

LIVESTOCK ARE MORE THAN FOOD



© Animal Task Force / Inge Milou Krüger

**4th one-day symposium
of the Animal Task Force & the EAAP Commission on
Livestock Farming Systems:
*Livestock are more than food***

*The representations and
attractiveness of livestock farming
professions under the influence of
societal issues.*

The French situation in a European perspective

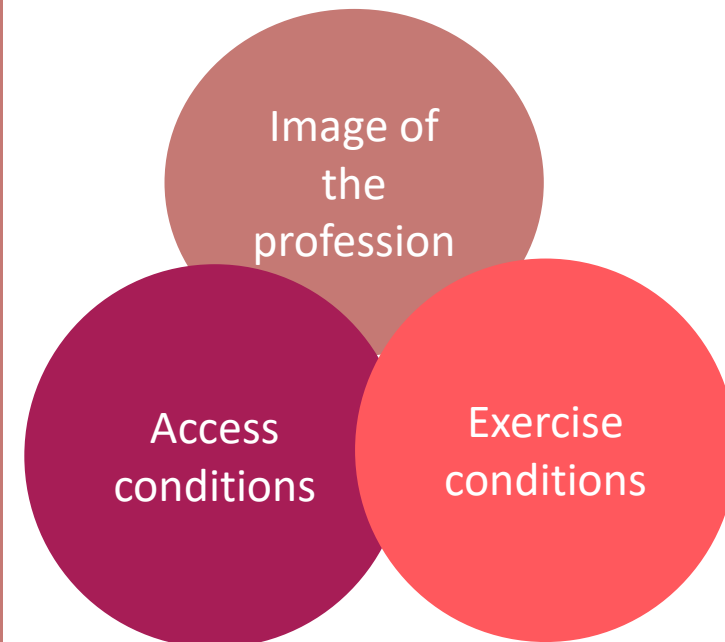
Anne-Charlotte Dockès

Introduction

LIVESTOCK FARMING FACES THE CHALLENGE OF WORKFORCE RENEWAL

- Farmers are ageing, many retirements are underway
➔ Need of farmers and farm employees
- Enhancing the attractiveness of farming activities:
a necessity and 3 challenges

3 axes of attractiveness

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A few facts about agricultural demography

Key figures about **EU** farm demography

17
millions
farm
workers

8 millions
Full Time
Equivalent

58%
> 55
years old

10% full
agricultural
training

30%
female
farm
managers

85%
family work
(but wage
labour
increases)

