



Agropastoralist: a technical profession with multiple stakes

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The future of Pastoralism in the European Union
Brussels - European Parliament – August 29 2018

Agropastoralist: a technical profession with multiple stakes

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Why **agropastoral** (-ism) ?

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Why **agropastoral** (-ism) ?

pastoral

pastoral

agro-

agro-

Why technical ?

Why technical ?

The agropastoral livestock farming and shepherding professions require **particular knowledge and skills**.

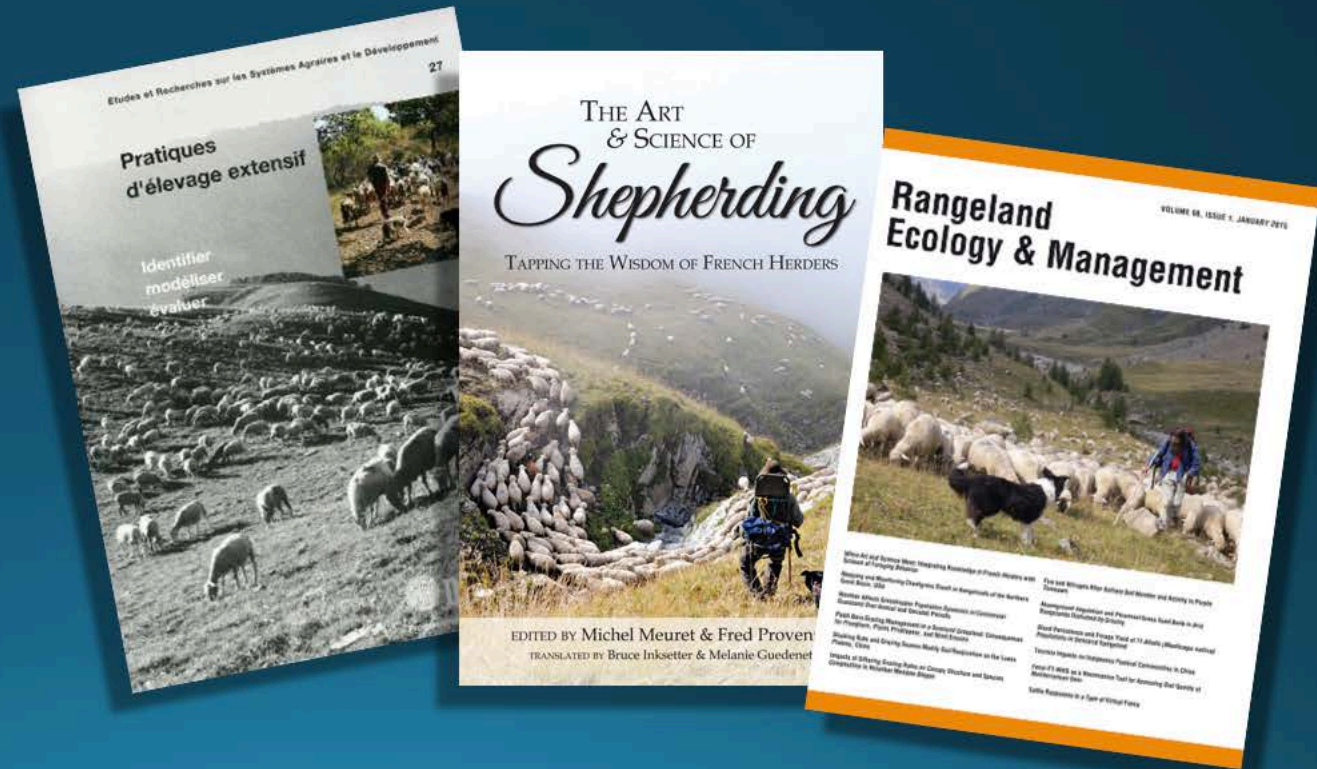
They have proven to be just as technical, if not more so, than raising animals on cultivated grasses or within buildings.

Why technical ?

The agropastoral livestock farming and shepherding professions require **particular knowledge and skills**.

They have proven to be just as technical, if not more so, than raising animals on cultivated grasses or within buildings.

Developed in **Europe**, and particularly in France, these skills have been evaluated and their **relevance** recognized by **scientists**.



Why technical ?

