



Source: AMS

## 20 % of the agricultural area under agro-environmental control

An agro-environmental measure is a voluntary agreement between the farmer and the government. In return for the extra efforts for the environment and nature, the farmer receives a payment.

In 2007 there were 15 groups of agro-environmental measures possible, each subdivided into specific management packages. The total area with support in Flanders is larger than the area that comes under one or more agro-environmental measures. It is possible to make multiple agreements for the same parcel in certain circumstances. The surface area of agricultural land to which one or more agreements apply (unique area) was 121 513 ha in 2007, or 20 % of the Flemish agricultural area. In other words, 20 % is worked in a more environmentally friendly manner than specified in the Code of Good Agricultural Practices. Since 2000, the surface with agro-environmental measure has increased five-fold.

## Climbers and fallers

Between 2006 and 2007 the agro-environmental measure area has fallen slightly (-4 187 ha). This can largely be attributed to the declining green coverage and integrated seed fruit measures. From the home cultivation of vegetable protein and erosion prevention agreements, the area is clearly on the increase.

The green coverage, water, mechanical weed prevention and home cultivation of vegetable protein agreements have had the greatest success with 63 %, 24 %, 5 % and 5 % respectively of the unique agro-environmental measure area in 2007.

	2000	2005	2006	2007
agro-environmental measure area (ha)	32 212	129 643	136 244	132 057
unique area (ha)	21 453	85 902	125 001	121 513
number of agreements	4 119	18 326	18 057	17 767