

BREEDS: Sheep (primarily the Rava) & suckler cattle (Montbéliard, Aubrac, Salers, Charolais, Limousin)

NAME: summer mountain pasture – Orcines summer mountain pastures cooperative

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DESCRIPTION OF THE SUMMER MOUNTAIN PASTURES



Background

The pastoral association, founded in 1985, has a total of 2,000 sheep and 90 cattle across 500 hectares.

Fourteen member farmers take their animals up to this summer pasture in the Chaîne des Puys and employ a shepherd.

Principal farm production and secondary livestock activities

The mountain pastures are used for grazing only and split into different fenced and unfenced zones.

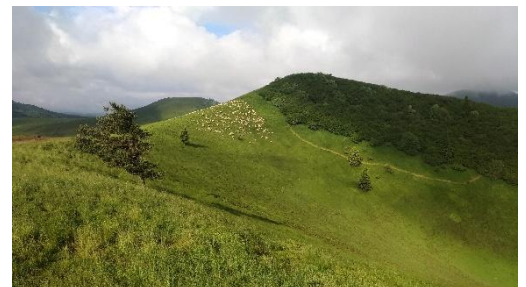
Summer grazing plays a vital role in the way these farms operate by taking the pressure off the farm for nearly five months and allows a specific source of forage to be optimised.

Pastoral facilities are developed across all sectors (races, watering, multi-purpose facilities, pastoral land restoration, etc.).

Herd & flock description

The mountain pasture is split into 2 distinct parts: a) cattle grazing (Ternant sector) & b) sheep grazing (Chaîne des Puys middle sector). Different farmers' herds and flocks graze together.

The grazing period is from mid-May to mid-October.



Technical data

Due to the large area grazed by the herd/flocks and the diversity between sectors (height above sea level and orientation), these summer pastures are wide in their variety. Some sectors are under-grazed (allowing eagle fern and hazel) to prosper, while other areas are over-grazed. Several “puys” or, extinct volcanos, such as Puys de Dôme, Pariou & Côme) attract large numbers of tourists.

Located in the heart of the Chaîne des Puys and close to Clermont-Ferrand, plus Saint-Aubin's chapel make the site popular with tourists.