



Is the CAP good for High Nature Value farming?

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What is High Nature Value (HNV) farming?



- Farming which supports high levels of biodiversity (but delivers a wider range of ecosystem services)
- Farmland which is semi-natural
- (Not just semi-natural farmland which is in Natura 2000)
- (Not just semi-natural farmland which fits into some imagined image of 'farmland' dreamed up in Brussels)
- Can occur from field to landscape scale, but the more it dominates the farm, the more we need to think about the whole system

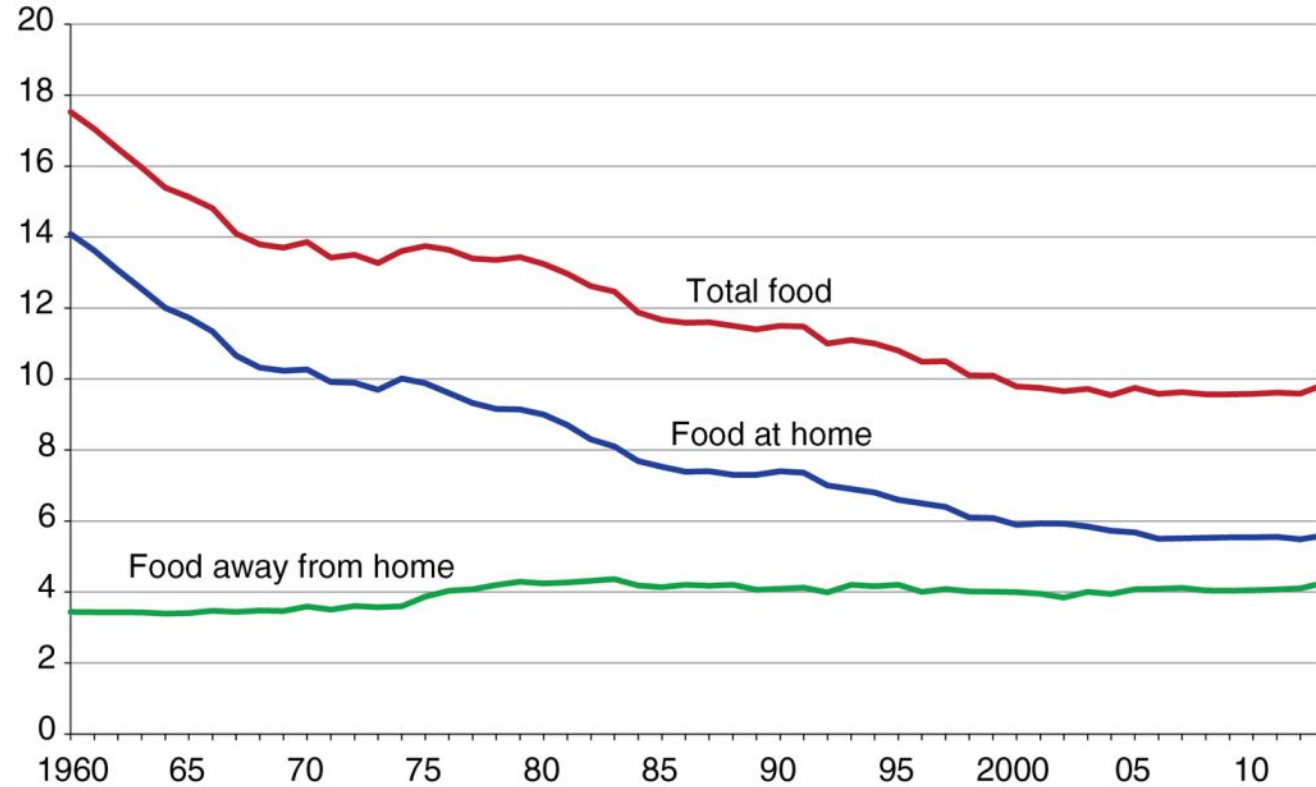
What's the problem for HNV farming?



