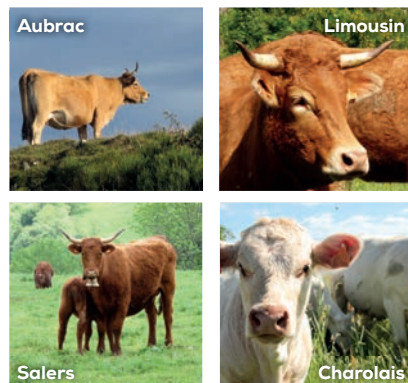


5 typical farming systems found in the Massif central



BEEF CATTLE

In terms of farm numbers, suckler beef farming is the #1 production in the Massif central. The region is France's primary suckler beef rearing area, enabling France to consolidate its dominant position as #1 exporter of beef cattle to Europe. Four of the world's leading beef breeds originate from the Massif Central, these are the Charolais, Limousin, Aubrac and Salers. The region also boasts a number of signs of cattle quality schemes, such as (AOP* Fin Gras du Mézenc, AOP Bœuf de Charolles) and for calves (IGP** Veaux d'Aveyron and IGP du Ségala, IGP Veau fermier du Limousin).

*Appellation d'Origine Protégée (PDO - Protected Designation of Origin)

**Indication Géographique Protégée (PGI - Protected Geographical Indication)

1,4 million
suckler cows

22,500
beef cattle or mixed beef cattle farms



DAIRY CATTLE

386,000 dairy cows producing roughly 2 Bn litres of milk per year, most of which is processed into cheese, many of which are known throughout the world (AOP St-Nectaire, AOP Fourme d'Ambert, AOP Cantal, AOP Bleu d'Auvergne, etc.)

5,500
milk cattle farms

20%
of the total national milk cow herd



SHEEP

The dairy sheep sector is concentrated in the Roquefort AOP designated area, Roquefort is France's principal ewe's milk cheese.

Lambs reared in the Massif central for their meat are primarily from local breeds well adapted to the environment. They are known for the quality and taste of their meat due to the extensive, grassland farming methods.

700,000
milk ewes

1 million
suckler ewes

1/4 of the national
suckler flock



GOATS

Dairy goat farms are concentrated mainly on the eastern edge of the Massif Central and in the Causses du Quercy. AOP Rocamadour & AOP Picodon PDO are two must-try goat cheeses, perfect for any cheeseboard.

174,000 goats

1/4 of total national
goat farms



HORSES

In the 22 départements in the Massif central, the rearing of horses is focused on draught horses (mainly the Comtois breed) and ridden horses (mainly the Selle français breed). Only the Auvergne horse and Bourbonnais donkey are native to the region.

4,653
farms

11,236
brood mares

Between **30** and **40%**
of total Comtois foals

Source of data IFCE

Figures from the 2020 agricultural census.

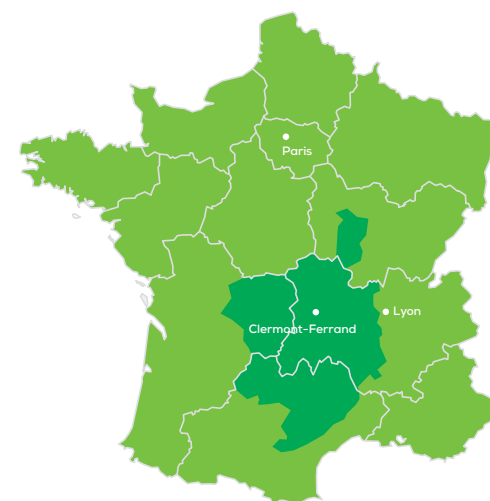


APRAMAC

Association Pour la Promotion
Agricole du Massif central

Farming in the Massif central in a few figures

As big as Austria or Portugal, the Massif central covers a total area of 85,000 km², that includes four administrative regions and 22 départements in part or in totality for a population of 3.8 million inhabitants.

