



Processes and data flows of agricultural direct payments Federal Office for Agriculture and cantons of AR, BE, GR and SZ

Key facts

The Confederation put agricultural direct payments on a new footing with the 2014 to 2017 agricultural policy programme. Parliament has earmarked approximately CHF 11.3 billion for that period to support agriculture financially. The core element of this new agricultural policy is the further developed direct payment system.

Agricultural direct payments are made by both the Confederation and the cantons. The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) conducted this audit in cooperation with the four cantons Appenzell Ausserrhoden (AR), Bern (BE), Graubünden (GR) and Schwyz (SZ), which participated voluntarily. The four cantons drew up their own reports for the attention of the cantonal agricultural offices. The SFAO report briefly summarises the findings of the cantonal audit offices.

The cantons use five different systems

The participating cantons represented two of the five information systems. Only German-speaking cantons took part in the voluntary audit.

The audit offices noted that the business and financial processes are organised appropriately. The Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) operates the agricultural policy information system (AGIS) and the contribution calculation service (BBS) for managing and calculating agricultural direct payments. By contrast, the cantons use five different applications. The modification of the IT applications required by the introduction of the 2014 to 2017 agricultural policy programme took place under great time pressure not just in the cantons, but also in the FOAG. The direct payments were nevertheless paid out in a timely manner in the cantons audited. However, the cantonal audit offices and the SFAO noted that compromises had to be made in terms of IT security, project documentation, tests and data checks in the cantons and the FOAG. The audit offices recommend that the time required for correct implementation be allocated when conducting projects of this nature. This also includes security concepts.

Specific findings show uniform areas for action

For the cantons audited which use the AGRICOLA¹ system, it emerged that action is required in terms of IT security, checking of outgoing data and segregation of tasks with operators and suppliers.

Original text in German

¹ Three of the participating cantons use the AGRICOLA system, the canton of Bern uses GELAN.