



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development



# The Farm Advisory System

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# Structure

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- 2. Bodies involved**
- 3. Possibility of financing under the CAP pillar II**
- 4. Time schedule**
- 5. Plant protection product use related obligations under cross compliance**



## FAS as a tool to implement cross compliance

- The 2003 CAP reform made direct support for farmers dependent on compliance with requirements of public interest (cross compliance – in force 2005).
- Cross compliance concerns regulations/directives in the field of environment, public and animal health, animal welfare, plant protection products and the maintenance of all agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition.
- In 2007 Rural Development area and animal welfare payments, and in 2008 wine payments, were added to the list of CAP payments under the horizontal cross compliance tool.



## Main elements of the FAS

- The Member States must establish a system of advising farmers on land and farm management (the “*Farm Advisory System*“): they have the obligation to offer advice to farmers
- The advisory activity shall cover at least the SMRs and the GAEC; the purpose is **to help farmers facing their obligations under cross compliance**
- The field of the FAS is the whole cross-compliance but it is not limited to these cross-compliance standards: Member States can decide to enlarge it

## CROSS COMPLIANCE



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### PAYMENTS

#### Direct payments :

- Single Payment Scheme
- Single Area Payment scheme
- All other coupled direct payments

#### Rural development:

- Payments to farmers in mountain and other handicap areas
- Natura 2000 payments both in farm and forest land
- Payments linked to the Water Framework Directive
- Agri-environment
- Animal welfare payments
- First afforestation of agricultural land
- Forest-environment payments

#### Wine :

- Grubbing-up premium
- Restructuration payments
- Green harvesting payments

### SCOPE

#### Statutory Management Requirements (SMR)

- Natura 2000 Directives (birds-habitats)(2)
- Nitrates and Groundwater Directives (2)
- Sewage Sludge Directive (1)
- Animal Identification-Registration (4)
- Pesticides Directive (1)
- Hormones ban Directive (1)
- General Food Law (1)
- Notification of diseases Directives (4)
- Animal welfare Directives (3)

#### Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC)

- Minimum soil cover
- Minimum land management
- Retain terraces
- Crop rotation
- Arable stubble management
- Appropriate machinery use
- Minimum livestock stocking rates
- Permanent Pasture protection
- Retention landscape features
- Unwanted vegetation
- Olive groves maintenance

#### Permanent Pasture Ratio

Farm Advisory System



## Main elements of the FAS

- The FAS must be clearly distinguished from the controls of cross-compliance  
each actor plays his role:

<b>Advisor (FAS)</b>	<b>Farmer</b>	<b>Controller (IACS)</b>
Helps farmer with advice	<b>Responsible</b> for his actions, has to implement the requirements	Controls can lead to reductions and sanctions



## Main elements of the FAS

- Farmers participate in the FAS **on a voluntary basis**
- Member States may give priority to certain categories of farmers, e.g. if the available budget is not sufficient for all
- No conditions as to the frequency of advice, the qualification of advisers, whether the advice has to be paid, etc are specified
- No data shall be disclosed by the advisor apart to the farmer (except in very limited situations)



## Bodies involved

- The national authorities are responsible for designating the advisory bodies in charge of the FAS
- There are no criteria specified for these bodies; they can be public or private



## Possibilities of financing in the CAP Pillar II

- The Rural development policy may co-finance
  - The setting up of the FAS
  - The use by the farmer of the FAS
- This is a choice of the Member State when it draws its Rural Development Programme up



## Possibilities of financing in the CAP Pillar II

- There are some further conditions to fulfill in this case, in particular:
  - the FAS must cover not only GAEC and SMR but also occupational safety
  - There are ceilings for financing setting-up or use by the farmer
  - Financing is time limited



## Time schedule

- All Member States had to operate the FAS as from 1st January 2007



## Obligations related to plant protection products in the scope of cross compliance

- SMR 9: Article 3 of directive 91/414/EEC
  - **Use only authorised plant protection products**
  - **“Proper use” of ppp:**
    - Authorised use - respect label conditions?
    - Licence needed for specific products?
    - Records on use?
    - Storage room?



## Obligations related to plant protection products in the scope of cross compliance

- **Minimum requirements for ppp use established by national legislation** (for AEM beneficiaries): inter alia,
  - have a license to use the products,
  - meet training obligations,
  - requirements on safe storage,
  - checking of application machinery,
  - rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites