



Recipes for understanding the
Common Agricultural Policy

Portraits & recipes from the EU



CAP

What's COOKING ?

Recipes for understanding the
Common Agricultural Policy



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Please note that this is a dummy version of the CAP Cook Book



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"The Common Agricultural Policy is of crucial importance to every eater, yet due to its complexity, many people do not understand what impact the CAP has on their daily lives.

I am very much looking forward to the launch of the CAP, What's cooking? project, to see the faces of the young chefs and foodies' that will work side-by-side with Europe's young farmers to explore the tasty side of agricultural policy!"

Joris Lohman, Executive Committee for Slow Food International





NETHERLANDS



Population: 16.930.005

Country size: 41.526 km²

Farmland: 22.644 km² (54,5%)

Organic farmland: 3%

Number of farms: 67.481 (-31% since 2000)

% of working population that are farmers: 0,9%

% of employment in agro-food sector: 8,8%

average age of farmers: 58 years

(18% is older than 65 years)

average size of farm: 33,5 hectare

average income per farm (2013): 36.500 euro

(EU: 14.500 euro)

THE CAP BUDGET

Almost **90%** of **5.9** billion euro of CAP budget that is available for the Netherlands in the period until 2020 will be dedicated to the first pillar.

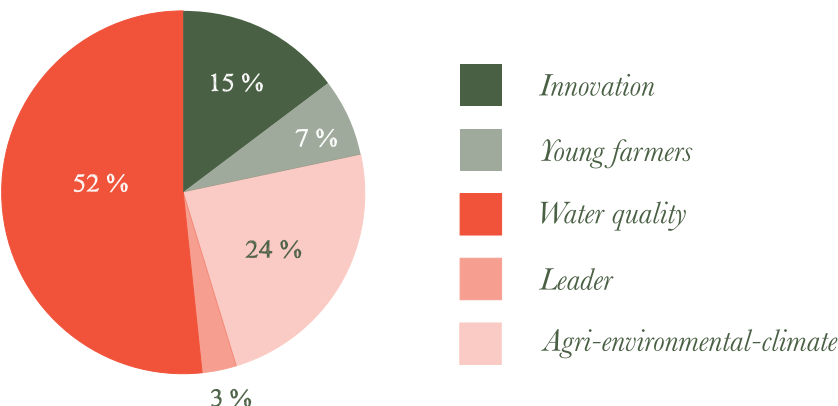
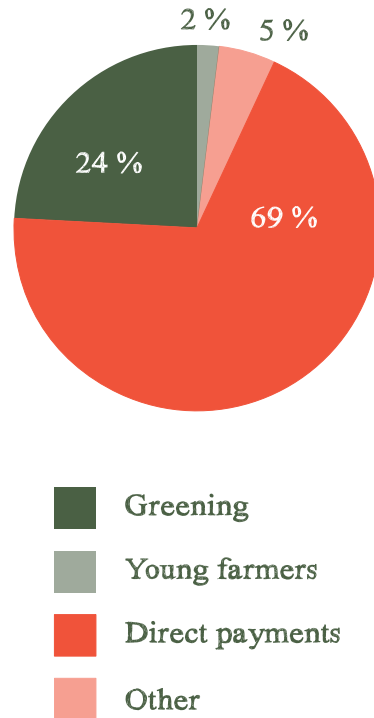
The dutch government has opted to dedicate only a fraction of this first pillar budget to measures other than direct payments and payments for greening measures, such as extra support for young farmers.

Average support per hectare in 2013 was **469** euro; because of budget cuts and transfer of money from the first to the second pillar this will decrease to **375** euro in 2019 (**260** euro basic payment and 115 greening payment). *This is a drop of - 20%!*

The budget for the 2nd Pillar (Rural Development) for the period 2014-2020 is **0.608** billion euro or some **10%** of the total CAP budget.

The budget will be spend on five priorities:

- *Innovation, competitiveness and sustainability in agriculture: **137.9** million euro (22.7%)
- *Young farmers support: **18.2** million euro (3%)
- *Agri-environmental-climate measures by farmers: **302.4** million (49.7%)
- *Improvement of water quality related to agricultural production: **86.8** million (14.3%)
- *LEADER (also called: Community Led Local Development): **40.6** million (6.7%)



THE CAP BUDGET

National and regional governments will provide an additional 643 million euro for so called co-financing.

