Agrobiodiversity in the "Kempen"-region

chances within CAP?

SAVE-foundation, Biezenmortel **19 sept. 2013**

Outline:

1. **Introduction: Kempen (Campine) as a region**
2. **Low intensity farming: infields – outfields**
3. **Kempen heath sheep and heathlands**
4. **Arable land and crops**
5. **The “Heideboerderij”/ Heathlandfarm as a managament tool for biodiversity –**

   a chance within CAP?

1.De Kempen

the Campine; a sandy plateau on the border of Holland and Belgium

characacteristic architecture …

“Langgevelboerderij”

“Vlaamse schuur”

… characteristic landscapes …

Heide (heathland)

Open / bolle akker (open fields)

… and characteristic breeds

Kempisch Heideschaap

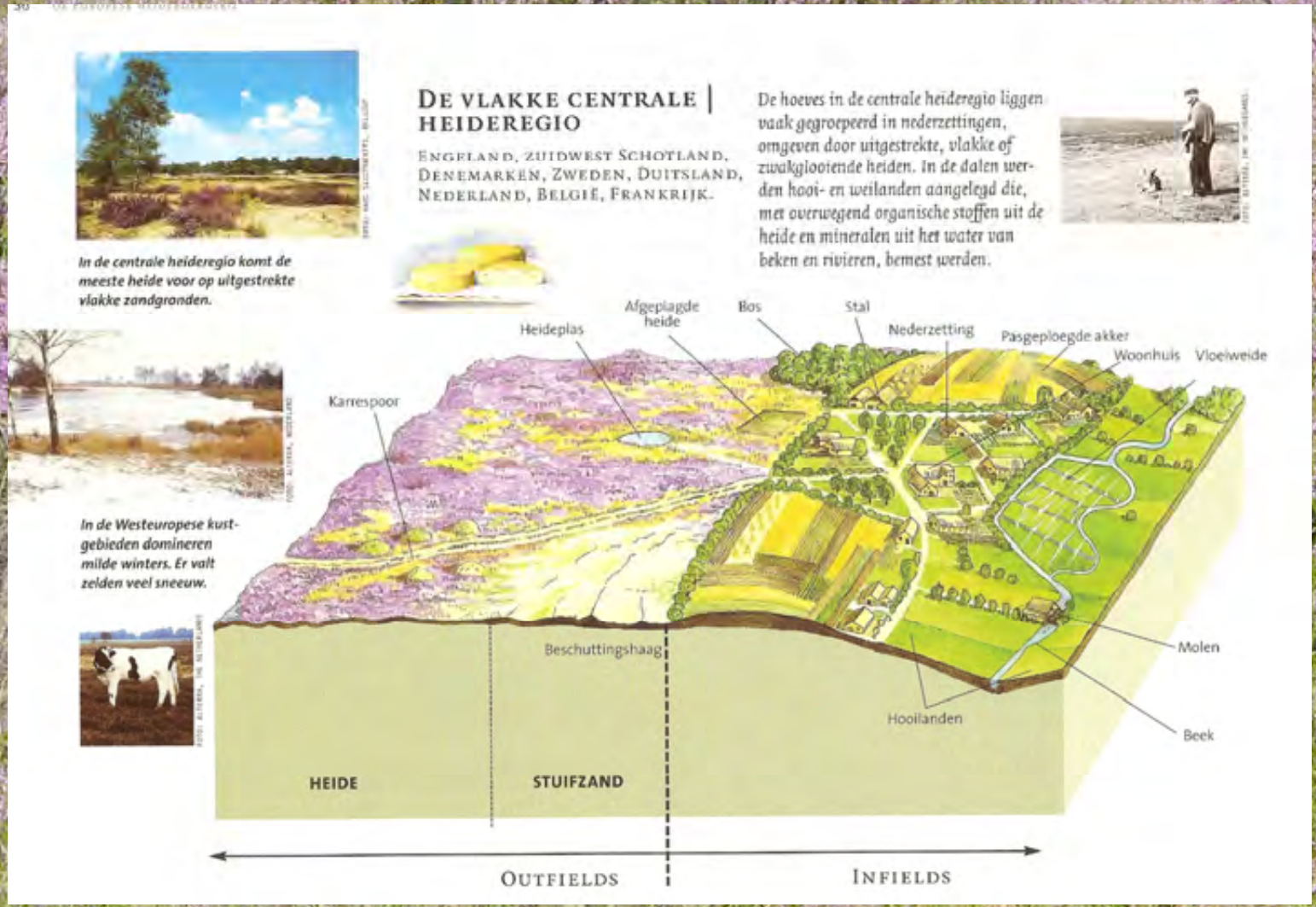
Kempen Heath Sheep

“Kempisch” Hoen

Campine; Chaams Hoen

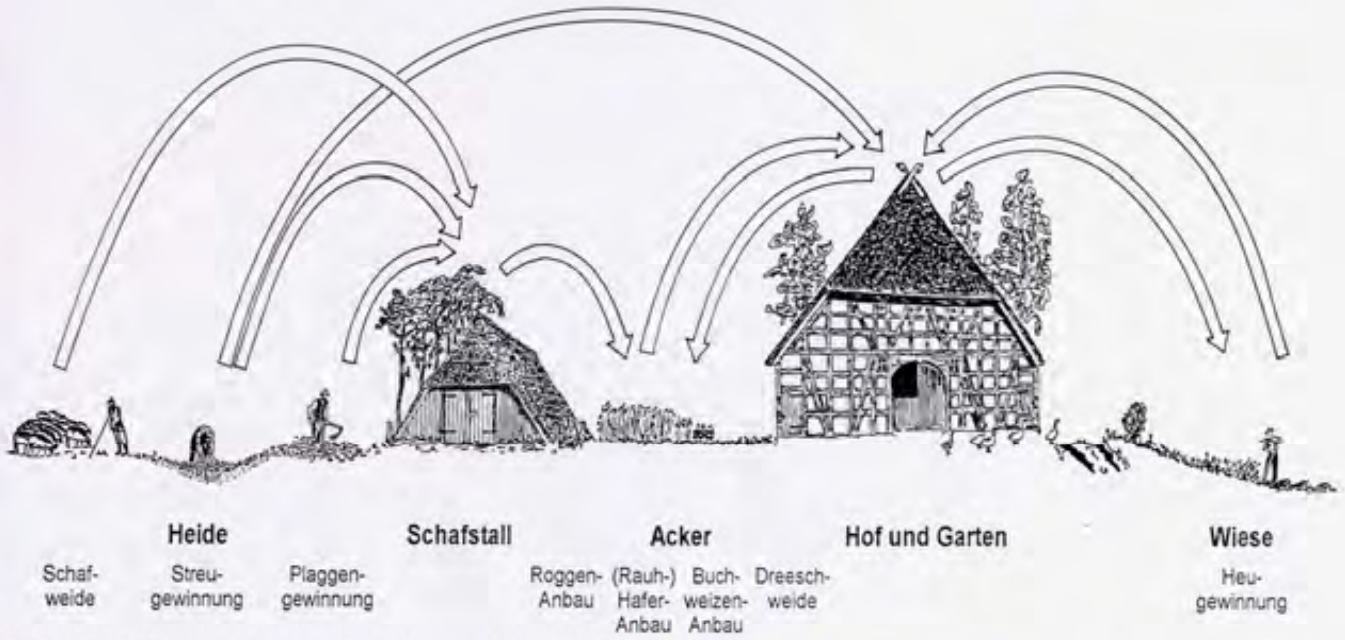
2. **Low intensity farming** heathland-ecosystems:

“Infields” and “Outfields”



Nutrient transfer in traditional heathland farming

Abb. 1: Nährstofftransfer in der historischen Heidebauernwirtschaft



outfield

Rechte Heide, 2004 Podzol

Some red list species (outfields)