All year-round on cultivated grasses

Management through grass quality and grazing pressure.



Photo Jean-Marc GUÉGAN

The value of the pasture here depends on the **abundance and nutritional quality** of the grass.

Why technical ?

All year-round on cultivated grasses

Management through grass quality and grazing pressure.



Photo Jean-Marc GUÉGAN

The value of the pasture here depends on the **abundance and nutritional quality** of the grass.

It is expected that the animals will not be too selective.

But if they are, the farmer will mow the **refusals** with a **tractor**.

Why technical ?

On natural pastures

Direct (herding) or indirect (fenced pastures) management of the herd's feeding motivation.



Photo Michel MEURET / INRA

The value of the pasture here depends on the animals' feeding motivation.

Why technical ?

On natural pastures

Direct (herding) or indirect (fenced pastures) management of the herd's feeding motivation.



Photo Michel MEURET / INRA

The value of the pasture here depends on the animals' **feeding motivation**.

It is expected that the animals will be selective and will also appreciate mixing plants within diets.

Above all, herding management must play **two concomitant roles**:

- **Feeding** the herd each **day**
- Ensuring through grazing the proper **renewal** of forage resources.

Why **technical** ?

Specificity of pastoralism

Why technical ?

Specificity of pastoralism

While **feeding** each day the animals on a **diversity** of plants, the farmer or shepherd ensure at the same time the **renewal** of his fodder resources for the following years.



Why technical ?

A shepherd intervenes several times during the herd's **meals** (half-day scale) to guide the grazing **circuit**, control the **impact** on plants and soils and stimulate the **appetite**.

Herding is more attentive and technical than feeding on cultivated grass or at the trough.



Meuret, 1997
Meuret & Provenza, 2015 a,b

Which **multiple** stakes ?



Which multiple stakes ?

Breeders
population
decline

Knowledge
transfert

Land
access



Which multiple stakes ?

Breeders
population
decline

Knowledge
transfert

Strictly protected
predators

CAP Agro-
environnement

Land
access

CAP eligible
agricultural areas



Which multiple stakes ?

Breeders
population
decline

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CAP Agro-
environnement

Accès au
foncier

CAP eligible
agricultural areas



Paradox



CAP agroenvironnemental policy

Since **1992**, livestock farmers have been contracting grazing on shrubby and woody areas to help restore **endangered species habitats**



CAP eligible agricultural areas

...or prevent **wildfires**.

They are intended to graze to limit the extension and dominance of **shrubby plants**.



Photo: Michel MEURET / INRA

Paradox



CAP agroenvironnemental policy

Since **1992**, livestock farmers have been contracting grazing on shrubby and woody areas to help restore **endangered species habitats**



CAP eligible agricultural areas

Since **2015**, pastures with **less than 50% grass** are no longer recognized as pasture areas, except by way of derogation.

