

Farm animal genetic resources and social values




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Indigenous breeds

- Developed “naturally”
- Wide variety of values:  Cattle owners
Economic, ecological, social, cultural, political,
ethical

Dilemma: production vs. breed conservation



Multifunctional agriculture

- Farms with nature, recreation, care, organic
- Less production, more breed conservation?





Green care farms

Definition

Farms where people with care needs can spend the day or can participate in farm-related activities such as feeding animals, gardening and cultivating fruit and vegetables

Target groups

- Elderly people (with dementia)
- Mentally disabled people
- Psychiatric patients
- Autistic children



Country	Number of farms
The Netherlands	720
Norway	700
Italy	350
Germany	300
Austria	250
Flanders	140
Slovenia	15

Important agricultural function

Small care function

"Genuine" farm

Increase of adjustments, facilities and attendance

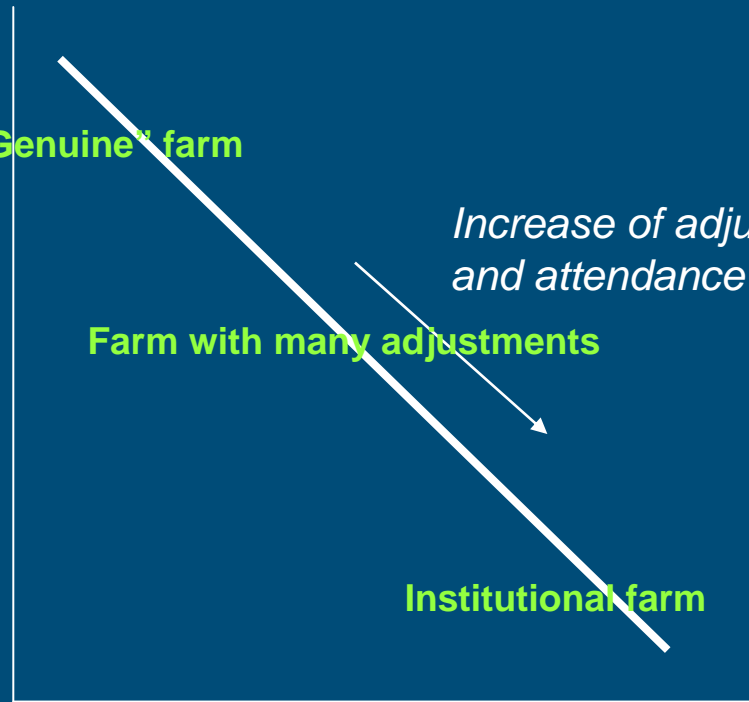
Farm with many adjustments

Small agricultural function

Big care function

Institutional farm

Number of clients



The study

- Questionnaire to 872 green care farms
- 210 respondents
- Breeds, number of animals, motivations



Results

	# of breeds
Care farmers	210
Cattle	27
Sheep	25
Goat	11
Horse	30
Chicken	41
Pig	14
Rabbit	25



Results



Species	# of farms	# of farms breeding
Rare Cattle breeds	78	50
Rare Sheep breeds	40	27
Rare Horse breeds	20	2
Rare Chicken breeds	120	35
No rare breeds	76	nd
Total	210	



Results

Rare Dutch Cattle breed	# animals at green care farms	Total # in Netherlands (2007)	%
Groningen White Headed	183	2366	7.7
Deep Red	213	454	46.9
Friesian Red & White	84	200	42.0
Dutch belted	97	1200	8.1
White back	38	60	63.3
Dutch Friesian	472	3500	13.5
Meuse-Rhine-Yssel	169	15000	1.1



Results

- Sheep:

Mergelland sheep 5% and Black blazed 8 % of national population at green care farms

- Horses:

1- 2 % of populations of Gelderland horse, Groningen horse and Dutch Draught horse at green care farms

- Chicken:

Substantial populations of Barnevelder (561), North Holland blue fowl (208), Dutch bantam (83) and Lakenvelder fowl (66)



Results

	Agriculture-oriented farms (> 40 LU)	Care-oriented farms (< 40 LU)
# of farms	41	132
Total # of breeds	71	173
Total # of rare breeds	24	38



Results

■ *Motivations:*

Rare breeds for care:

- *Appearance,*
- *behaviourial characteristics,*
- *rareness*



Discussion/conclusion

- *Diversity*
- *Potential breeding goal: appearance and “care” behaviour*
- *Breeding not (yet) farmers’ interest*
- *General trend among non-production animal keepers:*
 - *less interest in exhibitions and shows,*
 - *more interest in exotic species*



Discussion/conclusion

Social function of animals positive for rare breed conservation

New breeding goals

Make farmers aware of the need for breeding

Care farms are good for biodiversity!



Thanks for your attention!

