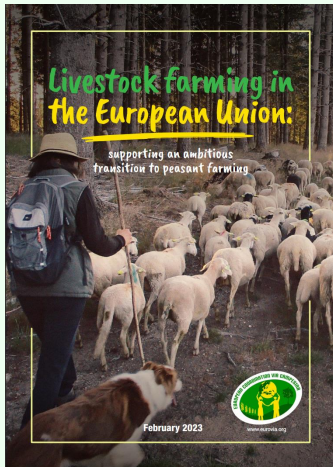




# Livestock farming in the European Union: supporting an ambitious transition to peasant farming



CDG Animal Production-Sector Beef & Veal  
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<https://www.eurovia.org/publications/livestock-farming-in-the-european-union-supporting-an-ambitious-transition-to-peasant-farming/>





# Livestock in Europe: Grow or disappear?

- Productivist approach of the **1962**
- Liberal destructive policies reinforced in **1992** during the first CAP reform
- In **1995** : food becomes a commodity of which added value should be extracted
- > Subsidies per hectare
- > The race for profitability and investment
- > Depreciation of “peasant’s culture”
- > The loss infrastructure : local slaughterhouses , etc.



# 2 opposed models to differentiate

## “PEASANT Model” (or small-medium scale)

- . Search for autonomy,
- . Producing added value on reasonable surfaces in order to leave land for everyone,
- . Rooted in the territory,
- . Innovating to preserve nature,
- . Transmission of the farm to future generations

## • INDUSTRIALIZED MODEL

- . Race to the lowest prices and search for competitiveness without social aim.
- . globalisation of exchanges which revolves around the deregulation of markets and sectorial segmentation and often, downstream integration.
- . Seeks financial optimization resulting in overinvestment and no capping
- . Disconnection from the territory,
- . Artificialization of the natural



# Defining sustainability

Sustainable food systems ensure quality food for all with models of PRODUCTION – PROCESSINGS and DISTRIBUTION that ensure decent work all along the chain, while protecting the living world, including HUMANS with a sober use of resources and a general respect for the environment, especially the climate.

**An ECVCmanifesto published in November 2022 expresses 13 urgent measures to tackle the climate -and general-crisis.**



# **Current challenges : Global markets affecting generation transmission**

- Market-determined prices: non-remunerative and volatile, do not allow sufficient and stable income (essential for **generational renewal**)
- A transition for the sector is urgent and unavoidable to reduce dependence on fluctuations in production costs
- Production at the mercy of the demands of the food industry
- Industry integration of the farm hurts smaller models
- Drastic loss of livestock farms and especially of mixed farms
- Land grabbing
- **Average age of EU farmers: 57 years old. Who will replace them?**



# Current challenges: Coping with climate change

- Climate change: current drastic territorial upheavals for all breeders
- While **agro-ecological peasant farming mitigate climate change**, most industrialized models aggravate it
- **The emergency:** phase out synthetic fertilizers and pesticides thanks to livestock manure. Defend the mixed farming system based on grass and pasture.
- This is possible by a transition
- Defend grass fed animals, pastoralism, fight against predation and rewilding





# Current challenges: Sanitary rules unsuitable for small and medium-sized farms

- Drastic loss of **slaughterhouses** , their proximity is nevertheless a *sine qua non* for human and animal well-being, and also for local markets
- Sanitary standards developed for the industry that are often not suitable for small producers
- Epidemics wreak havoc. Largest farms are involved but are not punished
- **Loss of genetic diversity** in livestock breeds
- Human welfare goes hand in hand with animal welfare



# **Current challenges: strengthening the rural social fabric**

- Farms play a crucial role in the countryside, but **the urban/rural divide is widening**
- **Problem of isolation and peasant distress.**
- In France, problem of farmers suicide high rate. Especially in animal farming.

**Small and medium farms livestock keep  
the countryside alive , provide good  
quality food , are more resilient and  
significantly better for the environment  
and the climate .**

How to protect virtuous farms ?

How to allow larger farms to undertake a transition?







# Political solutions for political problems

- Support for peasant farming is the pillar of a **sustainable transition and re-territorialisation** of livestock farming.
- A significant and mandatory reduction of the negative externalities linked to industrial livestock production will lead to an increase in peasant farms that will offer better quality products.

# Political solutions for political problems

The CAP must include a plan for **generational renewal, access to land**; and promotion of **agroecological and mixed farming**

CAP subsidy criteria must be radically changed to include criteria for credible **agroecological transitions for livestock farms**.

A transition of livestock farming systems can only take place within a **strict framework of respect for human and workers' rights**.

The criteria for the assignment of new **Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)** and **Protected Geographical Indication (PGI)** labels and revisions of existing specifications



# Political solutions for political problems

## Data

The **European statistics process (MMO)** must be more transparent and relevant.

The **Civil Dialogue Groups** should actively work towards a balanced and fair distribution of added value. The presence of the largest organisations must be rebalanced and structural means must be provided to the smaller organisations to enable them to intervene.

# Policies for a European transition

- The re-territorialization of livestock farming should be undertake, notably through the CAP.
- Coherence and a systemic approach are needed to ensure the highest possible environmental rules.
- Hygiene regulations must allow the existence of small and medium-sized farms, food processing sites and slaughterhouses
- Highly processed production should be prohibited or strictly regulated.



# Argument of “Affordability”

“Serious consideration must be given to the access of all citizens to quality food.”

We need market regulations to allow stable prices that cover cost of production and allow a decent income for the food producer

**As a strategic priority, the implementation of the EU Unfair Trade Practices directive (UTP) must be strengthened to ensure appropriate purchase prices and transparency on how they are set.**



# Changing global trade policies

- Put an end to Animal feed imports
- Curb unfair competition within Europe
- structural levers in the EU to allow multiplication of **short supply chains and on-farm processing practices**
- We firmly reject **free trade agreements**: unfair competition at the global level





