

**Question for written answer E-006896/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: CAP 2015-2020: recognition of oak and chestnut groves

Discussions about aspects of the new common agricultural policy (CAP) for the period 2015-2020 are ongoing. There is a specific scheme for areas classified as permanent grassland or pasture. As currently proposed, it would seem to exclude certain areas of the 'closed tree cover' type (oak and chestnut groves) where there is no herbaceous ground vegetation suitable for grazing. Yet acorns and chestnuts are essential fodder resources, notably in south-eastern France, and it has been proven that a hectare of oak or chestnut woodland can provide as much food as a hectare of grassland in springtime. Refusing to include oak and chestnut groves in the scheme will discourage farmers from continuing to keep stock and thereby maintaining areas of landscape which, if not grazed by sheep, would be subject to shrub encroachment.

1. Does the Commission have any plans to classify fallen tree fruits (such as acorns and chestnuts) as a fodder resource?
2. Does it have any plans to include areas of 'closed tree cover' in the permanent grassland scheme under the new CAP?