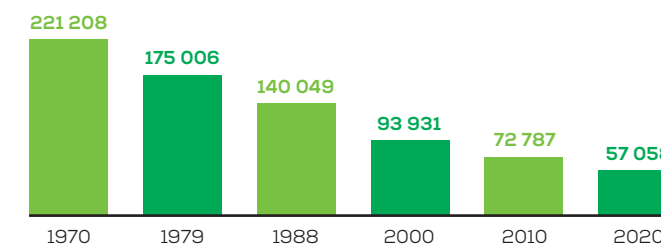


98.5% of the Massif central is in Less-Favoured areas, as follows,

- **62%** in mountain areas (representing 64% of total national mountain areas)
- **36.5%** in areas subject to natural or specific constraints
- **1.5%** of lowland

As seen throughout France, the Massif central has witnessed a steady decline in farm numbers since the 1970s.

Today, **75,000** farmers work on **57,000** farms for a total farmland area of 4.1 million hectares.



Number of farms in the Massif central 1970-2020



86%
of farm labour
is family

Average farm
size is
72 hectares,
similar to the
national average

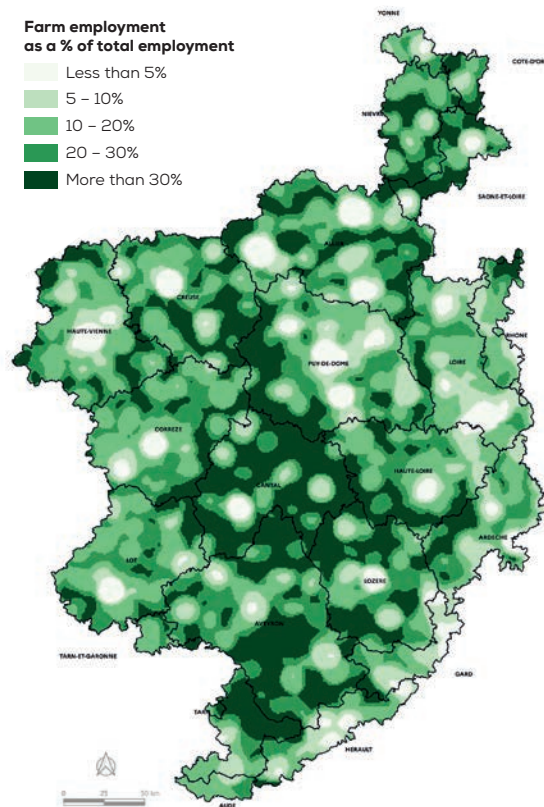
56 LU* /
active farmer
or employee on
milk cattle farms
is 28% less than
the national
average

69 LU* /
active farmer
or employee
on mixed cattle
farms is 21% less
than the national
average

77 LU* /
active farmer
or employee on
beef cattle farms
is similar to the
national average

44 LU* /
active farmer
or employee on
sheep or goat
farms is similar
to the national
average

*Livestock Units (LU): a cow = 1 LU, a ewe = 0.15 LU



Source: INSEE 2019 census, published by SRISET DRAAF AURA

The Massif central, an area of livestock grazing

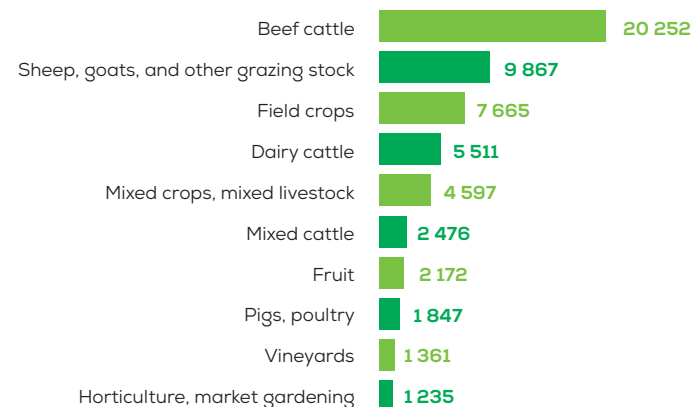
81% of farmland in the Massif central is down to grassland.

This represents **1/3rd** of France's total grassland area!

In total, **84% of farmland** is used for livestock farming.

