

Questionnaire for the 2024 project “Simplification – the farmers point of view”.

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

CONTEXT AND PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

This survey should take you no more than **20 minutes** to complete.

This consultation seeks to understand the **burden placed on farmers** by procedures and rules linked to financial support under the common agricultural policy (CAP), as well as other EU rules for food and agriculture in the EU.

This will help us identify sources of concern and complexity in the way these policies and schemes are applied in the EU countries – to identify areas where improvements could be made.

The results of the survey will be published as part of a detailed analysis in **autumn 2024**.

Please make sure you **finish the questionnaire**, so we can take your views into account. If you have time, please consider responding also to the non-mandatory questions.

ABOUT YOU

*** 1) I am giving my contribution as a farmer/farm manager**

- Yes
- No

*** A) Are you a farm advisor/helping farmers with CAP aid applications?**

- Yes
- No

*** B) Are you applying / have you applied for CAP support?**

- Yes
- No

- If yes, please specify which support:

100 character(s) maximum

*** 2) In which country/region is your farm located (only EU countries)?**

- Belgium Flanders
- Belgium Wallonia
- Bulgaria

- Czechia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Estonia
- Ireland
- Greece
- Spain
- France
- Croatia
- Italy
- Cyprus
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Hungary
- Malta
- The Netherlands
- Austria
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovenia
- Slovakia
- Finland
- Sweden

*** 3) What type of farming do you practise?** [several replies possible]

- Cereals
- Other field crops
- Horticulture, without greenhouses
- Horticulture, in greenhouses
- Wine
- Olive oil
- Other permanent crops
- Pigs
- Poultry meat
- Laying hens
- Beef
- Sheep and goats
- Milk
- Apiculture
- Forestry
- Other

- If other, please specify:

50 character(s) maximum

4) Do you participate in any of the following certification/quality schemes?

- EU organic scheme
- EU quality scheme, such as Geographical Indications
- Other public or private scheme
- No

- If other, please specify:

200 character(s) maximum

5) How many of the following animals did you rear on your farm in 2023?

Cows

Bovine for slaughtering (calves, bulls, etc)

Pigs

Poultry

Sheeps and goats

Beehives

If other, please specify specie and number:

*** 6) How big is your farm (Utilised agricultural area) ?**

- Less than 5 ha
- 5-50 ha

- 51-100 ha
- 101-250 ha
- 251-500 ha
- More than 500 ha
- No land

7) How old are you?

- Below 30
- From 30 to 39
- From 40 to 49
- From 50 to 64
- 65 or over

8) How many people work on your farm (including you)? Please indicate the number

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

9) How do you rate the complexity of the following? Complexity may be linked to understanding, clarity of the rules, length of the process/operation or technical difficulties.

	Low complexity	Medium complexity	High complexity	No opinion/ I did not apply
1. Applying for area-based payments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Applying for animal-based payments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Applying for investment aid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Respecting minimum requirements of good agricultural and environmental conditions (GAECs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Complying with the CAP funding conditions for additional environmental/animal welfare improvements (e.g., eco-schemes, agri-environment-climate commitments)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Complying with the rules related to nitrates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Complying with the rules related to water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Complying with the rules related to Natura 2000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Complying with the rules related to emissions of air pollutants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Complying with the rules related to plant health, pesticides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Complying with the rules related to animal health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. Complying with the rules related to animal welfare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10) What type of difficulties do you have when applying the requirements set under the good agricultural and environmental condition (GAECs) or other environmental and sanitary requirements?

	Not concerned / No opinion	No particular difficulties	Rules are not clear	Meeting requirement is difficult	Other difficulties
* GAEC 1 – Permanent Grassland maintenance based on a ratio of Permanent Grassland over total utilised agricultural area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* GAEC 2 – Protection of wetlands and peatlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* GAEC 3 – Ban on burning arable stubble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* GAEC 4 – Buffer strips along water courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* GAEC 5 – Tillage management (soil)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* GAEC 6 – Soil cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* GAEC 7 – Crop rotation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* GAEC 8 – Non-productive features and areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* GAEC 9 – Protecting environmentally sensible permanent grasslands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* Requirements related to Nitrates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* Requirements related to Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* Requirements related to Natura 2000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* Requirements related to emissions of air pollutants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Other environmental requirements including additional GAECs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- Could you please specify the nature of the difficulties?

500 character(s) maximum

CAP AID APPLICATIONS

- * 11) Did you use outside help to prepare and submit your CAP aid application(s) for year 2023?

- No
- Yes, for some CAP aid applications
- Yes, for all my CAP aid applications

- If yes, who provided this service?

- Private company (consultant, bank etc.)
- Public authority
- Farmers' association, cooperative
- Other

- If other, please specify:

50 character(s) maximum

- If yes, what was the cost of this service in your own currency, where applicable?