12%
< 40 years
old

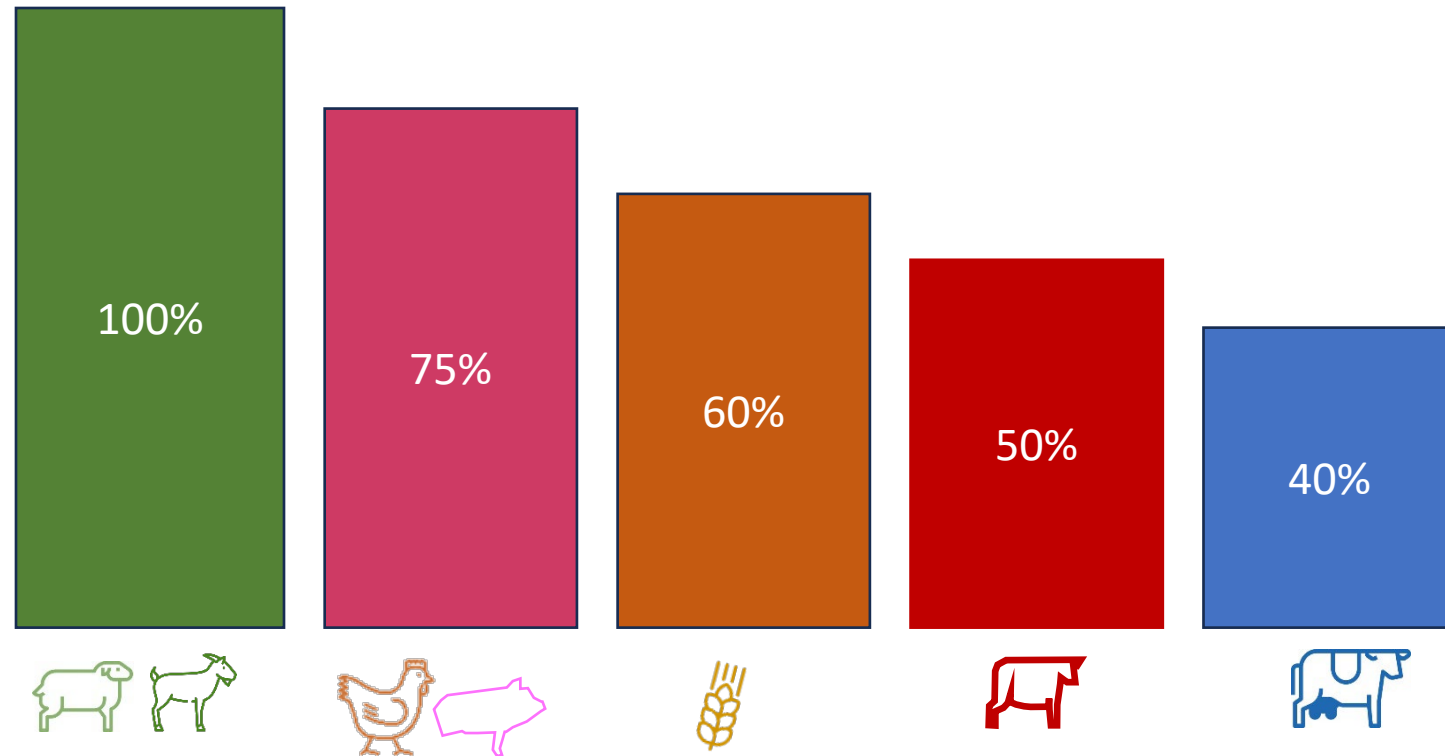


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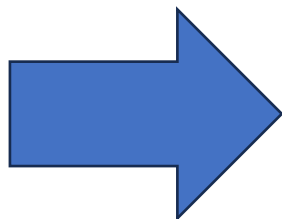
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In France: very variable replacement rates depending on sectors (2021)



Source : Institut de l'Élevage - MSA



Higher replacement rate in sectors in which there are:

- **More women**
- **More new farmers not from an agricultural background**

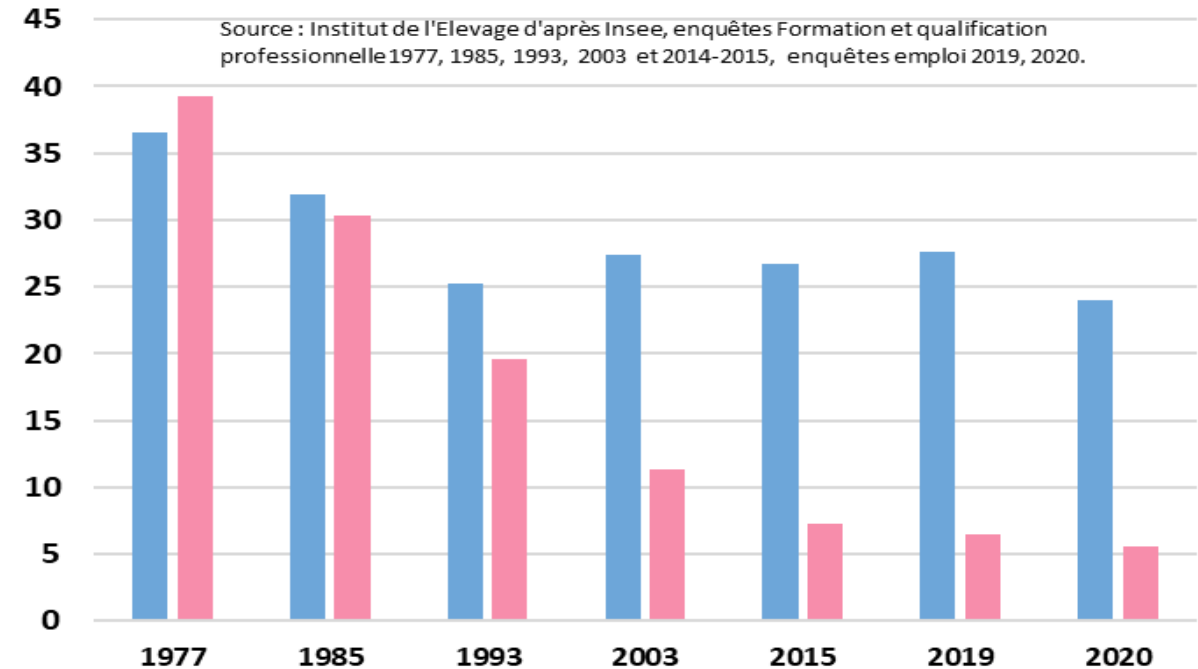
A “female exodus” that explains part of the difficulties

