



HNV livestock farming and the provision of public goods in the Auvergne, France

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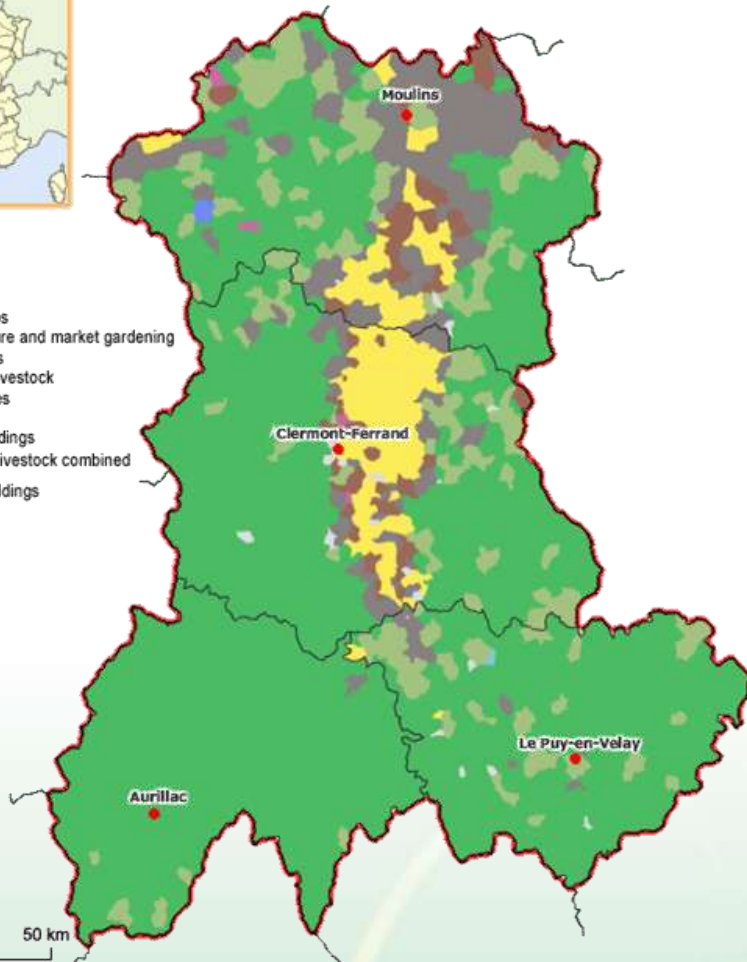
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Auvergne



- Specialist field crops
- Specialist horticulture and market gardening
- Specialist vineyards
- Specialist grazing livestock
- Specialist granivores
- Mixed cropping
- Mixed livestock holdings
- Various crops and livestock combined
- Non-classifiable holdings



- Volcanic hills and mountains, river valleys, forests, grasslands
- 60% of the land is used for agriculture - 24,000 farms
- Half the municipalities are 'mountain', 85% are LFA
- Fourth most important region of France for cattle, fifth for sheep
- Landscape is an important resource for tourism and outdoor activities



HNV farming in the Auvergne

- Low-intensity HNV sheep and dairy systems grazing on semi-natural pastures forms the basis for the provision of a range of public goods;
- Concentrated in the LFA, these focus on grass-based production and added value products - 1 farm in 5 produces under a quality label;
- less productive than more intensive systems, viability is helped by LFA and grassland premium and agri-environment payments.



Extensive dairy farming and quality products

- More than half the region's fodder and grassland areas are used by specialist dairy farms, 45% of these have <30 cows
- Extensive HNV grazing systems increase floral diversity of pastures which means better quality milk (and therefore cheese) and helps promotion of PDO cheeses
- Maintenance of landscape (*bocage*), hay making, and cultural features (*jasseries*) are supported by agri-environment payments
- Between 2000 and 2007 Auvergne experienced a 20% decline in the number of specialist dairy farms (but this was less than the national average)



Bleu d'Auvergne



Dairy farming providing public goods in Cantal



Patchwork of small plots, connected by hedgerows, favour biodiversity and provide corridors for the movement of bats and insects. Also maintain the structure and cultural identity of the landscape.

Summer grazing and shepherding of mountain pastures prevents abandonment and reduces risk of fire.

Grasslands managed with a low level of inputs particularly favourable for water quality and biodiversity.


Healthy hedgerows benefit water quality, protect against soil erosion and pollution by leaching and run-off. Also provide shelter for livestock in harsh weather.

Extensive sheep farming

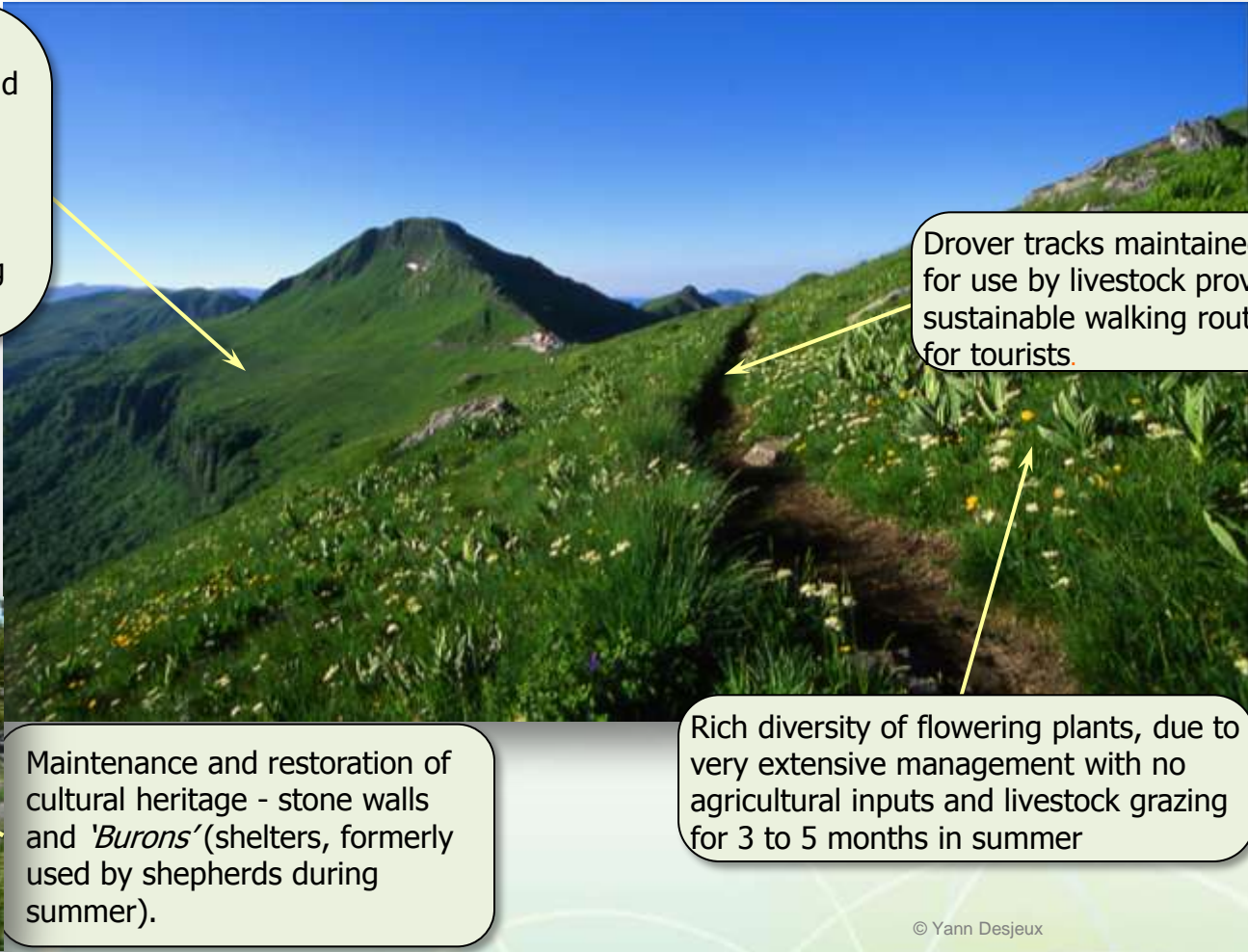
- Concentrated in the south and north-west, almost half the farms have <50 sheep, but 19% of farms have 45% of total sheep flock. Older farmers tend to have smaller flocks
- Transhumance - regular sheep grazing in summer is essential to maintain the common and high altitude grassland, preventing land abandonment and the enclosure of the landscape
- Extensive grazing management, low (or no) fertiliser application, no PPP and continuing shepherding and other cultural agricultural practices
- Provides high levels of biodiversity, cultural landscapes, water quality, protection from fire and soil erosion, and animal welfare



Grazed mountain pastures



Summer grazing by sheep protects against soil erosion and wild fires, even in almost inaccessible places. Shepherding ensures whole grazing area is used, keeping landscape open and preventing damage.



Drover tracks maintained for use by livestock provide sustainable walking routes for tourists.

Maintenance and restoration of cultural heritage - stone walls and '*Burons*' (shelters, formerly used by shepherds during summer).

Rich diversity of flowering plants, due to very extensive management with no agricultural inputs and livestock grazing for 3 to 5 months in summer

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Public goods from HNV grazing systems

- HNV farming makes a significant contribution to the provision of public goods in Auvergne, and additional socio-economic benefits of jobs in high quality PDO production and tourism sector

PG	Dairy farming	Sheep farming
Biodiversity (and habitats)	x	x
Cultural landscapes	x	x
Soil quality		x
Water quality		x
Air quality		x
Carbon sequestration	x	x
Climate stability		x
Prevention of natural catastrophes		x
Animal welfare	x	x



Ensuring long term provision of these public goods

- Close functional link between:
 - The provision of wide range of public goods (and socio-economic benefits)
 - The maintenance of HNV farming systems based on semi-natural pastures and high quality, value-added production
 - Agri-environmental and other targeted policies and CAP support
- Support to secure public goods in the long term needs to recognise:
 - The vulnerability of farm structures (some are small) and age profile of sheep farmers
 - The supportive role of agri-environmental payments
 - The functional relationship between the environment, high quality products and the cultural landscape





Thank you for your attention!