- It's farming.....

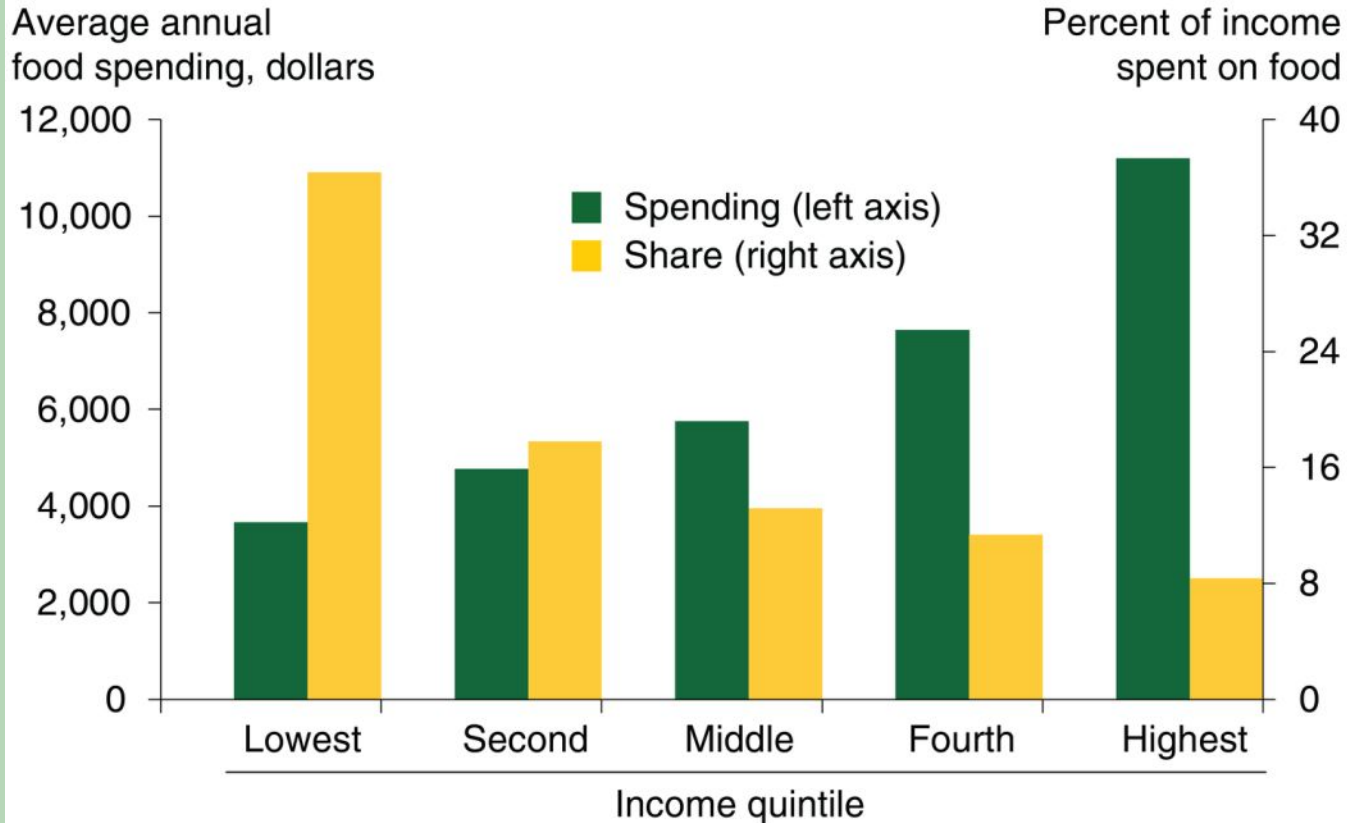
Per capita disposable income spent on food in the United States, 1960-2013

