

Compensatory Amounts (MCAs) cover the differences between the market exchange rate and the green rate.

green recoupling The coupling of support payments to the provision of environmental goods rather than production.

gross margin The output of an enterprise less its VARIABLE COSTS. Not a measure of profit as fixed costs are not taken into account. Used to compare the competitiveness of individual farming enterprises, eg different crops.

Habitat Creation Scheme See HABITAT SCHEME.

Habitat Improvement Scheme See HABITAT SCHEME.

Habitat Scheme One of the new UK schemes implemented under AGRICULTURE (AGRI-ENVIRONMENT) REGULATIONS 2078/92 and launched in 1994. In England provides incentives to farmers to set-aside land for a minimum of 20 years and to manage it in an environmentally-beneficial way. In Scotland and Wales are for the same purpose but only for 10 years. Different habitats have been targeted in Scotland, Wales and England. In England, targeted to: water fringe habitats in six pilot areas, former set-aside land coming out of the FIVE YEAR VOLUNTARY SCHEME, and suitable saltmarsh. In Scotland, known as the Habitat Creation Scheme and targeted to: waterside habitats, upland scrub, coastal heath and damp lowland grassland and marshland. In Wales, known as the Habitat Improvement Scheme, targeted at improved management of existing habitats covering: waterfringe, species-rich grassland, coastal land and broadleaved woodland.

habitats Directive Council Directive 43/92 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna which seeks to encourage the maintenance of biodiversity by establishing a "favourable conservation status" for specific NATURAL HABITAT TYPES and species considered to be of Community interest which are listed in Annexes to the Directive. A "coherent-European ecological network" of sites, to be known as Natura 2000, is to be established. Includes sites designated by Member States as "SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION" (SACs) taking account of economic, social and cultural requirements and "regional and local characteristics" and SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS designated under the EC BIRDS DIRECTIVE. "Necessary conservation measures" involving appropriate management plans and other measures must be adopted for the SACs. The final list of SACs is to be adopted by the European Commission by June 1998. Member States are subject to certain obligations to protect all those sites on the European Commission's list of those of Community importance, irrespective of whether they have been designated as SACs. These obligations are extended to Special Protection Areas also. Implemented in the UK largely through existing legislation, particularly the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, supplemented by the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 which apply to England, Wales and Scotland. All proposed SACs in the UK are SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.

headland Perimeter of field between crop edge and first tramline. Width depends on tractor boom width, usually six metres.

Heather Moorland Extensification Scheme See MOORLAND SCHEME.

Hedgerow Incentive Scheme Launched in 1992 by the Countryside Commission and now part of the COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME within which it is called the HEDGEROW RESTORATION SCHEME.

Hedgerow Renovation Scheme Welsh equivalent to HEDGEROW RESTORATION SCHEME launched in 1992 as a five year trial scheme to promote the restoration of selected hedgerows throughout Wales by means of 10 year management agreements. Run in co-ordination with the Welsh

Office's FARM AND CONSERVATION GRANT SCHEME. Farmers enrolled in the TIR CYMEN SCHEME are not eligible.

Hedgerow Restoration Scheme Originally launched as the HEDGEROW INCENTIVE SCHEME and now included as part of the COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME. Offers incentives to secure the restoration and maintenance of threatened hedgerows. Payments and capital grants are available for replanting gaps, hedge laying, coppicing, restoration of earth banks, pollarding, planting of hedgerow trees etc. Scheme targeted to long established hedges, those important to wildlife and hedges of high amenity value.

High Natural Value (HNV) Often used to refer to farming systems which are predominantly of low-intensity and of value for nature conservation. Generally, HNV agriculture is found in areas where natural conditions have prevented intensification, for example, in LESS FAVOURED AREAS, upland and wetland areas.

Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance (HLCA) Headage payments available to beef and sheep farmers within LESS FAVOURED AREAS of the UK under EC Regulation 2328/91 with the aim of ensuring the continuation of livestock farming, hence maintaining a viable population and conserving the countryside. In 1992, the UK government attached conditions in a form of CROSS-COMPLIANCE to reduce overgrazing of moorland. In cases of severe overgrazing or damage by supplementary feeding, HLCA payments may be withheld from farmers unless they destock.

HLCA See HILL LIVESTOCK COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE.

horizontal measure A policy term for a measure applying to a range of areas, states or subjects, as opposed to a more narrowly focused measures. The concept is included in AGRICULTURE REGULATION 2078/92 which provides for the establishment of a "general regulatory framework providing for the horizontal application of an aid scheme" throughout a Member State's territory. In practice, it is not entirely clear what a horizontal measure entails. In Germany, for example, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture set appropriate nationwide incentive payment levels for particular countryside management measures. The Lander authorities were given the choice of basing their own schemes on the Federal framework. In Spain, the horizontal measures are a set of incentive schemes which apply throughout the country rather than being targeted at particular areas.

Indicative Forestry Strategies Prepared by most Regional Councils in Scotland as a mechanism for guiding afforestation to the most appropriate areas.

Inter-governmental Conference (IGC) A meeting of Member States, held periodically, to review the functioning of the EU treaties. May last several months or longer and have taken place in 1986, 1991. The next is planned in 1996 and will last up to 18 months. Treaty changes require the unanimous consent of all Member States. The government of any Member State or the European Commission may request the convening of an IGC but the European Council makes the final decision.

Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) Annual application procedure under which subsidy claims must be made, including ARABLE AREA PAYMENTS and SET-ASIDE payments.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management One of the key themes of the EU's FIFTH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMME which called for the development of integrated coastal zone management. Since then, the Commission has formally adopted a Communication, COM (95) 511 on the Integrated Management of Coastal Zones, prepared by DGXI (Environment), DGXVI (Regional Policies) and DGXIV (Fisheries). It establishes a three year demonstration programme of

information provision, problem analysis, cooperation between authorities and sectors and the presentation of results to inform decision-making on whether additional measures are needed and at which level (European, national, local).

Integrated Crop Management (ICM) An approach to farming which aims to balance production with economic and environmental considerations by means of a combination of measures including crop rotation, cultivations, appropriate crop varieties and careful use of inputs. Promoted in UK most actively by Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Minimisation of crop losses to pests through a combination of cultural, biological and genetic methods in order to reduce requirement for chemical control, which is optimally applied on the basis of forecasting, monitoring and other techniques to maximise selectivity and minimise use.

Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) An approach to the licensing of polluting facilities which considers the environment as a whole, rather than in terms of separate media. Involves integration or co-ordination of controls applied to areas such as air pollution, water pollution and waste management. Under proposed EC legislation, IPPC will be applied to certain intensive agricultural operations such as large piggeries.

intervention Process by which the EC buys up farm products at a pre-announced price for storage when market prices are low. When prices rise, the stored produce is released on to the market. If prices remain low, intervention stocks may be sold onto the world market with the aid of subsidies.

Joint Nature Conservancy Council (JNCC) See NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCIES.

Legislative Programme An outline of the legislative proposals and other policy initiatives the Commission intends to take during the next year, issued annually.

less favoured areas (LFAs) Areas in the EU designated under Directive 75/268 on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less favoured areas and subsequent amendments. Separate Directives have been issued for each Member State listing the LFAs in their territories which fall within the meaning of Directive 75/268. There are three categories for designation as less favoured (see Box 5). In the UK, LFAs are categorised as Disadvantaged Areas (DAs) or Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDAs).

Box 5: Categories for designation of areas as less favoured:

- Mountain areas handicapped by a short growing season or steep slopes or a combination of the two
- Regional areas in danger of depopulation and where conservation of the countryside is necessary. These areas exhibit three combined disadvantages; infertility, poor economic situation and a low or dwindling population dependent of agriculture
- Small areas affected by specific handicaps in which the continuation of farming is necessary to ensure conservation of the environment, including protection of coastal areas, and preservation of tourism potential. The total extent of such areas in any Member State is not to exceed 4 % of the total territory.

National compensatory payments to beef and sheep farmers in LFAs are allowed under EC Regulation 2328/91. In the UK, these are known as the HILL LIVESTOCK COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES.

LIFE (*L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement*) (EU) A financial instrument, established by Regulation 92/1973/EEC to assist the development and implementation of the EU's environmental policy. Superseded three earlier financial instruments: ACNAT (protection of priority habitats), MEDSPA (protection of the Mediterranean) and NORSPA (protection of northern coastal waters) and became operational in 1993. A number of priority actions for funding under Phase 2 of LIFE, begun in January 1996, have been identified (see Box 6).

Box 6: LIFE Phase 2 funding priorities:

1. Promotion of sustainable development and the quality of the environment
 - demonstration projects
 - to introduce clean technologies into certain sectors
 - to implement EC waste management strategy
 - to develop sustainable tourism;
 - development of implementation of models to integrate environmental concerns into rural planning;
 - development of integrated management models to improve the urban environment.
2. Protection of habitats and of nature
 - programmes in SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS to safeguard priority habitats or wetlands or for the recovery of priority species;
 - compilation of EC or national inventories of ecosystems or major taxonomic orders;
 - emergency actions to halt the decline of priority natural habitats or species;
 - transnational actions to conserve major ecosystems or groups of natural habitat types;
 - demonstration projects relating to integrated water catchment management.
3. Administrative structures and environment services
 - actions involving co-operation between Member States;
 - improvement of monitoring networks.
4. Education, training and information
 - exchange of experience and good practice in the field of eco-management and audit.
5. Actions outside Community territory
 - technical assistance for the development of environmental policy.

Livestock Unit (LU) A common agricultural term also used as the basis for the payment of beef cattle and sheep premia using the following range of EU conversion rates: bulls, cows and other cattle over two years, 1.0 LU; bulls, cows and other cattle between six months and two years, 0.6 LU; sheep and goats, 0.15 LU. In addition, it is used for indicating acceptable STOCKING DENSITY (LIMITS) in management schemes.

Local Nature Reserves (LNR) Areas designated by the local authority, in consultation with the NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCIES, under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Most are owned by local authorities but some are managed on their behalf by other bodies, such as wildlife trusts.

long term set-aside Often known as environmental set-aside, land removed from agricultural production under an incentive scheme such as the HABITAT SCHEME and managed for nature conservation or pollution control.

Maastricht Treaty See TREATY OF ROME.