For the annual CAP aid application

For the investment CAP aid application

For other CAP aid

- * 12) Approximately how much time do you, your family members, or employees altogether spend annually on administrative tasks linked to the application(s) for CAP aids, including the documents to be prepared for conditionality (1 working day equals 8 hours)?

- 1 to 2 working days
- 3 to 4 working days
- 5 to 6 working days
- More than 6 working days
- I don't know / Not applicable

If more than 6 working days, can you please specify?

50 character(s) maximum

*** 13) In 2023, did you decide not to apply for certain CAP aid?**

- Yes
- No

- If yes, which aid did you not apply for and why?

200 character(s) maximum

*** 14) In 2023, were you informed by the authorities of a possible error in your CAP aid application or of the need to amend your application to avoid penalties?**

- Yes
- No
- I don't know / Not Applicable

*** 15) Do you use mobile devices (mobile phone, tablet) to provide geo-tagged photos (digital photos that are associated with the geographic position and show the presence of an object or an activity) for the authorities in your country?**

- Yes
- No

*** 16) Do you have any issues relating to the use of the mobile application to send geo-tagged photos to the authorities?**

- No
- Yes

*** • If yes, please specify the reasons:**

- Not easy to use
- The number of pictures I have to send is too high
- Lack of immediate feedback on the accuracy of the picture provided
- Privacy concerns
- Time consuming
- Application does not work properly

Not possible to explain the context

Other

- If other, please specify:

200 character(s) maximum

RECORDING AND REPORTING FARM RELATED INFORMATION

17) Which of the following data concerning operations on your farm do you record and how do you record it, does the use of management software/application(s) facilitate your reporting to the authorities?

(recording may concern data that is legally required, or data for certification, or for own use, or for other purposes, multiple replies possible, combinations of manual and automatic recording are possible)

	Not applicable	a) Manual recording (e.g. paper-based, computer-based spreadsheets)	b) Use of management software/application(s) (e.g. for crops, water, soil, accountancy software)	c) Automatic recording by sensors/connected machinery (e.g. sensors on soil, livestock, connected harvesters)	The use of management software/application(s) or sensors/connected machinery facilitates your reporting to the authorities
1. Animal identification and movements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Animal welfare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Use of veterinary medicines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Animal health (e.g. control of diseases)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Use of pesticides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Use of fertilisers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Manure management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Water use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Carbon removals and greenhouse gas emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Soil analysis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Yield, production, prices of your products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Employment and social issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- If other, please specify

200 character(s) maximum

18) Have you been required to report the same piece of data several times (this includes proofs)?

- Yes
- No

- If yes, do they relate to:

- Tax and financial administration (e.g. tax declaration, invoices, transport documents)
- Social issues (salaries, social security, security at work)
- Animal health (e.g. control of diseases)
- Description of farm facilities (e.g. number of barns)
- Use of veterinary medicines
- Animal welfare (e.g. the useable area per animal)
- Species and numbers of animals
- Pesticide use, plant health
- Environment related (e.g. nutrients, fertilisers, water, soil, nature)
- Land use/land allocation (e.g. areas under different crops)
- Quality requirements (e.g. organic, labelling, marketing standards)
- Data on yield, production, prices of your products
- Other

- If other, please specify:

250 character(s) maximum

ON-SITE CHECKS

*** 19) In the last 3 years, has your farm been in person checked by an inspector (not including checks for certification)?**

- Never
- Yes, once
- Yes, twice
- Yes, 3 times or more

- If yes, how much time did you spend on average dealing with a single inspection visit, including preparation and follow-up (1 working day equals 8 hours)?

- Up to half working day
- Up to 1 working day

- Up to 2 working days
- More than 2 working days

OTHER COMMENTS

20) Do you have any suggestions for simplifying the burden imposed by procedures and rules linked to financial support under the common agricultural policy (CAP), or other EU rules for food and agriculture?

500 character(s) maximum

Closing questions

21) Do you consent to the publication of your replies to this consultation as explained in the privacy statement, available in the side-bar of this survey?

- Yes
- No

22) A number of respondents to this survey may be contacted for an in-depth follow-up phone interview (April-June 2024), to look in more detail at their replies. Would you agree to be contacted for such a follow-up, as explained in the privacy statement available in the side-bar of this survey?

- Yes
- No

- If yes, please provide your contact details below

- Ms
- Mr

* First name

* Surname

* E-mail

* Telephone number

23) To help us ensure that the interview will cover a representative share of the respondents, could you indicate the level of your agricultural training?

- Practical experience only
- Basic agricultural training
- Full agricultural training (at least 2 years of continued training at university or other institute of higher education specialised in agriculture or associated)