

BOOK REVIEW

Veen P. - Jefferson R. - de Schmidt J. - van der Straaten J. (eds): GRASSLANDS IN EUROPE OF HIGH NATURE VALUE. KNNV Publishing, Zeist, The Netherlands, 2009, 319 p., hardcover £93.00 (approx. \$142/€105).

The book was written by an international team of grassland experts coming from 21 European countries, who describe case studies ranging from the semicultural White Carpathian wild-flower grasslands of the Czech Republic to the specific stands in Spanish Dehesa or Swedish Gotland, and from the hay meadows of the British Pennine Dales to the steppes of Turkish Anatolia. Grasslands are an important, typical and variable element of European nature. About half of Europe's endemic species depend on grasslands, whether in mountains, lowlands, river plains or coastal areas. Many grasslands originate in traditional agricultural landscapes. Modern intensification, however, brings many of these ecosystems and landscapes with traditional character under threat.

General chapters of the book provide essential background information on topics such as grassland fauna, the history of agriculture, grassland communities, and the connection between grasslands and climate. The book also analyses the opportunities and risks of EU policy to conserve these grasslands. It offers a farmer-centred outlook to manage and to maintain the European grasslands of high nature value. Particular case studies treat various European grasslands, their value for nature, culture and agriculture, and the threats they are facing today. The accessible text as well as the rich illustrations will appeal to a wide audience. Grasslands in Europe contains a large number of full-colour photographs of high quality devoted to grassland landscapes, species and cultural history. It also contains many maps and graphic presentations. We can say that European Commission supported valuable type of the book edition for educated public with problem-oriented environmental subject

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