MacSharry reform Unofficial term often used for the CAP reform package adopted in 1992. Originates from the name of the Commissioner in charge of agriculture at the time, Ray MacSharry. The main objective of the reform was to bring production down to levels more in line with market demand and to reduce the cost of surplus production. The main instruments for achieving this were cuts in market subsidies and the provision of direct income support to farmers to compensate for loss of earnings linked to the withdrawal of land from arable production. The changes primarily concerned arable, beef and sheep support regimes. In each sector, controls intended to restrain production and limit budgetary spending were attached to the direct payments (see ARABLE AREA PAYMENTS SCHEME, BEEF SPECIAL PREMIUM SCHEME, SHEEP ANNUAL PREMIUM SCHEME, SUCKLER COW PREMIUM) In addition to the main reforms, there were three separate ACCOMPANYING MEASURES concerning the environment (AGRI-ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92), forestry (FORESTRY REGULATION 2080/92) and early retirement of farmers (EARLY RETIREMENT REGULATION 2079/92).

main scheme Farmers producing more than 92 tonnes of cereals per year and claiming under the ARABLE AREA PAYMENTS SCHEME must set aside a certain percentage of their arable base area. Also known as the "general scheme". When first adopted, the amount of land to be put into rotational set-aside was set at 15 % of the combined total of arable land plus land set-aside under previous schemes. Non-rotational set-aside was fixed at a higher rate of 20 % in the UK (18 % in the UK and Denmark). However, in response to declining surpluses, the area to be set-aside was reduced to 12 % for rotational and 15 % for non-rotational set-aside in the EU for the 1995/96 marketing year and 10 % for both types of set-aside for 1996/97. Further changes may be made in the future. A number of set-aside options have been introduced, giving farmers the opportunity to choose between variants (see Box 7).

Box 7: Options for Set-aside 1996/97 (as at April 1996)

Rotational (10 %)

The area concerned must not have been set-aside under the AAPS during the previous five years. Farmers only qualify for rotational set-aside if all land set-aside is done so under this option.

Flexible set-aside (10 %)

Non-rotational set-aside. Areas set-aside may be left in the same place or moved as desired. Even if only a small proportion of the land set-aside is not rotated, all set-aside on a holding must be entered under the Flexible option.

Voluntary set-aside

Land may be set aside in excess of the basic obligation up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the total area of eligible land.

Guaranteed set-aside (10 % or less with the balance made up by flexible set-aside)

Non-rotational set-aside entered for a fixed period of five years for which compensatory payment is guaranteed for the same period at the rate prevailing at the time of entry. Recent amendments mean this option is now only available for existing guarantee agreements, land entered into the UK COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS SCHEME and land used for multiannual crops in receipt of national aid (eg SHORT ROTATION COPPICE).

Additional voluntary set-aside

This is an option only available to farmers who previously had land in the old 1991 Five year Set-aside Scheme. Farmers may set-aside more than 50 per cent of the eligible area claimed upon.

Transfer (Basic set-aside obligation plus 3 % in UK and Denmark and 5 % in other Member States)

All or part of a farmer's set-aside obligation may be transferred to another farm within 20 km radius or beyond that in the case of transfers to a designated area on environmental grounds (ie to Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, Nitrate Sensitive Areas, land adjoining Sites of Special Scientific Interest and sites of historical or archaeological importance).

Counting Environmental set-aside towards market set-aside

Farmers entering land into set-aside under an environmental scheme or afforestation may be allowed to count this area towards their market set-aside obligation, subject to certain restrictions on management and compensation payable. Member States have significant discretion in the implementation of this scheme.

Penalty set-aside

Extra uncompensated set-aside imposed on farmers the year following one in which the regional base area was exceeded. Calculation of penalty recently amended to take account of voluntary set-aside. 85 per cent of voluntary set-aside is to be deducted from penalty set-aside.

(x%) = percentage of eligible arable area

Land is withdrawn from production under both rotational and flexible set-aside between 15 January and 31 August of each year. Most rotational and non-rotational set-aside in the UK is kept as fallow, however, there is provision in the Regulations for a wide range of crops for non-food use (eg short rotation coppice, sugar beet and oilseed rape) to be grown on set-aside land in accordance with EU rules. Land set-aside must be maintained so as to ensure good agricultural conditions and to achieve an unspecified level of environmental protection with the precise management rules being the responsibility of each Member State. In the UK, management rules aim mainly to minimise nitrate leaching from the set-aside land through the establishment of green cover.

management agreement Contractual term used to describe documented agreements completed with land owners and occupiers regarding their management of land, usually under an incentive scheme for example ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS and COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP in the UK.

Management Committees Responsible for many of the day to day decisions required to implement the CAP. They are composed of national civil servants from the relevant division of the national ministries and Commission officials usually from the Agriculture Commission, DG VI. One Committee for each of the main commodities and others for agri-monetary affairs, plant health, structural policy etc. Frequency of meetings reflects the amount of work to be done. Committees give their opinion on Commission proposals using the same QUALIFIED MAJORITY SYSTEM as the Council.

Marine Nature Reserves (MNR) Established under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order 1985 in Northern Ireland, they are designated protected areas out to the limits of UK territorial waters, including both the sea and the sea bed. Involves a highly complicated consultation process which has severely restricted progress.

MEKA (*Marktentlastungs- und Kulturlandschaftsausgleich*) (FRG) One of the most well-known of the German voluntary incentive schemes, specific to Baden-Württemberg. Launched in 1992. All farmers are eligible to join the scheme which employs a points system (ECOPOINTS). Each point is worth DM 20 and varying numbers of points per hectare are awarded to farmers for specific environmental conservation activities (eg pasture management, maintenance of traditional orchards, use of rare breeds) and extensification measures (eg increased distance between crop rows, no further use of pesticides or mineral fertilisers). Funded under AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92.

