PLATFORM FOR EXTENSIVE LIVESTOCK FARMING AND PASTORALISM IN SPAIN

November 2026



The Platform for Extensive Livestock Farming and Pastoralism (PGEP), the Entretantos Foundation, and the Royal Spanish Federation of Purebred Livestock (RFEAGAS) have joined forces to mark the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in Spain in 2026.

The PGEP Platform is a network of over 650 individuals and organizations committed to supporting, researching, and advocating for pastoralism and extensive livestock farming. The network champions this model of livestock production because of the significant economic, ecological, social, cultural, and landscape-related benefits it provides to society.



Within the Platform, there are various working groups; one of these was established to promote the observance of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in Spain. The aim is to use this framework to place extensive livestock farming and native breeds at the heart of the debate on sustainability, land management, climate change, food sovereignty, and rural development.



Pastoralism is deeply rooted in Spanish culture and history, offering economic, ecological, social, and cultural benefits. However, it became evident that farmers' unions, native livestock breed associations, and the environmental sector were often working in isolation, leaving gaps in the support and recognition of this farming practice. To address this, the Platform was established in late 2013 with support from the Entretantos Foundation, a non-profit organization that continues to provide secretarial support and facilitate the network's activities.



The Platform's website was created as a key information tool for all stakeholders involved in its activities, as well as a means of engaging others interested in participating. The site outlines the main characteristics of extensive livestock farming and its benefits for the economy and the environment. It highlights that extensive livestock farming encompasses a range of production systems that make efficient use of local resources by utilizing appropriate species and breeds, thereby balancing production with sustainability while generating environmental and social benefits. Key aspects of extensive livestock farming include the use of native breeds, livestock mobility, animal welfare, and management practices tailored to the spatial and temporal availability of resources in each specific area. This activity is vital for both the land and society; it not only yields high-quality products but also shapes the landscape, helps control wildfires, regulates water cycles and maintains soil quality, fosters biodiversity, and contributes to the preservation of cultural heritage and territorial identity.

The site presents the following arguments in favour of extensive and transhumant livestock farming:

- Extensive livestock farming produces highly nutritious, high-quality food products.
- It helps increase soil organic matter and preserve vegetation cover on poor soils.
- Other local economic sectors depend on extensive livestock farming.
- It supports a diverse range of gastronomic products (meats, cheeses, dairy products, etc.).
- It plays an important role in ensuring food sovereignty.
- It enables the sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystems with high environmental value.
- It serves as an effective tool for controlling the spread of shrubs and preventing wildfires.
- This activity is essential for maintaining some of Spain's conic landscapes.
- It is one of the most ethical approaches to livestock management.
- When managed correctly, it serves as a tool for mitigating climate change.
- It makes productive use of land that is otherwise poor or difficult to use.
- It helps sustain rural populations.
- It preserves the diversity of livestock breeds, a rich shared heritage.
- Given the enormous variety of breeds and management practices, it is highly adaptable to changing conditions, including climate change.
- It represents a remarkably rich cultural heritage and holds great ethnographic value.

Among the strategic functions of extensive livestock farming in Spain, as highlighted by the Platform, is the prevention of forest fires. The Platform provides access to the online resource prevenirincendiosforestales.info , which presents case studies on the use of extensive livestock farming for fire prevention, as well as information on payments for the ecosystem services it provides.

Among the initiatives underway in Spain, the Map of Extensive Livestock Farms certified by the Platform for Extensive Livestock Farming and Pastoralism is particularly noteworthy. This initiative highlights and recognizes livestock farms that follow an extensive, sustainable production model and demonstrate a strong commitment to their local communities and territories. Through its own participatory certification process, the Map identifies farms that follow livestock production practices designed to balance environmental, social, and economic sustainability, while ensuring the production of high-quality food. The Map has now surpassed 100 certified livestock farms, providing greater visibility and recognition for these practices.

To celebrate the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in Spain, the Platform, in collaboration with the Entretantos Foundation and the Royal Spanish Federation of Purebred Livestock (RFEAGAS), launched the website Aipp2026. Working alongside more than 70 organizations and groups committed to supporting and advocating for extensive livestock farming and pastoralism, the partners have organized activities, workshops, and events throughout the country during 2026.







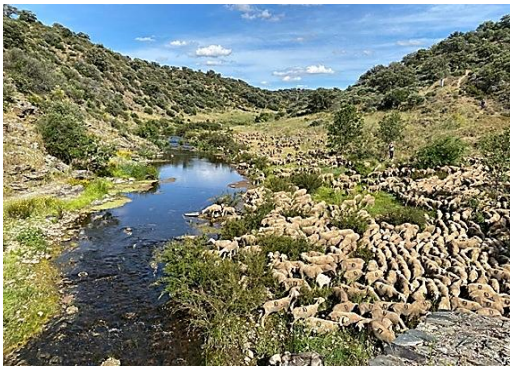


The Platform carries out its activities in close collaboration with the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment, the Platform, through the Entretantos Foundation, has produced and published the report The State of Extensive Livestock Farming in Spain.

The Government's support for extensive livestock farming strategies was confirmed in October 2026 through a royal decree approved by Spain's Council of Ministers, following a proposal from the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO) to develop the National Network of Livestock Trails. This regulation builds on a 1995 law concerning livestock trails and specifies the routes and segments that make up the National Network which extends for approximately 11,393 kilometers and encompasses the traditional paths used in extensive livestock farming. The royal decree, which will strengthen the protection of these trails across the various autonomous communities, aims primarily to facilitate livestock movement and support transhumance. At the same time, it recognizes the role these trails play in ecological connectivity, biodiversity conservation, and the protection of the historical and cultural heritage associated with rural landscapes.

Livestock trails form part of a historical network of routes linked to extensive livestock farming and the seasonal movement of herds. Their conservation also contributes to the preservation of native livestock breeds and their associated pastures, as well as biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity. Beyond their primary function of facilitating livestock movement, these routes can accommodate compatible and complementary uses, such as ecotourism and other activities permitted under regional regulations. Furthermore, their conservation can help prevent wildfires by maintaining natural breaks in vegetation, while also fostering the socioeconomic development of rural areas. The regulatory framework aligns with environmental and forestry planning policies that recognize these livestock routes as key components of green infrastructure and ecological connectivity. It also supports the protection of transhumance, as practice recognized as a significant expression of Spain's intangible cultural heritage and inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2023.











To know more

News on International Year of Rangelands and pastoralists

Plataforma por la Ganaderia Extensiva y el Pastoralismo website

International Year 2026 of Rangelands and Pastoralists

Plataforma por la Ganaderia Extensiva y el Pastoralismo en Facebook.com

Mapa de Ganaderias extensivas certificadas

Mapa de ganaderias certificadas

Ganadería extensiva en la prevención de los incendios forestales

prevenirincendiosforestales.info

[Documents in ganaderiaextensiva.org]

[Fundacion Entretantos website]

[Situación de la ganadería extensiva en España]

[Website aipp2026]

[Aipp2026 Participants]

[Aipp2026 Manifiesto]

[About Aipp2026]

[News in MITECO 2026]

[Transhumance in unesco.org]

[La Transhumancia patrimonio cultural inmaterial in ganaderiaextensiva.org]







