

# French livestock systems facing the new context of market and policy

## Suckler cow farms: diversity, challenges & opportunities

Christophe Perrot, Patrick Sarzeaud  
Institut de l'Élevage

idele.fr

EAAP

Session 48. Cattle production  
in a changing policy environment in Europe  
2013 09 28



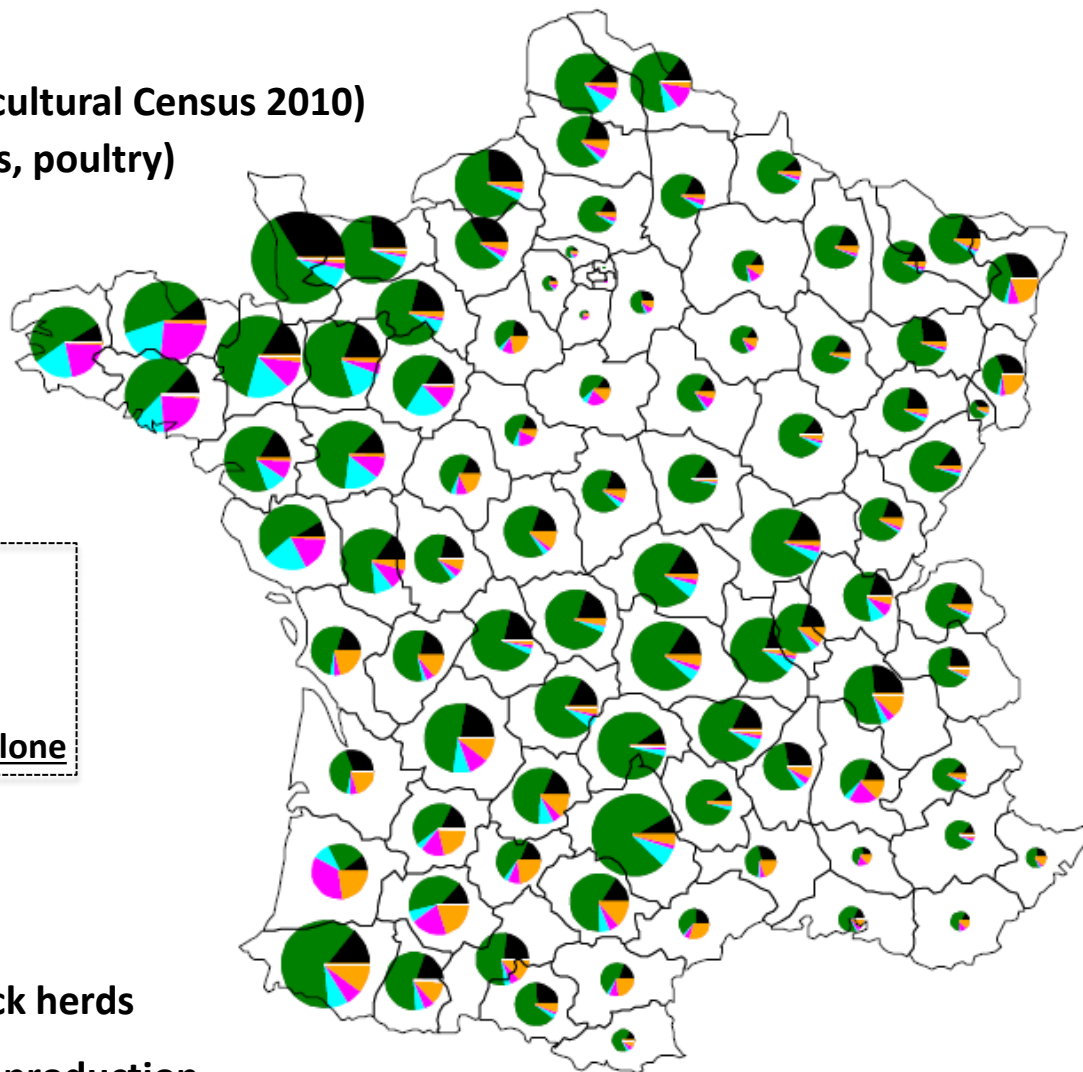
**291 000 (59%) of the farms (Agricultural Census 2010) have animals (grazing livestock, pigs, poultry)**

**219 000 farms**  
**With significant herd size**  
**In every region:**

- ◆ **179 000 Grazing livestock alone**
- ◆ **20 000 mixed**
- ◆ **20 000 Pigs poultry (or veal finishing ) alone**

+

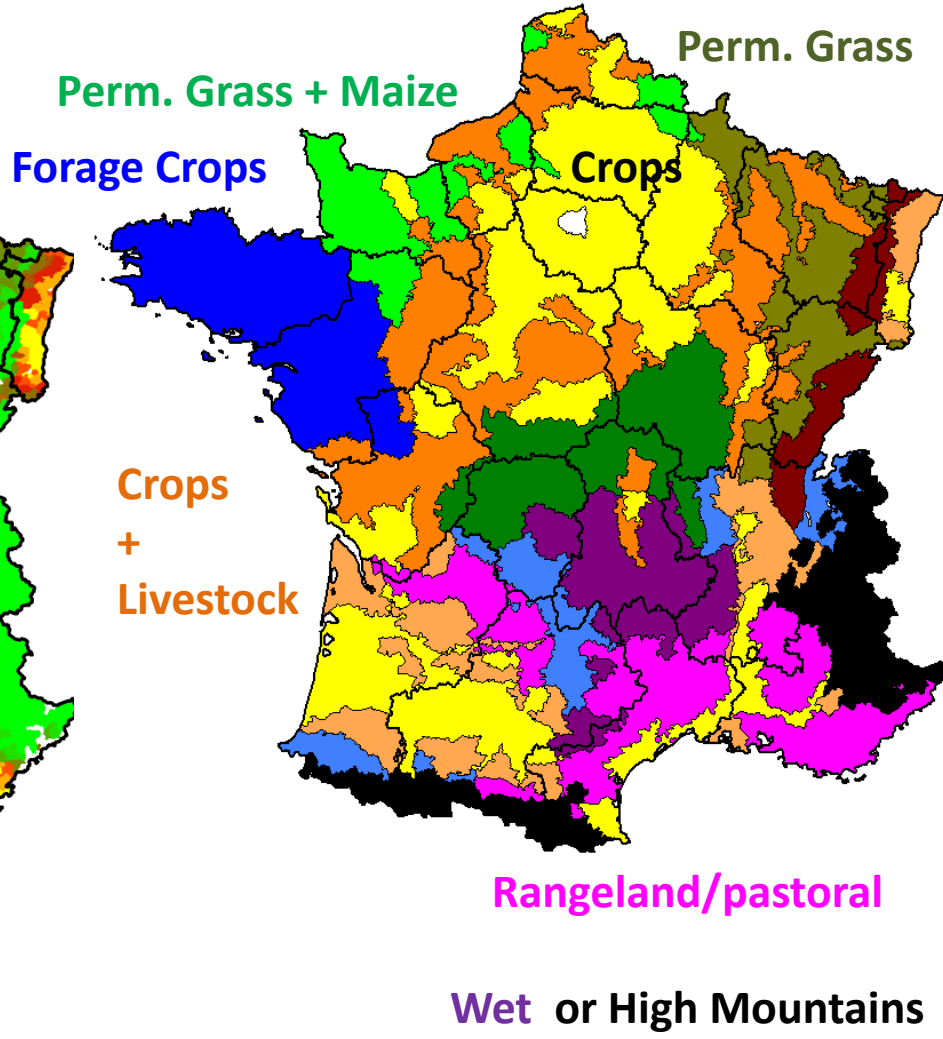
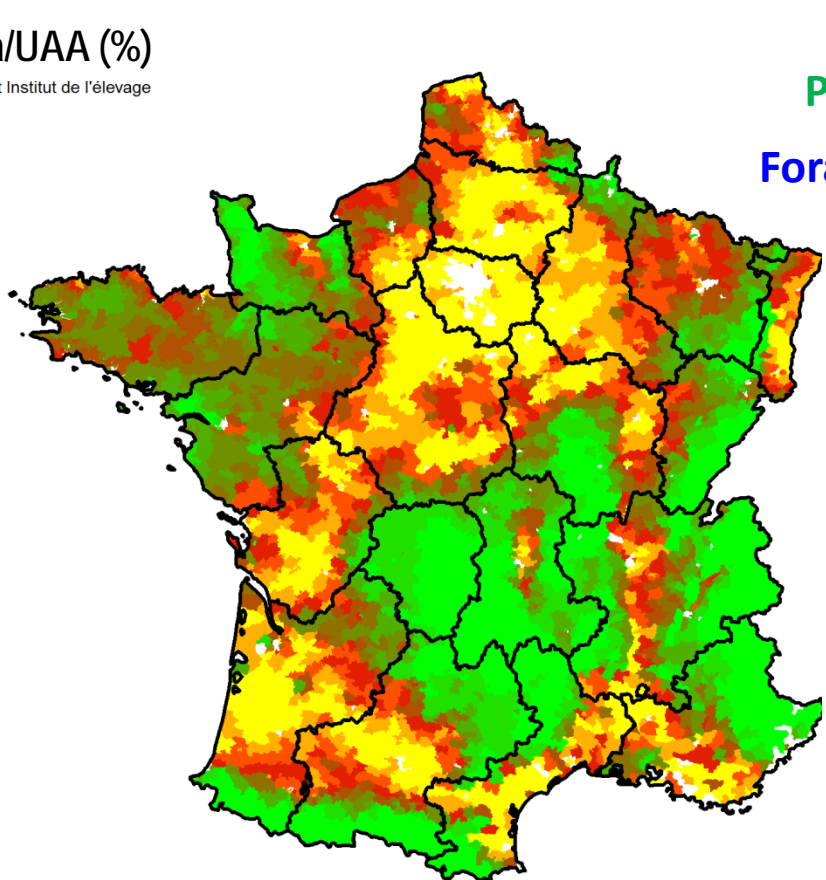
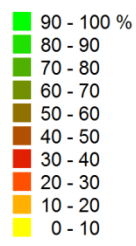
- ◆ **54 000 very small grazing livestock herds**
- ◆ **17 000 very small pigs or poultry production**



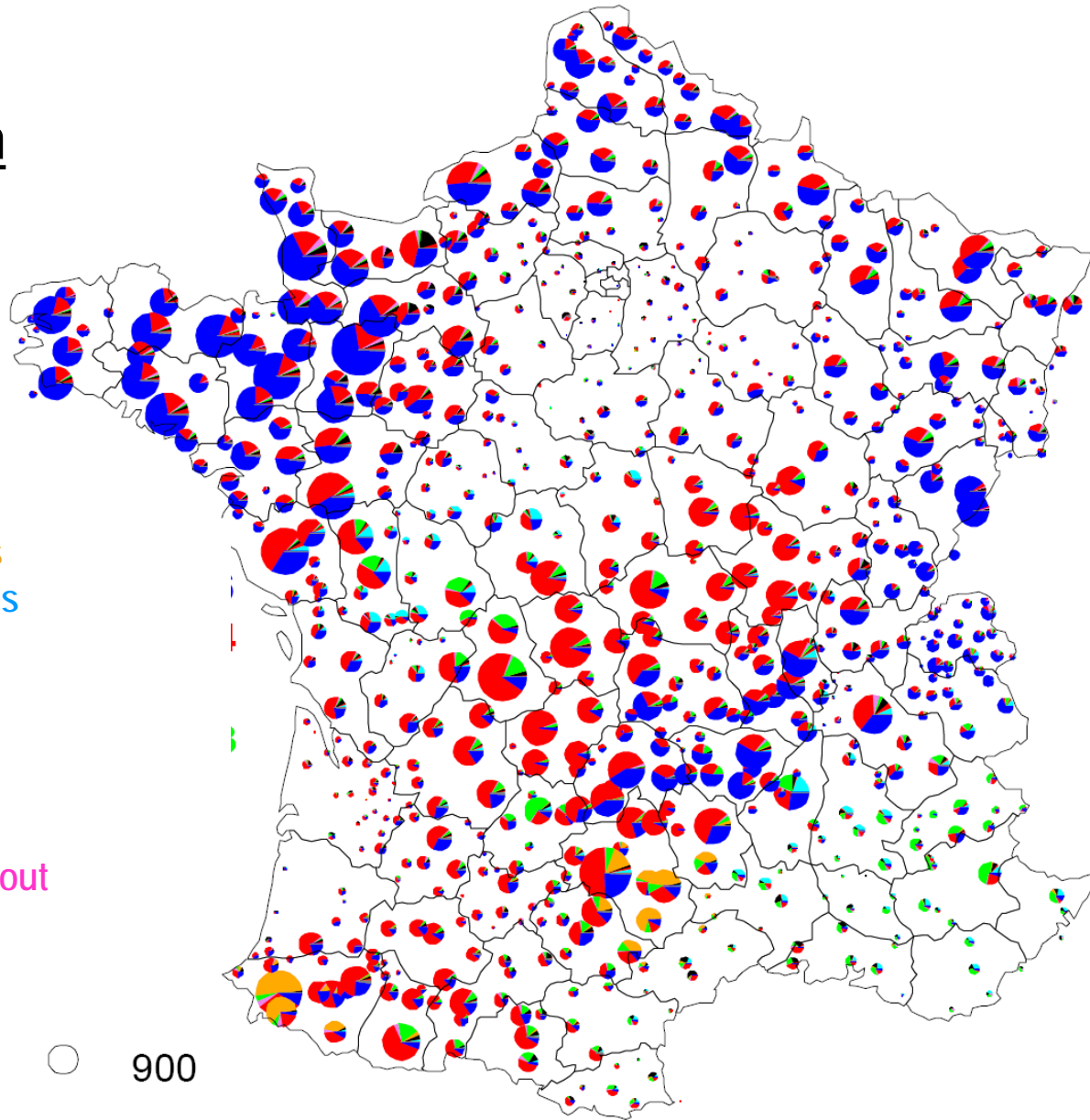
# Forage area/UAA : 46.5 % (2010; -0.2% /2000)

## A mosaic of contrasted territories (soil, climate, agriculture& chains, socio-economic)

Forage area/UAA (%)  
 Agreste RA2010 - traitement Institut de l'élevage



199 000 farms with significant grazing livestock



- 4 879 Dairy Sheep Farms
- 6 894 (Dairy) Goats Farms
- 75 636 Dairy cow farms
- 7 944 Horse farms
- 5 239 Beef fatenning
- 82 124 Suckler cow farms
- 11 853 Sheep farms
- 4 132 Mixed & small without dominance

○ 900

idele.fr

Source : Agreste recensement agricole 2010 – traitement Institut de l'Elevage, IFIP, ITAVI

# Suckler cow production in France

- A fragmented and heterogeneous production

With very strong economic and territorial impacts

- A core of farms heavily involved in the production

With Full time & specialised suckler cow farms, an exceptional situation in Europe

Slower & irregular growth since 2000, more difficult? (labour, funding, profitability, technical performances, regulations) .

Heavy consequences on farm economic (because input costs & investment costs grow faster)

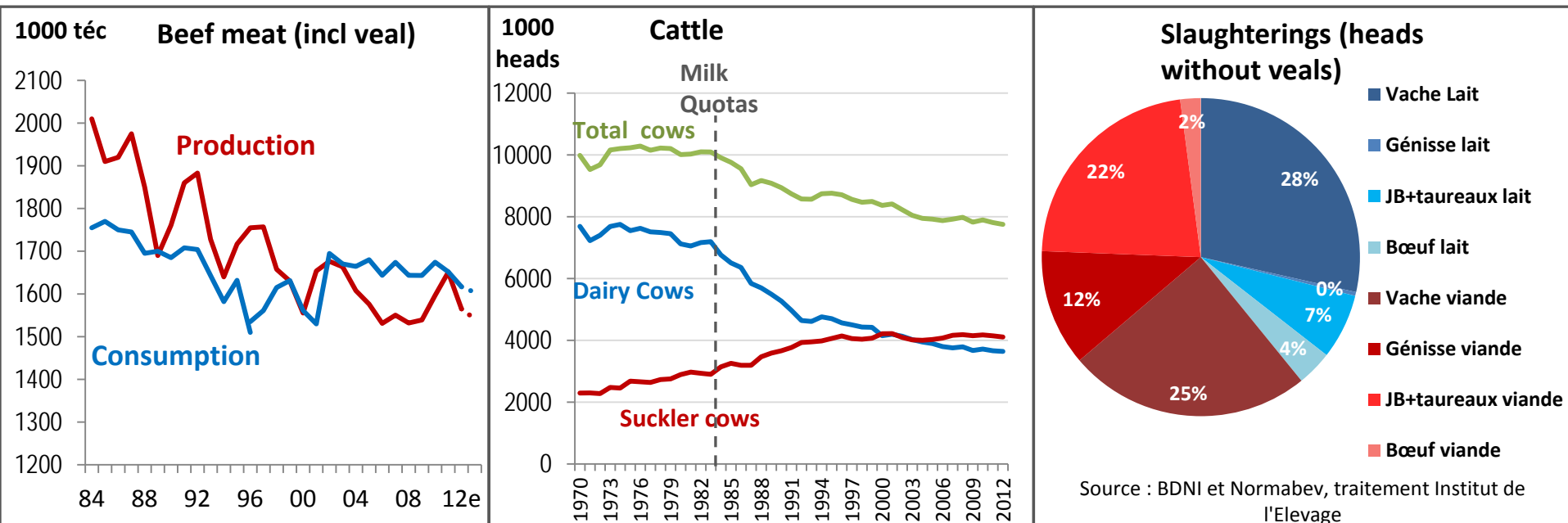
Territorial implications (Disadvantaged areas, mountain, mixed crop&liv., competition between products, milk-beef conversion, ...)

Faced with an aging population of farmers

A “growth crisis” for a particular pattern of production system ?

Role of agricultural policies

# Suckler cow herd supports French Beef production



## ➤ Beef meat production (between 1995-1999 and 2008-2012 )

- France: -7%, EU15: -9%
- **2/3 production = beef or cross breeds in France (2/3 dairy in EU)**
- 61% of slaughterings in 2012 (65% of tons)
- Up from 54% en 2005

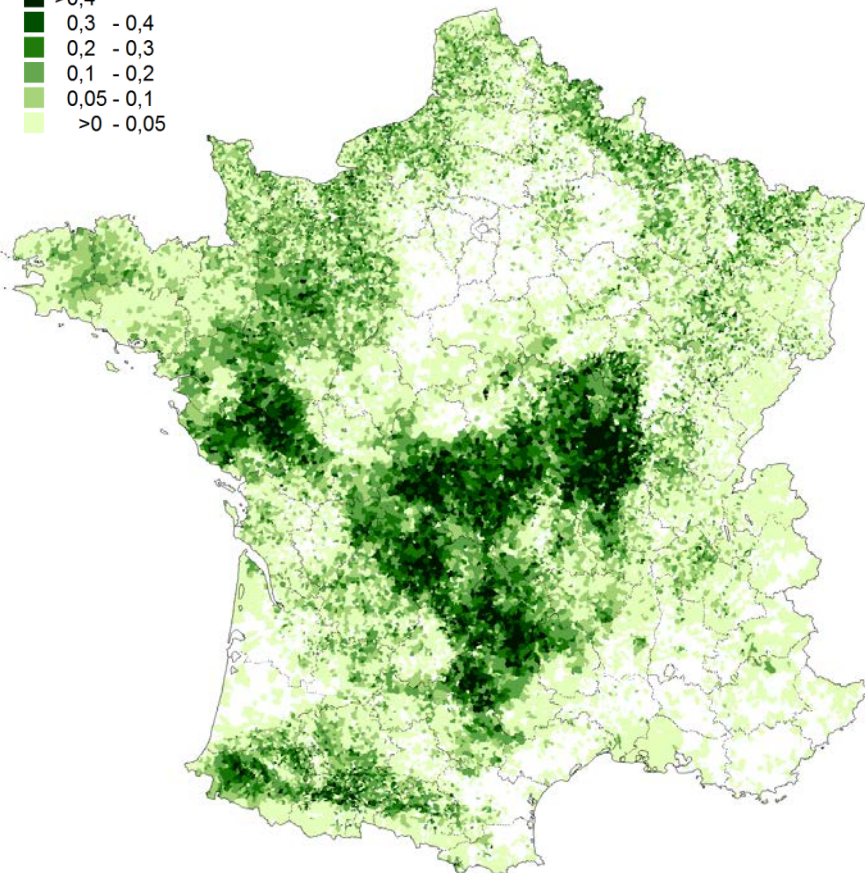


# 4 099 789 suckler cows (RA2010).

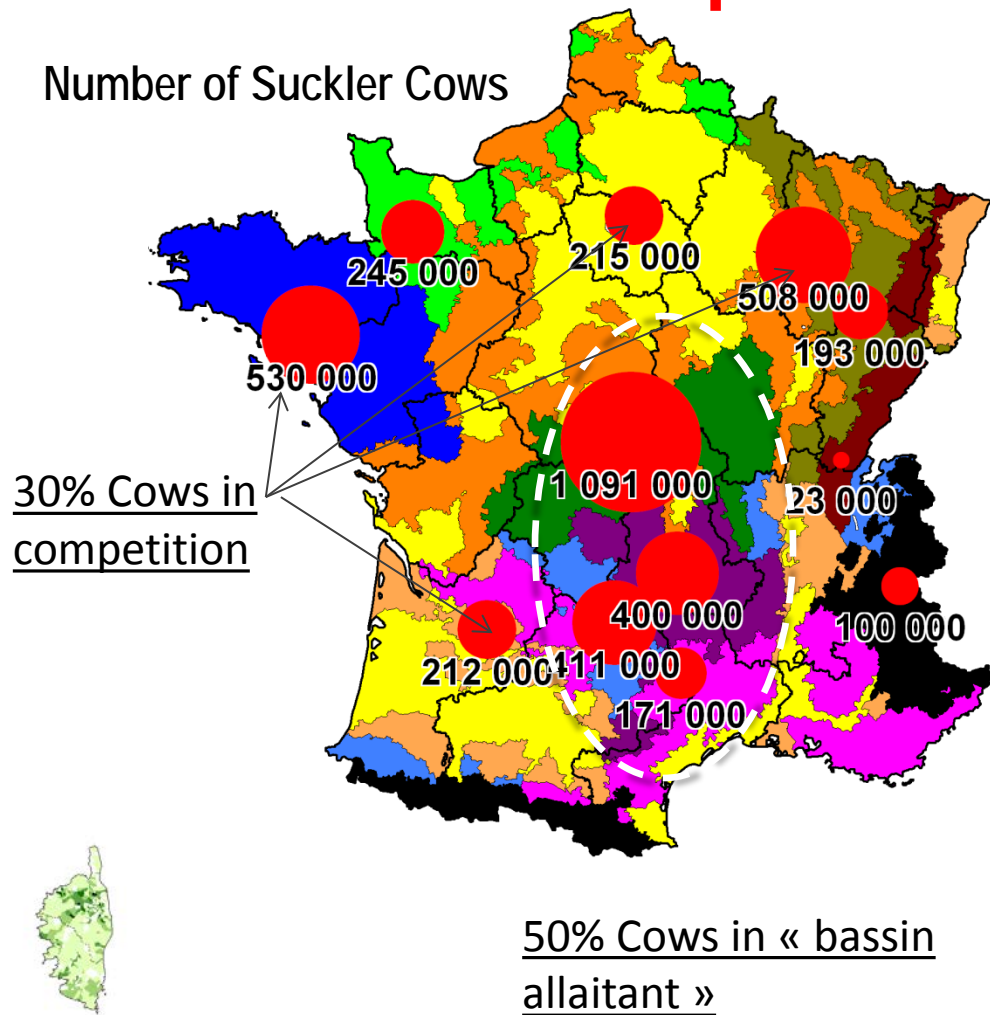
Density Suckler Cows/ha  
(BDNI2010- traitement Institut de l'Elevage)

## Territorial concentration and dispersion

- >0,4
- 0,3 - 0,4
- 0,2 - 0,3
- 0,1 - 0,2
- 0,05 - 0,1
- >0 - 0,05



Number of Suckler Cows



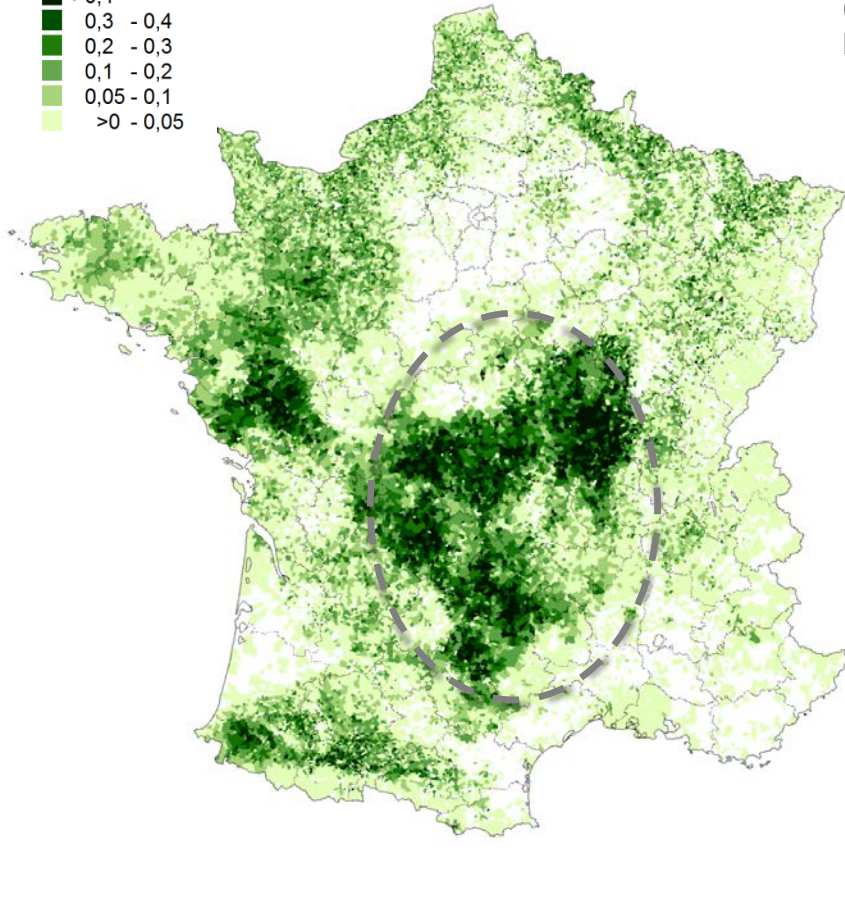


# A key role in valorization

## of permanent grassland of Massif Central

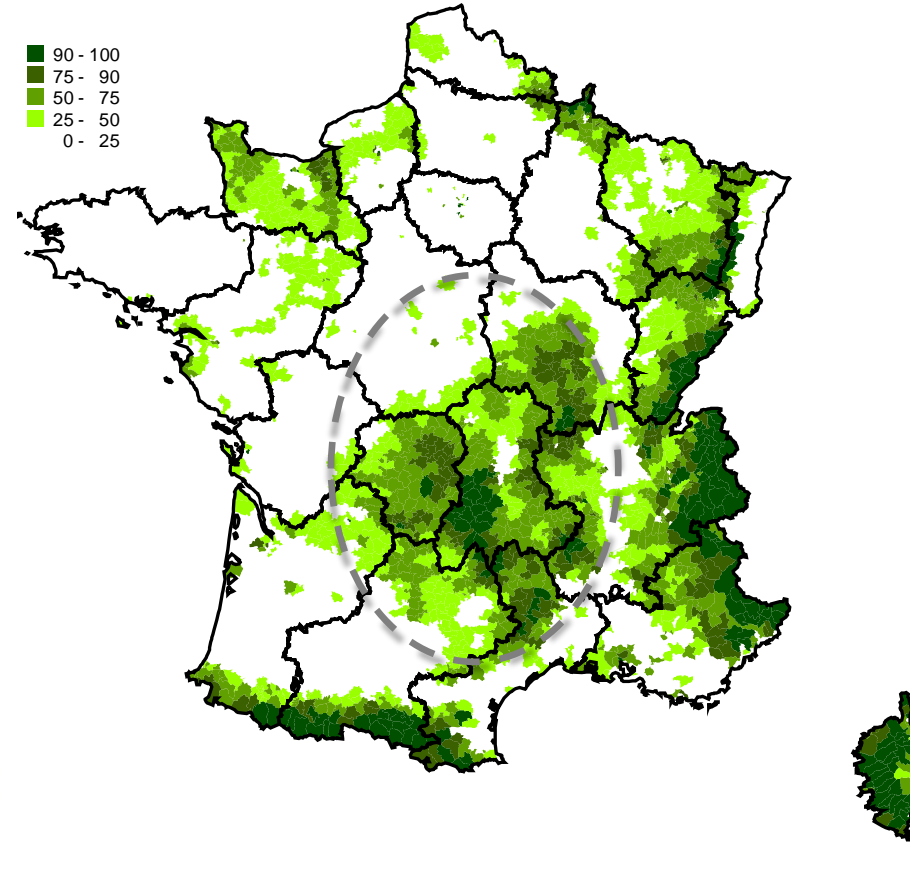
Density Suckler Cows/ha  
(BDNI2010- traitement Institut de l'Élevage)

- >0,4
- 0,3 - 0,4
- 0,2 - 0,3
- 0,1 - 0,2
- 0,05 - 0,1
- >0 - 0,05



% Permanent Grassland/UAA  
(Agreste RA2010- traitement Institut de l'Élevage)

- 90 - 100
- 75 - 90
- 50 - 75
- 25 - 50
- 0 - 25



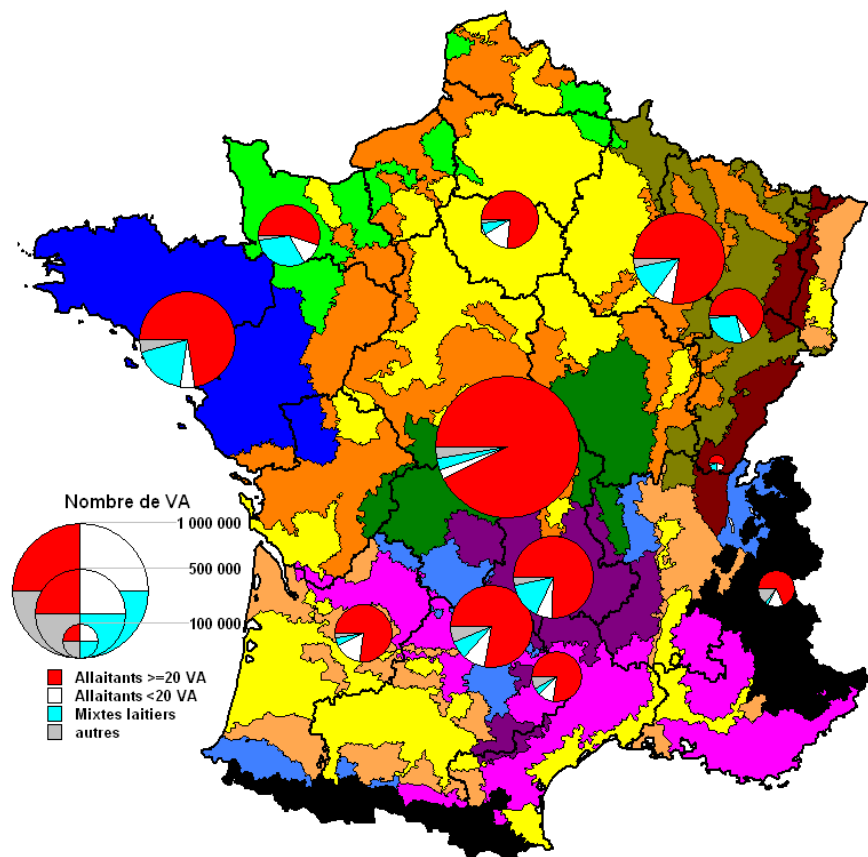




# 4 099 000 Suckler Cows (RA2010) in 121 200 farms

type	Number of farms	
<b>Suckler &gt;=20 cows</b>	<b>56 900</b>	<b>47%</b>
Suckler <20 cows	25 300	21%
Mixed dairy	19 600	16%
Others (mostly sheep & goats farms)	9 500	8%
Very smal herds (<5cows,..)	9 900	8%
	<b>121 200</b>	<b>100%</b>

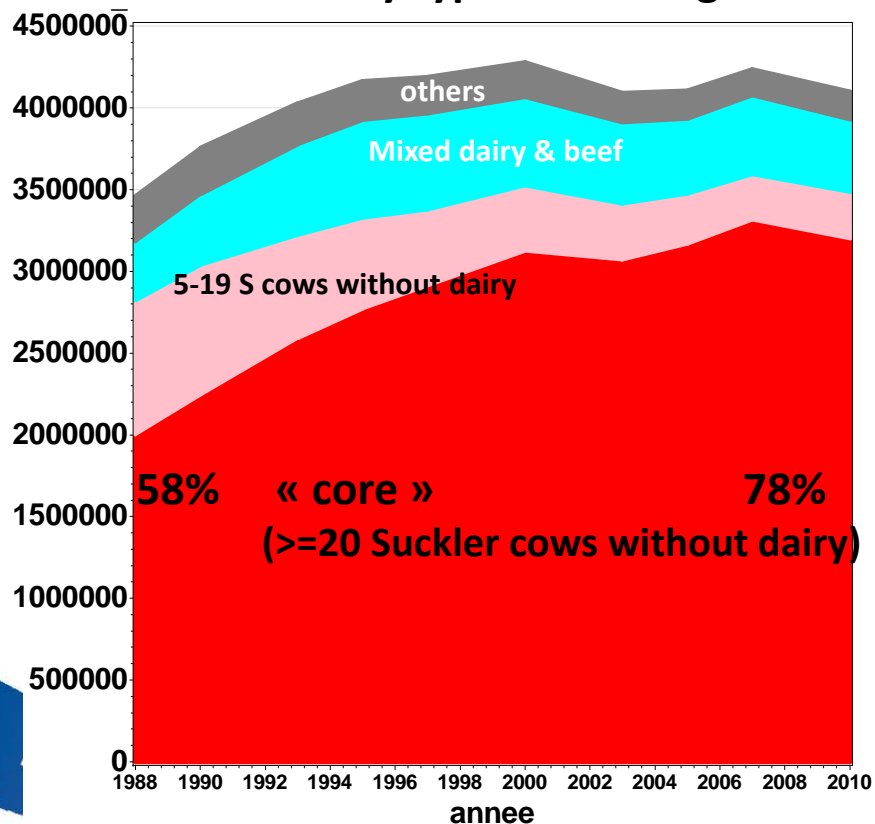
Répartition VA par type d'exploitations	Number of Suckler cows		number cows per farm
	total		
<b>Suckler &gt;=20 cows</b>	<b>3 206 000</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>56.4</b>
Suckler <20 cows	284 000	7%	11.2
Mixed dairy	444 000	11%	22.7
Others (mostly sheep & goats farms)	143 000	3%	15.0
Very smal herds (<5cows,..)	23 000	1%	2.3
	<b>4 100 000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>33.8</b>



Source: Agreste recensement agricole 2010 – traitement Institut de l'Élevage

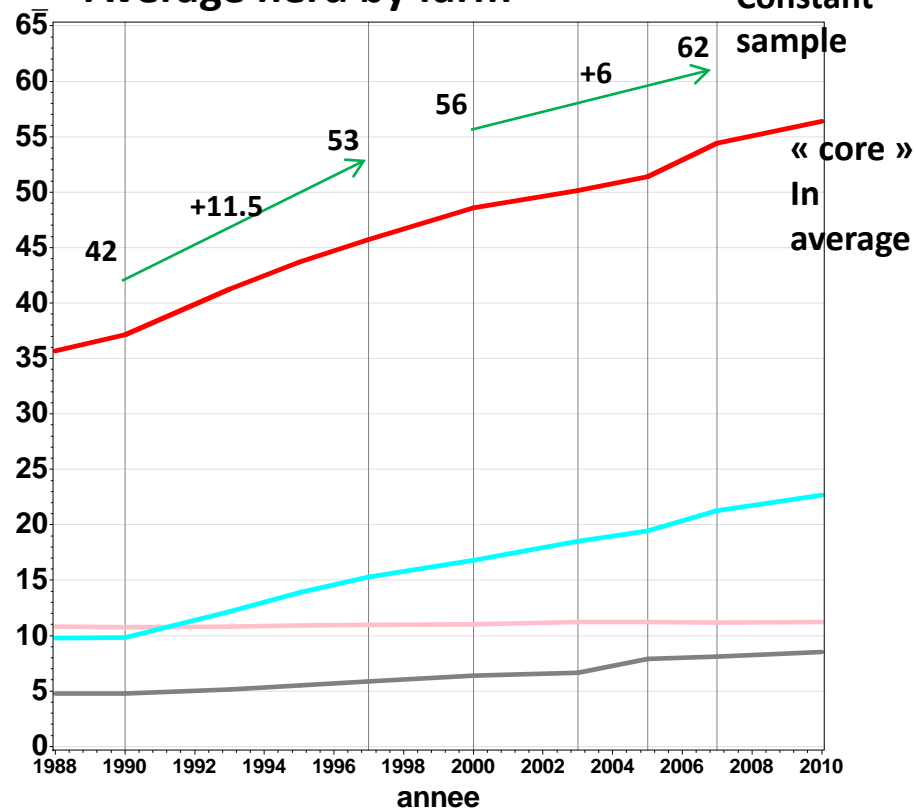
## Structuration of the sector In the '80 '90

Suckler cows:  
Total herd by type of farming



## Slower / Irregular growth in the '2000

Suckler cows:  
Average herd by farm

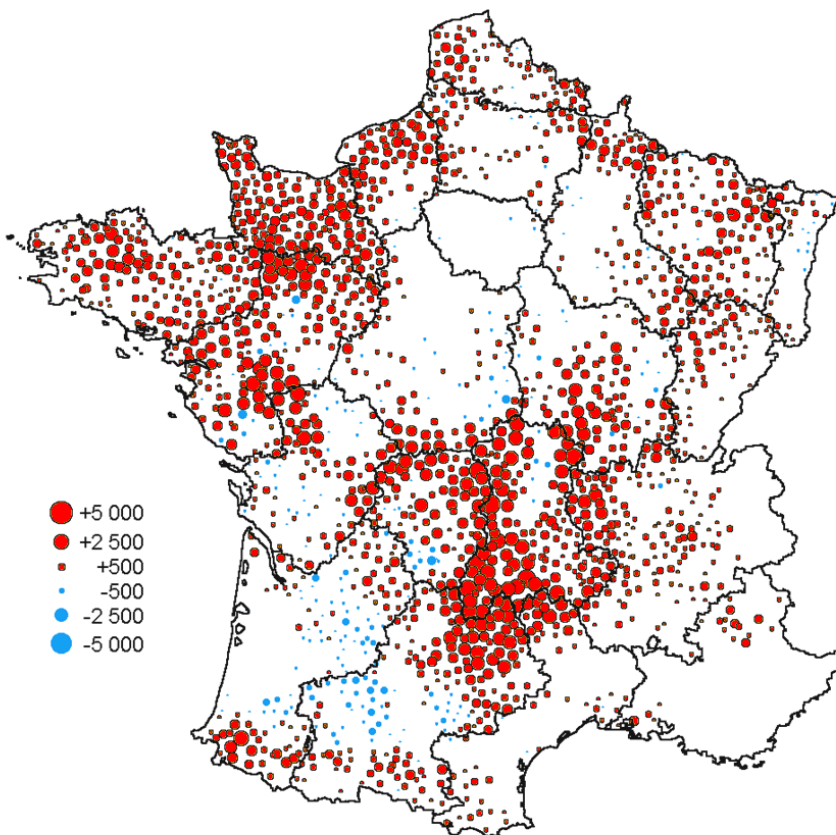


Source: Agreste enquête structures et RA2010 – traitement Institut de l'Elevage

## Evolution of Number of suckler cows

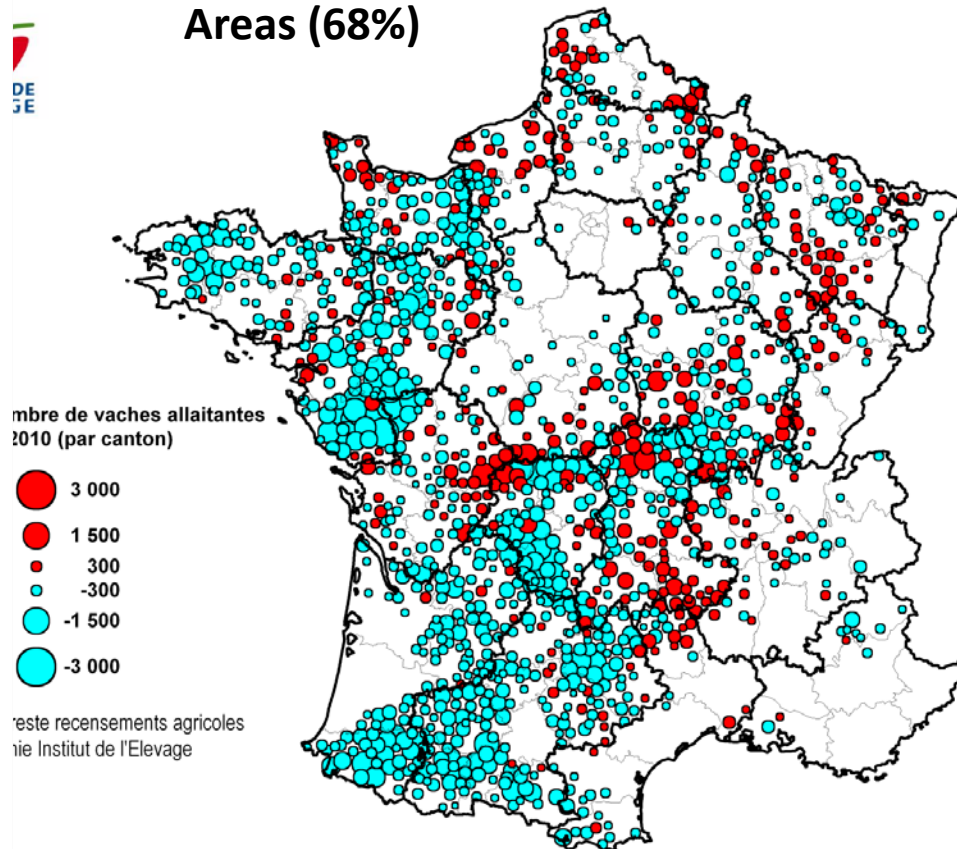
1988-2000

Geographical expansion



2000-2010

Back to the Less Favoured Areas (68%)



Dairy Cows -> Suckler cows

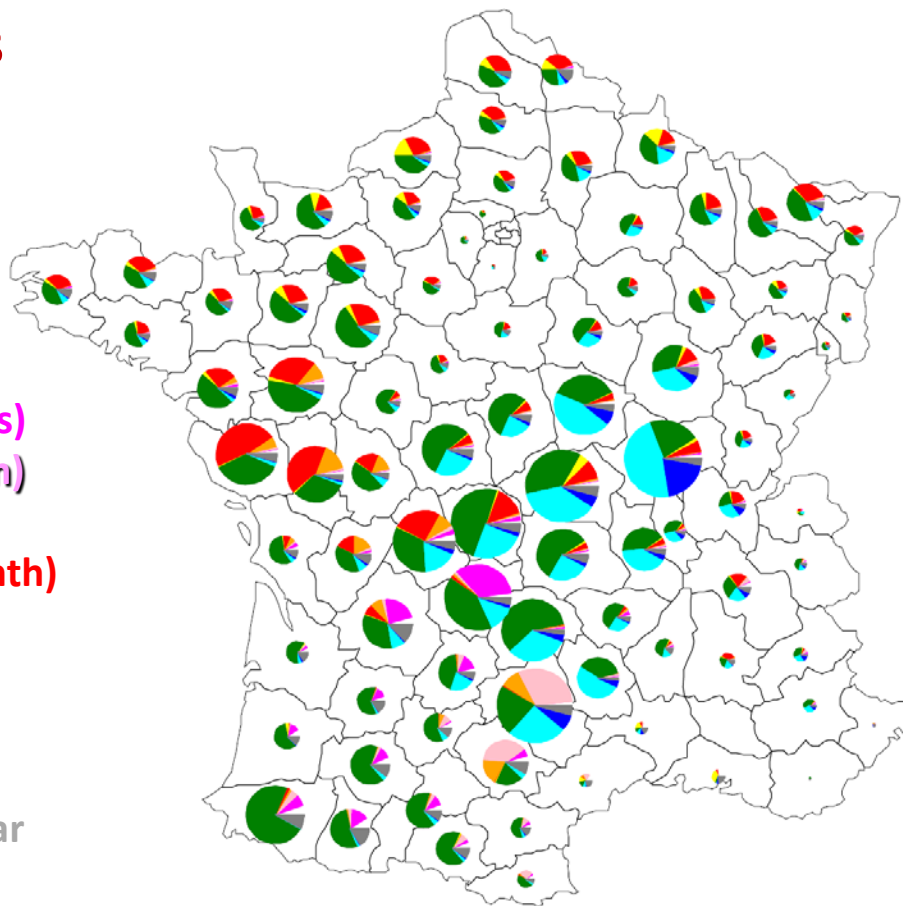
Sheep -> Suckler cows

Suckler cows -> Crops

# Diversity of cattle farming systems And localized supply chains

56 042 suckler cows farms  
(>20 cows without dairy) (BDNI 2010)