Percent

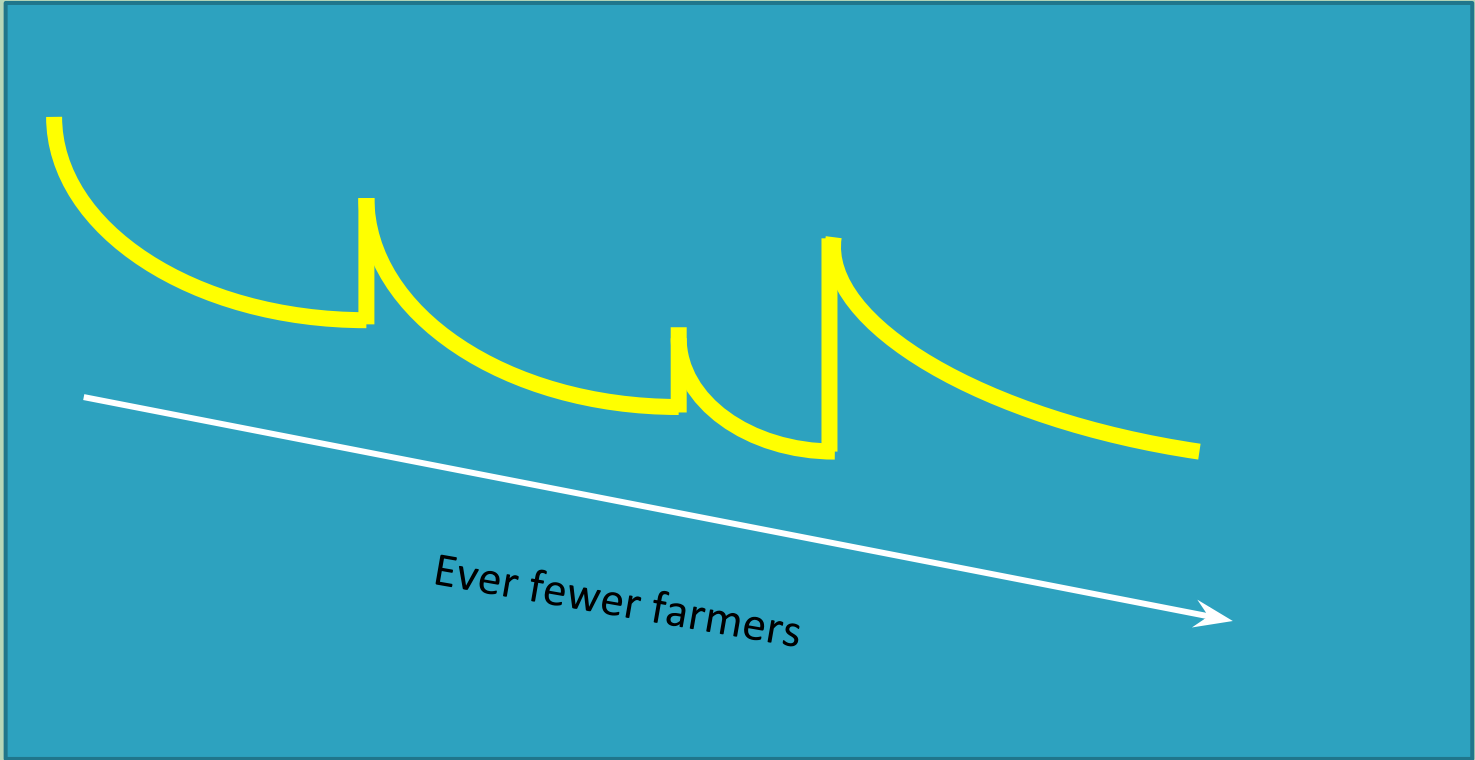


Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Food Expenditure Series, table 7.

