



Tools to improve nature management and sale of certified meat from semi natural grassland in Denmark

Nielsen, A.L. & Hald, A.B. NatLan, Nature Consulting, Denmark
Levesen, B., Technology and Environment, Vejle Municipality, Denmark

Problems

- Very often farmers are not aware of specific nature management targets at their dry and wet grassland areas

Possible solution

- To make farmers interested in nature management targets and specific activities
- Targets and activities has to be presented in an intuitive way, e.g. on maps, not heavy reports



Holistic grazing:

Grasslands are divided into a number of paddocks grazed in turn. The livestock are moved to the next paddock after one or a few days of grazing and returns after about one month's grazing break, but depending on the type of sward, it may be a longer period.

Advantages in holistic grazing:

- By use of sub paddocks a mosaic grassland landscape is obtained with swards of different heights and structure
- Longer grazing breaks for flowering and insect purposes is possible – best to use the swards most potential for nature values
- More specific goals can be involved, such as short sward in spring for birds, e.g. *Perdix perdix* (Gray Partridge), or left long for insects

Long term aims:

- To improve nature quality at the existing swards to achieve a good nature quality
- In this case farmer want to change previous acreage parts to permanent grassland - gradually improving nature quality



Responsibility species – visual target:

Polygala vulgaris (Common milkwort) is chosen as a focus species for case farmer.

Specific nature management targets:

Targets will be given in a long term as well as in a short term perspective. It can be to improve conditions for positive species, such as *Polygala vulgaris*, or reduce the amount of negative species, such as *Cystisus scoparius* (Scotch broom). As for the negative species the municipality are prepared to offer supportive work.

Conclusion

- Appropriate management of grassland targeted specific nature goals is facilitated by a short plan (map) for nature management combined with map showing eligibility rules for areas concerned.
- Better results could be obtained if the goals of nature management became a part of the subsidy system.
- A description of the farmer's stewardship sites and more specifically about the nature responsibility species gives a good basis for communicating background information of meat products to consumers.

The cooperation with farmer Michael Kjerkegaard is greatly appreciated.
The work has received support from Vejle Municipality and 15. Juni Fond.