1.12 LU* / ha - Average stocking rate in the Massif central

*Livestock Units



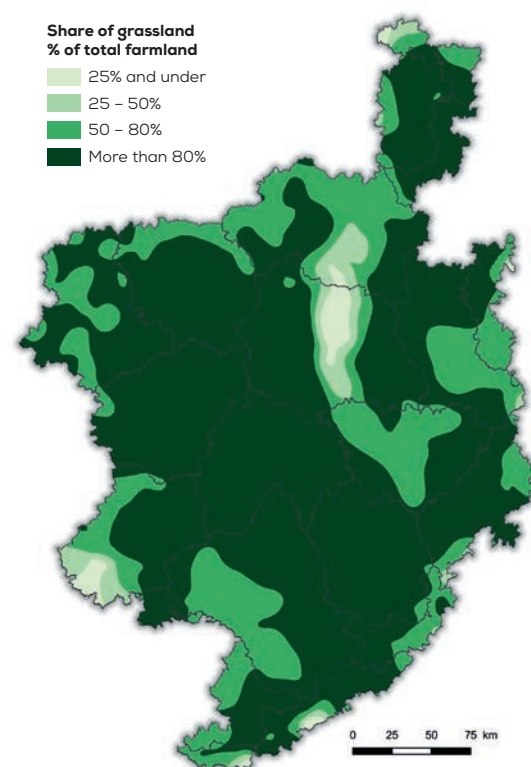
Number of farms in the Massif central by principal activity in 2020

Farm employment as a part of total employment

Agriculture employs the equivalent of **81,000 full-time jobs** in the Massif central.

It is the main employer in many rural areas, often accounting for more than 30% of jobs in the region, helping to create a vibrant rural economy.

Farmers and co-operators account for most of this workforce (63,000 Full-Time Employees, or FTEs), followed by permanent non-family employees (7,350 FTEs), permanent family workers (6,700 FTEs) and seasonal workers (3,480 FTEs).



Source: Farm census 2010 - CIGN- BD TOPO
Published by: DRAAF Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes / SRISET - January 2018

The Sustainability of livestock farming in the Massif central

The extensive grassland livestock farming systems found in the Massif central provide numerous environmental and social benefits.



COUNTRYSIDE

Livestock farming shapes landscapes and maintains land, preventing it from becoming overgrown. The recognisable lush green landscapes of the Massif central are the fruit of the labours of the area's livestock farmers and the herds that graze them.



BIODIVERSITY

- Permanent grasslands are recognised as ecosystems rich in biodiversity, both in terms of the flora that makes them up and the fauna that provides shelter and food.

- Grassland systems use very few chemical inputs and require virtually no plant protection treatment.



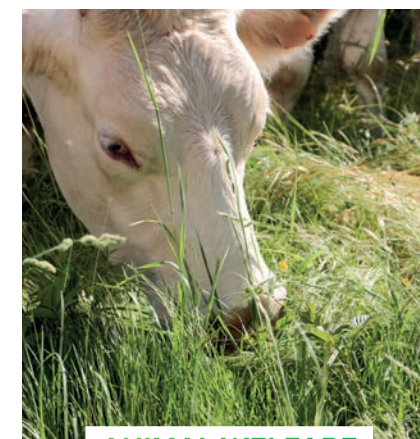
CARBON

Permanent grasslands are known for their awesome carbon-fixing capability of 310 tCO₂ eq/ha on average. This means that converting one hectare of permanent grassland into arable land removes the carbon equivalent of 556,000 km travelled by car, or 1,400 times the distance from Paris to Clermont Ferrand!



WATER

Grassland absorbs and filters rainwater very effectively, reducing the risk of soil erosion and ensuring that the Massif central benefits from a very high-quality potable water.



ANIMAL WELFARE

Livestock rearing practices associated with grazing are known to be conducive to the well-being and health of farm animals.



HERITAGE

Grazing livestock in the Massif central maintains good farming practices of pastoralism and transhumance and helps to preserve a gastronomic, architectural, and cultural heritage.

Despite all these benefits, livestock farming in the Massif central is far from being highly profitable for farmers. In 2021, farms in the Massif central generated an average pre-tax income of just **€32,000, that's 44% lower than the national average.**