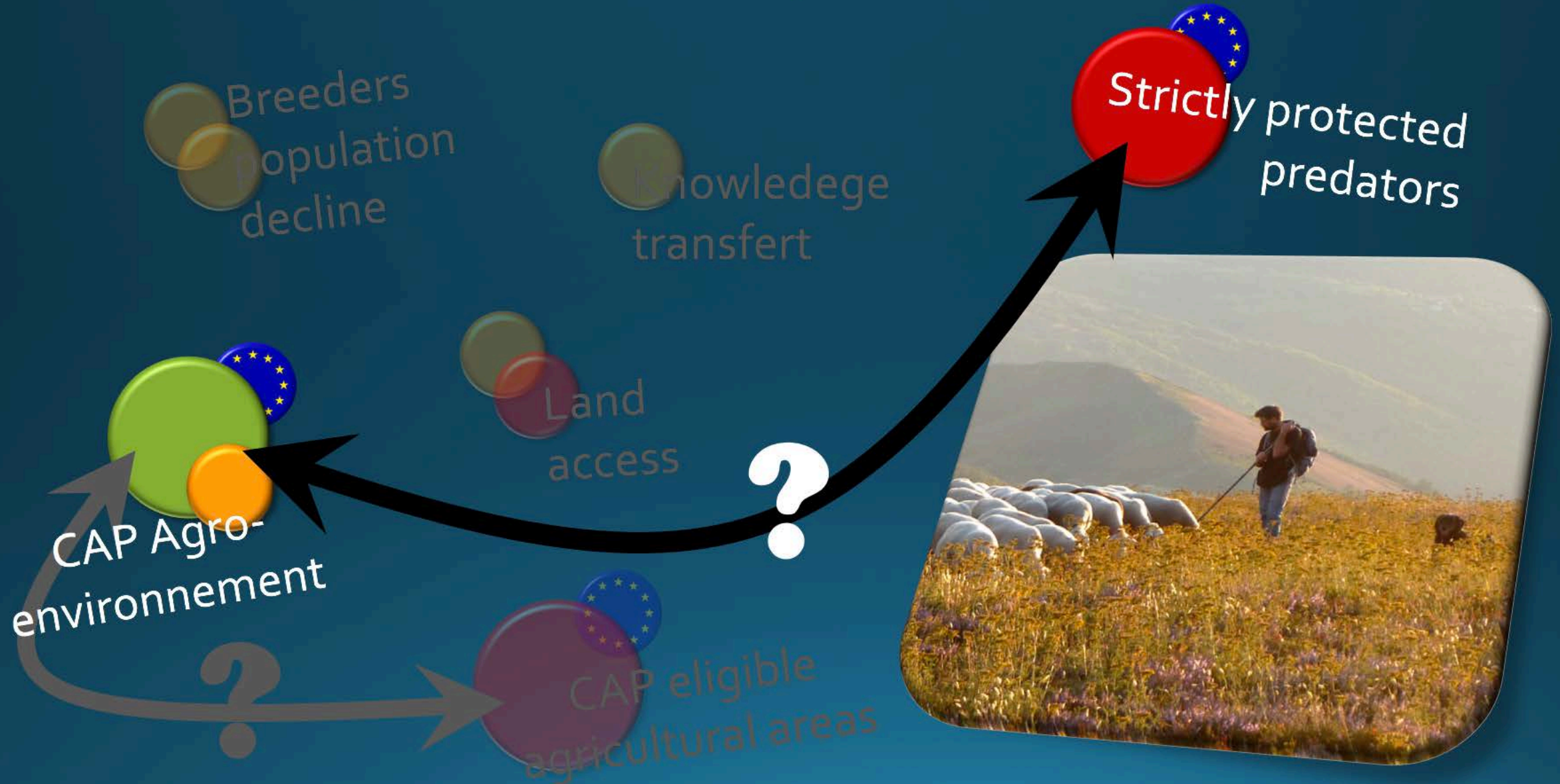
...or prevent **wildfires**.

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Photo: Michel MEURET / INRA

Which multiple stakes ?



Paradox



CAP agroenvironnemental policy

Livestock farmers contract grazing on **shrubby and woody areas** to restore **species habitats** or prevent **wildfires**.



Strictly protected predators



Paradox



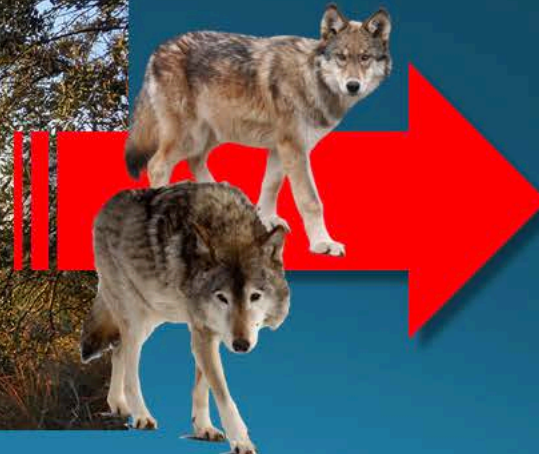
CAP agroenvironmental policy

Livestock farmers contract grazing on **shrubby and woody areas** to restore **species habitats** or prevent **wildfires**.



Strictly protected predators

These environments have become far too risky when **wolves** are also present. They are called "**landscape of fear**" in ecology.



"The wolf will make us lose the benefits of ten years of dialogue and negotiations with livestock farmers..."

"One protected species imposes himself to the detriment of many others. No doubt, we will lose in terms of capacity to properly manage wildlife habitats."

Anonymous source
from National Parks
Services

Photo : Alex Nuttens

The impending end of agropastoralism?



It would be regrettable, as much for our farm products
as for our landscapes