Gebogen rendiermos — *Cladina arbuscula*

Beenbreek — *Narthecium ossifragum*

infield

Kwaalburgse Akker

Enkeerd

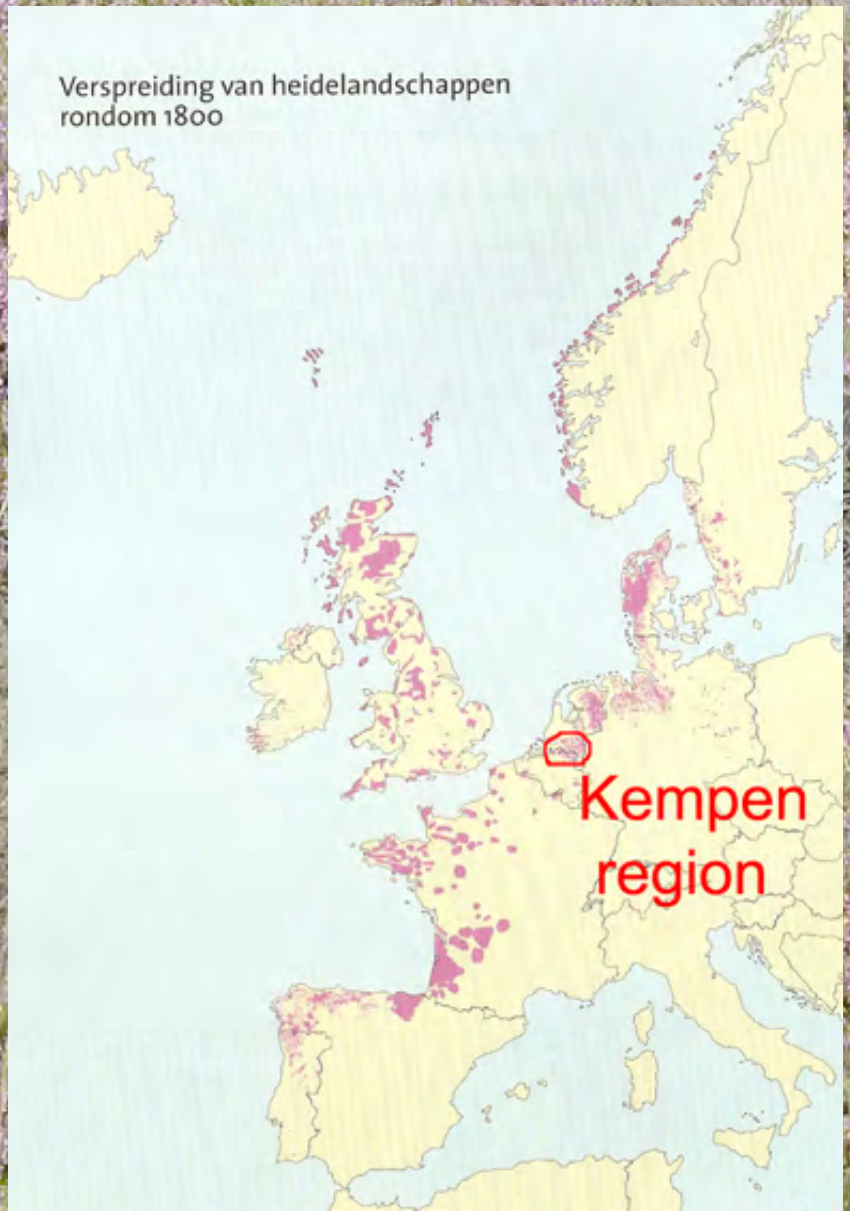
Alphen

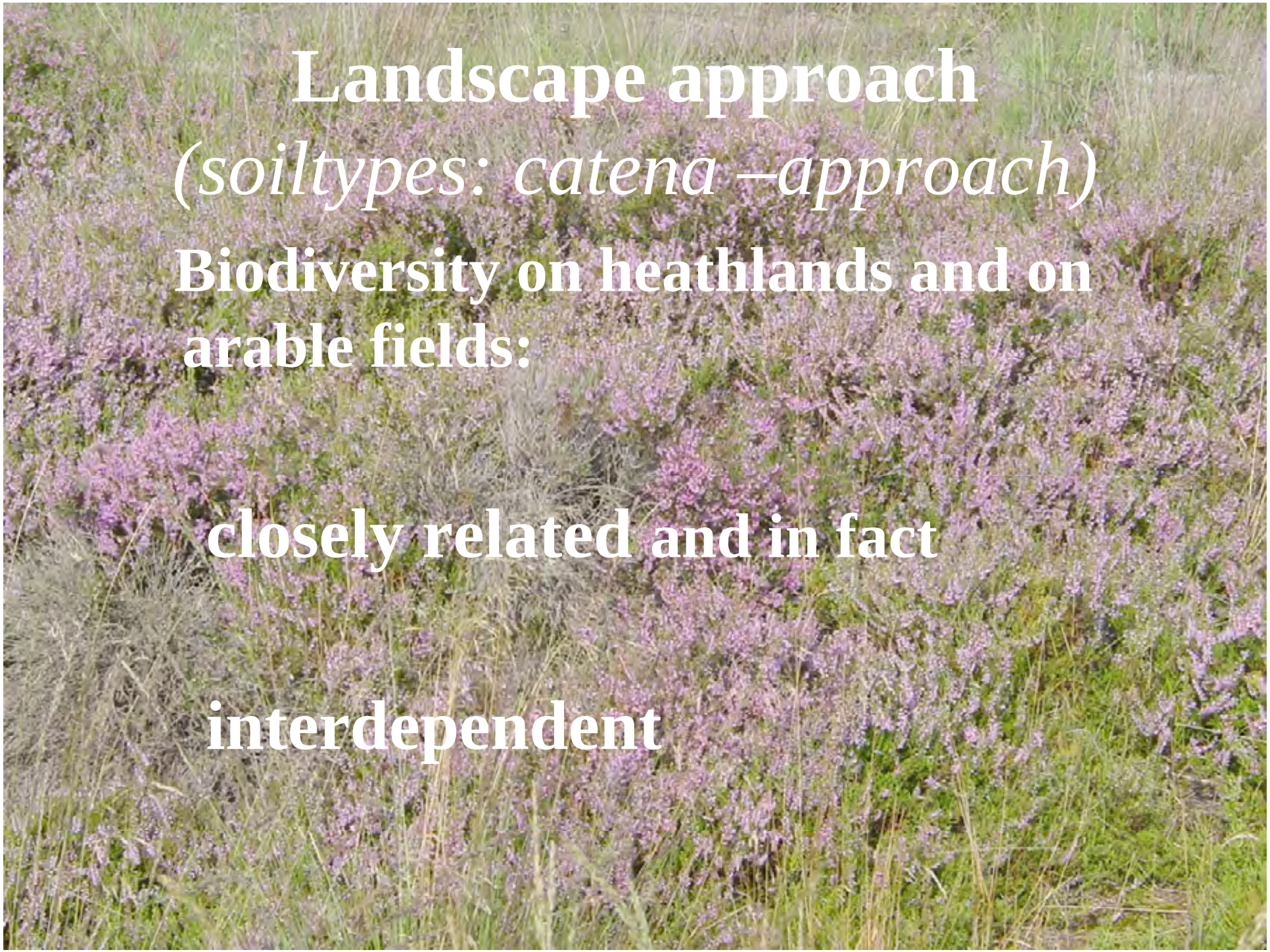
(anthroposol)

Rye *Secale cereale ;* landrace Sintjansrogge

Biodiversity on low input arable fields

Distribution of Heathland and “Plaggen”-soils





Landscape approach

(soiltypes: catena –approach)

Biodiversity on heathlands and on arable fields:

