

The CAP and Animal Welfare

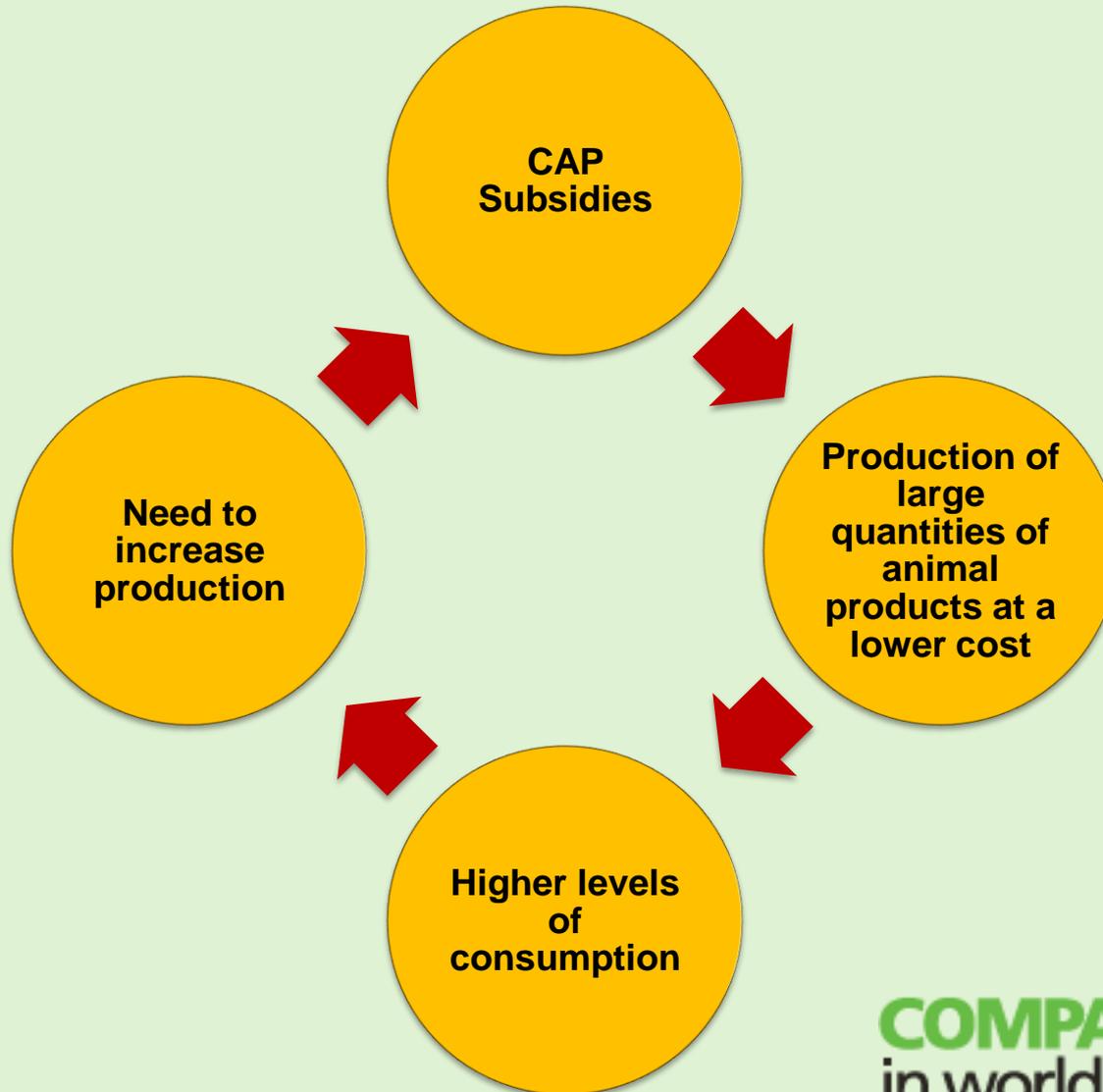


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CAP - intensification - overproduction - overconsumption



Industrial animal agriculture contributes to many problems

- Intensive crop production for feed (monocultures and agro-chemicals), use of arable land to grow feed
- Dependence on feeding human edible cereals to animals who then convert them very inefficiently into meat and milk
- About 60% of EU cereals are used as animal feed, threat to food security
- Pollution and overuse of water
- Soil degradation
- Air pollution, ammonia, GHG emissions
- Deforestation, expansion of cropland into forests and grasslands
- Biodiversity loss, wildlife gets squeezed out
- Significant antibiotic use
- Health concerns
- In EU 9 billion land animals used for food yearly, 2/3 on factory farms
- Increased animal suffering

Animal welfare payments

1. Payment based on the size of the farm, provided that environmental and animal welfare standards are respected
2. Payment for voluntary adoption of animal welfare measures going beyond minimum legislative standards (up to seven years)

AW payments – going beyond the baseline:

- Water, feed and animal care in accordance w/needs of animal husbandry
- Housing conditions
- Outdoor access
- Practices which avoid mutilation and/or castration

2007-2013: 0.1% of the CAP spent on AW payments (€52.6 mil/yr)

2014-2020: 0.5% of the CAP allocated to animal welfare

End result:

- Limited and unclear welfare improvements
- Little evidence on how AW payments are spent, no detail in MS reports
- COM factsheets (2014-2020) on MS rural development programmes offer no information on the objectives of the payments

Addressing animal welfare

- The improvement of animal welfare should become a compulsory objective and priority of the CAP
- Public funding should be used to support concrete and measurable positive outcomes in animal welfare
- A mandatory animal welfare programme with a budgetary allocation to improve animal housing systems and management practices
- Payments should be conditional on compliance with all EU legislation on animal welfare, including poultry production, currently excluded
- Minimum spending requirements and mandatory measures should help improve standards for animal agriculture
- An improved reporting mechanism in place with assessment of expected outcomes of payments and effective sanctions in cases of non-compliance
- Replacing industrial production by pasture-based farming, thus giving the opportunity to animals to engage in species-specific natural behaviours
- Food policies should address the overconsumption of animal products and promote more sustainable plant based diets

On the path to a sustainable food and farming policy

- To implement SDGs we need to develop a new model of food and farming
- Public funding should deliver positive outcomes for the environment, animals, farmers' livelihoods, public health and meet societal expectations
- More humane and sustainable farming practices across the EU
- Integrate animal welfare in EU food and farming policy with a comprehensive plan to provide for a transition reducing animal production
- Produce nutritious food and encourage healthy diets
- Support a holistic approach, connecting farmers and citizens, production and consumption, farming and food