Moorland Scheme Implemented under the EC AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92. Aims to protect and improve the upland moorland environment by providing incentive payments for farmers in defined areas to comply with maximum winter and summer ewe stocking density limits. Farmers receive a payment for each ewe removed from the flock, provided that it is eligible for HILL LIVESTOCK COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE or SHEEP ANNUAL PREMIUM. Other conditions include restricted use of agro-chemical. Known as the Heather Moorland Extensification Scheme in Scotland.

National Agri-environment Steering Group Steering group created in 1995 by MAFF and comprised of representatives from MAFF, DoE, English Nature, the Countryside Commission and English Heritage to review the integration and focus of ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT SCHEMES.

National Forum Launched by MAFF in January 1996 and comprises representatives of voluntary conservation organisations, land managers and farmers, local authorities and others to "inform the Ministry's thinking" on environmental land management schemes.

National Nature Reserves (NNR) Designated areas of national and/or international importance, established by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which are owned or leased by the UK statutory nature conservation agencies or are managed by means of Nature Reserve Agreements with landowners and managers.

National Parks Designated protected areas in England and Wales only established by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and each managed by National Park authorities. The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on all public bodies to have regard to National Park objectives when carrying out their activities in them. In cases of conflict, the Act requires that conservation is given priority. It also increases local authority representation in the National Park authorities.

National Scenic Areas (NSA) In Scotland only, designated under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972 and similar in approach to NATIONAL PARK and AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY designations in England and Wales, NSAs are the main form of protection for the best examples of Scotland's landscapes. A high proportion of the land in NSAs is privately owned and protection is mainly exercised through special development control procedures. The statutory nature conservation authority must be consulted where the proposed land use change or development falls within certain categories.

Natura 2000 A coherent European ecological network of sites to be established by Member States. Defined under the HABITATS DIRECTIVE, it encompasses three categories of sites: those hosting habitat types of Community importance listed in Annex 1 of the habitats Directive; those sites comprising the habitats of certain animal and plant species of Community importance listed in Annex II of the habitats Directive; and special protection areas for birds classified under the BIRDS DIRECTIVE.

natural habitat types (EU) Defined in the HABITATS DIRECTIVE as terrestrial or aquatic areas distinguished by geographic, abiotic and biotic features, whether entirely natural or semi-natural.

Nature Conservation Agencies Created by UK statutes and receive grant in aid from the Government. Also known as "statutory agencies". Includes English Nature (EN), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Countryside Commission. The separate agencies of SNH, EN and CCW and the JNCC were established by means of The Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991 to replace the single body, the Nature Conservancy Council. The JNCC provides scientific and other support for EN, SNH and CCW functions in UK and provides a collective view on international matters. The Countryside Commission was created by the 1968 Countryside Act and has responsibility for conserving and enhancing the English countryside and improving leisure opportunities. The agencies provide advice to the Government on policies affecting landscape and nature conservation in the UK; notify land of special interest for wildlife, geological and natural features; establish and manage various designated sites and commission research. In Northern Ireland, these functions are served by the Environment Service of the Department of Environment for Northern Ireland.

Nature Conservation Order Made by the relevant Minister to extend the period for the negotiation of a management agreement between the owner or occupier of an SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST and the statutory nature conservation agency from four months to 12 months or longer.

nitrate Directive Council Directive 91/676 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources which seeks to reduce or prevent the pollution of water caused by the application and storage of inorganic fertiliser and manure on farmland. Member States are to identify nitrate vulnerable zones which are areas of land where

agricultural production contributes to the degradation of drinking water quality (beyond the limit of 50 mg N per litre) or to the eutrophication of aquifers. The regulations laid down in the Directive are compulsory only in these zones. Designation of vulnerable zones is to have been completed by December 1993 and is to be reviewed and revised if necessary at least every four years. Also by December 1993, a Code of Good Agricultural Practice is to have been laid down to be followed by farmers voluntarily. Action Programmes relating to vulnerable zones and containing a number of mandatory measures are to be established by December 1995 and implemented at a time to be agreed between December 1995 and December 1999. Required measures include the application of no more than 170 kg N per hectare from livestock manure (these limits may be varied by Member States on the basis of "objective criteria" without prejudice to the aims of the Directive and subject to EU approval and an exemption up to 210 kg N per hectare can be granted until 1999). In the UK, 72 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) in England and Wales have been proposed for designation covering a total area of approximately 650,000 hectares and Action Plans have been outlined for application within these zones. One NVZ has also been proposed for Scotland. Furthermore, the UK government had already issued a Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water. These measures are complemented by the designation of 32 NITRATE SENSITIVE AREAS, part of the UK agri-environment programme, within incentive payments are available to farmers who undertake options to reduce nitrate leaching. Progress on implementation of the nitrates Directive in most other Member States is behind schedule.

Nitrate Sensitive Areas (NSAs) Voluntary incentive scheme, in England only, originally launched in 1990 as a pilot scheme in 10 designated areas, expanded to 32 areas in 1994 and now funded under AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES REGULATION 2078/92. Farmers may enter their land into three options under the scheme: the Basic Scheme, which allows for a continuation of arable cropping with restrictions designed to reduce nitrate leaching; the Premium Arable Scheme which includes four options for the conversion of arable land to extensive grassland; and the Premium Grass Scheme which involves the extensification of existing intensively-managed grassland. All options include the requirement to maintain environmental features. Acts as a voluntary supplement to the UK's obligations under the EC NITRATES DIRECTIVE.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) See NITRATES DIRECTIVE.

