Implementation – Equivalent practices for Greening in AT

Expert group DP Greening
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BMLFUW Dir. II/4, Mathias Janko
1. IMPLEMENTATION OF GREENING

2. EQUIVALENT PRACTICE

3. REDUCTION OF GREENING PAYMENT IN CONNECTION WITH EQUIVALENT PRACTICE

4. CHALLENGES & PERSPECTIVES 2016
IMPLEMENTATION OF GREENING
## IMPLEMENTATION OF GREENING

### Maintenance of permanent grassland

- On national level
- Authorisation procedure for ploughing-up as from 4% decline in permanent grassland
- Reduction PGL 2015 (cmpd. reference): - 2.54%

### Sensitive permanent grassland

- Definition of specific habitat types at the Natura 2000 site
    - Size of sensitive PGL 2015: 15,000 ha
    - Size of PGL at Natura 2000 sites: 269,000 ha
    - Size of PGL 2015: 1.2 mio. ha
### IMPLEMENTATION OF GREENING

#### Crop diversification 2015

- Farms with crop diversification (number) 13,000
- Farms with 10-30 ha of arable land (2 crops) 8,600
- Farms with > 30 ha arable land (3 crops) 4,300
- Arable land subject to requirements crop diversification (ha) 365,000

#### Ecological focus areas 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Farms (number)</th>
<th>Arable land (ha)</th>
<th>Amount EFA Prior to application of weighting factor (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9,600</td>
<td>324,000</td>
<td>33,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas with nitrogen-fixing crops (incl. soy bean)</td>
<td>4,900</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Areas with catch crops</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land lying fallow</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (SRC, CC - LSE)</td>
<td>341</td>
<td></td>
<td>210</td>
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</table>
EQUIVALENT PRACTICE
In the framework of the Austrian Agri-environmental Programme (ÖPUL) by means of the practice:

- “Environmentally sound & biodiversity-promoting management“ (EBM)
- 2 equivalent practices (equivalent or higher level of benefit for the climate and the environment)

**Participation in EBM**

FULFILLES

- **Crop diversification** (on arable land)
- **Ecological focus areas** (on arable land)
**Crop diversification**

- **10 – 30 ha arable land**
  - at least 2 crops
  - Main crop: maximum of 75%
- **> 30 ha arable land**
  - at least 3 crops
  - Main crop: maximum of 75%
  - 2 dominant crops: max. 95%

- Maximum of 75% for cereals and maize
- Maximum of 66% for main crop
- At least 3 crops
- **bio-diversity area count not**

**Requirements re. crop rotation on arable land**

(R 1307/2013, Annex IX, lower maximum thresholds)
**IMPLEMENTATION IN AUSTRIA 2015**

"Environmentally sound & biodiversity-promoting management"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ecological focus areas</th>
<th>Establishment of biodiversity areas on arable land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>(R 1307/2013, Annex IX, ecological set-aside)</td>
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</table>

- Identification/establishment of ecological focus areas on 5% of the arable land
- 5% biodiversity area on arable land → flowering crops, bee pastures
## Requirements

- **Seeding/Reseeding**: Seed mix with at least 4 insect-pollinating mixing partners until May 15 of the calendar year, at the latest.

- **Ploughing up**: on September 15 of the 2nd year, at the earliest.

- **Mowing/chopping**: at least once, no more than twice per year
  - on at least 50% of the biodiversity area not before Aug. 1
  - crop shipment permitted, pasturing + threshing not permitted.

- **No plant protection products + fertilisation**

- **Removal**: of biodiversity areas only mechanically.
FARM PARTICIPATION IN 2015

Participants in EBM

- In 2015 **53,000** farms participated in EBM
  - **11,800** of them were subject to greening requirements and
  - managed **597,000 ha** of arable land
Reduction of Greening payment

IN CONNECTION WITH
THE EQUIVALENT PRACTICE
Non-compliance with EBM requirements leads to sanction in terms of content acc. to Art. 35 of R 640/2014.

Non-compliance with equivalent practices leads to reduction of the greening payment acc. to Art. 29 of R 640/2014.

- Only if farms are subject to greening requirements!
- Calculation of reduction based on thresholds of the equivalent practices

**Article 29**

**Applicable rules for equivalent practices**

This Section shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the equivalent practices referred to in Article 43(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013.
Crop diversification
“Exceedance of percentage limits“

1. Sanction in terms of content acc. to Art. 35 of R 640/2014
2. Reduction of greening payment

- Reduction of greening payment (analogous to Art. 24 of R 640/2014)

Calculation based on the deviation from 66% (or 75%) as a maximum:
- in % points from the remaining 34% (or 25%) required
- in relation to 50% of the arable land
EQUIVALENT PRACTICE - Non-compliance II

Ecological focus area
“Lower deviation from percentage limit”

1. Sanction in terms of content acc. to Art. 35 of R 640/2014
2. Reduction of greening payment

➢ Reduction of greening payment (analogous to Art. 26 of R 640/2014)

Calculation based on the deviation from the min. of 5%:
  ▪ in % points from the remaining 5% required
  ▪ in relation to 50% of the arable land
Ecological focus area
“Non-compliance in terms of content as lower deviation from the percentage limit“

1. Sanction in terms of content acc. to Art. 35 of R 640/2014
2. Reduction of greening payment

- **Reduction of greening payment** (analogous to Art. 26 of R 640/2014)
  - Sanction in terms of content leads to reduction of AEM payments in % (5, 10, 25, 50, 100%)
  - **Example:**
    1 ha with non-compliance in terms of content leads to 10% reduction of AEM payment
    → 10% reduction of area for biodiversity area
CHALLENGES & PERSPECTIVES 2016
## Challenges

- Expectations of farmers very high
- Determination crops incomprehensible for farmers
- High administrative burden (for rather small number of farms concerned)
- Communication to farmers
  - Actual benefit for farmers (limited)
- “Calculation of reduction“
  - “Appropriate implementation“ acc. to Art. 29 of R 640/2014

## Perspectives 2016

- No application of the equivalence for crop diversification as from 2016
- Equivalence for ecological focus areas continuing
Thank you for your attention!

Mathias Janko
Directorate II/4 – Direct Payments and IACS

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Mathias.Janko@bmlfuw.gv.at
+43 1 71100 - 2883