

Austrian Farmers Biodiversity Monitoring

Hearing its name,
I looked at it anew
this flowering herb.

Haiku by Teiji

The biodiversity of the Austrian cultural landscape mostly depends on farming. Only by further agricultural use, the biological diversity – especially that of meadows – is obtained. The educational project „Austrian farmers observe plants and animals“ has the objective to support the conservation of meadows through awareness raising.

Since 2007 more than 600 farmers from all over Austria are observing rare animal and plant species on their grasslands. With specific observations of plants and animals, correlations between farming and biodiversity can be well recognized and the diversity of animal and plant life will be promoted and conservation will be encouraged on the pastures.



Barbara Stepnow



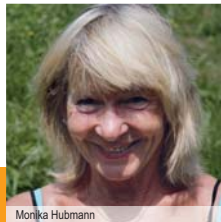
Maria Hartl



Robert Sparr



Günther Kremser



Monika Hubmann



Johann Embacher



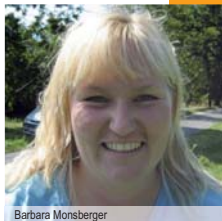
Siegfried Schreiber



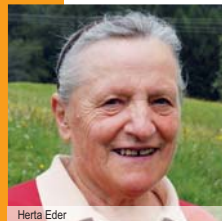
„I have decided to take part in the project to see how grazing sheep influences rare plant species. In my opinion observing plants is interesting for every farmer because correlations between farming and biodiversity can be well recognized.“
Johann Danninger, farmer



Drago Slebinger



Barbara Monsberger



Hertha Eder



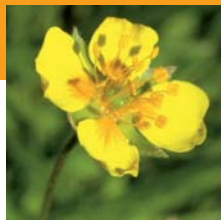
Werner Lahner



Ferdinand Wimmer



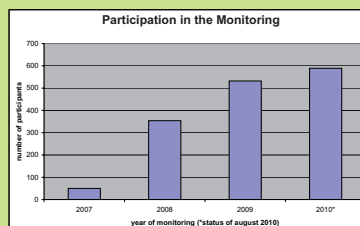
Edith Obersteiner



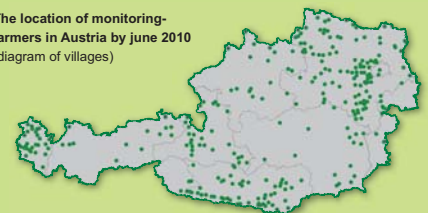
Tarja Moser

Intermediate results:

- Countrywide monitoring network with 600 farmers who are trained to monitor certain plant and animal species on their meadows
- Participation of 11 agricultural schools, where lessons on biodiversity and agricultural land use are held
- Education of participants in identifying indicator species in meadows and their relation to management



The location of monitoring-farmers in Austria by June 2010 (diagram of villages)



The educational project is implemented by Environmental Consulting Klagenfurt, Austrian council for agricultural engineering and rural development, suske consulting, office Lacon in cooperation with Austrian departments for nature protection and supported by Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the European Union. For further information about the project please contact: ingo.mohl@umweltbuero-klagenfurt.at, +43 (0) 463-516614-19, www.biodiversitaetsmonitoring.at



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