

RESULTS-BASED AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT

Organic Denmark, The Danish Society for Nature Conservation, Animal Protection Denmark, Danish Vegetarian Association, The Plant-Based Business Association, World Animal Protection, Birdlife Denmark, Danish Beekeepers' Association, Green Transition Denmark, Permaculture Denmark recommend that, from 2028, the part of Danish area-based agricultural support aimed at farm operations should be implemented as a result-based support model. This should replace the present support model that primarily rewards land ownership.

The objective is to make agricultural support a key instrument for climate, nature, water quality and animal welfare policy, thereby supporting the sustainable development of Danish food production, including the transition towards a more plant-based food sector. The proposal would reward farmers for modelled outcomes rather than predefined activities. Support would be based on existing farm data and accounts documenting performance across four sustainability areas. The scheme can be targeted to address regional and local priorities.

THE MODEL USES A CLIMATE ACCOUNT, A NITROGEN EMISSIONS ACCOUNT, A FIELD NATURE INDEX, AN ANIMAL WELFARE INDEX



Climate

- Payment based on the farm's climate account, expressed as CO₂e per hectare (CO₂e/ha).
- A lower climate footprint results in higher support payments.



Nitrogen

- Payment based on nitrogen leaching, expressed as kg N per hectare (kg N/ha).
- Nitrogen emissions below specified benchmark levels result in higher support payments.



Nature in Agricultural Land

- Payment based on a field nature index, measuring the biodiversity potential of cultivated agricultural land, expressed as a nature index score per hectare.
- Greater biodiversity potential results in higher support payments.



Animal Welfare

- Payment based on selected animal welfare indicators that go beyond statutory minimum requirements, expressed as an animal welfare score per livestock unit.
- A higher score results in higher support payments.

THE PROPOSAL ALSO INCLUDES:

- Higher support rates for small farms
- Increased support for fruit, berry and vegetable production
- Support for food-grade pulses
- Support for pollination measures
- Organic conversion support and possible organic premium
- Support for livestock extensification and transition



FINANCING AND WEIGHTING

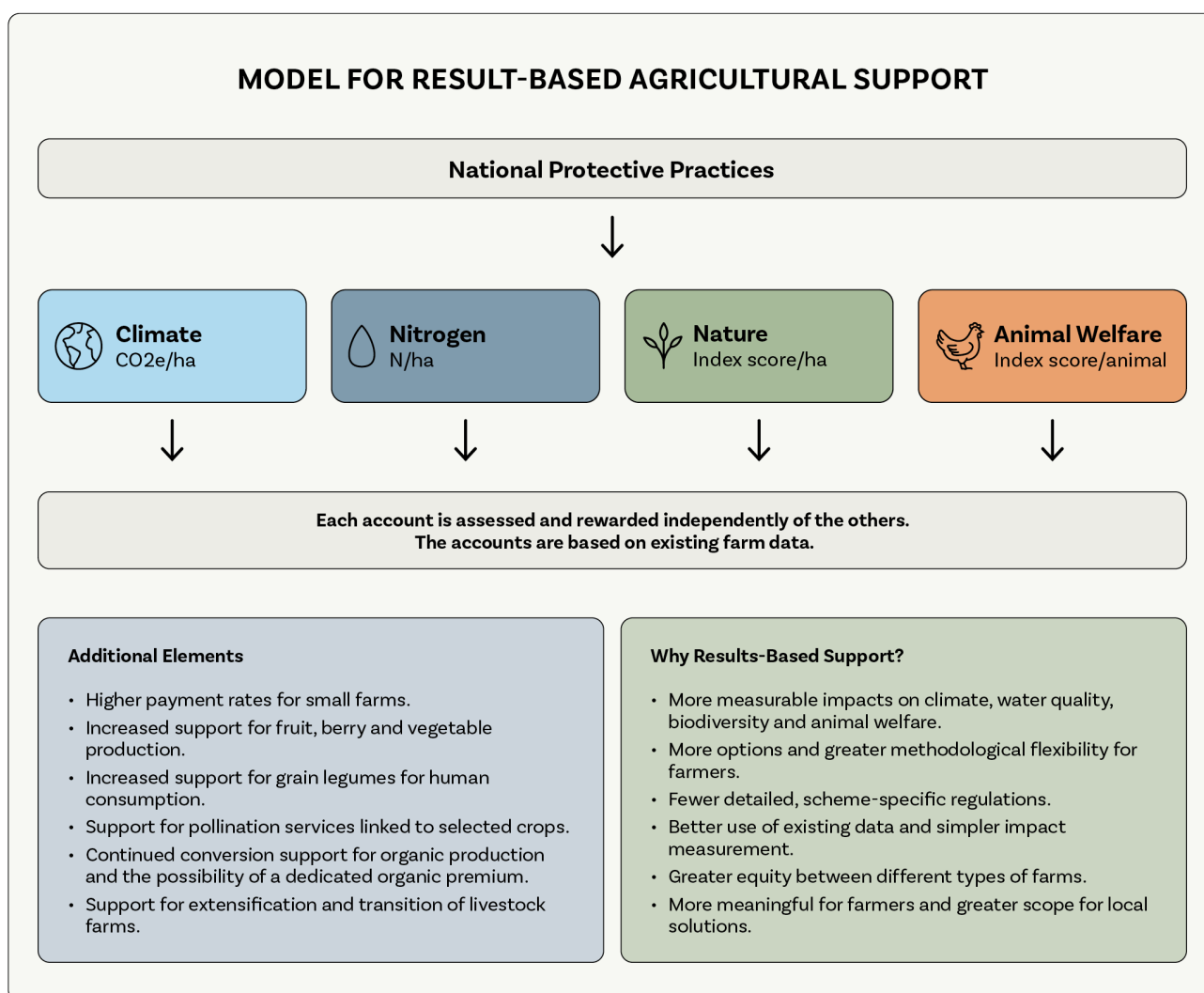
The model would be financed within the new NRP Fund, under which 43% of resources must be allocated to climate and environmental measures. The organizations emphasize that animal welfare should also be included in the overall prioritization.

