



**A successful approach to increase  
and manage biodiversity :**

**National farming competition  
for flowering meadows  
in Regional Nature Parks and  
National Parks  
in France**

**National Organization committee - [www.prairiesfleuries.fr](http://www.prairiesfleuries.fr)**



## Natural parks : agricultural landscape – remarkable and common biodiversity

France :  
46 NRP  
9 NP :  
20%  
national  
territory







**Massif central**



**Pyrénées**



**Brenne**



**Lorraine**



# **AN AGRICULTURAL COMPETITION ORGANIZED BY PROTECTED AREAS !**

**Permanent flowering meadows** : pastures that are naturally rich in plant species, and that are used to produce animal fodder (mown or grazed)

( not plowed , not sowed, not a field left fallow, biodiversity corresponding to the richness of the regional fauna and flora maintained by the farmers)

**The prize is awarded to farms whose meadows present the best balance between quality fodder production and preservation of biodiversity.**



## **VALUES CONVEYED BY THE COMPETITION**

**Landscape** : recognition of a permanent « farming » heritage

**Ecology** : sharing biodiversity –  
providing accessible method to measure biodiversity

**Environmentally-friendly farming** : positive role of farmers

**Food** : the taste, nutritional value of honey and cheeses  
depending on the quality of the meadows







**2011- 25 Parks**

**220 farms**

**mown or graze  
meadows rich in  
biodiversity**

**local jury in each  
park : agronomist  
ecologist, beekeeper-  
entomologist**

**collective scoring grid**

**visits between may  
and september**

**Local and national  
Prize giving**



## Three categories of meadows

- Low yield hay meadows (< 3-4 tons of dry hay/ha), possibly grazed
- High yield hay meadows (> 3- 4 tons of dry hay/ha) possibly grazed
- Grazed meadows and grazed lands (can include hedges, copses, low walls, bushes...)





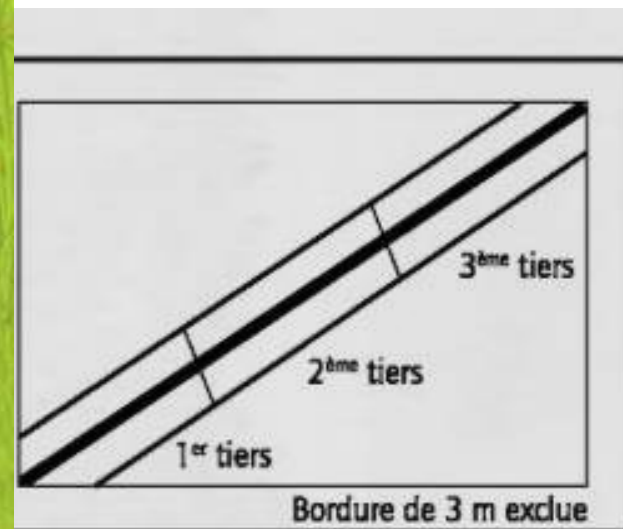
# National farming competition for flowering meadows in Regional Nature Parks and National Parks

**Indicator flowers : test at the national scale of the scientific criteria  
« flowering meadows » methodology, linked with agro-environmental scheme  
for herbs in Common Agriculture Politic (inspired from MEKA pg -germany)**



**The jury crosses the  
meadow on a  
diagonal**

**Presence of 4 plants  
in each third of the  
transect**



[www.prairiesfleuries.fr](http://www.prairiesfleuries.fr)



# Best agro-ecological balance from observation in the plot

## 1) List of indicator flowers : first step

## 2) 5 characteristics for agricultural quality :

Yield : quantity of fodder,

nutritive value,

Palatability : is the fodder appetizing to livestock

Flexibility : ability to be used early or late in the season

perennity of the vegetation : stability of the botanical composition

## 3) 5 characteristic for ecological quality :

Floral diversity

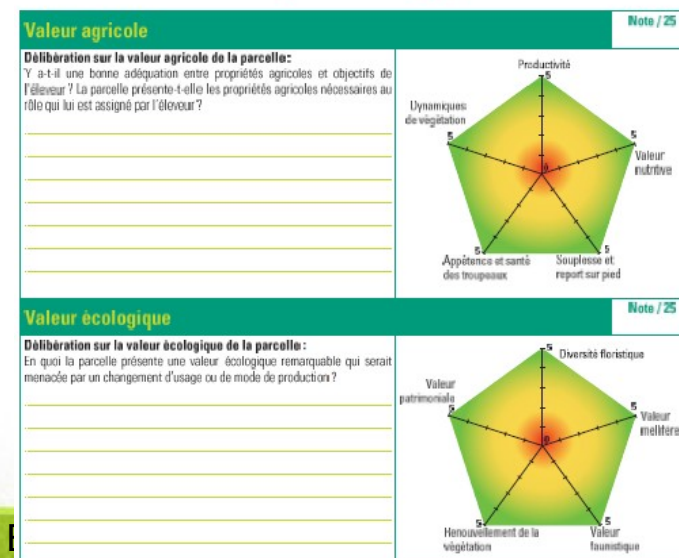
Perennity of the vegetation

Patrimonial value

Fauna value

Honey value

### Synthèse agri-écologique







Les prairies de Camargue sont parmi les Aucapitans les plus menacés en Europe. C'élevage permet leur maintien.



Echanges entre agriculteurs et ports.



Prairies à pins.



Flamants roses.