Nomenclature for territorial units for statistics (NUTS) A system for standardising the different regional administrative levels found in Member States in order that statistics may be compiled. Involves the grouping of several administrative levels within the EU into three divisions, NUTS I (includes the German Länder), NUTS II (includes French région) and NUTS III (includes Danish Amt or Italian province).

Non-fossil Fuel Obligation Established by the 1989 Electricity Act, this creates a market for nuclear and alternative sources of energy which the Regional Electricity Generators might not otherwise purchase because of the cost. The President of the Board of Trade makes periodic orders to the Generators to buy specified amounts of electricity generated from nuclear and renewable sources, including wind power, hydro-electricity and BIOFUELS. More than 95 % of expenditure so far has gone to nuclear energy.

NUTS see NOMENCLATURE FOR TERRITORIAL UNITS FOR STATISTICS.

Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5a, 5b, 6 are the formal objectives of the EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS; each has different aims and areas of application. All the Funds may contribute to each of the objectives.

☐ **1** aims to assist the development of the poorest regions of the Community, including the whole of Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain, together with the most disadvantaged

regions of some other Member States, including in the UK: Northern Ireland, Merseyside and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

- **5a** aims to facilitate the adjustment of agricultural structures throughout the entire Community as part of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Measures include support for the processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products and structural aid for farmers, including; compensatory payments in LESS FAVOURED AREAS, support for young farmers (not adopted in the UK) and capital grant schemes. Agri-environmental and forestry measures previously funded under 5a (such as ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS) are now covered by AGR-ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92 and FORESTRY REGULATION 2080/92.
- **5b** aims to assist designated disadvantaged rural areas, of which there are 11 in the UK: South West, Eastern Northern Uplands, East Anglia, Wales, Midland Uplands, Lincolnshire, the Marches, Borders, Central Scotland and Tayside, Dumfries and Galloway and Grampian. Measures may include infrastructure development, diversification, training, tourism development and natural heritage protection.
- **6** created on the accession of Finland and Sweden to the EU to provide Structural Fund support for areas of the Nordic Member States with a population density of eight persons or less per km². The main objective is the promotion of job-creation in the private sector and the support of local community development. Measures may include support for farm modernisation and aid to farmers in less favoured areas.

Official Journal (OJ) European Communities publication which contains the full text of all EU legislation, proposals and European Parliament affairs etc. Published several times each day.

OJ See OFFICIAL JOURNAL.

One stop shop A means of streamlining advice and support to farmers by simplifying the array of incentive schemes and grants, either through amalgamation of existing organisations to create a single national advisory service, or by bringing together the various organisations locally to sit under one roof.

Opinion See REASONED OPINION.

Organic aid scheme Offers farmers incentives over a five year period to convert to organic production. Implemented under AGR-ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92.

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy A framework for future co-operation to protect biodiversity across Europe, developed by the COUNCIL OF EUROPE and endorsed by environment ministers from 50 European countries at the Environment for Europe conference in Sofia in October 1995. Has no legal force. A Task Force is to be established jointly by the COUNCIL OF EUROPE and United Nations Environment Programme in co-operation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to develop concrete proposals. Objectives of the strategy include habitat conservation, sustainable management of biodiversity and landscape and integration of biological and landscape diversity in all sectors which have an impact on them.

Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) Widely accepted principle of environmental policy referred to in the EC's first action programme on the environment and enshrined as a formal principle of EC environmental policy in Article 130R of the TREATY OF ROME following its amendment by the SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT. The principle is that the cost of preventing and eliminating nuisances must

be borne by the polluter, although some exceptions are allowed. Has not been applied systematically in agricultural policy and is often flouted.

Precautionary Principle A general principle of environmental policy. Although adopted in various international agreements and conventions and embodied in the TREATY OF ROME, there is no single agreed definition. The Rio Declaration (Principle 15) uses the following wording: "Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation".

prime a l'herbe (F) A national scheme available to eligible livestock farms throughout France which aims to maintain extensive livestock farming. A subsidy per hectare is available to farms with a livestock stocking density of not more than 1 LU/ha of FORAGE AREA, or between 1 and 1.4 LU/ha if at least 75 % of the farmed area is grassland. Farmers must retain the area under permanent grass and maintain hedges, ditches and water sources.

priority natural habitat types (EU) Of the habitat types defined in Annex 1 of the HABITATS DIRECTIVE, some are given "priority" status because they are considered to be in particular danger of disappearance.

Producer Subsidy Equivalent (PSE) A measure of support as the annual cost of transfers to the agricultural sector from consumers and public authorities budgets as a result of agricultural policies. Used by economists to compare the scale of agricultural subsidies between countries.

profit foregone A concept which provides the basis for generating the rates of payment available in many schemes involving management agreements in the UK, such as ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS and SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST. Takes account of the estimated profits which a farmer will forgo by following prescribed management practices, making allowance for such factors as the financial security which the agreement will provide, the average size of farm in the scheme and farm practice.

PSE See PRODUCER SUBSIDY EQUIVALENT.

Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) Introduced to the COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION by the SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT under Article 100A. QMV has become the standard procedure for the adoption of environmental measures by the Council, with the requirement for unanimity retained only for provisions primarily of a fiscal nature; town and country planning; land-use (with the exception of waste management and measures of a general nature); the management of water resources; and measures significantly affecting a Member State's choice between different energy sources and the structure of its energy supply. Unanimity in the Council is still required for a limited number of measures. Under QMV, Member States' votes are weighted roughly according to the size of their populations (see Table 3). A QMV is achieved with 62 votes out of a possible total of 87.

