

Agrobiodiversity
in the “Kempen”-region
chances within CAP?

SAVE-foundation, Biezenmortel

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A photograph of a field with numerous purple flowers, likely heather, interspersed with green grass. The text is overlaid on this image.

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 management tool for biodiversity –
a chance within CAP?

1. De Kempen

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



characteristic 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”



In de centrale heideregio komt de meeste heide voor op uitgestrekte vlakke zandgronden.

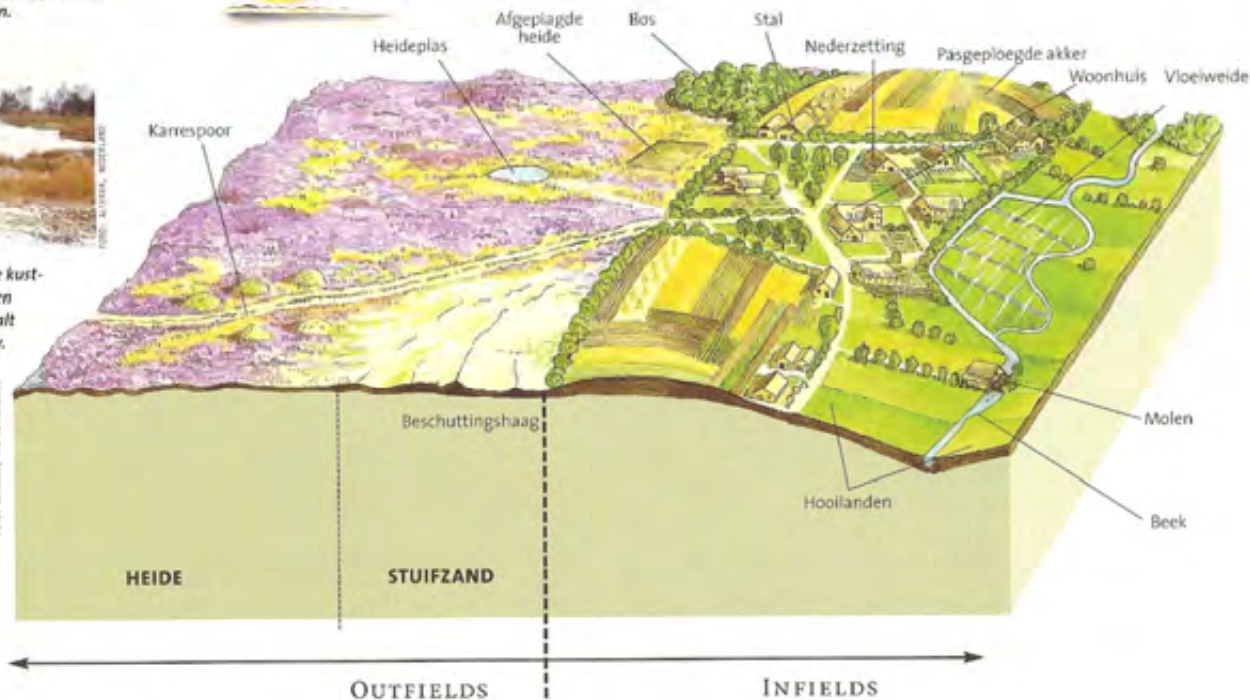
DE VLAKKE CENTRALE HEIDEREGIO

ENGLAND, ZUIDWEST SCHOTLAND, DENEMARKEN, ZWEDEN, DUITSLAND, NEDERLAND, BELGIË, FRANKRIJK.

De hoeses in de centrale heideregio liggen vaak gegroepeerd in nederzettingen, omgeven door uitgestrekte, vlakke of zwakglooiende heiden. In de dalen werden hooi- en weilanden aangelegd die, met overwegend organische stoffen uit de heide en mineralen uit het water van beken en rivieren, bemest werden.



In de Westeuropese kustgebieden domineren milde winters. Er valt zelden veel sneeuw.



