



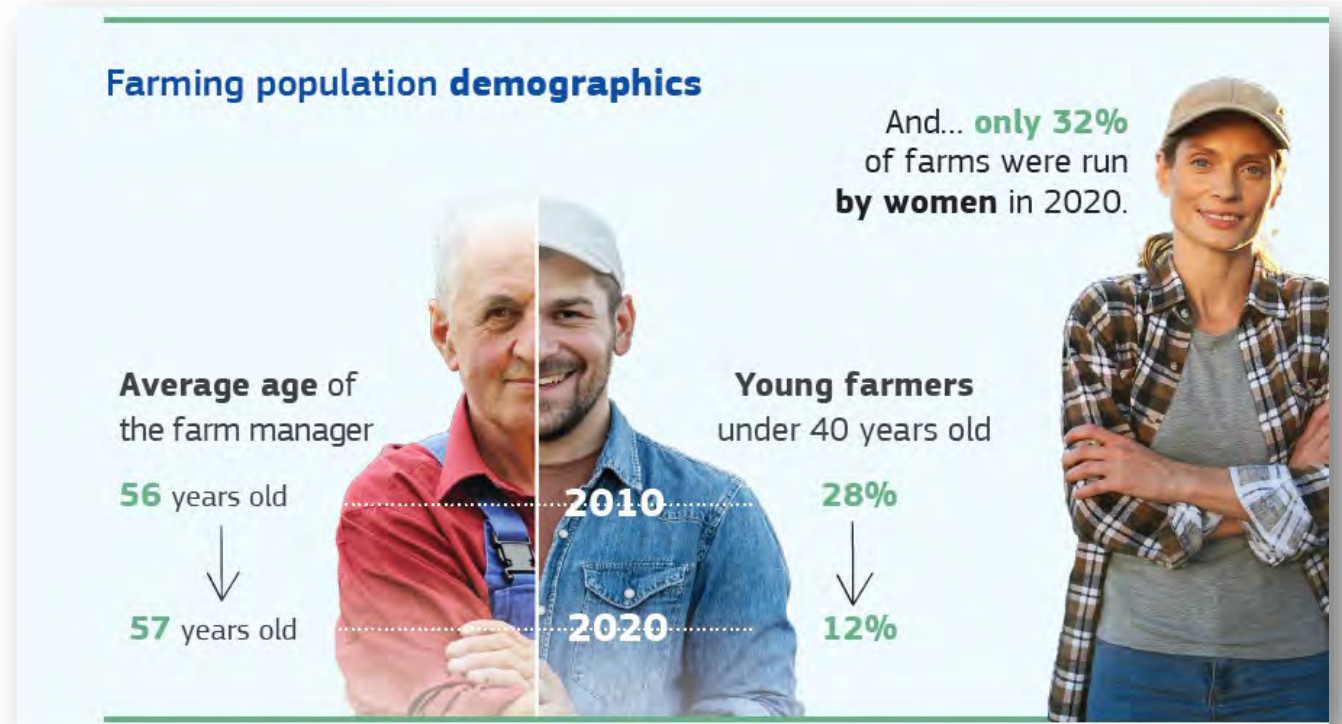
# A Strategy for Generational Renewal in Agriculture

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Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development*