Table 3: Member State's vote weightings

Votes		Votes		Votes		Votes	
Germany	10	Spain	8	Portugal	5	Sweden	4
France	10	Belgium	5	Denmark	3	Austria	4
Italy	10	Greece	5	Ireland	3	Finland	3
UK	10	Netherlands	5	Luxembourg	2		
26 votes (two big countries plus Spain or two others can block a decision)							

quota The imposition of limits on the output of a farm or production region, usually as a means of controlling production. Some CAP subsidies are subject to eligibility limits, often called "quota" but they are not directly production limiting as the farmer may choose to keep livestock beyond the number eligible for support without incurring any penalty (eg BEEF SPECIAL PREMIUM SCHEME, SHEEP ANNUAL PREMIUM SCHEME).

- ◆ **input quota** Designed to control production indirectly by limiting a key input, eg by reducing the area of cultivated land through set-aside or controlling nitrogen application.
- ◆ **output quota** Designed to directly limit production at farm level eg under the milk quota system, farmers are subject to a ceiling on annual milk production beyond which they will incur a penalty.

Ramsar Convention Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, aims to stem the progressive encroachment and loss of wetlands. Parties undertake to designate at least one national wetland and to establish wetland reserves. Adopted in 1971 and came into force in 1975. The UK ratified in 1976.

Ramsar site Wetland area designated under the RAMSAR CONVENTION which requires signatory countries to protect internationally important wetlands, especially those used by migratory water birds, and to use wetlands wisely. In UK, all Ramsar sites are designated as SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.

RBO (*Regeling Beheersovereenkomsten*) (NL) Dutch Management Agreements Regulation introduced in 1988 which provided for further development of the policy of incentive payments for farmers first introduced in the Netherlands in 1975. RBO distinguishes between "Management Areas" within which voluntary management agreements with farmers are made and "Reserve Areas" where land is purchased by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries for the creation of nature reserves. Under the former, farmers choose between over 40 different packages of management measures with different objectives. Payments made to farmers vary depending on the measures they choose and the type of soil on which they farm.

Reasoned Opinion May be sent by the European Commission to a national government when it believes that particular Directives are not being fully complied with. This correspondence is not generally made available to the public in the UK.

Regulation An EU legislative instrument which is directly applicable to all citizens and governments in all Member States. Unlike a DIRECTIVE, a Regulation is binding both in terms of its objectives and the means to achieve them and so is equivalent to national laws. Most agricultural policy under the CAP is in the form of Regulations.

REPS See RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SCHEME.

retention period The minimum period over which any ewes, suckler cows or beef cattle for which applications for EU premia have been submitted must be kept on the holding in order to qualify for support. For the BEEF SPECIAL PREMIUM SCHEME animals must be held for fattening for at least two months and for the SUCKLER COW PREMIUM, cows must be held for at least six months, starting the day after the date of application. For the SHEEP ANNUAL PREMIUM SCHEME in the UK the retention period is from 4 February to 14 May.

retrait de terres agricoles à long terme (F) Long-term set-aside.

Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (EI) A major, national voluntary incentive scheme launched in Eire in 1994 under AGRI-ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92. All farmers with more than 3 ha of land are eligible to apply provided they have an approved farm management plan, drawn up by a certified agency. For a fixed payment per hectare (up to a maximum of 40 hectares) claimants comply with a set of prescriptions covering a diversity of issues eg grassland management, waste management, protection of watercourses, maintenance of field boundaries, attendance on a 20 hour training course, restrictions on the use of pesticides and fertilisers near hedges and watercourses. Supplementary payments for additional measures are available eg conversion to organic farming, destocking in designated areas and long term set-aside.

SAC Special Area for Conservation, see HABITATS DIRECTIVE.

Scottish Natural Heritage See NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCIES.

set-aside The withdrawal of arable land from production. Three main forms:

- ◆ **five year voluntary set-aside** introduced in 1988 and compulsory in all Member States, this was the first application of set-aside under the CAP. Farmers could choose to set-aside a minimum of 20 % of their arable land into permanent or rotational fallow, afforestation or other non-agricultural uses for a period of five years in return for compensation payments, set by individual Member States within EC defined limits. Subsequently superseded by MARKET SET-ASIDE.
- ◆ **market set-aside** Introduced in the MACSHARRY REFORMS as a means of reducing surplus production. Farmers claiming aid under the MAIN SCHEME of the ARABLE AREA PAYMENTS SCHEME are obliged to set-aside a certain proportion of their land subject to various management conditions.
- ◆ **environmental set-aside** Where set-aside is managed specifically for nature conservation or pollution control, usually under a voluntary incentive scheme.

Set-aside Access Scheme See COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS SCHEME.

Severely Disadvantaged Areas See LESS FAVOURED AREAS.

sewage sludge Residual organic waste material derived from the treatment of domestic, urban and other waste waters. Currently, around 50 % of sewage sludge produced annually is disposed of by spreading on less than 1 % of the UK's agricultural land, an amount likely to increase due to the withdrawal of other outlets (eg dumping of sludge at sea is to cease by 1998 as required by EC Directive 271/91 concerning urban waste water treatment). Application of sludge as fertiliser is regulated under EC Council Directive 278/86 on the protection of the environment and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture which aims to prevent the contamination of soil, grazing animals and crops by heavy metals and micro-organisms. The Directive is enforced in the UK by means of the Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989 and subsequent amendments. Guidance is provided to farmers in the DoE's *Code of Practice on Sludge Use in Agriculture* and MAFF's and WOAD's *Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil*.