closely related and in fact

interdependent

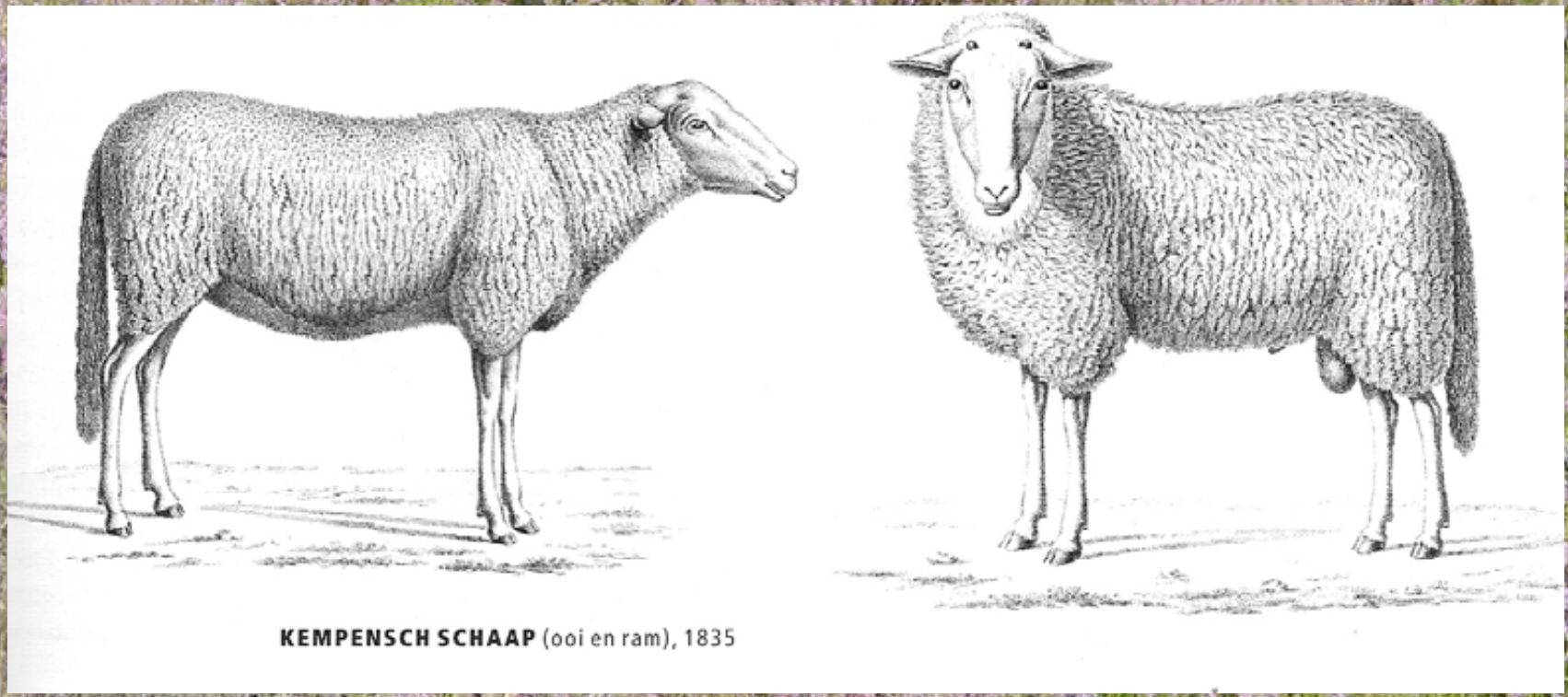
3. Kempen heath sheep and heathlands

Former distribution of landrace Kempen Heath Sheep

Getting acquainted with “het Kempische heideschaap”

Het Kempische Heideschaap

taken from: Numan, 1835



KEMPENSCH SCHAAP (ooi en ram), 1835

Kempische heideschapen

early 19th century

painting by E.-J. Verboeckhoven

Some characteristiscs

Calluna vegetation august / september

Absence of sheep grazing:

degeneration and loss of biodiversity

Martensberg, 2005

Absence of grazing - grazing

Mispeleindse heide 2006

Neterselse heide 2006

Restoration by herded sheep grazing

Mispeleindse heide 2007 and 2012

Stethophyma grossum

4. Arable land and crops

Sintjansrogge *secale cereale*

infield at Leeuwerkeneik

Aalter Troshaver

landrace Oats

Avena sativa

Brabantse Grijze Zandboekweit

Buckwheat

Fagopyrum esculentum

The example of Arnoseris minima

Threatened species of low input rye fields

Grazing infields after harvest

linking together soil- and landscapetypes **Lage Mierde 1915**

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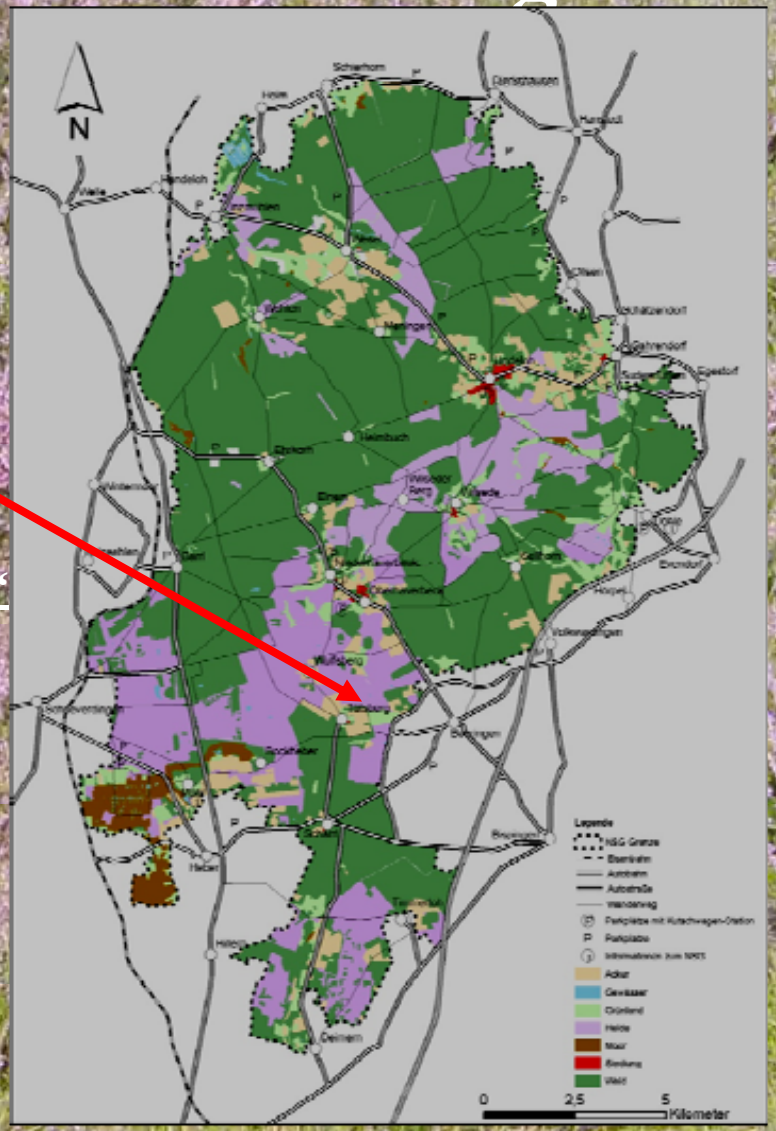
Kempische Heideschapen, 2007 as a tool for integrated management

5. Chances within CAP?
“Landschaftspflegehof Tütsberg”



Landscape management farm „Hof Tütsberg“

400 ha Arale Land,
550 ha Grasland
4000 ha Heathland

6 Flocks of Sheep
6 fulltime, 1 parttime Shepherds
2,5 permanent farm workers
1,2 Farm managers

Landscape Management Farm „Tütsberg“

- **Objectives (a):**

conservation farming (soil, water, air, biodiversity)

-no pesticides

-restricted use of artificial fertilizers

-no irrigation

-Development of a balanced economy

Landscape Management Farm „Tütsberg“ – modern organic farming and habitat management, historical agriculture

Landschaftspflegehof “Tütsberg”

Objectives (b):

- **Reconstruction of traditional heathland farming**
- **Integration of heathland management into the farming concept**
- **Special focus on traditional crop varieties**

