

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CAP AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT REGULATION CHANGES ON AGROFORESTRY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Recent CAP changes, particularly introduction of the Single Farm Payment, will have significant implications for the retention of non-forest trees on farms throughout the European Union. Fears for the removal of traditional orchards have been partially allayed but grave worries exist about the loss of montado and dehesa systems in Portugal and Spain, of bocages in France and of streuobst in Central Europe. The potential for silvoarable and silvopastoral systems is limited by the potential use of 50 trees/ha as the threshold for woodland (and therefore ineligible for Single Farm Payments). However the proposed Rural Development Regulation does contain, for the first time, an Article permitting grants to be paid for the initial establishment of new agroforestry systems. Implications of these new regulations in the UK are presented, together with potential impacts on landscape.

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