

Joint research program AlpFUTUR

The future of summer pastures in Switzerland

Program period: 2009–2013

AlpFUTUR aims at identifying prospects regarding the use of the Swiss alpine pasturing area in the short and medium term (10 to 40 years):

- 1. Evaluation of the need for political action:**
Are more / less / other instruments and regulations needed? What kind?
- 2. Analysis of the profitability of alpine summer farming, and propositions to improve it:**
May innovations (in products or production processes), better marketing or new land use management improve profitability?
- 3. Appraisal of the future demand for alpine pastures and summer farms:**
How many and what livestock categories should be summering? What are the points of view of the owners of the alpine summer farms (privates, cooperatives)? Will there be sufficient well-trained and motivated workforce?
- 4. Natural and cultural landscape services of the alpine pasturing area in the future:**
What will be their development? What is the appraisal of this development from a societal point of view and how could it be directed in a direction desired by society?

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Eidg. Forschungsanstalt für Wald, Schnee und Landschaft WSL
Institut fédéral de recherches sur la forêt, la neige et le paysage WSL
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