- 8% 2 140 Rear. & fattening veal (<6 months)
- 2 198 Rear. & fattening heavy veal (7-9 m)
- ) 1 772 R&F young bulls (<1 year)
- 19% 7 672 R&F classical young bulls (18 months)
- 1 232 R&F steers
- 23 975 R young weaner calves (10 m)
- 64% 9 897 R weaner calves (10-14m)
- 2 005 R (>14m)
- + 5151 indéterminés (<0.5 naissances par vache, ou non typés)

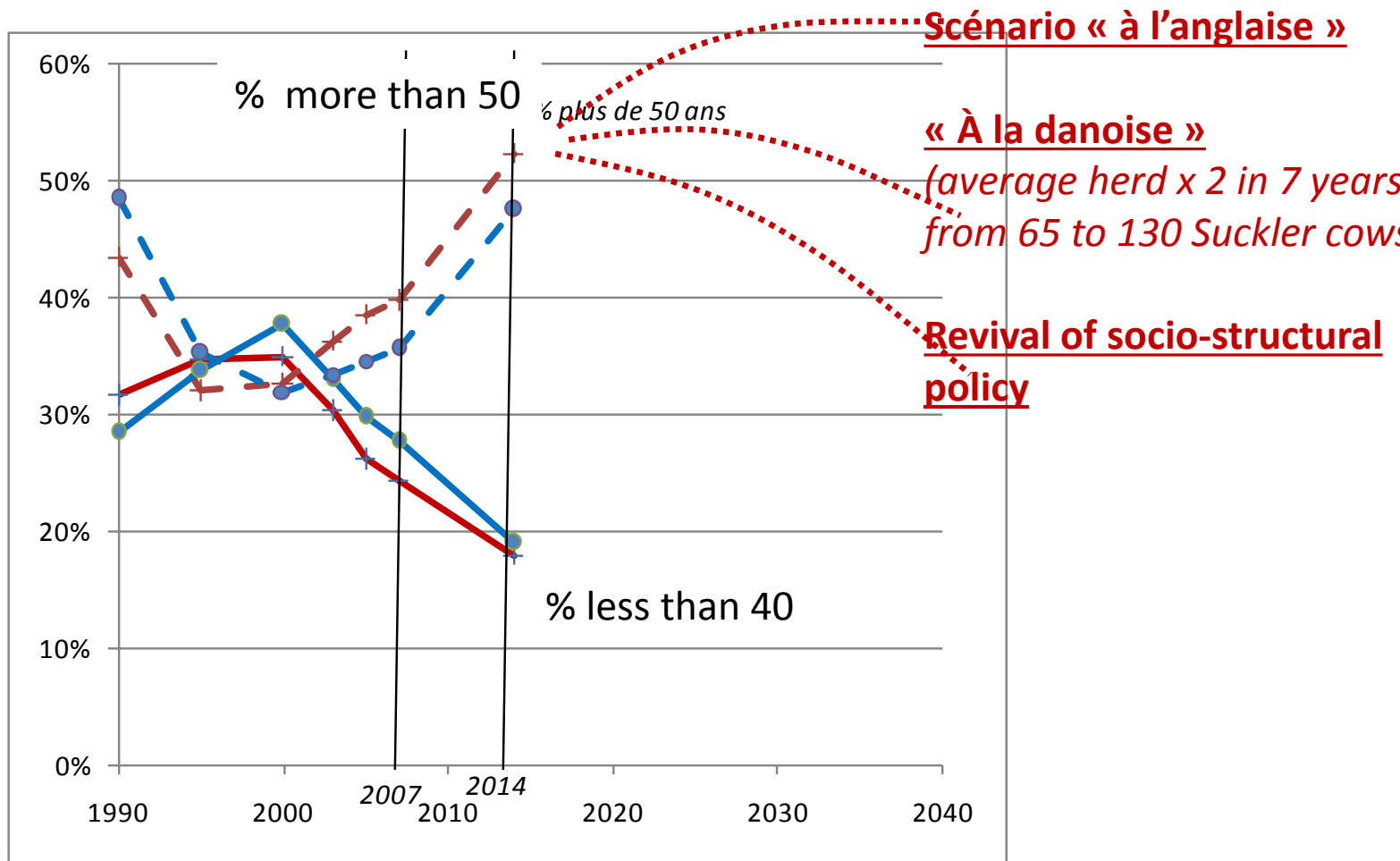


80%  
Of  
weaner  
calves  
exported

Cattle rearing without fattening: 64% farms (1988) -> 71%(2000) -> 73% (2010)

## Evolution % farmers aged less than 40 and more than 50

for Dairy farmers (VL) and Suckler cow farmers (>20 cows).



Source : Agreste enquêtes structures – traitement Institut de l'Élevage

# Conclusion

- Facing with an aging population of farmers:
  - Land freezing ?
  - Accelerated restructuring?
  - Revival of socio-structural policy?
  - Slow extensification?
  - Significant reduction of livestock on arable land?

## Role of agricultural policies:

- Coupling/decoupling. CAP 2014: a turning point
- incentive to produce driven by output prices insufficient for 1/3 beef farms (especially in LFA)
- Total Decoupling is not an answer
  - To “save” livestock systems facing cost inflation & volatility. Livestock -> crops a one way ticket
  - To get public goods provided by livestock farming in LFA
- LFA support scheme
- Grass based systems, mixed crop&livestock (27% of the most involved farms)
- Investment (barn) & young farmers support (Gross Income/Capital 3 times less than for crop production)



(56 900 exploitations x 56.4 VA),  
une minorité de grandes exploitations



▶ 6 000 exploitations avec plus de 100 VA (x1.6 /2000)

▶ 1 400 à plus de 150 VA (x2 /2000)

▶ 400 à plus de 200 VA (x2 /2000)

▶ Poids prépondérant de la zone herbagère charolais limousin (quartile sup 91 VA, décile sup 124 VA) contre 63 VA et 88 VA dans les autres zones [ny dur]

