

Increasing cultivation of spring crops

Goal	Support of field birds
Short description of the measure	Increasing share of spring cereals, legumes, corn and other species in the crop rotation on 20 % of arable land as a minimum.
Timeframe <small>(When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)</small>	<p>Depending on the crop:</p> <p>Temperate region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spring Barley: March with the first vegetation coming up ▪ Spring Oat: Beginning of February, depending on soil conditions ▪ Spring Wheat: Mid of February ▪ Spring Triticale: November till beginning of April ▪ Spring Rye: Mid of February till end of March <p>Mediterranean region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spring Barley: December till the beginning of February with the first vegetation coming up. ▪ Spring Oat: December till the end of January, depending on soil conditions. ▪ Spring Wheat: December till the beginning of February. ▪ Spring Triticale: November till the beginning of February. ▪ Spring Rye: January till mid-February.
How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?	
Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)	<p>Crop rotations shall be planned profound considering all crops on farm scale in order to profit from benefits above.</p> <p>In dry springs, spring crops may need to be irrigated.</p>
Effects on biodiversity <small>(ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)</small>	 <p>Spring crops are valuable sites for field birds as sky larks. As the growth height is still low in May (in temperate region) and in April (in Mediterranean region), sites are light and provide breeding habitat for a longer period than winter crops do.</p>
Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area cultivated with spring crops (ha)

References

- www.landwirtschaft-artenvielfalt.de
- www.franz-projekt.de/massnahmen
- Information sheet "Ackerwildkräuter erhalten und fördern" - Netzwerk Blühende Landschaften www.bluehende-landschaft.de/nbl/nbl.handlungsempfehlungen/nbl.landwirtschaft/index.html
- NABU, Fact Sheets – Feldvögel, Kulturfolger der Landwirtschaft
- Vögel der Agrarlandschaft, NABU 2004

Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for auditors 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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