Sheep Annual Premium (SAP) Support available to producers with more than 10 ewes, in the form of a payment per ELIGIBLE EWE kept on the farm, subject to limits. In the UK, claims are restricted to the number of ewes held on the farm in 1991. Also, farmers throughout the EU are limited to claiming the subsidy on a maximum 500 ewes in the lowlands and 1,000 in the LESS FAVOURED AREAS. Farmers can sell or lease their SAP entitlement quotas.

sheepmeat and goatmeat See COMMON MARKET ORGANISATION FOR SHEEPMEAT AND GOATMEAT.

short rotation coppice (SRC) Forest trees with a harvest cycle of 10 years or less, usually grown for fuel timber.

simplified scheme Farmers claiming support under the ARABLE AREAS PAYMENTS SCHEME and who produce less than 92 tonnes of cereals per year or who only claim for direct payments on an area of land producing less than 92 tonnes of cereal crops qualify for this scheme. Those farmers producing more than 92 tonnes of cereals per year can enter the MAIN SCHEME. Unlike the Main Scheme, there is no requirement to set-aside any land in order to qualify for compensatory payments.

Single European Act Came into force in July 1987 and amends the TREATY OF ROME. It provided for the removal of all tariff barriers within the EC by the end of 1992, extended the use of majority voting in Council meetings, initiated progress towards monetary union, and furthered the powers of the European Parliament. Formal environmental objectives were introduced into the Treaty for the first time.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS) UK non-statutory site system to help protect locally important nature conservation sites. Devised by local authorities in collaboration with the Wildlife Trusts and English Nature to inform local authority development control. May be known as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance/Interest, Sites of Scientific Interest, Sites of Biological Interest, Countryside Heritage Sites.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) Designated best examples of habitat types and sites with notable species or groups of species, notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Selection of sites is based on a number of criteria including naturalness, size, diversity, typicalness and species or habitat rarity. All sites of national and international importance on land (including NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES, SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS, SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION and RAMSAR SITES) are usually designated as SSSIs. Owners and occupiers of SSSIs are required to consult the statutory NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCY before undertaking any activity potentially damaging to the site. Farmers enter into positive MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS for each site. Where agreement cannot be reached between the owner or occupier and the nature conservation agency within four months the relevant Minister may make a NATURE CONSERVATION ORDER. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires planning authorities to consult about planning applications in any consultation area around an SSSI defined by the statutory NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCY. Equivalent to AREAS OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (ASSIs) in Northern Ireland.

SPA See SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA.

Special Area for Conservation (SAC) Areas that need to be protected under the EC HABITATS DIRECTIVE. Sites of Community importance for habitats or species listed in the Directive where "a favourable conservation status" is to be maintained or restored. Expected to be mainly or exclusively SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST in the UK.

Special Nature Conservation Order Can be applied to land within a SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA, SPECIAL AREA FOR CONSERVATION (SAC) or candidate SAC, by the Secretary of State in order to prevent potentially damaging operations from taking place. Unlike standard NATURE CONSERVATION ORDERS, they are not subject to a time limit and can remain in force until a solution has been found. If a site affected by such an order is damaged, the courts have powers to require the person responsible to restore the land to its former condition. The power to make Special Nature Conservation Orders was introduced by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc)

Regulations 1994 as one of the measures required to implement the EC HABITATS DIRECTIVE in Great Britain.

Special Committee for Agriculture (SCA) Is the most important committee responsible for taking forward discussion and negotiations on CAP affairs between Council meetings. Consists of senior civil servants from the Member States and members of the Commission. Working parties of national civil servants work through proposals and attempt to identify and resolve conflicts. If possible the SCA produces a draft proposal acceptable to all Member States which is then returned to the Council of Ministers and passed without discussion. Otherwise, it returns to the Council for further negotiation.

Special Protection Area (SPA) Areas that are required to be protected under the EC BIRDS DIRECTIVE as habitats for vulnerable species on Annex I of the Directive and also regularly occurring migratory species. Both terrestrial and marine habitats. In the UK they are usually SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.

SSSI See SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.

STAR Committee See COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Statutory Agencies See NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCIES.

Statutory Instrument (SI) Subsidiary (or secondary) legislation introduced by Government ministers under powers provided by one or more Acts of Parliament and including legal regulations which expand on the provisions and aims of the enabling Act(s).

sterile strip A weed free margin of 1 m or more between the field edge and the arable crop, used to isolate the crop from invasive weeds in the field edge and to give a clean edge for machinery. Of little direct benefit to wildlife.

stocking density limit Restricts the number of animals for which a farmer can claim support under the BEEF SPECIAL PREMIUM SCHEME, SUCKLER COW PREMIUM SCHEME and SHEEP ANNUAL PREMIUM SCHEME. EXTENSION PREMIUM Stocking density is the total number of livestock on the farm, divided by the FORAGE AREA using a formula laid down in the regulations. Total number may not correspond to actual livestock numbers on the holding. The limit has been gradually reduced since its introduction in 1992 (see Box 8). In principle, a means of excluding producers from claiming subsidies for over-stocking, however, a farmer is not prevented from keeping more stock than are eligible for premia. In practice, a relatively crude system for limiting the expenditure on the beef regime.

