

Experiences with greening

Civil Dialogue Group on Direct Payments and Greening

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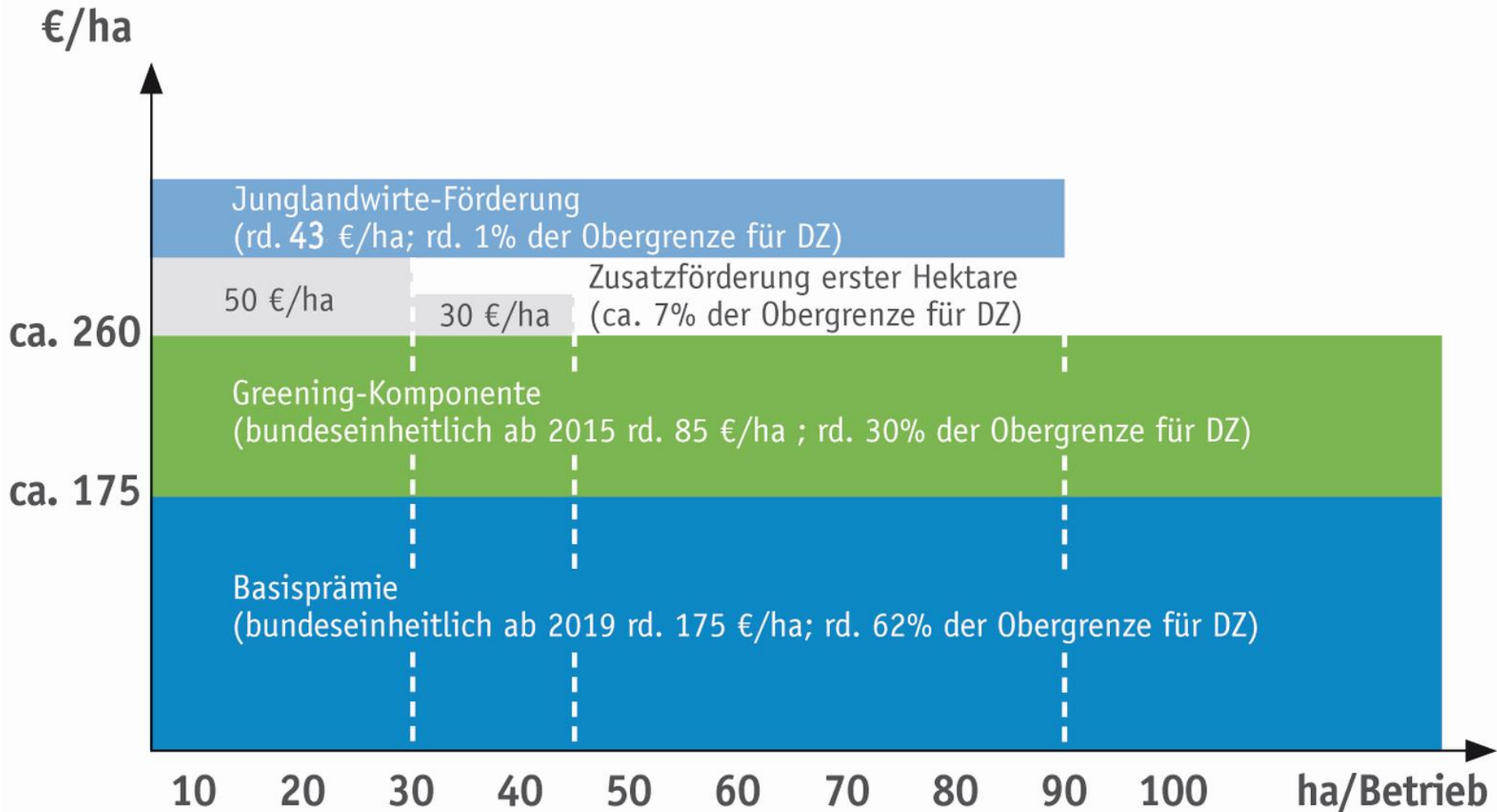