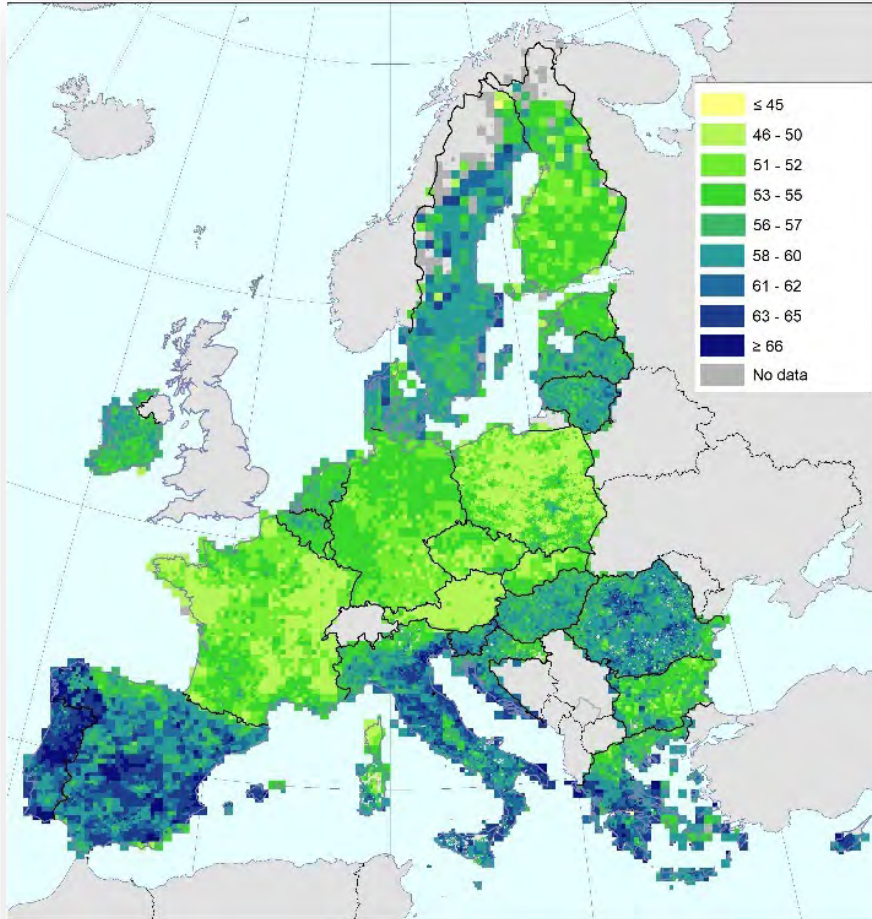
# Who is behind EU agriculture?

## *An aging sector*

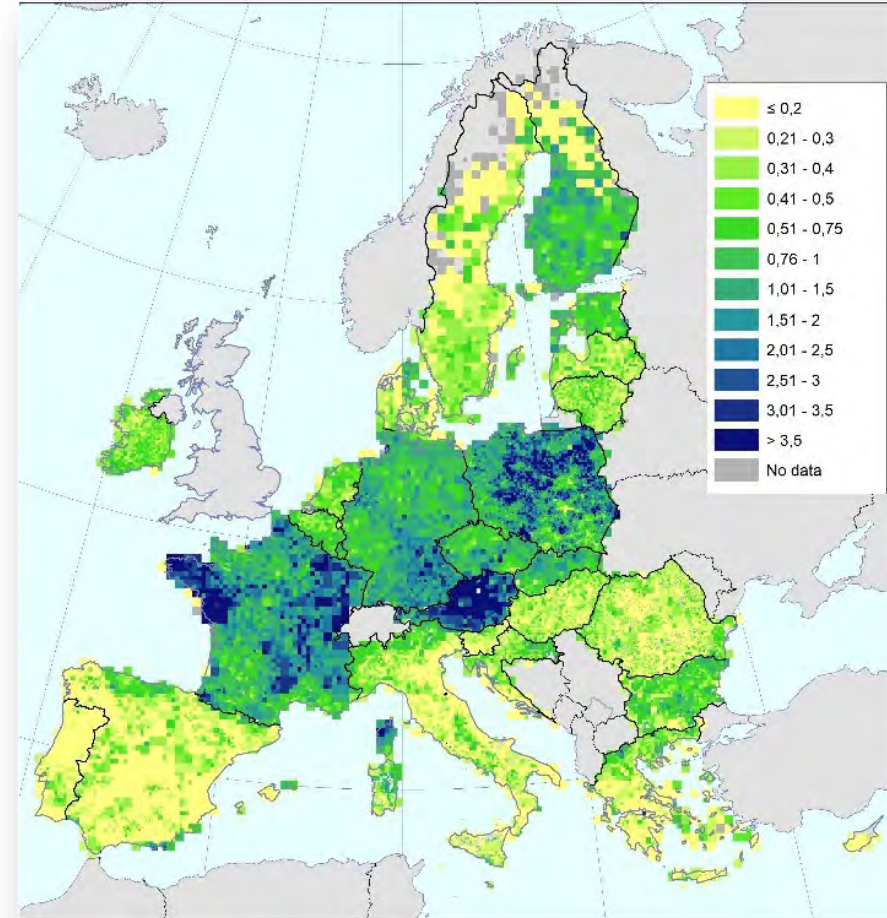
- Between 2005 and 2020, **decline of 5.3 million farms**; land use stable.
- The **average age** of farmers in the EU was **57 years** in 2020.
- Far more farms are managed by farmers **above 65 years old (33.2%)** than by young farmers **below 40 (12%)**. Of this younger group only **2.5% were women**.