Food spending and share of income spent on food across U.S. households, 2013



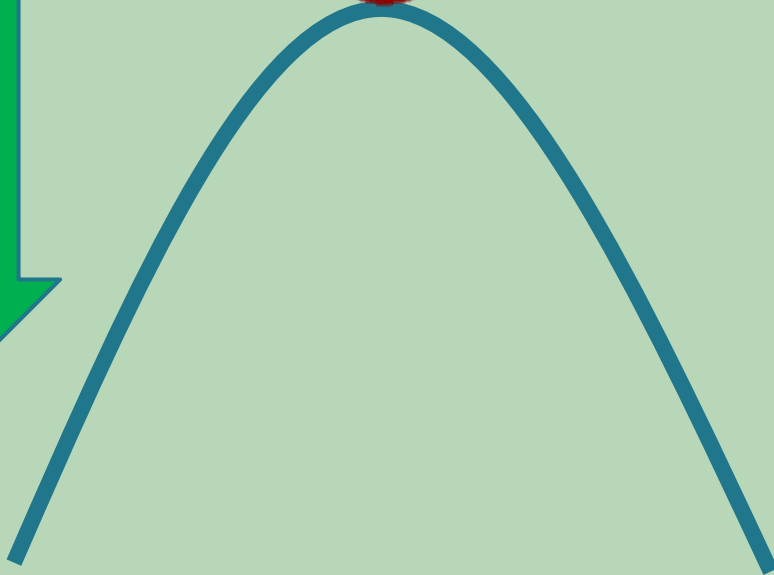
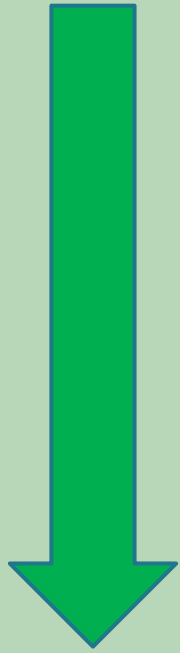
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013



What's the problem for HNV farming?



- It's farming, which is generally falling further behind
- It survives where there's no alternative of intensification, but where it's not quite bad enough for abandonment



Abandonment

Intensification

- Poor rewards from market for 'usual' products
- Little or no market for 'other' products
- Insufficient incentive to keep how it is in payments
- Payments for the inactive creating unfair competition
- Bureaucracy (even in supportive structures)
- More attractive alternatives in the wider economy, both economically and socially
- Technical innovation in competing systems
- Innovation opportunities (technical or financial) in the HNV system
- Lack of regulation on intensive farming (externalities)

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- It's farming, which is generally falling further behind
- It survives where there's no alternative of intensification, but where it's not quite bad enough for abandonment
- It doesn't fit into many farming preconceptions