Nutrient transfer in traditional heathland farming

Abb. 1: Nährstofftransfer in der historischen Heidebauernwirtschaft

Heide:
Nährstoffentnahme

Acker, Hof und Garten:
Nährstoffanreicherung

Wiese:
z.T. Nährstoffentnahme,
z.T. Nährstoffanreicherung



Heide
Schafweide
Streugewinnung
Plaggengewinnung

Schafstall

Acker
Roggen-Anbau
(Rauh-)Hafer-Anbau
Buchweizen-Anbau
Dreeschweide

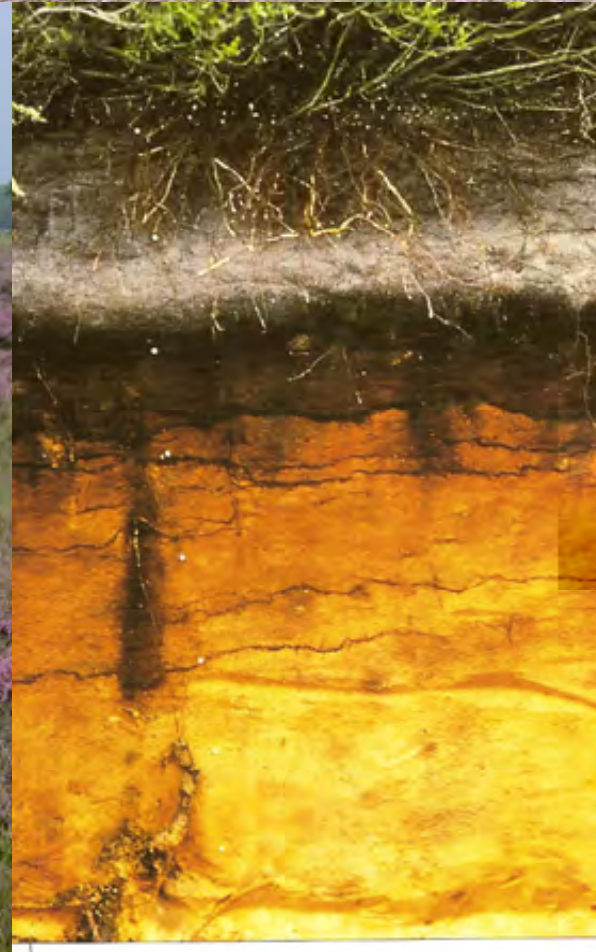
Hof und Garten

Wiese
Heugewinnung

outfield

Rechte Heide, 2004

Podzol



Some red list species (outfields)

Gebogen rendiermos

Beenbreek

Cladina arbuscula

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



A photograph of a field with numerous purple flowers and green grass. The text is overlaid on the image.

