Member State experience:
EFA implementation in Lithuania

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EFA in 2015

“Safe” approach with only 2 choices

- Land laying fallow (LLF)
  - Black LLF;
  - Green LLF.

- Nitrogen Fixing crops (NFC)
  - Herbaceous (clover, etc.);
  - Leguminous (beans, etc.).
LLF

• General EFA requirement:
  – No production (mowing or grazing).

• Black LLF:
  – Ban on usage of plant protection products;
  – Fighting weeds mechanically;
  – GAEC to sow winter crop before November 1.

• Green LLF:
  – Only grass for non-production purposes;
  – Insertion to the soil – before September 15.
Issues with LLF

- **Issue** – ban of usage of plant protection products (controversy between scientists).
  - Solution from 2016: black LLF for EFA – use of chemicals only once before June 1.
- **Issue** – green LLF with other plants than grass.
  - Solution: other (leguminous) plants might be declared as NFC.
NFC

• Traditionally grown crops: clover, alfalfa, bean, vetch, pea, lupin, ect.;

• Requirement:
  – After leguminous crops – stubble or winter cover between November 1 and March 1.

• Soya excluded from the eligible crops.
Issues with NFC

• **Main issue**: traditionally mixing herbaceous NFC with herbaceous non-NFC;
• **Justification**: improving soil as well as harvest quality;
• **Example**: mix of clover and or alfalfa with other herbaceous crops (timothy grass) where the NFC are dominant;
• **Solution**: Appeal to COM once again for the derogation.
Plans for 2016

• List of EFA elements broadens with:
  – Catch crops and green cover plants;
  – Short rotation coppice;
  – Landscape features (LF):
    • Field margins;
    • Trees in group and field copses;
    • Ponds;
    • Ditches.
Catch crop and green cover

• Catch crop – narrowed choice – usually after early vegetables;
• Green cover – inserted in spring in the most common crops (wheat, barley, etc.);
• Requirement – both has to be visible at least during the month of September;
• Issue – seeding mixtures of crops instead of traditionally seeding single crops.
LF

- No change to EFA dimensions;
- Challenge ahead:
  - Eligible vs non-eligible LF;
  - Adjacent vs not adjacent to arable;
  - Attribution between two or more farmers.
Thank you for your attention!