems
  - Innovative and sustainable ways to strengthen the role of farmers in revitalising the European wool value chain
  - Robust and resilient dairy production systems
  - Grazing for Carbon
  - Reducing emissions from cattle farming
  - Mixed Farming Systems: Livestock/Cash crops
  - New feed for pigs and poultry
  - Profitability of permanent grassland
  - Protein crops
  - Sustainable beef production systems
  - Wildlife and agricultural production

- Alternative solutions for livestock product differentiation
- Competitive and resilient mountain areas

Evaluation studies:

- European Commission: Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (2020), *Future of EU livestock – How to contribute to a sustainable agricultural sector ?* – *Final report*, Publications Office, 2020
- European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development – Unit A.3 (2025) *Rough estimate of the climate change mitigation potential of the CAP Strategic Plans (EU-27) over the 2023-2027 period* | EU CAP Network
- European Commission (2025) *Grassland and livestock dynamics: How grazing management sustains and shapes European Grasslands*, Analytical Brief No 13, November 2025 *(Analytical briefs - Agriculture and rural development - European Commission)*

Disclaimer
This document has been developed as part of the work carried out by the CAP Implementation Contact Point under the EU CAP Network to support the activities of the Thematic Group (TG) on the CAP's role in supporting sustainable and competitive livestock systems. The information and views set out in this document do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Commission.

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