

National report Denmark

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As a part of the PARTRIDGE Project WP5, a large online survey was carried out. The target group was farmers and hunters, and the main topic was AES.

Before presenting the survey to the Danes, it needed to be altered. Denmark does not have the same AES opportunities as the rest of the partner countries. Instead in the survey, AES was replaced with “Bee- and wildlife friendly measures”.

In Denmark you could at the time the survey was carried out, do measures like beetle banks, bare soil strips, cut grass strips and strips with sown seed mixes or naturally germinated plants and keep your basic payment if the measures are not more than 10 meters wide, there minimum are 10 meters between different measures and the measures combined not is more than 10% of each field. You are allowed to create skylark and lapwing plots and keep your basic payment if they er not bigger than maximum 100 m2. The opportunities have changed from 2023 with the new CAP.

Questions about administration, economy and control of AES was also left out of the Danish survey because it potentially would be confusing for the Danes answering the survey. Until now you do not have to report where your measures are if they are carried out liked mentioned above. This has also changed with the new CAP. They were considered a part of the crop, but you would not receive a quota of fertilizer on area with bee and wildlife friendly measures. Questions about payment for lethal predator control was also left out because shooting prizes and crop and land damage compensation are not implemented in Danish legislation.

Because bee and wildlife friendly measures did not have specific rules about dates of sowing and mowing, these questions was also left out. Rules about dates for sowing and mowing was relevant for environmental focus areas.

Sadly, very few Danish farmers answered the survey for obvious reasons the Danish Hunters Association was more successful reaching the hunters, but the numbers of responses was not as many as hoped answered the survey.

One of the questions asked in the Danish survey, that was quite interesting was which additional (AE) measures the Danes would be interested in, if they had the opportunity to taking them up. The majority answered that picked a measure, that are not already possible to do in Denmark chose permanent wildflower cover followed by, cultivated uncropped margin for rare arable flora and supplementary feeding. The least interesting for the Danish audience were conservation headlands and predation management.

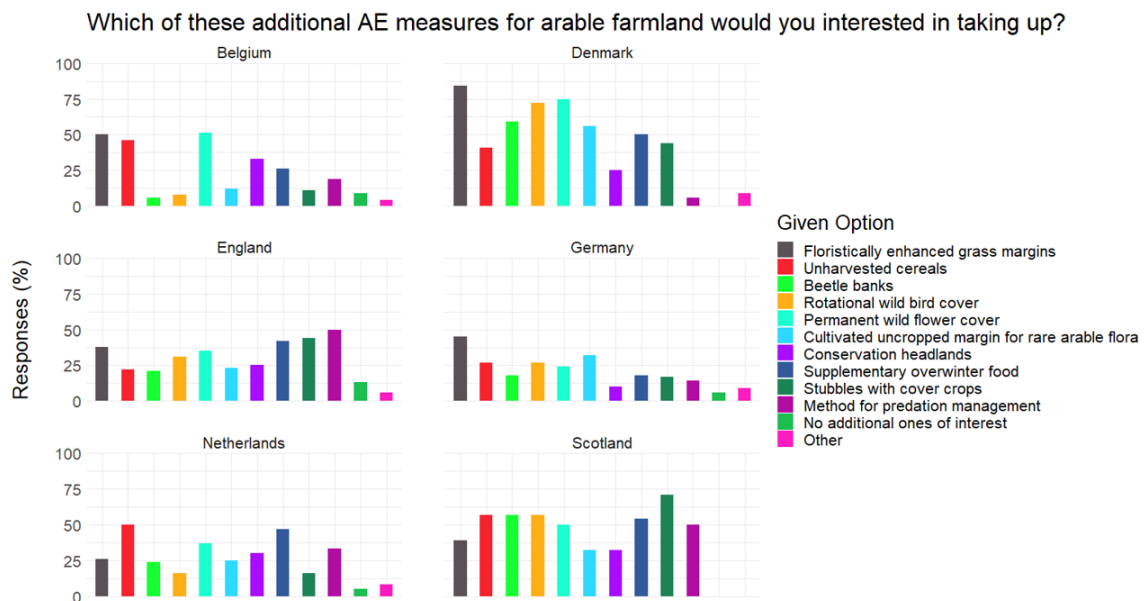
It was a bit surprising that predation management was the least wanted measure to take up, but it also a very far from the traditional measures in Denmark. It was very nice that the majority focused on measures that will improve habitat for farmland species and farmland biodiversity.

The reasons why the participating Danes took part in the survey were also very interesting. Would they do it for all “the right reasons” or for more personal reasons. As expected the majority was under influence under their shooting interest, and that was the main reason they did measures. But it was closely followed by the wish to help biodiversity. Maybe a bit surprising but very positive, the reason “It makes me feel good” also reached a high score.

The least favorite reason was input from advisors, added value for produce and that the measures was easy to fit in. The reason regarding the advisors raises the question if this is the least favorite because advisors does not prioritize advising about measures for farmland species and biodiversity. This is a priority for the Danish Hunter Association and we carried out a “pilot project” I 2022 to offer education to agricultural advisor about the opportunities to do measures for farmland biodiversity on arable land.