# Where are our young farmers?



Average age of farm managers, in the EU in 2020



Ratio between farm managers < 40 years old/ > 65 years old, in the EU in 2020

# Strategy for Generational Renewal

## *Political context*

- The [Vision for Agriculture and Food](#) sets the framework for the EU approach to make farming and the primary sector more attractive, competitive, future proof and fair.
- The strategy is a **political priority** of the Commission, listen in the [Mission Letter to Commissioner of Agriculture and Food Christophe Hansen](#).
- It aligns with the positions expressed by the European [Parliament](#), the [Council](#), and the results of the [Strategic Dialogue](#).





# An extensive consultation process



## Meetings and exchanges

Kick off December 2024

- **Stakeholders:**
  - Civil Dialogue Group
  - European Board on Agriculture and Food (EBAF)
  - Youth Policy Dialogues
  - Meetings with young farmers and rural youth organisations
- **Member States:**
  - Expert Groups (GREX)
  - CAP Network events
- **Conference on the Vision for Agriculture and Food: 8 May 2025**
- **Call for Evidence**



## Policy documents

- Vision for Agriculture and Food
- Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture
- EP resolution on generational renewal
- Council conclusions on providing local opportunities for young people living in rural and remote areas



## Analysis

- Data by FADN/FSDN + ESTAT
- Study on best practices by Member States
- Other relevant evaluations and studies

# Priorities



# Types of actions

The new CAP post  
2027

Other EU policies

National / regional level  
actions (voluntary)

# Flagship actions

## CAP

- Mandatory National Strategies on Gen Ren
- At least 6% of CAP ringfenced for Gen Ren
- “Starter Pack for young farmers”

## LAND

- European Land Observatory
- European semester to address land policies

## CREDIT

- Tripled maximum level of CAP support through financial instruments
- Increased investment support rate of up to 85%

## KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

- Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs
- Women in farming platform
- “Farmers of the future” best practices pack for EU agricultural schools

## SUCCESSION AND RETIREMENT

- Linking basic income support (‘DABIS’) to farmers pension age
- European semester on succession, pension

## RURAL

- Farm Relief Services
- Rural Youth Ambassadors



# CAP proposal 2028-2032

- **National generational renewal strategies** within the NRP Plans
- A more flexible **definition of young farmer: status beyond 40 if granted before**
- **Degressive area-based income support:** possible to refocus income support on young farmers' needs
- By 2032 at the latest, **retirees** (as defined by MS law) receiving a pension will **no** longer be eligible for support income support.

**New:** A “**starter pack**” to provide **easier access to comprehensive support** to start and grow farm businesses, fostering entrepreneurship and grasping new opportunities

**New:** Support to **farm relief services** to improve work-life balance and overall wellbeing, and create the space to focus on business development such as via training and upskilling



# Targets

- ✓ **Aspirational target to increase by 2040 the current 12% share of young farmers in the EU, aiming for 24% when also including new farmers.**
- ✓ **In line with Commission's recommendation of dedicating at least 6% of agricultural spending to generational renewal, particularly important for Member States that are lagging behind in this area.**

# Thank you!



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