

What values underpin beliefs about meadowland?

Assignment

For each quote, name which moral foundations/values are associated with it. Explain why the relevant values belong to the quote. As in the example (see manual, p. 6/7), there are *always several moral values* that might underlie the relevant view.

QUOTE (in bold: the perspective taken with regard to nature/landscape).	Value(s) / explanation
<p>1. Meadow birds</p> <p>Efforts have been made for decades to improve the habitat of meadow birds. This is done through agricultural management in combination with nature reserves, for example with adapted mowing management or the construction of wetland areas. Unfortunately, the success of these measures is limited. The national numbers of meadow birds such as lapwing, black-tailed godwit and curlew have been declining for years. The increased predation of meadow birds could contribute to this. Previous research has shown that predation is a complex problem involving many different types of predators. Also, predation cannot be seen separately from other causes of the declining numbers of meadow birds.</p> <p><i>[Lars Soerink, Bird Protection Officer, October 15, 2020]</i></p>	
<p>2. Soil (intensively grazed land)</p> <p>The worm is of great value for good soil. The tunnels it digs ensure the sponge effect of the soil. The vegetation that the worm picks up above ground, takes in and secretes again in the soil, feeds the soil. But that worm is disappearing in many places. Injecting slurry in particular does not do them any good. Injecting disturbs the soil, but at the same time the further digested manure does not provide food for the worm. The worm has no business on intensively worked land. As a result, the meadow bird also has little business there.</p> <p><i>[Jeroen Onrust, University of Groningen, researched worms; source: Dagblad van het Noorden, 3 February 2020]</i></p>	
<p>3. Biodiversity</p> <p>Efficient production is often in conflict with biodiversity: a farmer who wants to efficiently produce protein-rich food ensures as much high-quality grass as possible, but you then biodiversity is disregarded (herb-rich fields, bird management). A value that cannot be expressed monetary is destroyed.</p> <p><i>[Michiel Korthals, philosopher; source: BioNieuws, May 30, 2020]</i></p>	
<p>4. Farmer (nature-inclusive)</p> <p>Datema speaks of a new era and a new agricultural model: nature-inclusive agriculture. Also including the interests of nature, of biodiversity, of the landscape. Nature is no longer something the farmer has to exclude or completely regulate. 'The herd will have to shrink, we will have to use less fertilizer. So far, profits have been increasing every year, so with non-intensive farming or fewer hectares of agricultural land, this doesn't necessarily have to plummet.'</p> <p><i>[Alex Datema, dairy farmer, chairman BoerenNature; source: Human and Nature, 2020]</i></p>	
<p>5. Consumer</p> <p>In the end, it's not just the farmers who are in charge. What does the consumer do? Do they opt for an organic chicken breast or for a badly treated chicken from Ukraine?</p> <p><i>[Alex Datema, dairy farmer, chairman BoerenNature; source: Human and Nature, 2020]</i></p>	