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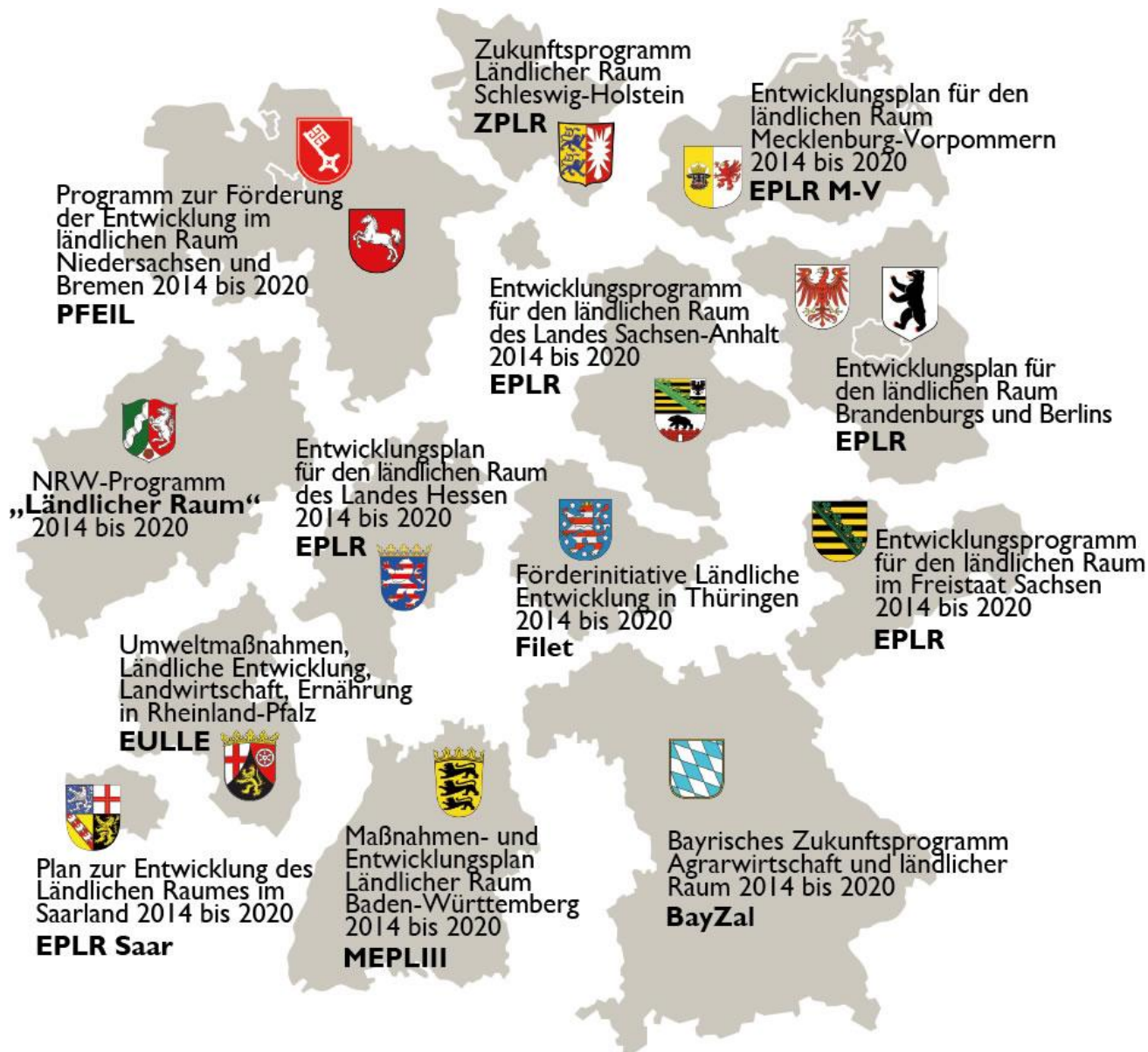
The implementation of the 1st pillar measures is regulated at national level:

- Until 2019 there will be a transition to a national flat rate; this is the case from 2015 for greening
 - 4.5% of funds transferred from the 1st to the 2nd pillar:
 - 7% of payments are used for redistribution payments/are for the first hectares; no degressivity of payments.
 - No coupled payments
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- 2nd Pillar: 13 autonomous Federal State EAFRD programmes

EU Area Payments in Germany 2019



Rural Development Programmes



Implementation of ecological focus area in DE

Ecological Focus Areas: In principle, application of all possible options, considerable restrictions in comparison with the EU framework:

- Catch crops: no mineral fertilisers, no sewage sludge, no plant protection; the crop must be retained until 15th February (derogation: 15th January)
- Leguminous crops: Mandatory to grow a subsequent crop (main or catch crop)
- Short rotation coppice: "Short" list of native species.
- Landscape features: No ditches (except Schleswig-Holstein); otherwise only landscape features which also fall under cross-compliance.

- Environmentally sensitive grassland: All areas protected under the Habitats Directive (FFH areas)
- Permanent grassland preservation:
 - Ploughing of permanent grassland always requires authorisation!!
 - If > 5% loss of grassland: obligation to compensate or to sow again in another area
 - In many cases, the legislation is more stringent in the Federal States (Bundesländer)

Implementation of ecological focus area 2015

Registration of around 1,367,400 ha of ecological focus area, 690,400 ha after applying the weighting factors, of which:

- Fallow land: 221,800 ha
 - Catch crops and under-sowings 279,000 ha
 - Nitrogen-fixing crops 113,300 ha
 - Landscape features (Cross Compliance): 49,600 ha
 - Buffer strips: 24,700 ha
 - Short rotation coppice: 700 ha
 - Afforested areas 1,900 ha
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- Note: The total registered arable area in Germany: around 11.9 million hectares

EFA 2015: Incentives for legumes and catch crops

Beantragte Ökologische Vorrangflächen im Jahr 2015 (in 1000 ha)

Arten von ökologischen Vorrangflächen	Flächen ohne Gewichtung	Gewichtungsfaktor	nach ökologischer Wertigkeit gewichtete Flächen
Brachliegende Flächen	221,8	1,0	221,8
Puffer-, Wald-, Feldrandstreifen	16,5	1,5	24,7
CC-Landschaftselemente und Terrassen	33,0	1,0 - 2,0 ¹⁾	49,6
Flächen mit Zwischenfruchtanbau und Untersaaten	930,2	0,3	279,0
Flächen mit stickstoffbindenden Pflanzen	161,8	0,7	113,3
Flächen mit Niederwald im Kurzumtrieb	2,2	0,3	0,7
Aufforstungsflächen	1,9	1,0	1,9
Beantragte ökologische Vorrangflächen insgesamt in Deutschland	1367,4	0,3 - 2,0	690,9

¹⁾ Gewichtungsfaktor für Terrassen 1,0; CC-Landschaftselemente wurden einheitlich mit dem Faktor 1,5 gewichtet

- Information reached farmers late, sometimes too late (autumn sowing 2014), and thus a lot of measures took place in spring/summer 2015:
set-aside, under sowings, legumes and catch crops
- Scale of the arable land that was set aside/ left fallow in Germany: 57% increase to reach approximately 296,400 ha (2014: 188,600 ha)
(Source: Land use survey 2015, Federal Statistical Office)
- Production of legumes on arable land increased by around 74% to roughly 160,600 (2014: 92,400 ha)
(Source: Land use survey 2015, Federal Statistical Office)
- Catch crops up by around 30%.
(Source: survey carried out among farmers > 30 ha)

Production of catch crops is considerably higher in 2015 than in 2014

Survey carried out among farmers (Holdings > 30 ha)

Average area grown with catch crops (all holdings > 30 ha)	2014 (ha)	2015 (ha)
Total	17	22
North	8	10
South	4	5
East	35	49
30 - 49 ha	3	4
50 - 99 ha	5	6
≥ 100 ha	24	33

(n = 850) Area weighting

Buffer strips and field margins are neglected under EFA

An important reason for this is the insufficient support they are granted

Survey carried out among farmers (Holdings > 30 ha)

Did you declare buffer strips and field margins as ecological focus area? *



No
↓

Why not? (n = 507)

Was not necessary/ had alternatives (catch crops, set-aside land, etc.)



Not possible on the holding



Non-holding obstacles



↳ Requirements too complicated
Too much work / takes up too much time



Risk of sanction too high



The administrative authorities advised me against it



Insufficient information



n = 737; * Filter: declared ecological focus area; No response may have been given= total may not add up to 100% Holding weighting

- Considerable uncertainty among farmers after the European Court of Justice's ruling on the 5-year-definition of permanent grassland
- Can farmers be sure that the arable land left fallow or used as buffer strips for several years etc. will actually stay classified as arable land?
- Late/ very late reaction from the European Commission to produce guidelines
- Result: Many farmers were obliged to plough up field margins along water courses so that they did not lose their arable status.
- DBV: There is an urgent need to review the definition of permanent grassland

Difficulties in the 1st year of the new CAP

- Greening is to a certain extent complicated and bureaucratic
 - Overwhelmed administrative authorities, broken IT system
 - Chaos as a result of the definition of permanent grassland
 - Greening and agri-environmental measures – can they actually be combined?
 - Additional greening controls (catch crops) delay payments.
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- Sowing deadline for catch crops: enable derogations after 1st October
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- Positive: The possibility to provide compensation for ecological focus area controls is already being used in several federal states

Initiative: We're greening together!



Rand- und Pufferstreifen
für Gewässerschutz
und Artenvielfalt



WIR MACHEN
GEMEINSAM GREENING!



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- **Making the most out of greening!**
- Buffer strips, field margins and forest strips contribute to water protection and biodiversity in agriculture

Involved associations:

- German Farmers' Association
- German Water Protection Association
- German Beekeepers' Association
- German Hunters' Association
- German Landscape Protection Association
- Professional
- Biogas Association

Bildnachweis: Holger Pfeiffer, Uckermark / Pflanzenschutzdienst Brandenburg, LfL, Fotograf Friedrich Nüßlen, ©FotoLila-sumilphoto, U. Hemmerling, Gert Berger