Landscape approach

(soil types: 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

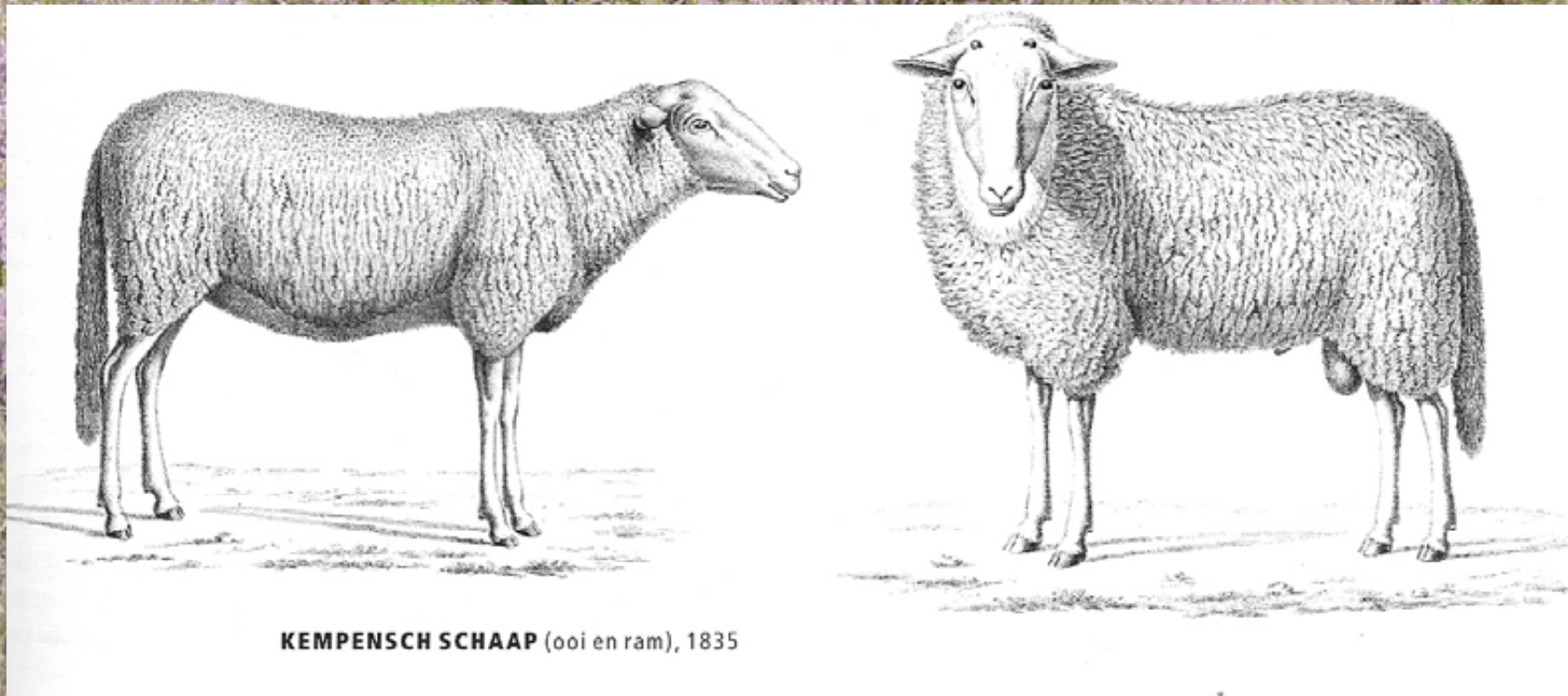


Getting acquainted with “het Kempische heideschaap”



Het Kempische Heideschaap

taken from: Numan, 1835



KEMPENSCH SCHAAP (ooi en ram), 1835

Kempische heideschapen

early 19th century

painting by E.-J. Verboeckhoven



Some characteristics



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



Kempische Heideschapen, 2007 as a tool for integrated management



5. Chances within CAP?

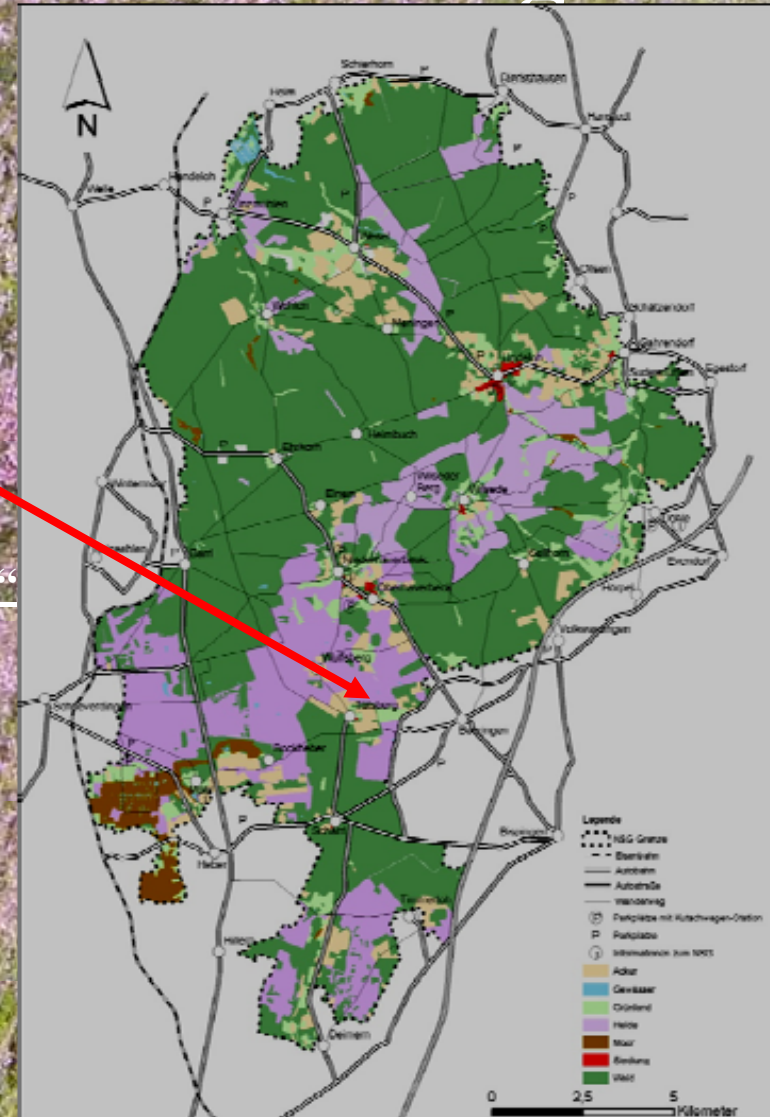
“Landschaftspflegehof Tütsberg”



Landscape management farm „Hof Tütsberg“

400 ha Arable 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



A photograph of a field with numerous purple flowers, likely lavender, interspersed with green grass. The text is overlaid on this image.

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**



A photograph of a field with numerous purple flowers, likely heather, interspersed with green grass. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

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!