Highlights first pillar

Young farmers that take over the farm from their parents or want to start a farm, can receive an extra support of 50 euro per hectare for a period of five years.

Some 12,500 arable farms will be obliged to implement an Ecological Focus Area (EFA) on 5% of their farm. On this piece of their land, farmers have to take special measures to protect biodiversity and the environment. Collective management of EFA's is also possible. This means that a group of farmers, not more than 10, can combine their Ecological Focus Areas to one big EFA. In certain areas, for example land that is alongside rivers, this will allow a more effective biodiversity management.

Highlights second pillar

The main focus in the Dutch Rural Development programme is on strengthening the agricultural sector. Other economic sectors in rural areas or support for urban agriculture is only possible through the LEADER programme, which supports multi-sector and multi-actor bottom up projects.

What really is remarkable is the way the Dutch government has decided to implement the support to farmers for biodiversity management. Since the 1990's local associations of farmers, ranging from several hundreds to over a 1,000 members, have been engaged in territorial management of biodiversity, in particular focused on preserving certain meadow bird species and specific types of vegetation and landscapes that depend on agriculture. Starting in 2016, contracts for these types of biodiversity management will be made exclusively with these territorial farmers' associations and no longer with individual farmers. The contract and the subsidies are based on long term (5 – 7 years) biodiversity management plans that the farmers associations make for their area. It is expected that this innovative approach will lead to better results for the same amount of subsidies.





JARING BRUNIA

King of the meadows



Introduction of the farmer, the area, the farm & its products

I am Jaring Brunia. I live here in Flansum, a small town up in the north of the Netherlands, in the province of Friesland. I am a grass based dairy farmer. My core business is milking dairy cows, my main source of income.

AND I AM QUITE A HAPPY FARMER!

I started being farmer a couple of years ago. I wanted to do it on a small scale base and more with knowledge than with machines and robots and stuff. Last year was quite a big adventure to have my own dairy cows. All of a sudden I was a farmer and I needed to milk the cows twice a day, so it was quite a struggle to survive that first year. Now it is getting more kind of a routine having a dairy farm.

I didn't want to become a farmer when I was young because I saw my parents working really hard and there was never time for holiday. It was always quite a struggle, I felt. So I decided to go studying. After that worked in an office, all day sitting behind a screen. It was horrible. I moved back to my parents place. And then I realized that I liked working in the field. It felt like real work. So I decided to go for it and start my own dairy farm. At that moment I also realized the way I wanted to farm, what my dream was. Even though all the people said it was impossible.

Principal farm management philosophy & strategy

What I do different is that I use nature as a management tool.

MY WAY OF FARMING IS TO COPY NATURE, BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT NATURE HAS A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE IN IT.

If you look at cows in nature, in a complete ecosystem, they would always graze in one big herd, because they need the safety from the herd. I try to copy that on my farm.

I want to farm with as less inputs as possible. That means that I don't want to use inputs like animal feed, antibiotics and chemical fertilizers. For the same reason I have all my cows give their calves in Spring, because when we look at nature, that is when animals give birth, the time with the most nutrient rich food.

I use a rotational grazing system. The cows stay a maximum of 12 hours in one field and then I move them forward to a new piece. So they are grazing in long grass. They are all together in one herd, so they need to graze quite quickly. In Holland we know the system as pure graze.

I really believe in the power of biodiversity. So I am also seeding my grassland with herbs and clovers and grasses. So it is really like a salad buffet for the cows.

Using these techniques, I always have good nutrient rich food for my cows and I don't have to buy extra food.

IF I MANAGE MY GRAZING PERFECTLY, I CAN ALSO SAVE QUITE A LOT OF COSTS. I DON'T HAVE TO MOW THE GRASS, I DON'T HAVE TO SPREAD THE MANURE ON THE FIELD.

And fresh grazed grass is really nutrient rich and full of minerals so it is really healthy for the cows, so I can also save quite a lot of costs on medicines. That is why I can farm economically with 60 cows whereas other farmers have to keep growing and investing in bigger stables and tractors.