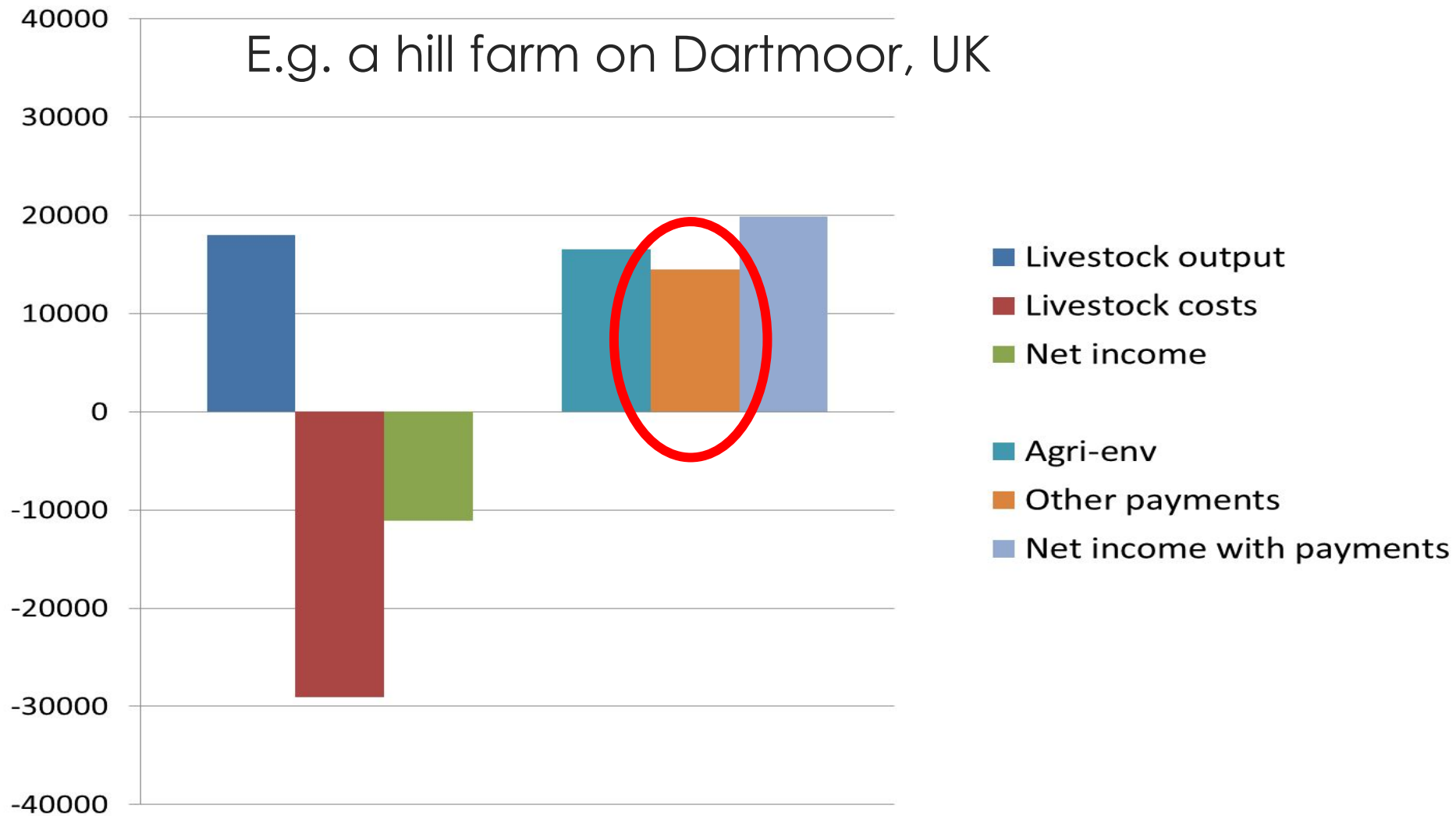


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- High dependency on subsidies

E.g. a hill farm on Dartmoor, UK



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- It doesn't fit into many farming preconceptions
- High dependency on subsidies
- Subsidies rarely give a holistic, positive message to the system

Is the CAP good for HNV farming?



- A CAP is needed
- But present CAP
 - Allows HNV farming to fall ever further behind
 - Fails to give many HNV farmers a 'minimum wage' net income per hour
 - Has not stopped a continuing decrease in HNV farmland
 - Fails properly to internalise either the negative externalities of intensive farming or the positive externalities of HNV farming
 - Fails miserably to recognise the reality of HNV farmland in its definitions, resulting in lower support for those who need it most
 - Fails to recognise, even at a de minimis level, the centrality of farming activity
- It's not all the EU institutions' fault – hardly one MS or region has used even the tools it has available well – but they are often detached and dictatorial

Conclusions?



- Fragile systems (that are important for policy goals) need to be considered carefully and treated sensitively
- Replacing automatic/easy to apply for payments with discretionary complicated ones is a bad idea – there needs to be a hierarchy
- Make the link to results (policy objectives!) integral to the mechanism in ALL policy instruments, not dependent on some assessment process which hardly ever happens in a way which makes a difference
- Support payments need to reflect how farms ARE – all farmed land should be eligible, and farming should mean farming
- BPS is particularly hopeless just now, but the money involved is VITAL at present
- Is there any point asking for anything else??

Diolch yn fawr!

Aitäh!



