

Plenary Session: Meeting nitrogen targets: A balancing act. Agricultural economic perspectives from Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom

Meeting nitrogen pollution targets has come to the fore of policy discussions in various European countries. In this session, experts representing three agricultural economics societies and their respective regions will present their views on recent policy and scientific developments from Belgium (BAAE), the Netherlands (Studiekring voor Landbouweconomie), and the UK (AES). The session will focus on the difficulty in managing the nitrogen cycle without substantial interventions into farm systems and the trade-offs that exist between economic, social, and environmental goals, as well as between societal versus individual goals. The farmers' perspective will be represented by the farmers' union. The session will end with an interactive panel discussion.

Speakers

- **Prof. Jeroen Buysse** (UGent) is professor at the department of Agricultural Economics of Ghent University. Part of his research agenda has focussed on the nitrogen cycle, with a particular focus on water pollution and the link to manure policies.
- **Mr. Co Daatselaar** (Wageningen Economic Research) works as a scientific researcher at Wageningen Economic Research (formerly known as LEI). He works for the subdepartment of Performance and Impact Agrosectors, where he works on a variety of topics particularly related to the dairy sector. Hence, he is also actively involved in recent studies on the current debate with respect to nitrate in the Netherlands.
- **Prof. Andrew Whitmore** (Rothamsted Research) is a modeller with more than 35 years' experience in multi-disciplinary research into the carbon and nitrogen cycles and soil physical processes.
- **Dr. Caroline Van der Heyden** works as an advisor manure and air policy at Boerenbond, the Flemish farmers' union. She has worked extensively on the nitrogen program of the Flemish government "programmatische aanpak stikstof (PAS)".

Chair

- **Prof. Alan Matthews** is Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy in the Department of Economics at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. His research interests include the behaviour of the Irish farm and food system, the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, the relationships between trade and food security, and WTO trade norms and disciplines. He maintains the well-known blog capreform.eu.

Organisation

BAAE (Belgium), AES (UK) and Studiekring voor Landbouweconomie (The Netherlands)