<p>6. Meadow birds</p> <p>2020 was another bad year for the meadow birds. It was too dry, the ground was hard, few insects, meadow birds (lapwings, godwits, yellow wagtails, curlews, partridges) had difficulty getting food. If the farmer starts spreading manure, there is also a danger for the meadow birds. In particular, the 800-metre drag bar of the manure container crushes everything in its path. <i>[Bert van Haafden, IVN (association for nature education); source: Human and Nature, 2020]</i></p>	
<p>7. Farmer/citizen/consumer/landscape/nature</p> <p>The question is how much space does nature have or will have in the landscape. And who owns the landscape and nature? Europe? The State? A province? Local authority? Or even a private owner? What is the value of nature in a where everything can be done? <i>[Jori Wolf, landscape historian; source: North latitude, 2018 (no.2)]</i></p>	
<p>8. Other 'revenue model'</p> <p>If the government also reduces VAT on organic products or a 'polluter pays tax' on regular products, then subsidies will not be wasted, we will keep much-needed agriculture in the Netherlands, farmers can earn a good income and the Netherlands will build a truly sustainable agriculture. <i>[Kees van Veluw, agricultural systems scientist; source: Trouw, 11 July 2020]</i></p>	
<p>9. Biodiversity</p> <p>Friesland becomes quieter and emptier. Biodiversity is not doing well at all. The loss of species is considerably greater in the Netherlands than elsewhere in Europe and the world. In the Netherlands, biodiversity has shrunk to about 15 percent of the situation in 1900. That is a shocking decrease. In the Netherlands, therefore, 85 percent of soil life has disappeared, of what flies, crawls and swims, and what grows in nature. <i>[Jan Kleefstra and Christiaan Kuitwaard, authors of a book about the disappearance of biodiversity in Frisian nature; source: Trouw, 28 May 2020]</i></p>	
<p>10. Citizens</p> <p>(A group of citizens is against cutting down trees on alder canals and against filling in ditches). A discussion about 'landscape pain' has been raging in Friesland for four years now. (This refers to) the loss of flowery meadows and farmland birds, caused by modern, large-scale agriculture. The monotonous, quiet landscape evokes a feeling of melancholy and pain among concerned citizens. Pain about loss of biodiversity due to the disappearance of plants, flowers, insects and birds. 'There are more than just economic interests. This area has recreational, historical and natural value.' <i>[Action committee Preservation Coulissen landscape, from Feanwâlden, Friesland]; source: Trouw, September 29, 2020]</i></p>	
<p>11. Common farmer</p> <p>Take the pesticides. It should be less, but also know that the Netherlands is at the bottom of Europe in terms of its use. The farmer wants prospects of a profitable farm. Certainty that the law will not suddenly be very differently tomorrow than it is today. He wants the faith of society that he really does want to participate in the transition to nature-inclusive agriculture. <i>[Ben Haarman, LTO - farmers' interest group; source; Human and Nature, 2020]</i></p>	

<p>12. Common farmer</p> <p>A larger field is urgently necessary to be able to farm profitably. The country has an agricultural destination. What commotion about four trees. A road is needed to get to my land with my machines, slurry tanks and drag hoses. Everyone talks about nature. But I am not a farmer for nature. Five years ago I had a new stable built. We milk 1.8 million liters of milk, but if that were to be 1.2 million liters, we would be dependent on to the bank for survival.</p> <p><i>[Harm van der Mark, from Feanwâlden, Friesland; source: Trouw, September 29, 2020]</i></p>	
<p>13. Government / other revenue model</p> <p>Farmers now have to produce more and more (too much?) in order to keep the cost price as low as possible. Farmers are not getting what they should earn. With all the consequences for the environment and for us. Our primary foods must remain low in price, too low. But is that fair? The margins are achieved by the intermediary trade and the supermarkets of this world.</p> <p><i>[Marien Weststrate, letter writer in: Trouw, 21 Sep. 2018]</i></p>	
<p>14. Consumer</p> <p>Food is actually too cheap. Environmental costs, the damage to biodiversity, but also the requirements regarding animal welfare, are hardly included in the cost price. Citizens have their wishes, but it is the consumers who want a top product for low prices.</p> <p><i>[Editor's comment: Trouw, September 11, 2018]</i></p>	
<p>15. Government/consumer</p> <p>The biggest issue in the current food system is the consumer and the supermarkets. The consumer likes to choose cheap, which means that the farmer is paid (too) little. When asked how she can persuade consumers to make more sustainable choices in the supermarket, Schouten says: we have to value our food more again.</p> <p><i>[Carola Schouten, minister of agriculture, about vision for the future of agriculture in the Netherlands; source: Trouw, September 10, 2018]</i></p>	
<p>16. Different revenue model</p> <p><i>What needs to change?</i> Everything. The whole system. For example, farmers will have to work more extensively and more in harmony with nature, for example by using less fertilizer and by growing more variations on smaller areas of land and with respect for soil life. Farmers will have to get used to a lower yield per hectare, but with a higher quality. The business community and all other parties in the chain must focus more on a fair price for food products.</p> <p><i>[Jan Willem Erisman, director of the research institute for sustainable agriculture; source: Human and Nature, 2020]</i></p>	
<p>17. Meadow birds</p> <p>The agricultural system has consequences for the meadow birds. By far the largest part of the grasslands is completely unsuitable for this. Before the birds have hatched, the farmers have already mowed. There are almost no earthworms within beak reach. Eighty to ninety percent of the original area for meadow birds is used so intensively that the meadow bird does not stand a chance.</p> <p><i>[Marco Glastra, director of the Groningen Landscape Foundation; source: North latitude, October 2020]</i></p>	