Examples of Measures on the Farms

Segetal flora have more light and less competition in sparse cereal stocks. Farmland birds and brown hares find ample food and cover there.

- Corn poppy (Papaver rhoeas)
- Cornflower (Centaurea cyanus) with honey bee

Red-backed shrike (Lanius collurio) Extensive grazing with suckler herds contributes to the preservation of biodiversity in grasslands.

- Queen of Spain fritillary (Issoria lathonia) on lucerne
- Unmown strip in the legume-grass leys.

Extensively used buffer strips at the edges of small water bodies are important summer habitats for amphibians from which insects also profit.

- European tree frog (Hyla arborea)

May use is better for herbs than silage, because seeds can still dry and drop out after mowing.

- Bellflower (Campanula patula)

Unmown strips offer farmland birds, brown hares and insects a refuge during and after mowing.

- Large marsh grasshopper (Stethophyma grossum)
Biodiversity Concerns Us All

Agricultural habitats play an important role in biodiversity in Central Europe. However, the reduction of biodiversity here is particularly dramatic due to the intensification of land use. This even affects animals and plants which were once typically associated with fields and meadows, such as sky rockets or whinchats. Blossom-rich meadows which are filled with life are hard to find nowadays. Segetal floras, such as the pale poppy or forking larkspur, which used to ensure colourful diversity in the fields, are becoming increasingly rare.

Agriculture for Biodiversity

But there are ways of farming agricultural land so that it offers a habitat for wild animals and plants. Organic farming in particular makes a significant contribution to the preservation of biodiversity, among other things due to its diverse crop rotations and the avoidance of synthetic chemical pesticides as well as mineral nitrogen fertilizers. Organic farming in particular makes a significant contribution to the preservation of biodiversity, among other things due to its diverse crop rotations and the avoidance of synthetic chemical pesticides as well as mineral nitrogen fertilizers.

The aim of the “Agriculture for Biodiversity” nature conservation module is to increase the diversity of species of wild animals and plants in agricultural habitats demonstrably and thereby to reverse the decline of indigenous flora and fauna. The nature conservation module is an additional qualification for special achievements in the promotion of biodiversity.

More Successful Together

No two farms are the same. The variety of measures makes it possible for each farm to put its own nature conservation services together individually, according to its operation. These are adapted to the individual location, the specific farming procedures used, as well as the availability of certain target species.

Nature Conservation and Agriculture – More Successful Together

One of the key pillars of the standard is the nature conservation consultation, to which each participating farm is entitled. The consultants identify areas and existing target species that are particularly valuable and show which nature conservation measures are useful. With the farmer, an individual package of measures is drawn up. This will be further optimised in subsequent years building on the concrete experience on site. Exchange and cooperation are the basis for the success of the standard!

The Farms

A joint project by WWF, Biopark and Edeka. Scientifically supported and implemented by ZALF e.V.

Measure and Share Successes

Not everything is predictable, not every effect of a measure can be known. It is therefore all the more important to observe and to document the effectiveness of the measures on selected farms. What can be learned from this? What can be transferred to other farms? Monitoring and evaluation programmes are currently in progress for the segetal flora, whinchats and grassland flora.

Marketing and Transparency

EDEKA is supporting the project and guarantees to take delivery of the agricultural products from the farmers. These products can be recognised by their “Agriculture for Biodiversity” logo. Consumers can trace the origin of the products back to the farms with a tracking code.

Outlook

The aim of the project is the large scale introduction and use of the “Agriculture for Biodiversity” standard by organic farms. The more organic farmers take part, the better it is for the protection of species.