

## Not managed strip in clover grass

<b>Goal</b>	Establishment of additional foraging- and breeding habitat
<b>Target group</b>	Any farmer who grows clover grass
<b>Description of the measure</b>	<p>Cultivation of legume-grass-mixtures, clover or Lucerne in a crop rotation of 1–5 years. Composition is not defined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No mowing on parts or in strips on 3–20 % of the plot</li> <li>▪ At least 5m width; if nests of ground breeding field birds are present than the width should be 10m in order to avoid predation.</li> <li>▪ Areas or strips can be distributed over the whole plot (e.g. every 100 m a strip of 5–10 m); in the surroundings of water bodies important for amphibians or on diverse flowering hill tops an concentration of the not managed strip may be more favorable</li> </ul>
<b>Suitable sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Whole farming area</li> <li>▪ Bigger plots</li> <li>▪ This measure is especially valuable on plots with surrounding permanent pasture, fallows or margins as many insects migrate here.</li> </ul>
<b>How a good implementation looks like</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No mowing on parts or in strips on 3–20 % of the plot</li> <li>▪ At least 5m width</li> </ul>
<b>Effects on biodiversity</b> (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)	 <p>Clover grass sites are a favorable breeding habitat <b>for field birds</b> such as skylark or corn bunting. Additional measures to increase the breeding success are advisable (e.g. distance to vertical structures...).</p> <p>Increase of permanent forage for raptors such as red kite and lesser spotted eagle.</p>
	 <p>Support <b>of insects</b>: Lucerne and red clover are valuable nectar plants for bees, bumblebees and butterflies. Grasshoppers and other insects benefit from improved reproduction success in perennial clover grass due to missing tillage.</p> <p>Insects such as grasshoppers are protected from dehydration after mowing.</p> <p>Insects will be benefit more from this measure if the not managed strip will be next to bushes, hedges or other woody elements.</p>
	 <p>High cut in clover grass is valuable forage for <b>hare</b>.</p> <p>It also protects against predators and sun.</p>

<b>Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer</b>	This measure is included in the agri-environmental scheme of the EU and may be subsidized. For further information check the regional funding programs of the country.
<b>Indicator/key data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Total share of area where clover grass remains unmanaged in relation to the total area cultivated with clover grass.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk and further recommendations</b>	Problem weeds, such as corn thistle can be mulched locally. On the other hand, thistles are important forage plants for butterflies. That's why it is not desirable to have completely "clean" areas.
<b>Timeframe</b> (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	Depending on the target species this measure needs to be applied at different times during the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grasshoppers in summer</li> <li>▪ Lesser spotted eagle and field birds from May to June</li> <li>▪ Amphibians from July to end of September</li> </ul>
<b>Additional special resources/equipment/skills needed</b>	None
<b>References</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.landwirtschaft-artenvielfalt.de">www.landwirtschaft-artenvielfalt.de</a></li> <li>▪ NABU, Fact Sheets – Feldvögel, Kulturfolger der Landwirtschaft</li> <li>▪ Vögel der Agrarlandschaft, NABU 2004</li> </ul>

## Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for advisors of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

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