Papillon arabe sur graminée.



Tigelle à corolle renversée.



Oncos pyramidal.



Botaire en plein inventaire.



Camargue

**Terre  
Sauvage**



**National farming competition  
for flowering meadows in  
Regional Nature Parks and  
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*Prairies à la fois riches en espèces et productives: leur qualité permet de fabriquer des fromages parfumés.*



*Soleils.*



*Centaurées.*



*Visite du jury.*



*Papillon apollon et mimosa.*



*Échange entre jury et agriculteurs.*



*Citroine dorée sur ombelle blanche.*



*Champ de trilles d'Europe.*



*Massif des Bauges*







**The competition is a  
good way to detect  
deterioration of  
meadows :  
invasion of buttercup,  
anthrisques...**





## **TO PROMOTE RESULT-BASED CONTRACTS WITH FARMERS BY SHARING PLOT OBSERVATIONS**

RECOGNIZE FARMERS AS SKILLED PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS for  
OBSERVATION AND FOR TECHNICAL DECISION

RECOGNIZE THE WORK ACHIEVED TO MAINTAIN THE MEADOWS

DO NOT IMPOSE FARMING PRACTICES IMPLEMENT , BUT AGREE ON A  
RESULT TO BE OBTAINED (or ALREADY OBTAINED)



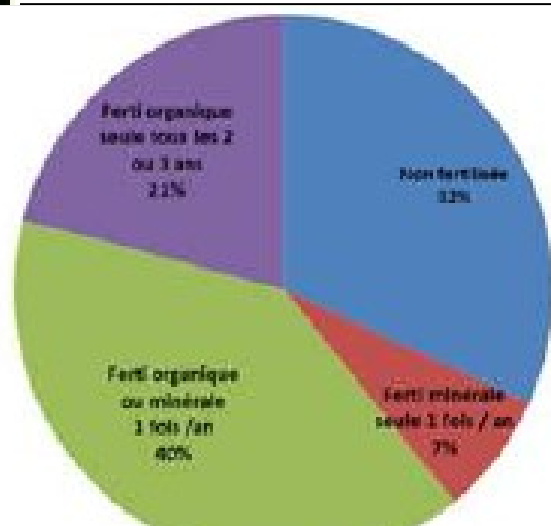


**=> OPEN THE WAY TO TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT  
MANAGEMENT  
... RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES  
AND BIODIVERSITY IS COMPLEX**

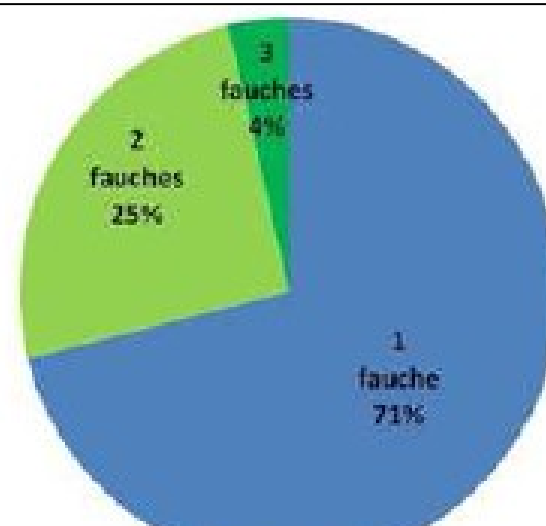


We notice that there is a big variety  
of extensive agricultural practices  
to run the meadows committed in the competition

**What did  
the farmer  
do to obtain  
this ?**



**FERTILIZING PRACTICES**



**NUMBER OF MOWING**



## **AGRICULTURAL AND ECOLOGY PARTNERS (local, national scale)**

### **=> FOR JURIES**

- agronomist, forage system specialist
- botanist, phytosociologist
- beekeeper, entomologist, zoologist



### **=> FOR ORGANIZATION**

#### **Concours organisé par**



#### **Avec le soutien de**





## **COMMUNICATION : THE PERSPECTIVE ON FARMING AND PERMANENT MEADOWS CHANGED**





## **INTEGRATE BIODIVERSITY IN PUBLIC POLICIES**

**=> THE COMPETITION ENABLES THE « FLOWERING MEADOWS »  
AGRO-ENVIRONMENT MEASURE ( Common Agriculture Politic)  
WHICH CONCERN NEARLY 600 FARMS IN FRANCE**

**=> THE COMPETITION IS ONE FOCUS ACTION NATURAL PARKS  
WILL PRESENT IN THE NATIONAL STRATEGY OF BIODIVERSITY  
( European Biodiversity Strategy )**

### **Concours organisé par**



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## **PERSPECTIVES FOR THE NEXT YEARS : TOWARD AN EUROPEAN COMPETITION ?**



**UNION EUROPÉENNE**

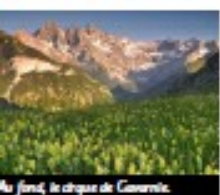
FONDS EUROPÉEN AGRICOLE  
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT RURAL





**Thank You  
For your  
Attention !**

*De la famille des pompilides, le pompilidé adulte accède à l'éclosion à l'automne pour un moment de repos.*



*Au fond, le cirque de Gavarnie.*



*Chardons dans la vallée de Barèges.*



*Acicéphale soigné.*



*Safran des pins.*



*Prairie de fauche traditionnelle.*



*Cascade dans le cirque de Gavarnie.*



*Torrent serpenteant.*