EFA features implemented in the Czech Republic
Agenda

• the agricultural sector Czech republic (ha)
• statistics of EFA declared in 2015
• EFA features introduction
• new EFA for implementation
• EFA withdrawn from notifications
The agricultural sector of the Czech republic by LPIS (ha)

- Area of Czech republic: 7 886 707*
- Agricultural land: 3 559 212,48
  - Arable land: 2 488 147,73
  - Permanent grassland: 978 320,71
  - Vineyard: 14595,27
  - Hop-garden: 5069,98
  - Orchard: 17607,6
- Forested area: 2 663 731*
- Soil endangered by water erosion: 2 274 936

*Source: State Administration of Land Surveying and Cadaster, status to 31. 12. 2013
EFA declared in the year 2015 (ha*)

The Czech Republic has implemented as EFA in the national legislation:

- N-fixing crops: 182,326 ha (60.7%)
- Catch crops: 99,909 ha (33.2%)
- Land lying follow: 16,179 ha (5.4%)
- Field margins: 1,593 ha (0.5%)
- Landscape features: 261 ha (0.09%)
- Afforested areas: 188 ha (0.06%)
- Short rotation coppices: 83 ha (0.03%)

* figures without use of the weighting factor
Statistics of EFA declared in 2015

- N-fixing crops: 33.24% (99,909 ha)
- Catch crops: 60.67% (182,326 ha)
- Land lying fallow: 0.09% (261 ha)
- Catch crops: 0.06% (188 ha)
- Landscape features: 0.03% (83 ha)
- Afforested areas: 0.53% (1,593 ha)
- Field margins: 5.38% (16,179 ha)

Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
EFA features

- **Catch crops**
  - established by the mixture of crops or the undersown grass in the main crop
  - the crop mixture must contain at least **two crops** out of a list of admissible crops (in total 36 crops),
  - 2 variations – summer catch crop, winter catch crop
  - period used for sowing: 20 September to 31 October (winter variation) for GAEC
  - mechanical, chemical termination and use of chemical plant growth regulators are not permitted during the period
  - winter catch crop as EFA could be used for GAEC 4 – minimum soil cover on the land block with the average slope greater more then 5 degrees
EFA features

- Catch crops for GAEC 5
  - winter catch crops may be used for sowing features minimizing erosion - field margins, infiltration strips and interrupt strips
  - must fulfil EFA and GAEC conditions
EFA features

- Field margin
  - strip with the range of width 1-20 m
  - established from the boundary of the parcel, max. 20% of area
  - crop on the field margin must be different from the main crop and to be kept at least till 15 July.
  - no production and grazing
  - fertilizing is not permitted
EFA features

- Field margin as infiltration strip

- infiltration strip -the soil protection technology listed in GAEC 5, minimizing water erosion
- minimum width 12 m
- no erosion causing crops
EFA features

- **Nitrogen fixing crops**
  - minimum period 1 June to 15 July
  - after termination NFC must be established a winter crop by 31 October
EFA features

- Nitrogen fixing crops
  - list of species: chickpea, lentil, bean, pea, garden pea, clover, sweet clover, lupine, soy, birdsfoot, alfalfa, kidney vetch, vetch, faba bean, sainfoin or mixtures thereof.
  - NFC could be also established as undersow
  - common with GAEC 6:

A farmer will ensure on 20% of the area of total arable land acreage the coverage of this area with NFC
EFA landscape features

- all EFA landscape features are included in GAEC
- GAEC 7 – a farmer will not clear away and will not damage a landscape element, this includes ban on cutting trees from 31. March to 1. February
- notified following:
  
  Ditches
  Trees in group
  Trees in line
  Isolated trees
  Grassed thalwegs
  Terraces
  Boundary
Landscape features

Ditch

- formation of linear type with maximum width 6 meters
- main function is to break slope length by capture water with her its run off or absorption
Landscape features

- Trees in group
  - a separate nonlinear formation consisting of at least 2 pieces of woody vegetation with the longest area of 3,000 square meters.
  - the group of trees is not considered woody vegetation, when is a part of boundary strip, terrace or grassed thalweg, and woody vegetation that serves as a forest under the Forest Act.
Landscape features

- **Trees in line**
  - formation of the linear type consisting of at least 5 pieces of woody vegetation and usually with a regularly repeating elements.
Landscape features

- Isolated trees
  - growing tree in isolation
  - projection of the crown from 8 square meters occurring in the farmed countryside outside forest
Landscape features

- Grassed thalwegs
  - dissected by steep formation serving to reduce the risk of water or wind erosion, defining path of concentration water runoff from part land block with arable land.
  - component of the grassed thalweg can be woody vegetation.
Landscape features

- Terraces
  - continuous sloping formation of line a type consisting of terraced degree, which serves to reduce the risk of water or wind erosion and decreasing the slope of the hill part of the land block part.
  - components of terrace can be woody vegetation or stone wall
Landscape features

- **Boundary strip**
  - continuous linear feature, mainly used to reduce the risk of water or wind erosion, generally defining the boundary part of land block.
  - the component of boundary strip can be vegetation, stone wall or grassy area.
New EFA feature expected in 2016

- Wetland
  - formation used to ensure of retention water in landscape and support a biodiversity,
  - can not be damaged, farming not permitted
EFA features withdrawn from implementation

- Equivalent practices- agro environmental measures under RDP:

Reasons:
- methodologically difficult settings
- unclear sanctioning procedure
EFA features withdrawn from implementation

- Strips along the water courses and forest edges

Reasons:
- unstable watercourses in the CZ region
- long time to get precise data layer of watercourses and forest edges
- equivalent solution – establishing a strip of field margin on the part of the land block adjacent to water body and forest edges
Importance of EFA and GAEC standards in order to:

• ensure environment protection
• enhance agrobiodiversity
• improve soil property and protection
• maintain healthy landscape for future generations
Thank you for attention!

Any comments?
We will be pleased to answer
Mail to: cross-compliance@mze.cz
Bohdan Osoha