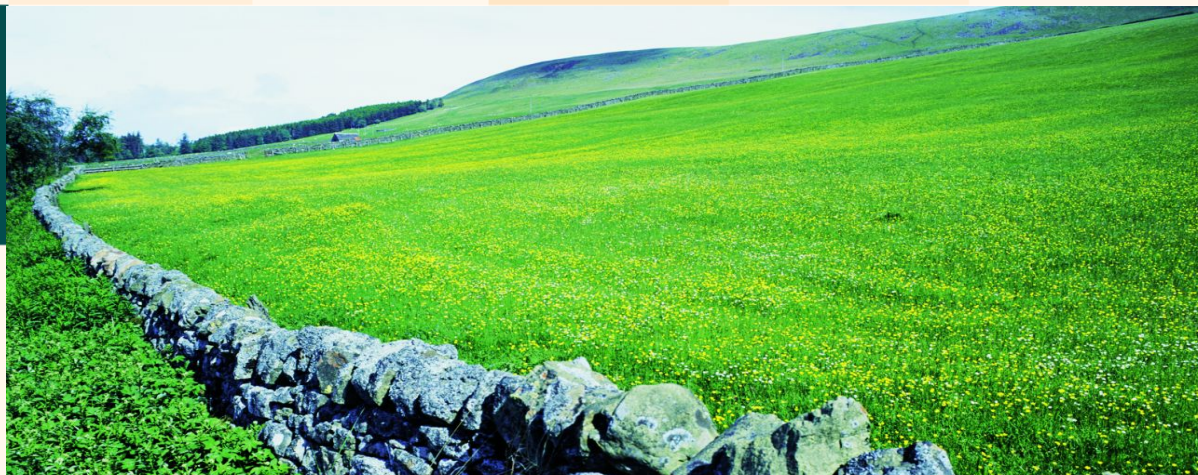




European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development



Does the Horse Industry Play a Role for Agriculture and Rural Development?

Søren Kissmeyer, EU Commission DG AGRI
EU Equus 2009, Uppsala, Sweden
29.10.2009



EU Rural Development Policy 2007–2013

Three major objectives:

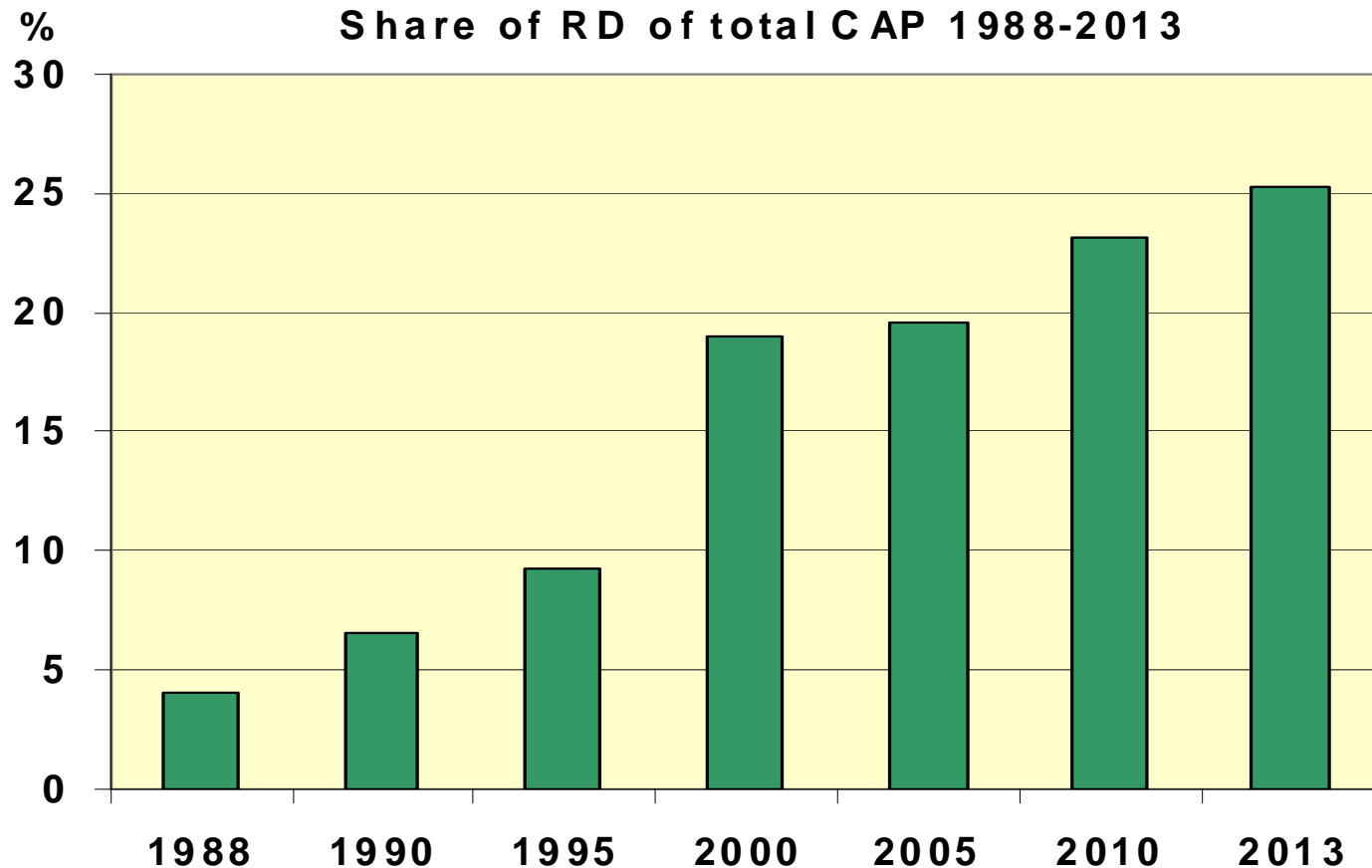
- Increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector;
- Enhancing the environment and countryside through support for land management;
- Enhancing the quality of life in rural areas and promoting diversification of economic activities.

→ the horse industry can contribute



Rural Development (RD) as part of CAP

- Over time increased emphasis on RD:





Rural development shall contribute to the broader EU-agenda:

- economic and social cohesion
- Lisbon strategy (employment)
- Göteborg conclusion (sustainability)



Rural development shall also accompany changes in the rural areas by:

- diversifying farming activities towards non-agricultural activities
- developing non-agricultural sectors
- promoting employment
- investments to make rural areas more attractive



How is Rural Development organised?

- Implementation via national / regional Rural Development Programmes (RDP)
- EU + national co-financing
EU max 50 / 75% in general



Where does horse industry come in?

- Axis 1: farm investment, vocational training
- Axis 2: agri-environment, forest environment, genetic diversity
- Axis 3: diversification, micro enterprises, tourism, training
- Leader: projects enhanced by LAGs – Local Action Groups



RD is to a large extent subject to subsidiarity

- The possibilities for the horse industry depend on the content and priorities of the rural development programmes, eg:
- SE: horse-related tourism
 - BE/Wallonia: forestry agri-environment
 - EE: keeping local endangered breeds



The horse industry has two aspects:

- rural/agricultural
- “urban” orientation

Rural Development Policy intervenes in rural areas



Fundamental aspects of rural development support:

- support for investments, not operating costs (except agri-environment)
- environmental sustainability is a key factor, including the “polluter pays principle”



The future

- Rural Development Policy will continue
- Probably further focus on non-primary agricultural activities
- Budget for the CAP?
 - to be seen!
 - increased share for rural development – probably