

# Semi-natural grassland in Denmark

## Political instruments aiming for nature



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### Problems

In Denmark 343,000 ha grassland > 2500 m<sup>2</sup> is protected physically by law ( § 3 area).

But more than 50 % has an insufficient management practise

Danish farmers lack incentives for management of good quality natural grassland.

### Needs for good management of grassland

- Payment for nature quality equal to or greater than aids per ha
- Focus on nature goals instead of common dates and rules of appearance
- Specific advise about management to farmer combined with control defined by nature
- Less complicated administration

*Reference:* Nielsen, A.L., Hald, A.B. & Buttenschøn, R. Accepted . Political instruments affecting management of semi-natural grassland in Denmark and possible improvements. NJF seminar 436, Norway, May 2011.

### Management decisions

Only 110.000 ha protected § 3 grassland in Natura2000 and 40,000 ha § 3 areas outside Natura2000 can apply for stewardship management support. Only 40-45.000 ha are supported today. Management decision of protected grassland is up to farmers.

#### Stewardship management

1400 DKR ha<sup>-1</sup> (5 years contract period)

Plus aid per ha:  
2200 DKR ha<sup>-1</sup>



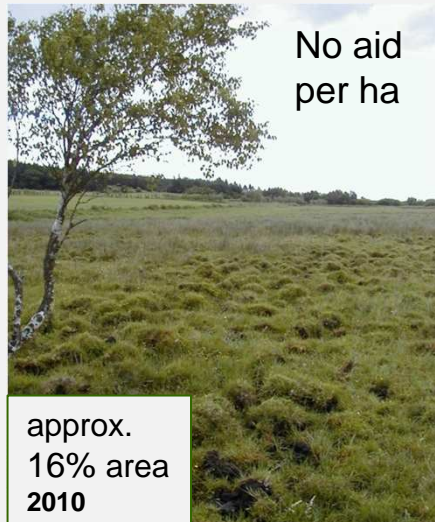
approx.  
84% area  
2010

§ 3 – low nature quality

Expected to be:  
50 % good forage species  
Less than 50 trees/bushes per ha  
No wet areas

Passed by control

Homogenous grassland  
Relatively dry areas  
Trees are cut  
Sward is trimmed



No aid  
per ha

approx.  
16% area  
2010

§ 3 – high nature quality

Low production  
Low forage quality  
Control measures: Low and  
dense sward by 31 August

Disqualified by control  
Too much nature  
Cross compliance problems

#### Abandonment



§ 3 – biodiversity loss

Abandonment risk after 5 years  
stewardship management is  
high:  
Too bad economy  
Too many restrictions

Abandonment risk is high