Social mobility of sons and daughters of farmers. Evolution from 1977 to 2020 (France)

In France

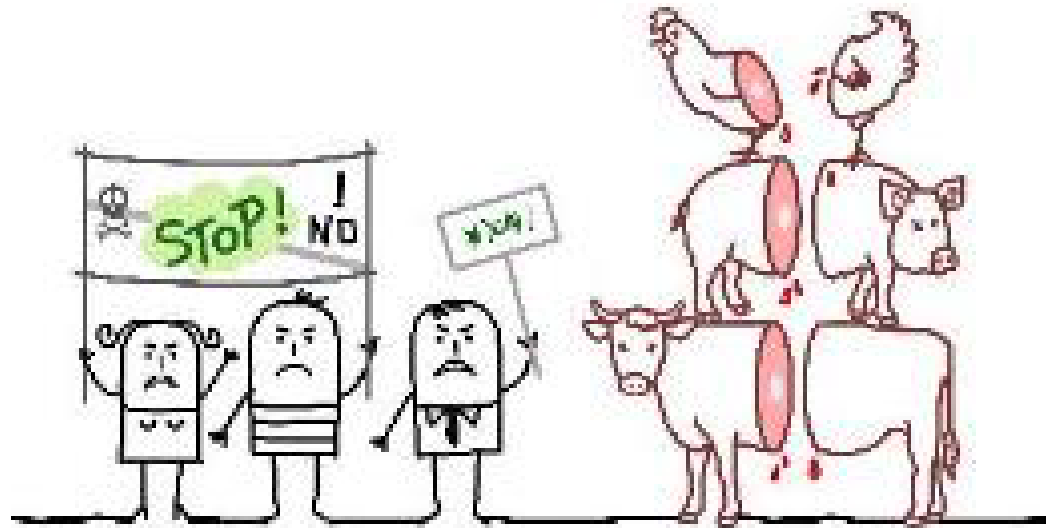
- A stable proportion of farmers' sons have become farmers since 1977 (35 to 25%)
- While the social mobility of girls has increased significantly (from 40% in 1977 to 6% in 2020 become farmers)

% of farmers' sons becoming farmers
% of farmers' daughters becoming farmers



To mobilize women, better take into account their specific expectations

What perception do citizens have of livestock farming?



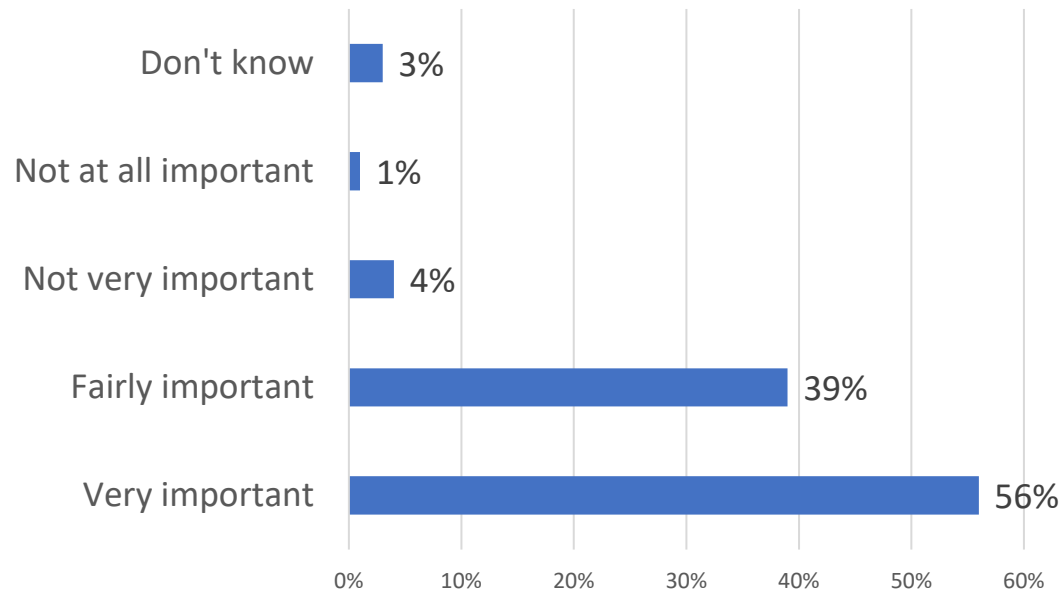
Four domains of controversy about animal farming



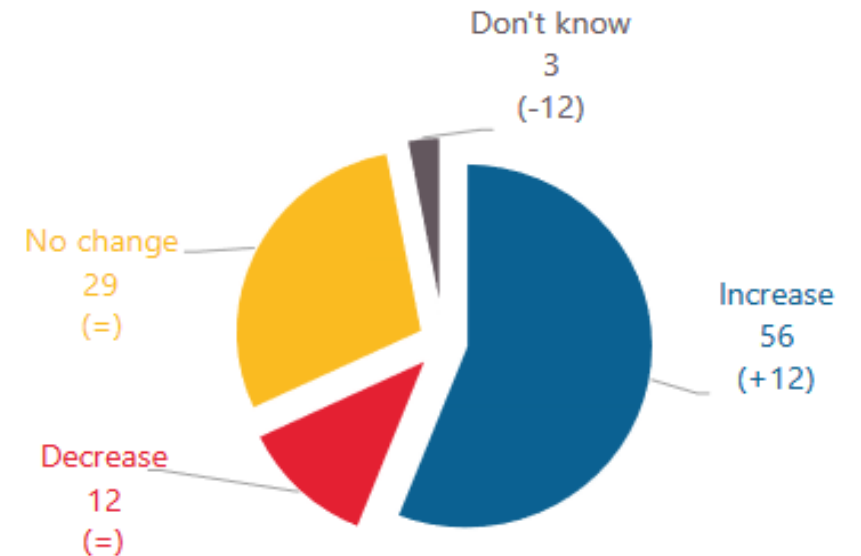
Environment <i>Impact of human activities on natural environments</i>	Animal condition <i>Way of raising animals</i>	Sanitary <i>Impact of production on health</i>	Socioeconomic <i>Development models</i>
GHG	Definition of animal welfare	Phytosanitary	Intensive system
Water pollution	Living conditions	Antibiotics	Geographic concentration
Animal feed (soy, GMO)	Pain management	Risks of epizootics and zoonoses	Ethics
Use of resources (water, land)			
Nuisances (odors, noise)			
1980	1990	2000	2010

Agriculture and rural areas are important for EU citizens

- Do you think that, in the EU, agriculture and rural areas are ... for the future ?



- And over the next 10 years, would you like to see an increase, decrease or no change in EU financial support to farmers ?



(Aug.-Sep. 2020 - Dec. 2017)

Special Eurobarometer CAP September 2020 – 27 237 respondents



Various expectations towards farmers

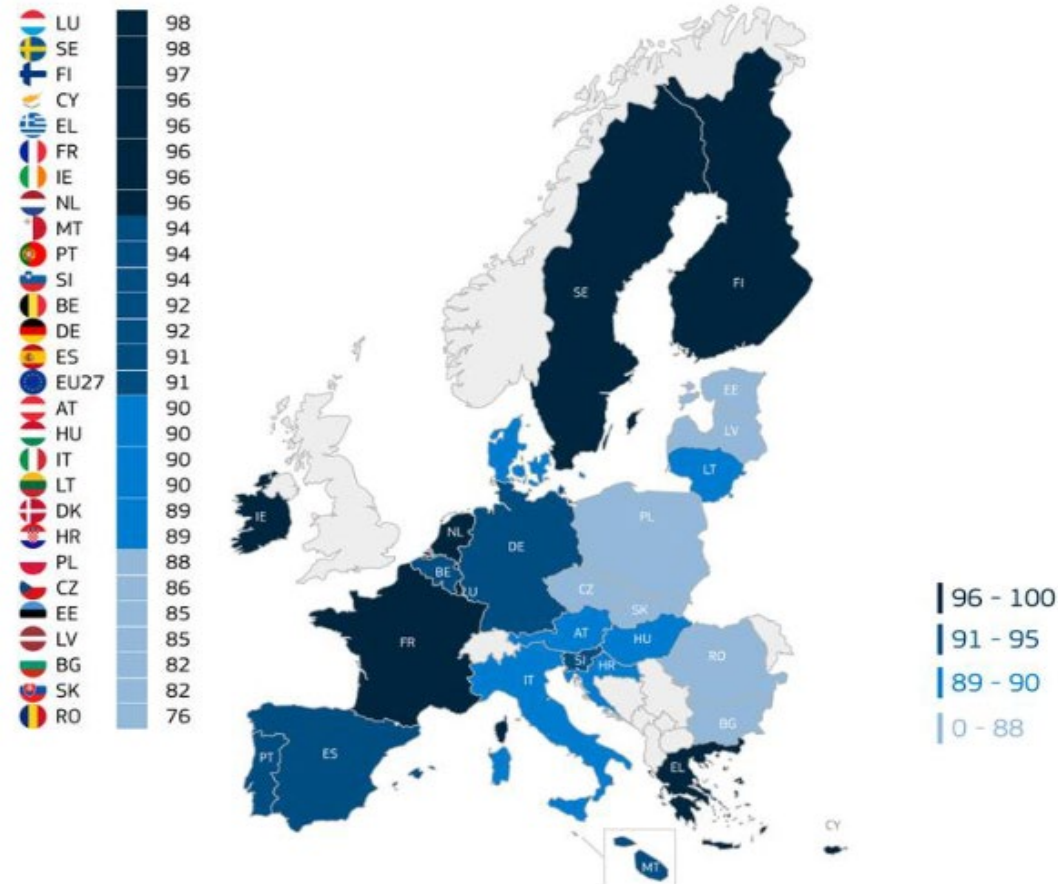
What do you think should be the main responsibilities of farmers in our society ? (2 answers)



Special Eurobarometer CAP September 2020 – 27 237 respondents

Animal welfare should be protected according to many EU citizens, *with a West-East gradient*

QC2. In your opinion, how important is it to protect the welfare of farmed animals (e.g. pigs, cattle, poultry, etc.) to ensure that they have decent living conditions? – Total 'Important' (%)



- Very important : 52% (-3%/ 2015)
- 67% would like to have more information on how animals are raised

Source Eurobarometer – March 2023



Environnement is also a topic of concern for a majority of EU citizens

They even say they would pay higher prices for more sustainable products

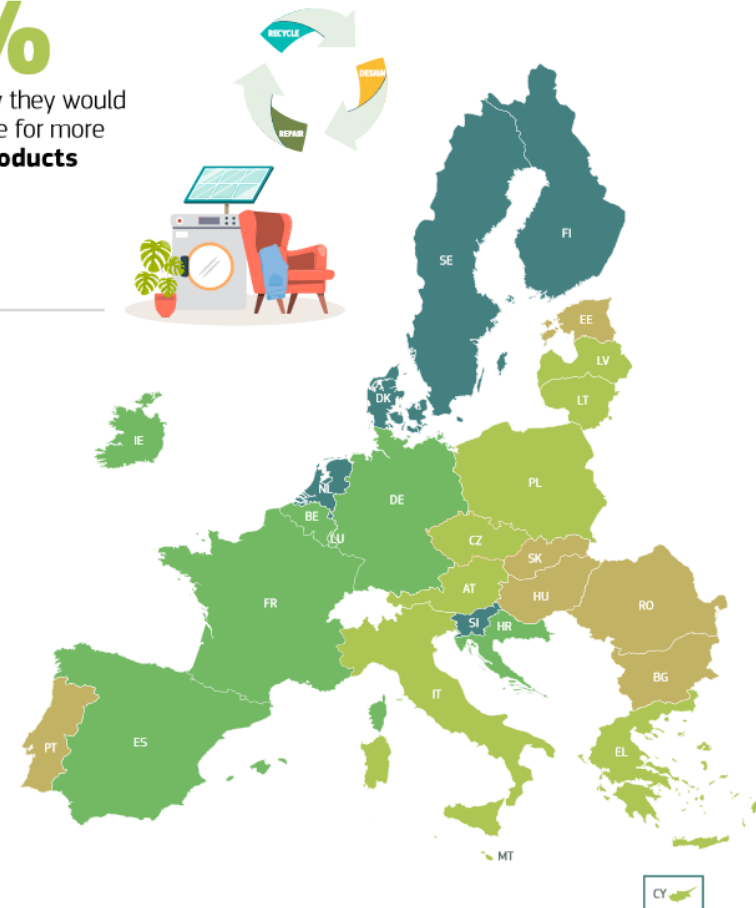
78% Europeans agree that environmental issues have a **direct effect on their daily lives and health**



% that would pay a higher price for products that are easier to repair, recyclable and/or produced in an environmentally sustainable way

70-100%
60-69%
50-59%
0-49%

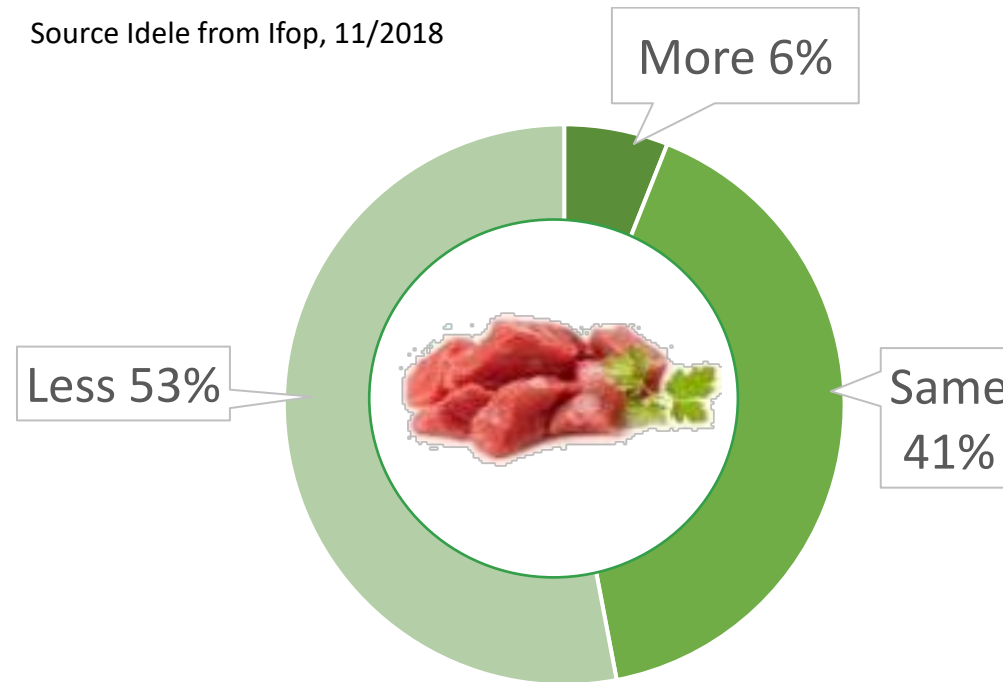
SE	86%	EL	54%
FI	84%	MT	54%
DK	77%	LT	52%
NL	76%	AT	52%
SI	70%	CZ	51%
LU	69%	IT	51%
DE	68%	LV	50%
BE	63%	PL	50%
FR	63%	BG	47%
IE	60%	HU	47%
ES	60%	EE	46%
HR	60%	RO	46%
EU	59%	SK	46%
CY	57%	PT	41%



The apparent paradox of meat consumption

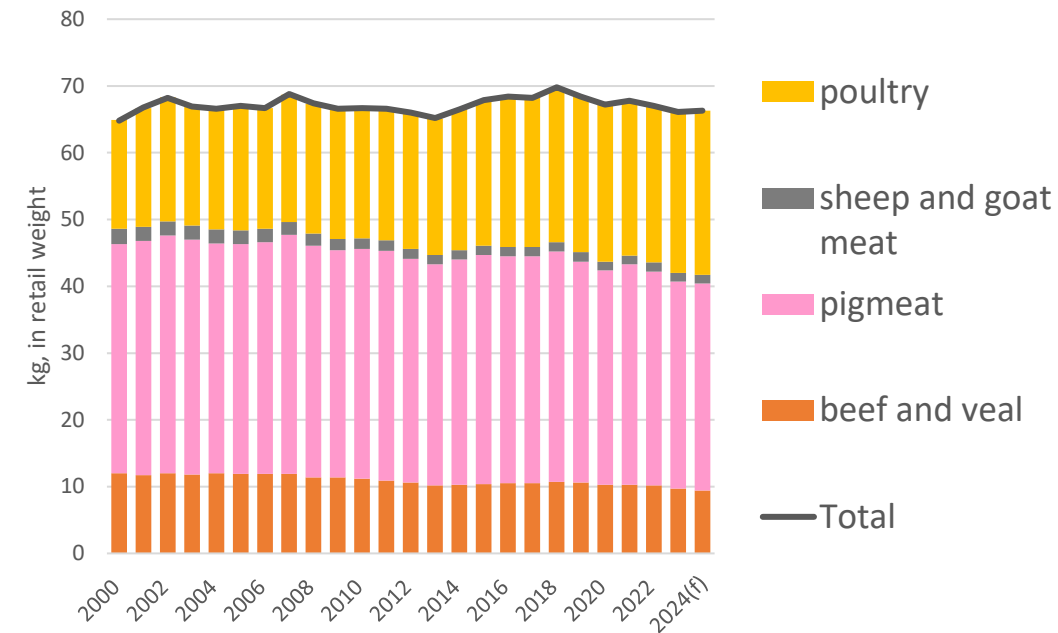
Half of the (French) consumers declare to have reduced their meat consumption

Source Idele from Ifop, 11/2018



But consumption is quite flat in EU (more poultry)

Per capita consumption in retail weight
Source : GEB-Idele, from EU Commission - short-term outlook



« In comparison to 5 years ago, would you say that you consume more or less meat ? »
(Question to meat consumers)

5 citizen profiles with different expectations

Among 100 French citizens:

51 Progressives

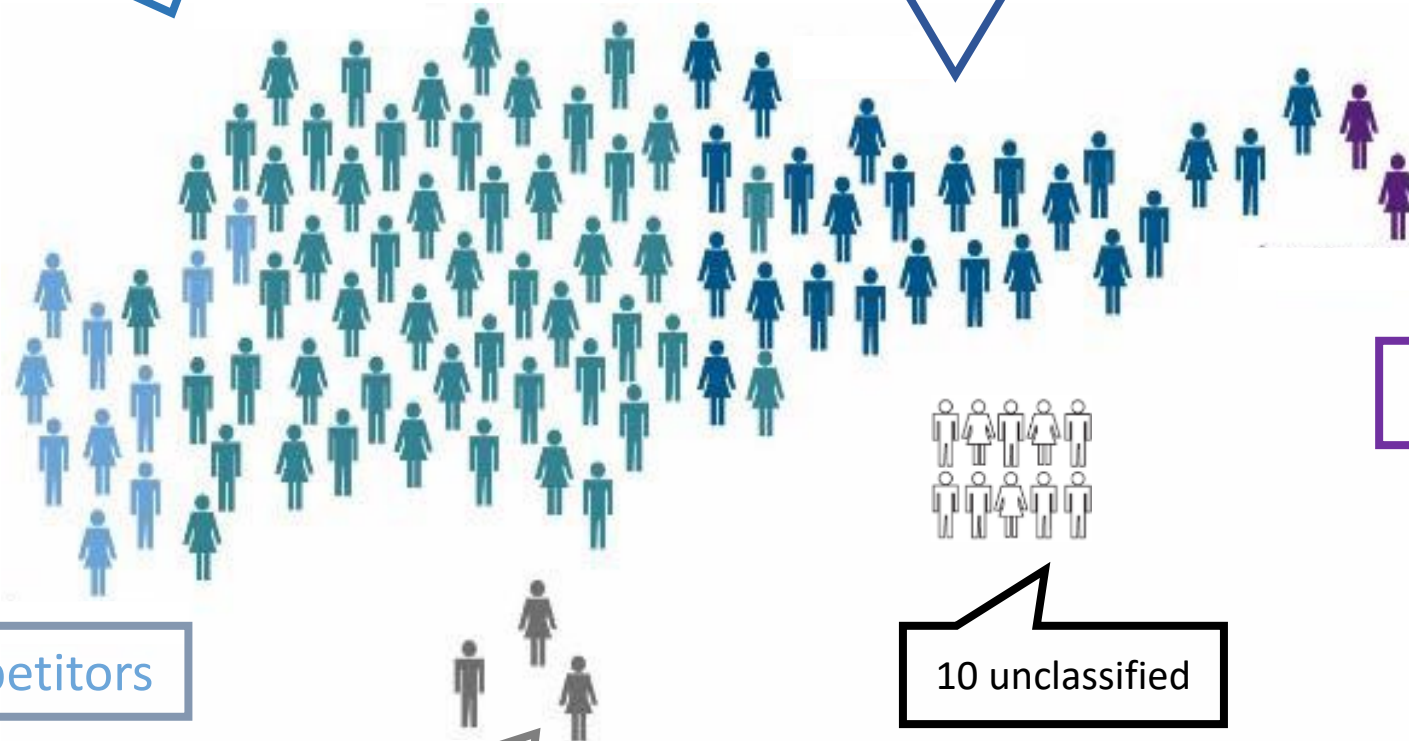
24 Alternatives

2 Abolitionists

10 Competitors

10 unclassified

3 Not concerned





Specificities of the access and exercise conditions on livestock farms



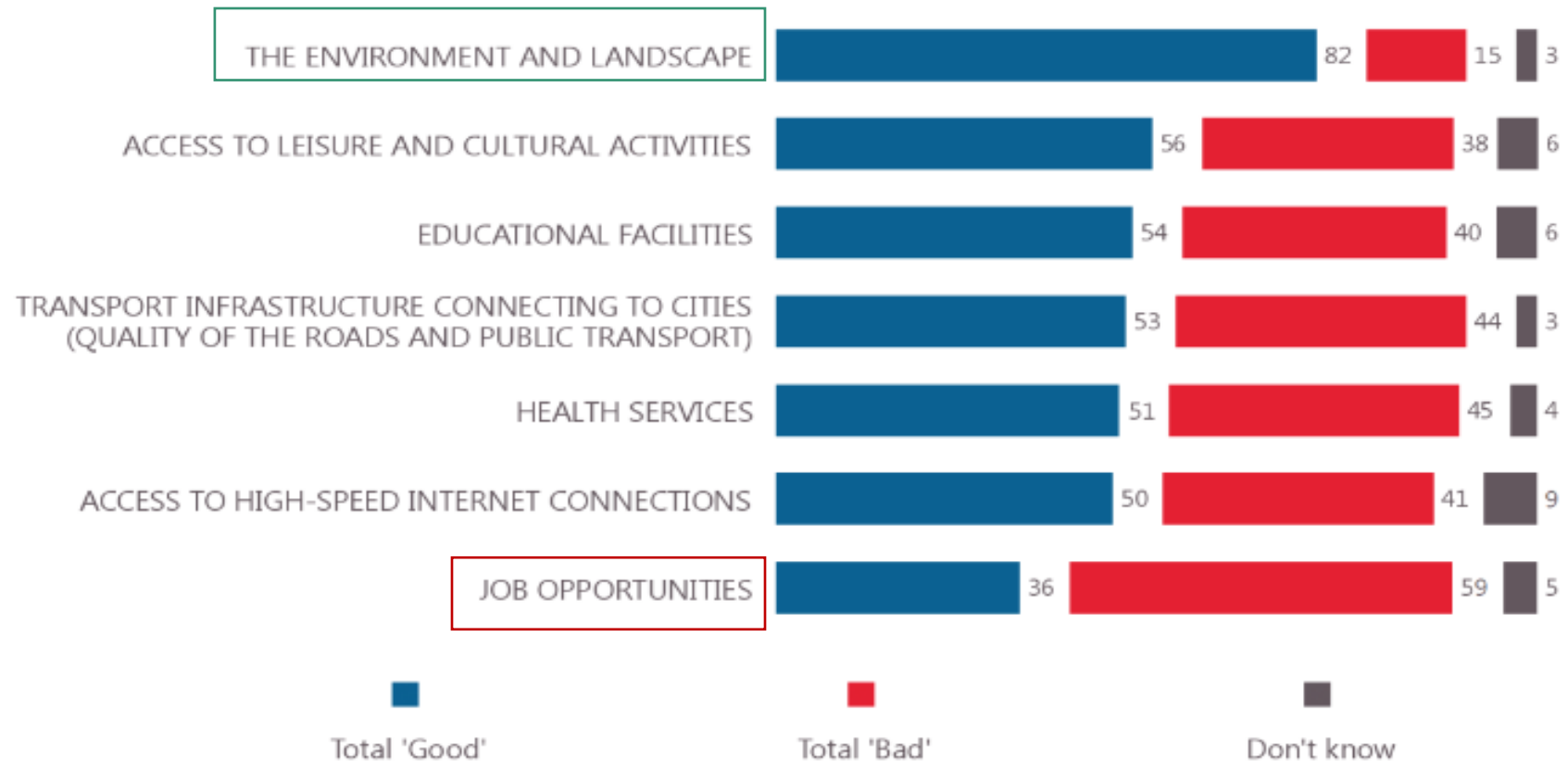


Livestock farming and (young) people's expectations:



Attractiveness of rural areas is essential to insert newcomers in agriculture

QA18 Overall, how would you rate the following in rural areas in (OUR COUNTRY)?
(% - EU)



Special Eurobarometer CAP September 2020 – 27 237 respondents



French agricultural high school students seek autonomy and flexibility

- Livestock careers appear **in line with young people in agricultural education** (autonomy, outside work, contact with animals, diversity of tasks, professional sense, etc.)
- But **the balance between income and free time does not seem satisfactory to them**.

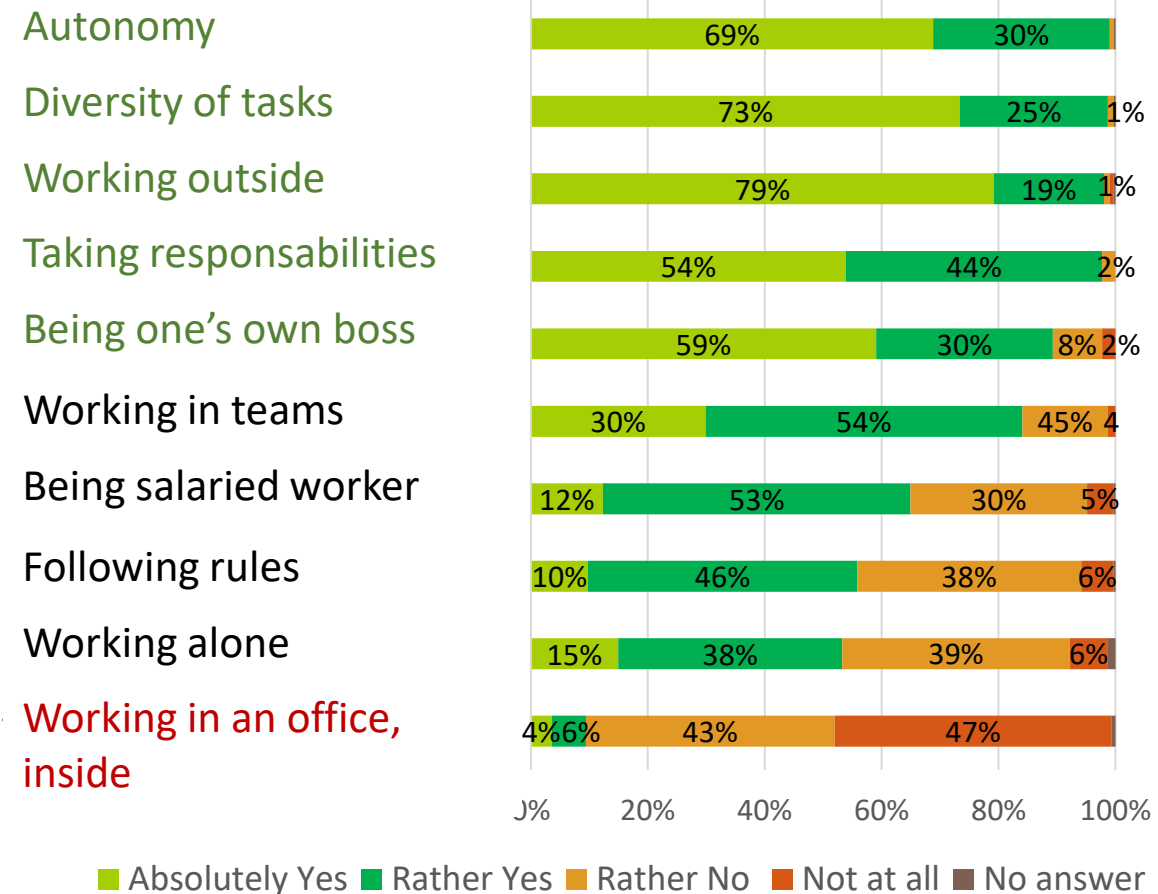

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Could these working conditions make you want to take up a job?

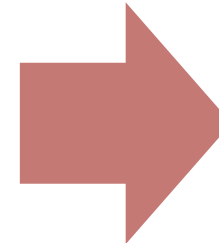


Survey broadcast from April 26 to June 15, 2021 with students in agricultural high schools, **308** responses France

The specific expectations of people not from an agricultural background (NFAB) ... sometimes out of step with the job offers

- **The main objectives of “NFAB ”**

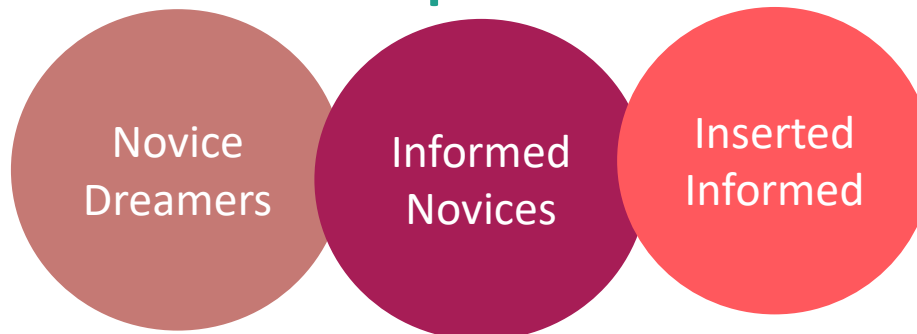
- A life project, in accordance with values
- Be one's own boss
- Benefit from a pleasant living environment → housing, plot, workload
- Control the cost of installation → modest size and “added value” projects



- **Specific issues for their support**

- Training and information
- Discoveries and courses
- Tutoring and testing locations
- Support for farmers who transmit
- Adapted support for projects
- New references

- **3 main “NFAB” profiles**

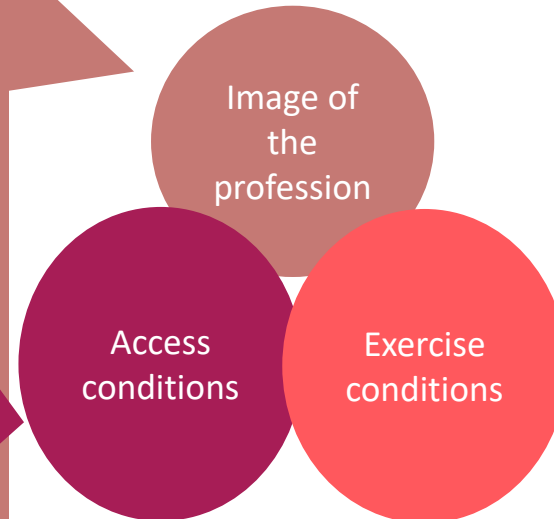


Enhancing the attractiveness of careers in livestock farming

- Promote information about the diversity of livestock farming jobs
- Show that they are open to employees, women, NFAB, multiactivity, etc.
- Make known the improvements to face the societal challenges

- Simplify administrative procedures
- Facilitate access to land and capital
- Adapt training, education, tests to audiences
- Raise employers' awareness of employee expectations

3 axes of attractiveness



- Improve income and remuneration
- Improve working conditions and quality of life
- Improve the attractiveness of rural areas
- Improve practices and systems / societal issues
- Promote career development
- Combine different forms of employment
- Support the diversity of farming models

Improve image and access to livestock farming

- Basic trends:

- Ethical expectations of citizens, and future farmers
- Citizen questioning of so-called “intensive” systems... which are nevertheless developing
- Growing economic and climatic hazards
- Growing aspirations of farmers and farm workers in terms of social sustainability
- Technological and digital innovations that offer new opportunities

- Room for progress and adaptation:

- Diversity of EU systems, practices, product offering
- Knowledge and image of the profession, dialogue

“Co-build” systems for tomorrow, profitable and livable for farmers ... and presentable to citizens



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