

Overview Buffer Strips in Switzerland

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Direct payments (Subsidies) are only paid to Swiss farmers satisfying ecological requirements (cross compliance). Buffer strips are part of the requirements. The presentation contains the followings points:

- Presentation of the situation in Switzerland regarding water quality (pesticides residues and nutrients) and biodiversity (agri-environmental objectives)
- Introduction of new measures concerning the establishment of grass strips in Switzerland: Since 2008 the width of buffer strips is 6 meters wide. The goal is to reduce phytosanitary residues in streams by drift and the content of nutrients from manure (reducing of runoff).
- It is also broadening the areas close to a natural state (without fertilizer or plant products) to encourage biodiversity.
- Information on requirements to be met and the amounts of contributions for the Swiss farmers.
- Combination with the potential to reduce safety distances contained in the authorization of pesticides.
- Presentation of difficulties encountered in orchards and vineyards (perennial crops) for the establishment of buffer strips.

References

Agricultural Report 2009

<http://www.blw.admin.ch/dokumentation/00018/00498/index.html?lang=en>

Objectifs environnementaux pour l'agriculture

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/publikationen/publikation/00097/index.html?lang=fr>