The weighting of the different schemes should ensure genuine prioritization across all four sustainability areas and reflect the political objectives within each area. Payment levels should be based on the economic implications of transition and adaptation, ensuring that participation is both economically realistic and relevant for farmers.

EXPECTED BENEFITS

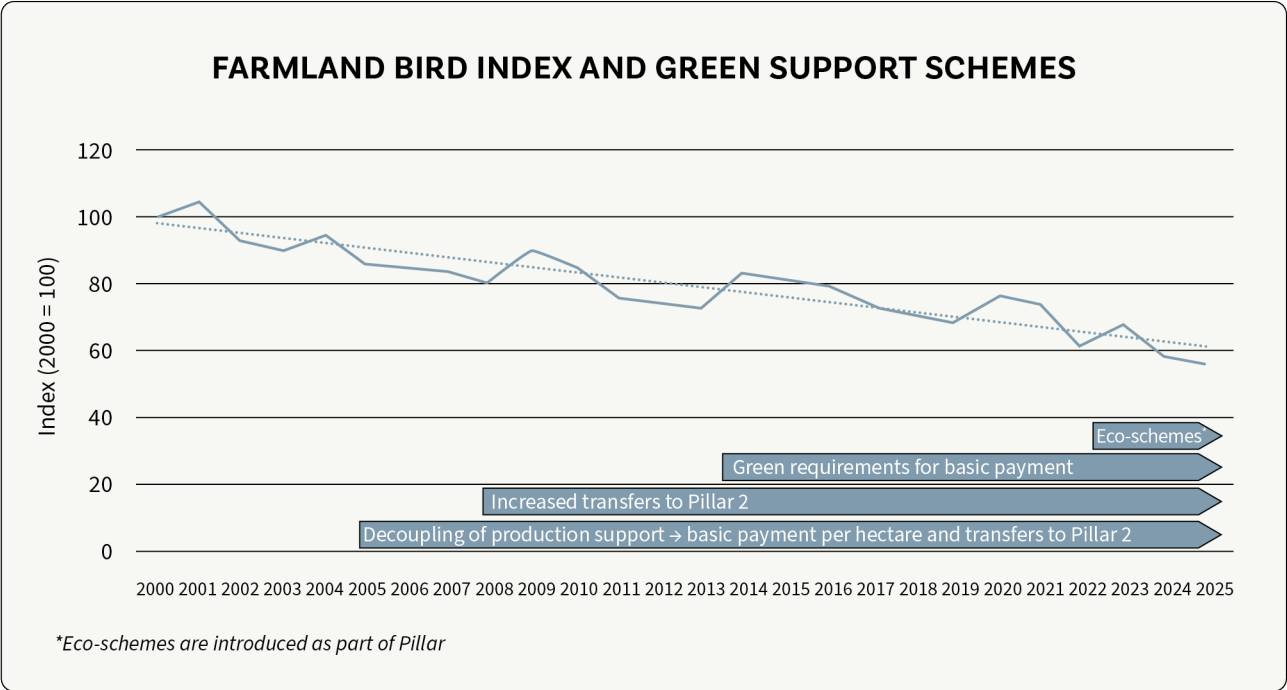
- More measurable impacts
- Greater flexibility for farmers
- Fewer narrowly regulated schemes
- Better use of existing data
- Greater equality among farm types
- More room for local solutions