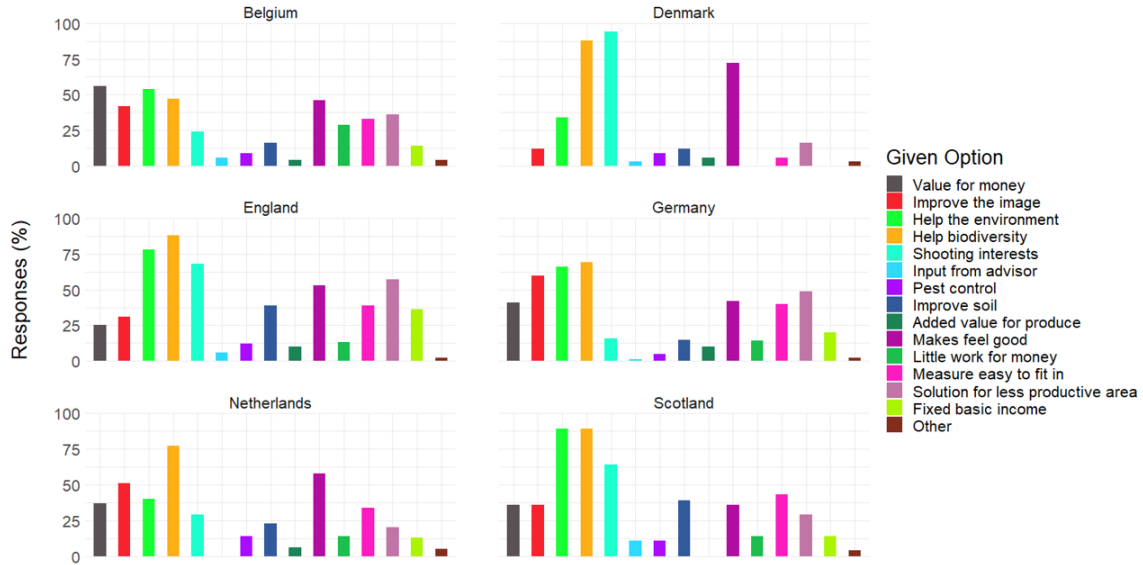
In another question in the survey the respondents were asked what kind of advice they need, and the majority answers that they does not consider advise important and an equal amount of people answer that they does not have an opinion on the matter. This indicates maybe that many consider themselves confident enough to plan their own measures. This will most likely change in 2023, with the new CAP and very different rules. The Danish Hunters Association will continue to identify opportunities to educate advisors about measures that improve farmland biodiversity.

Below it is possible to learn more about selected findings from the survey:

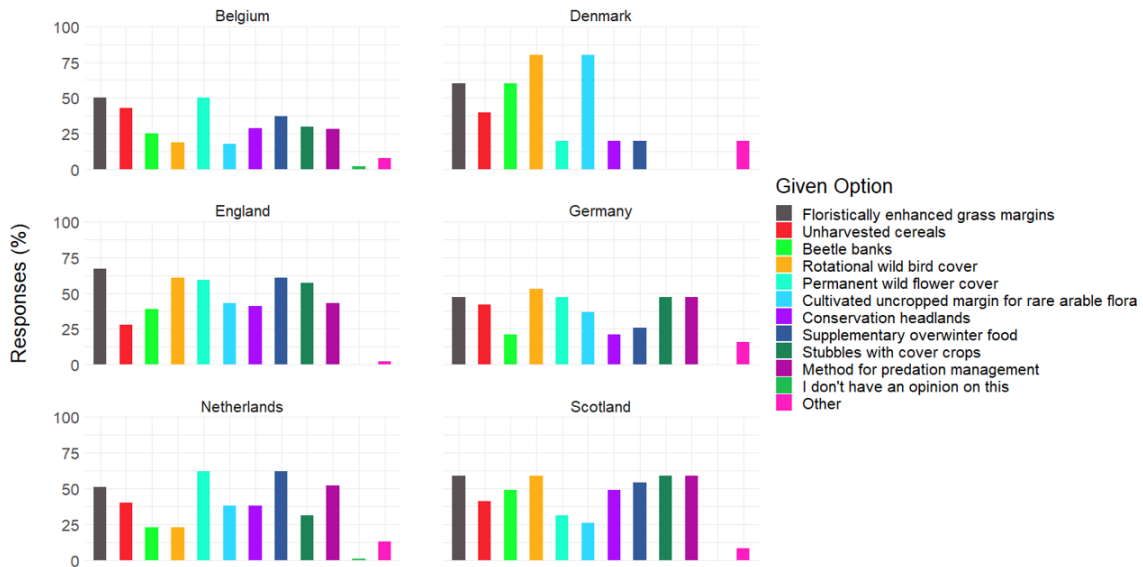




What are the main reasons you have taken up AE schemes for arable farmland wildlife?



What kind of AE options for arable farmland would you choose?(if were possible to have AES)



What kind of advice would you need when entering AE schemes?