Box 8: Stocking densities

1993	3.5 LU* per hectare of forage area
1994	3 LU per hectare of forage area
1995	2.5 LU per hectare of forage area
1996 onwards	2 LU per hectare of forage area

* LU = livestock unit

Structural Funds Established primarily to promote economic and social development in those regions of the Community which are lagging behind. There are three funds: the European Social Fund (ESF) the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Guidance Section of the EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL GUIDANCE AND GUARANTEE FUND (EAGGF), otherwise known as FEOGA.

The EC Regulations underlying the Structural Funds were amended in 1993 to improve the environmental performance of the Funds. The resources of the Structural Funds are concentrated on a number of priority objectives, of which four are geographically defined (OBJECTIVE 1, 2, 5B, 6), two focus on sections of the workforce (OBJECTIVE 3, 4) and one concerns agricultural structures throughout the EU (OBJECTIVE 5A). In addition to the Objectives, around 10 per cent of the Structural Funds are allocated to so-called Community Initiatives; approximately 13 priorities identified by the Commission which are of interest to the Community as a whole eg special programmes for border regions and areas of urban and rural stress.

subsidiarity Principle of EC policy generally taken to mean the restriction of action at EC level to those areas where it can be more effective than national or regional interventions. Although the concept of subsidiarity is enshrined in the MAASTRICHT TREATY, an official definition has not been agreed.

Suckler Cow Premium Scheme (SCP) Provides for a subsidy to be paid on breeding cows used for beef calf production at a rate rising from ECU 70 per head in 1993 to ECU 120 per head in 1995. Member States may top up the subsidy by up to ECU 25 but the UK government has not taken up this option. A number of restrictions apply to claims for SCP; STOCKING DENSITY LIMITS must be observed as for BEEF SPECIAL PREMIUM and producers must show that they do not deliver any milk or milk products produced on the farm. UK government may reduce or withhold premium, as for Beef Special Premium, if severe overgrazing is occurring.

Tir Cymen Welsh near equivalent to the COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME. Designed and operated by the Countryside Council for Wales and launched in 1992 as a pilot scheme. It is a voluntary whole farm scheme available in three districts (Dinefwr, Meirionnydd and Swansea). Farmers are required to observe strict environmental standards on the whole holding for which there is a basic annual payment; thereafter the scheme payments are targeted at the improvement of habitat and landscape features and the provision of access. Capital grants and supplementary payments are also available in the first years of uptake. Contracts run for ten years. Now implemented under the EC AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92.

Treaty of Rome Signed in Rome on 25 March 1957, established the European Economic Community which was originally composed of six Member States. Has been amended and extended by the SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT of 1986 and by the Treaty on European Union of 1992, also known as the Maastricht Treaty. Articles 38-47 of the Treaty of Rome apply to agriculture directly. Products covered by the CAP are listed in Annex II of the Treaty, although some products not listed may be affected by CAP rules.

Treaty on European Union See TREATY OF ROME.

UAA Utilised Agricultural Area.

under sowing Sowing of a grass mixture after an arable crop is established. Both develop at the same time and the undersown grass is left as a cover after the arable crop has been harvested. Method used to establish cover required on set-aside land in the UK.

variable costs Expenses incurred on a holding which vary in direct proportion to small changes in the scale of the enterprise according to the crops, livestock and practices in use. Main items are fertilisers, seed, sprays, casual labour and contract work specific to a crop, concentrate feed, veterinary expenses and bought in forage.

water pollution from agriculture In the form of silage effluent, slurry, dirty water and fuel oil is controlled by the Water Act 1989 and the resulting Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 1991 which set standards for keeping and handling the

substances. The use of pesticides is controlled by the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985, the Water Act 1989 and other legislation. Guidance to the legislation is provided in MAFF's and WOAD's *Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water*, SOAFD's *Code of Good Practice: Prevention of environmental pollution from agricultural activity*.

waste See FARM WASTE and WATER POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURE.

wild bird cover A COVER CROP mixture of at least two crop groups (eg cereals and brassica) other than legumes which may be sown on set-aside land to provide feeding grounds for seed and insect eating birds. Best provided in small patches throughout the farm.

Wildlife Enhancement Scheme Voluntary and flexible scheme run by English Nature providing positive incentives in the form of annual and standard capital payments for the sensitive management of SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST in certain parts of England.

Woodland Grant Scheme Provides support for the establishment, by planting or regeneration, and management of new woodland on agricultural land. Grants available for planting and managing of conifer and broadleaf species. A five year management plan is required. Administered by the Forestry Authority. Claimants may subsequently apply to the FARM WOODLAND GRANT SCHEME.

World Trade Organisation (WTO) Body established during the Uruguay Round of the GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) to supervise and adjudicate implementation of international trading agreements and arrangements.

ZNIEFF (F) See ZONES NATURELLES D'INTÉRÊT ECOLOGIQUE FAUNISTIQUE ET FLORISTIQUE.

zonal programme A concept introduced in AGRI-ENVIRONMENT REGULATION 2078/92 where it is suggested that environmental incentive schemes for farmers which are to be implemented by each Member State are formulated within programmes which cover discrete geographical areas, ie zones, which are "homogenous in terms of the environment and the countryside". The exact meaning of a zonal programme is open to interpretation. Many Member States have chosen to implement nationally available programmes.

Zones Naturelles d'Intérêt Ecologique Faunistique et Floristique (ZNIEFF) (F) Sites identified as being of high natural value in France. Research is ongoing to further develop the inventory of sites.

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