Recent management practices in Lüneburger Heide nature reserve

„Plaggen“system

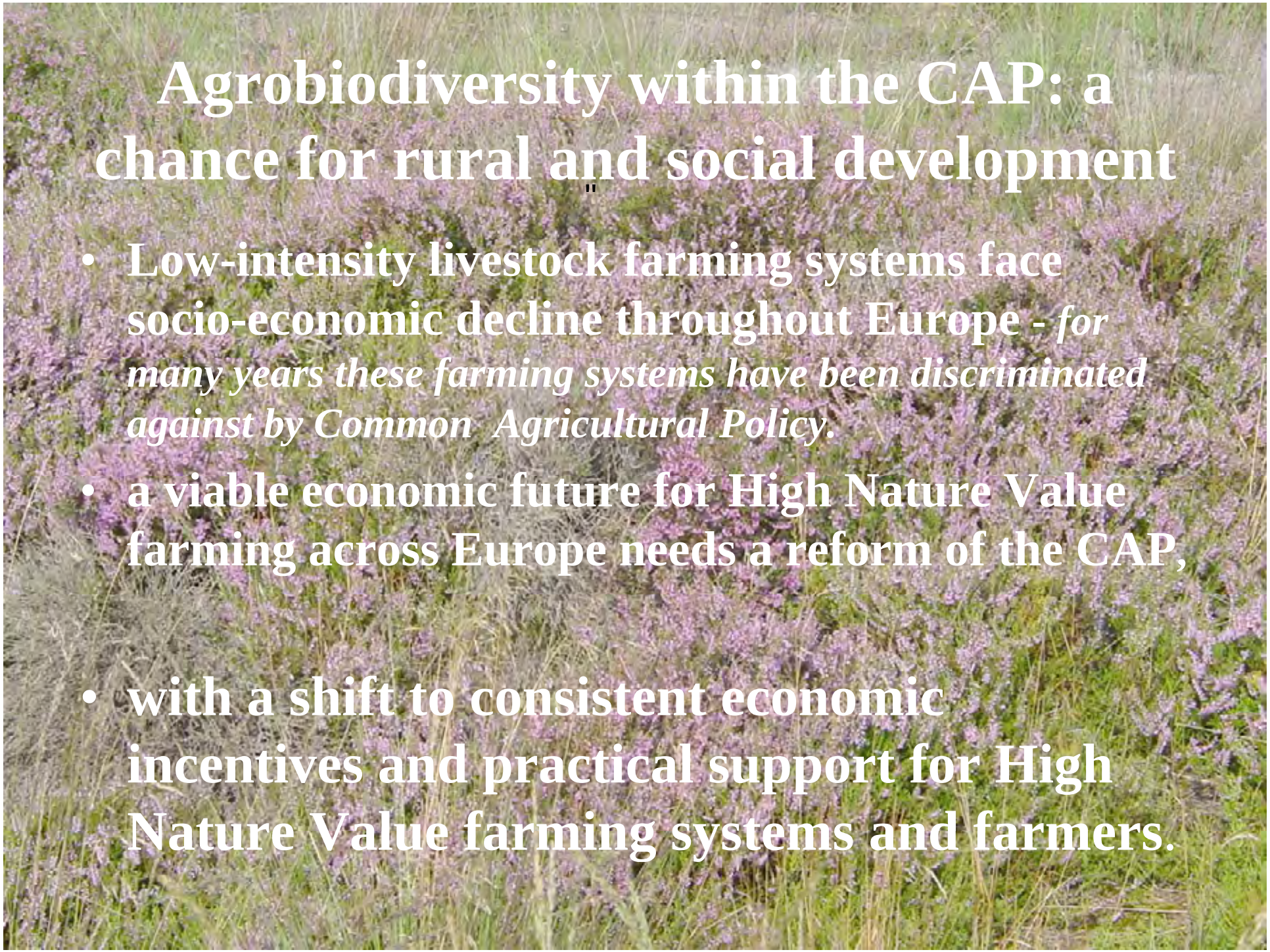
Prescribed burning

Mowing

All-year grazing with Heidschnucken sheep

Low intensity farming
=
High Nature Value farming

- **growing recognition that the conservation of biodiversity in Europe depends on the continuation -- *or: restoration* - of low-intensity farming systems**



Agrobiodiversity within the CAP: a chance for rural and social development

- Low-intensity livestock farming systems face socio-economic decline throughout Europe - *for many years these farming systems have been discriminated against by Common Agricultural Policy.*
- a viable economic future for High Nature Value farming across Europe needs a reform of the CAP,
- with a shift to consistent economic incentives and practical support for High Nature Value farming systems and farmers.

Thank you!