RESULT-BASED AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT FROM 2028

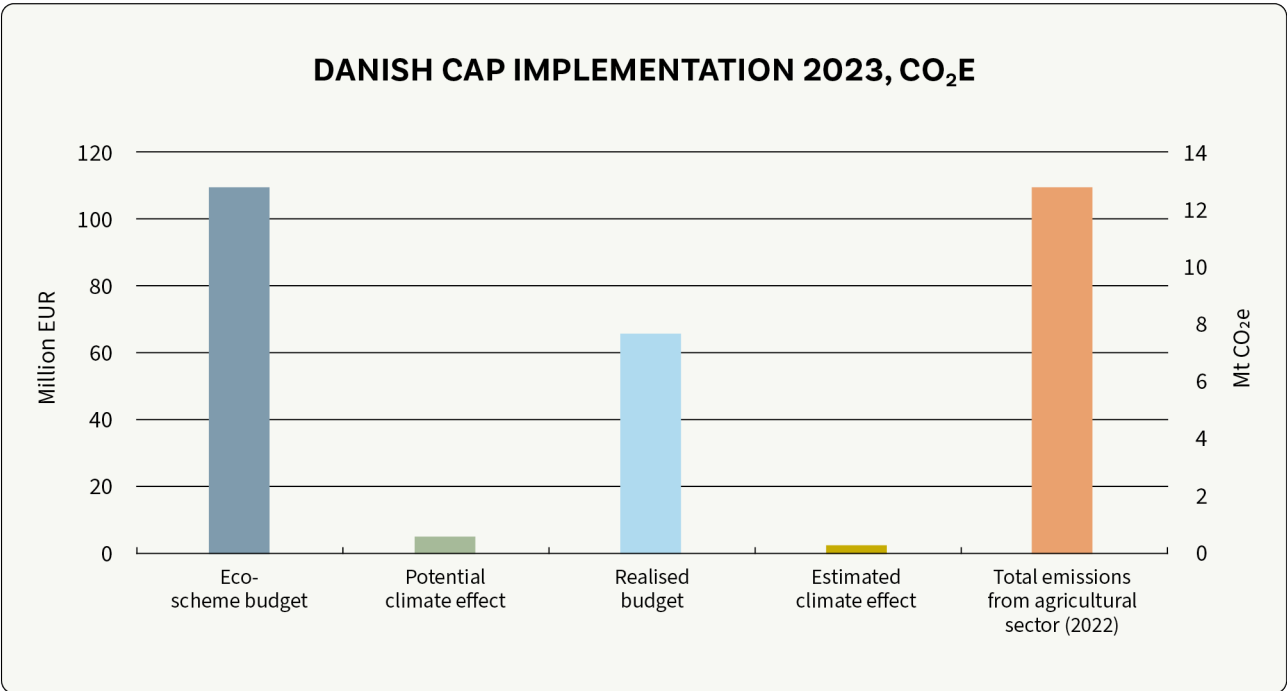


LIMITED GREEN EFFECT OF AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SINCE 2000

The EU’s agricultural support system, as it has functioned since 2000, has not delivered the necessary results for either nature or climate objectives. The decline in farmland bird populations has continued at a similar pace despite the introduction of an increasing number of agri-environmental support schemes, while greenhouse gas emissions are only expected to be reduced to a very limited extent.



2: Development of the Danish Farmland Bird Index compared with the introduction of different support schemes promoting biodiversity and other environmental objectives. The decline in farmland bird populations has continued despite an increasing number of environmental support measures under the CAP. Source: Danish Ornithological Society monitoring programme.



3: Danish implementation of the CAP (2023) and greenhouse gas emission reductions. Concito estimates that the effect on greenhouse gas emissions will be very limited. Source: Impact and Opportunities of the 2023-27 CAP Reform in Denmark, May 2024.