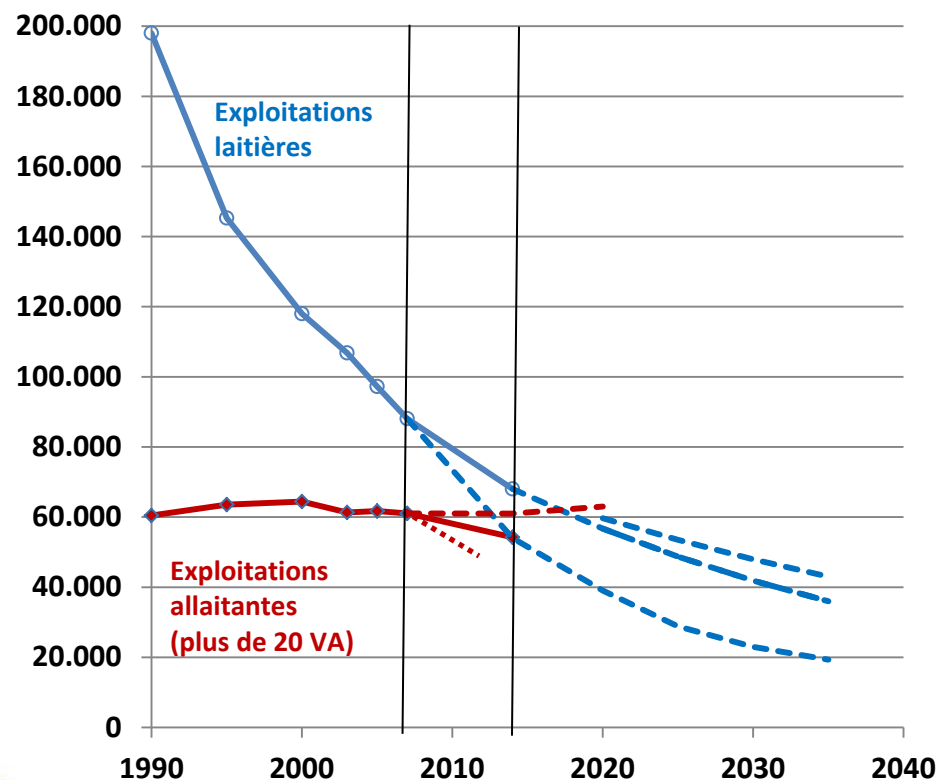


## Un rôle essentiel des plus de 60 vaches dans la stabilisation du cheptel.

nb de brebis par atelier	détenteurs_2000	2010		brebis viande_2000	2010	
<50	65 525	32 240	-51%	807 000	449 000	-44%
50-150	11 796	9 214	-22%	1 012 000	765 000	-24%
150-450	8 875	6 757	-24%	2 283 000	1 760 000	-23%
450-750	1 314	1 272	-3%	721 000	699 000	-3%
750-1000	218	233	7%	183 000	195 000	6%
>1000	144	202	40%	194 000	275 000	42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>87 872</b>	<b>49 918</b>	<b>-43%</b>	<b>5 200 000</b>	<b>4 143 000</b>	<b>-20%</b>
nb de VA par atelier	détenteurs_2000	2010		vaches allaitantes_2000	2010	
<5	30 907	17 574	-43%	75 000	42 000	-44%
5-20	58 377	36 013	-38%	632 000	404 000	-36%
20-60	59 580	46 106	-23%	2 091 000	1 680 000	-20%
60-100	14 413	15 513	8%	1 050 000	1 168 000	11%
100-150	2 986	4 624	55%	346 000	546 000	58%
>150	642	1 370	113%	120 000	260 000	117%
<b>Total</b>	<b>166 905</b>	<b>121 200</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>4 314 000</b>	<b>4 100 000</b>	<b>-5%</b>

source: Agreste recensements agricoles 2000 et 2010 - traitement Institut de l'Élevage

# Evolution du nombre d'exploitations laitières et **allaitantes de plus de 20 VA**



Source : Agreste enquêtes structures – traitement Institut de l'Élevage

➤ Restructuration à guichet fermé / Reconversions compensatrices (zone)

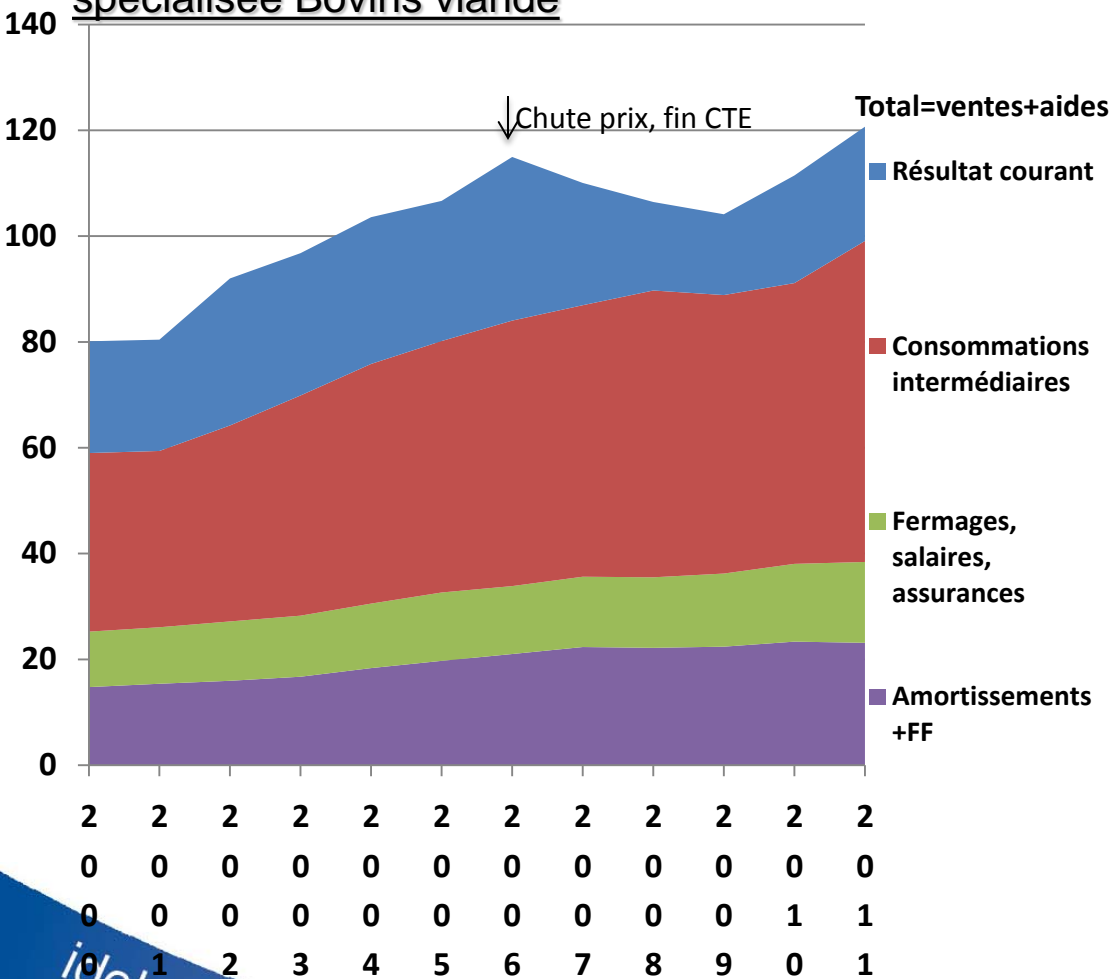
➤ Conjoncture & zone (lait). Ecart 2014.

➤ ~Certitude des départs. Chefs 2007 majoritaires ⇒ 2020-25

➤ Stabilisation lait si maintien nb installations

## Une situation économique difficile pour les exploitations spécialisées bovins viande

### Compte moyen d'exploitation spécialisée Bovins viande



**Gains de productivité du travail** (+17% en volume, +1.5%/an 2000-11, le cheptel moyen des exploitations spécialisées est passé de 55 à 64 vaches)

**Envolée des consommations intermédiaires** (+54% en valeur par vache allaitante; IPAMPAcc BV+42%)  
**Dérapage et perte d'autonomie Production de valeur ajoutée très dégradée depuis 2008.** Incitation à produire exercée par les prix --, risque du découplage total (notamment zones difficiles).

**Investissements importants** (conditions de travail, conditions d'élevage des animaux <-> exigences sociétales et réglementaires).

**Amortissements + 64%** (bâtiments +88% plus que matériel),  
**remboursements d'emprunts LMT/an+ 68%.**

Source: Agreste RICA OTEX 46 –traitement Institut de l'Élevage

# Nombre de vaches allaitantes par zone d'élevage en 2010 et évolutions 2000/2010 et 1988/2000 (%)

France: (-5% / +25%)