Biodiversity management

On one hectare of my land I pump water in Spring, so it is a kind of wetland. The birds go there to bring up their young. Meadow birds, like the black-tailed godwit, the lapwing and the redshank. I really believe that these birds belong to the farm, because they were always here, like the black-tailed godwit, they call him the king of the meadows.

In this area we have ten farmers. Together we made a plan for the complete area for the management of the meadow birds and we discuss it every year. By improving soil life and soil health there is also more food for the birds.

Support from the CAP

This year I get some 300 per hectare subsidy from the CAP. Just for being farmer. I don't think it is the best way of getting your income as farmer. But now the money is there, I can use it to become more sustainable.

In this specific area in Holland the number of meadow birds in the grasslands is really going down in the

last 20, 30 years and the farmers here want to make a better living area for them. I also get CAP money for helping the meadow birds. I really need it, because the wetland I have is a hectare and I don't get any grass off it for the whole season. I need to pay my bills, so it is not only about flowers and birds, the economic model also needs to be good. Otherwise it is not interesting for young people to be a farmer anymore.

The future

I plan to build a new cow shed for the winter, one that is more sustainable, that brings me better manure and is more healthy for the cows.

Next year my farm will be certified organic, so hopefully the milk will go to a smaller factory, so I know what kind of products they make from my milk. I also want to feel more connected to people in the neighborhood, so I started having my own farm shop to sell meat and fresh milk from my own cows. It feels good and people are enthusiastic about it, so I hope to make further steps in it every year.

But for me the main thing is to increase biodiversity on my fields, to get more herbs, more clovers, more and better grasses on it. To see my farm as an ecosystem. For this reason, I also think about planting trees, fruit and nut trees, and get more biodiversity in my farm ecosystem.

FOR ME AS A FARMER THIS MEANS THAT I NEED TO LEARN SO MANY THINGS, BUT THAT IT IS A REALLY GOOD INVESTMENT IN MYSELF.

Number of milking cows: **60**
Number of hectares (owned): **40**
Milk production per year: **250.000 liters**
Milk production per cow: **4.500 liters**



CREAMY RISOTTO PUREED PEAS, CELERY, BROCCOLI AND BAVETTE

Risotto

Half a cup of risotto rice
Half an onion, chopped
Two tablespoons of olive oil
One cups of chicken stock
Three tablespoons of Parmigiano cheese
A splash of white wine
A dash of full cream
Two tablespoons of chives, chopped finely
Salt and pepper to taste

On a medium heat, bake the rice and the onion in the oil until they turn translucent. Add the chicken stock, turn down the heat and let simmer.

After ten minutes when the rice is almost cooked and the fluids have dissolved, add the cheese, the wine and the cream. Take off the heat and leave for a few minutes and stir in the chives. Season with salt and pepper.

Pureed Peas

Cook a handful of garden peas in a small cup of cream with a pinch of salt. Blend it until smooth and strain through a sieve for the smoothest effect.

Vegetables

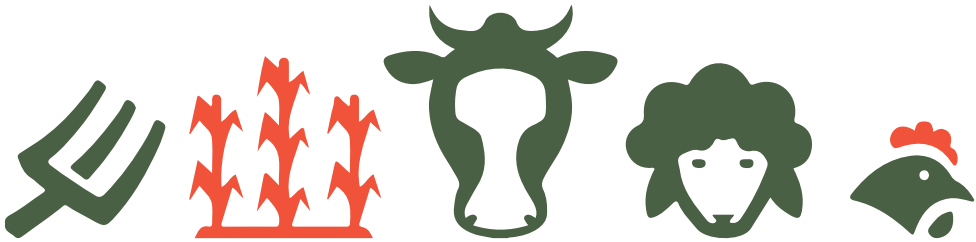
Cook the rest of the peas, celery and broccoli for about ten minutes in some salted water, until just tender. Drizzle with some oil and coarse (sea)salt

Sirloin

Heat a skillet on a full heat, add a touch of oil and bake the steak for 45 seconds on both sides. Take off the heat. Drizzle with oil and finely chopped garlic, before putting it back into the hot pan, for another 20 seconds on both sides. Leave to rest for a few minutes before slicing against the grain.







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TO BE CONTINUED....



