

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM: GERMANY

Livestock in Sustainable Wetland Farming in Donaumoos

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In the Swabien Donaumoos region, known for its extensive peatlands and wetlands, a sustainable farming revolution is underway. Livestock, particularly robust cattle breeds, play a pivotal role in this transformation.

Extensive grazing, allowing cattle to roam freely in these natural landscapes, is becoming a leading method to manage wetland ecosystems sustainably. It promotes biodiversity, enhances soil health, and curbs invasive plant species, all while sequestering carbon – a climate-friendly agricultural approach. In Donaumoos, extensive grazing with robust cattle breeds is a cornerstone of maintaining protected natural areas. This practice supports unique flora and fauna while aiding climate mitigation.

Donaumoos stands out for opening approximately 100 hectares of protected natural areas for cattle grazing. This innovative strategy exemplifies the region's commitment to balancing agriculture and conservation. It addresses the dual challenges of food production and ecosystem preservation in the face of climate change.

A cooperative community of eight young farmers will try to gain a sustainable way of extensive farming. Their pasture-sharing approach fosters a sense of responsibility and collaboration, ensuring wetlands are stewarded for future generations. They harmonize agriculture with environmental and conservation goals, promoting wetland preservation.

Donaumoos demonstrates how livestock integration into wetland farming can merge agriculture and conservation effectively. Through extensive grazing, the region contributes to both climate protection and nature conservation. This example underscores the importance of preserving critical habitats.



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MIXED'
NETWORK FROM GERMANY**





ABOUT THE PROJECT

MIXED (Multi-actor and transdisciplinary development of efficient and resilient MIXED farming and agroforestry systems), an EU-project, is supporting the development of European Mixed Farming and Agroforestry Systems (MiFAS) that are more efficient and resilient to climate changes.

7M€
BUDGET

19
PARTNERS

10
COUNTRIES

ABOUT MIXED IN GERMANY

In Germany, MIXED is collaboratively implemented by the Institute for Rural Development Research and the Swabian Donaumoos Association. The project is working with two groups of farmers practicing MiFAS (Mixed Farming and Agroforestry Systems) in different ways.

Agriculture in Germany is practiced on half of the total land area and can be characterized as specialized, highly productive and intensively managed, though with a high degree of local and regional variability. Animal feed is produced on almost two-thirds of the agricultural area. 95% of the 1.4 Mio hectare peatland areas in Germany are degraded. 65% are still used for conventional agriculture, 13% for forestry and by that lose their high potential for climate protection. Drained agricultural peatlands are responsible for 80% of CO2 emissions from agricultural land use in the EU.



The demo day at Hof Hartmann attracted numerous visitors and encouraged intensive discussions (© Holger Pabst)

MIXED partners from Germany:

