



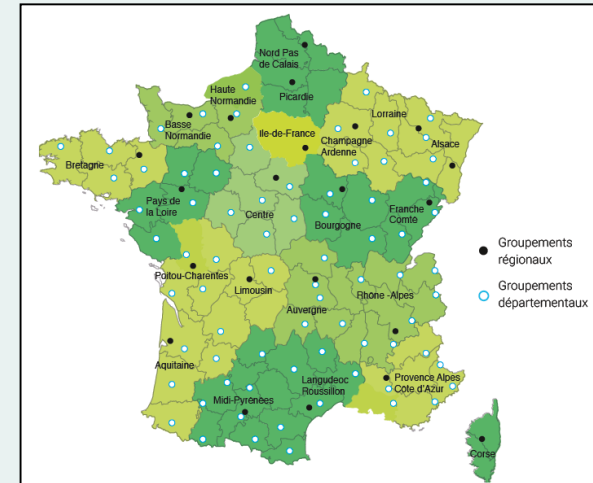
Challenges of the new organic regulation : French perspective

10th June 2021 – Symposium Animal Husbandry

FNAB – Fédération Nationale d'Agriculture Biologique

Short introduction

- Created in **1978**
- **10.000** organic farmers
- Network of **regional** and **local** groups



INSTITUT NATIONAL
DE L'ORIGINE ET DE
LA QUALITÉ

Involved in the EU-regulation revision process :

- **EU-level** : Founding member of **IFOAM Organics Europe**
- **French level** : Member of the **National Committee on Organic Farming**

Hopes and concerns

New organic regulation and new interpretations



- Opportunity to **strengthen** the regulation
- Try to **safeguard** the existing and go beyond when it is still possible
- Last chance to use the national flexibility to **limit the damages** ?



- **Audits**
 - **Interpretation**
- => Linked to the current regulation. But they will also apply to the new regulation*



Main concerns in France



Access to pasture:
- Fattening bovines
- Young animals

Transhumance

All-straw systems
Pig



Main concerns in France

Access to pasture

Regulation :

Animals shall have access to pasturage for grazing whenever **conditions** allow.

COM Interpretation on “conditions”:

- weather and seasonal condition ;
- state of ground ;
- imposed restrictions and obligations (protection of human and animal health).

Fattening phase for
bovine adults

Young animals
(calves, kits, lambs)



Main concerns in France

Access to pasture – Fattening phase for bovine adults



Fattening phase
for bovine adults

- Impact assessment by the Commission on this topic ?
- Major impact : 4500 fattening farms in France, most of them are using this derogation to fatten the bovines inside !
- Access to pasture will impact the quality of the end product/meat :
Are the actors of the supply chain (butchers, restaurants, etc.) and consumers ready for this sudden change ?

=> **Time is needed for such consumption changes !**

=> **Flexibility to adapt to the local consumption habits ?**



Main concerns in France

Access to pasture – Young animals



Young animals
(calves, kits, lambs)

- Sanitary conditions highly dependant on climatic conditions ;
- Need to allow keeping those fragile young animals inside, even if adults are grazing outside ;

=> **National flexibility**



Main concerns in France

Pigs – all-straw system

Regulation :

Open air areas may be *partially covered*.

COM Interpretation on “partially covered”:

- Maximum 50 %
- Austria : Extension up to 75% for piglets and nursing sows and more than 1200 mm annual precipitation

Main concerns in France

Pigs – all-straw system

All straw open air area	COM interpretation
Covered up to 90% or 95%	Covered up to 50%
Solid floor only, no slatted floor	Slatted floor mandatory to evacuate the liquid manure
Thick straw litter	No (or less) straw litter to avoid obstruction of the slatted floor
Production of solid manure, easily compostable organic matter in line with the organic principles	Production of liquid manure : construction of slurry pit, ammonia and methane gas emission, etc.
System approved and supported by animal welfare organisations	/

⇒ **Need for national flexibility !**

⇒ **Integrate all straw systems in the EGTOP innovative stables mandate**





Main concerns in France

Transhumance

New regulation :

Strict separation of organic and non organic animals during the whole transhumance period.

Transhumance and organic are not contradictory :

- Avoid mating of organic and non-organic animals :
 - Very rare & farmers are not found of it ;
 - Use of non organic breeding males is allowed (derogation) ;
- Transhumance recognised by UNESCO as cultural heritage of humanity

=> Need for national flexibility in the catalogue of measures !

Hopes beyond the concerns

Solutions for organic husbandry

Reopen the problematic provisions in the basic act ?

- Is the Commission ready to do it ?

Otherwise, give flexibility to adapt to the national context : COM needs to reassure the competent authorities !

- Play the game with the new regulation and basic act ;
- But ensure coherence of the regulation with the practices of the organic farmers ;
- Attractiveness of organic practices to meet the development objectives of the Organic Action Plan.

