



## **Bavarian Proposals for the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) from 2028**

**The Bavarian State Government is clearly committed to farming** and set the course for a fundamental revision **of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** and the **de-bureaucratisation** of agriculture.

An agricultural policy, and in particular a CAP 28 that serves the interest of farmers, means above all: **Practicality and clarity.**

The task of the CAP is to create suitable conditions so that an **appropriate income** can be generated in agriculture and **social and environmental challenges** can be mastered alongside food production.

Agriculture faces many challenges. The safe supply of the population with high-quality local food as a classic core task has been brought back into the focus of society by the many crises. The high importance of a food supply largely independent of third countries through a functioning domestic agriculture became evident at the beginning of the Ukraine war with the associated market disruptions.

At the same time, agriculture is an important partner for biodiversity, resource and climate protection as well as animal welfare. In addition, our farmers in rural areas make a significant contribution to vital villages and the preservation of our attractive cultural landscape.

They can only meet these socially important tasks and demands if the framework conditions are right. Practical and reliable requirements are essential so that farms can generate an adequate with their services.

### **Bavaria's Way: Working Together on Solutions**

The Bavarian State Government has therefore set itself the goal of aligning the future agricultural policy together with farmers to the needs of agriculture, the environment and society. It has also committed itself to bringing its own proposal for the next CAP from 2028 into the debate early on in order to actively place the bavarian perspective in Brussels.

In this context, Minister of State Michaela Kaniber established the "Praktikerrat" (Farmers' Council) on 30 January 2024 under the leadership of former Minister of State Dr

Marcel Huber. This nationwide unique body of farmers, representatives of agricultural, environmental and forest owner associations, food industry and administration has developed key points for the design of the CAP funding period from 2028 to 2035 and proposals for a leaner bureaucracy.

## **Bavarian Proposals for the New CAP**

The multifaceted Farmers' Council has shown that, despite differing views, a common design of the CAP is possible that unites the interests of agriculture, the environment and society. On 26 June 2024, the Panel presented proposals for CAP 28 in a discussion paper.

Based on the discussion paper of the Farmers' Council, the following Bavarian proposals on CAP 28 are formulated:

### **1. Income-Effective Reward for Responsible Food Production through a Qualified Basic Premium**

Sustainable and sovereign food production for a secure supply of the population at prices that are affordable is a great good. Last but not least, it serves social peace in society and must be preserved.

- The contributions of agriculture for society must be rewarded and made visible in terms of income by means of a **qualified basic premium**. This ensures a sustainable resilience of agricultural production and secures the food supply.
- For this purpose, **EU-wide minimum sustainability standards** in the form of the preservation of permanent grassland, peatland protection and a uniform riparian buffer strip must be adhered to. These standards meet the climate and environmental protection goals and at the same time simplify the requirements for practice and administration.
- The **increased labor time required for land-based animal husbandry** must positively impact the level of the qualified basic premium alongside the reference area of land through standardized values – unlike the previous purely area-based direct payments.
- Funding will continue to be provided only to **active farmers**, both in full-time and part-time farming.

## 2. Practicality through Greater Personal Responsibility and Lean Bureaucracy

The CAP needs to be significantly streamlined.

- A far-reaching departure from the current highly detailed and sometimes inappropriate management requirements (GAEC standards) is needed. Instead of micro-control, **there must be more personal responsibility**. In return, farmers must have up-to-date expertise in sustainable farming in order to meet this responsibility.
- The application system for farmers needs to be **made clearer and leaner**. Repeated evidence of the same facts must be abolished. This requires a comprehensive, cross-authority solution.

## 3. Optimal Goal Achievement through Tailored Measures in a Regional Modular System

The intertwining of GAEC standards, nationwide offered eco-schemes and regional agri-environment-climate measures at a regional level have led to a confusing and complex system. The qualified basic premium must be clearly distinguished from income-supporting measures aimed at achieving environmental, climate, species protection and animal welfare goals, which are offered from the regions with different agricultural and social structures.

- The EU is characterised by the diversity and uniqueness of its Member States and regions. The agricultural structures are just as diverse and unique. Standardized measures for diverse regions do not justice to this. Therefore, a **high budget** is necessary to pursue goals that go beyond sustainable sovereign food production through a **regional modular system**.
- In addition to sustainability and animal welfare, regional measures also **strengthen the entire supply chain** - from primary production to processing and marketing, and ultimately to the end consumer.

## 4. Attractive Financial Incentives for Sustainability and Animal Welfare

Farmers play a central role when it comes to voluntary contributions in the **areas of sustainability, climate, environmental and species protection as well as animal welfare and the maintenance of cultivated landscapes**. These are indispensable for society as a whole. An **appropriate income-effective remuneration** beyond mere expense compensation is necessary as motivation for these contributions. The EU's sustainable development goals can only be achieved through better funding of the CAP.

## 5. Stable Family Businesses: the Heart of Bavarian Agriculture

Small and medium-sized family-run farms are the face of Bavaria. They represent the valuable Bavarian structures and provide ideal conditions to bring the population closer to agricultural reality. Each of these farms also contributes to the sustainable sovereign production of food and to the maintenance of the cultural landscape.

- The proven **increased support for the first hectares** for the farms must be continued in favour of the smaller farms.
- The **introduction of capping and degression** will benefit small and medium-sized farms. Larger farms already have cost advantages and higher profits due to their land area and are therefore less reliant on the qualified basic premium.
- The well-established **coupled payments** for production sectors, which are particularly important for ecosystem services and self-sufficiency, must also be maintained.
- For strong, future-oriented farms, we need **attractive support for young farmers**.

The outcome of the Farmers' Council has shown that a CAP 28 that is in line with the needs of agriculture, the environment and society is possible.

Munich, January 2025