

SOCIETY

Tobacco, cannabis and wheat

From the 1930s to the 1970s, Andorra was full of wheat fields in all the parishes

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At a time when for years there has been an open debate about the continuation of tobacco or making the leap to other alternatives such as cannabis, it seems to have been forgotten that in Andorra, if there was an agricultural resource that worked, it was cereals, specifically wheat.

From the 1930s to the 1970s, Andorra was full of wheat fields. Sant Julià de Lòria, Andorra la Vella, Canillo, Ordino... Wheat was present in all the parishes. Tobacco was also planted, but not with the intensity and presence of today.

During the 60-70s, in Ordino for example, the big houses like Cal Ventura, Cal Rossell, Cal Ramonguem or Cal Saboyano... all had wheat fields and usually, an oven at home to make bread. The curious process was: once the wheat, towards the month of June, was at its peak, the native farmers, often with the help of the

reapers of Lleida, harvested the wheat. Then the sheaves were made - a sheaf is a bundle of spikes tied together, of a size that can be held in the hands. These sheaves were joined together creating structures in the form of tents called ridge.

When all the horses were ready, they were loaded onto the cart and taken to the threshing floor. In Plaça de Cal, the wheat was spread on the ground and with a couple of animals, usually mules or horses, they were made to walk in circles over the spread in order to separate, never better said, the grain of the straw. This grain was placed in winnowing machines so that it was clean of impurities and ready to be bagged. From here it was taken to the mill and the flour could be made.

From the 70s, wheat disappears, tobacco is subsidized and takes on a presence. Already years earlier, the General Council decided to import wheat from France, apparently of better qua-



From the 1970s, wheat disappeared, and tobacco began to be subsidized, while gaining a presence

lity due to the climate, but with a problem, passing the Port of Envalira in winter.

RECOVERING THE CULTURE OF WHEAT // Recovering the culture of wheat brings several benefits. On the one hand, enjoy a product made in Andorra, flour, feed for farm animals, bread... Bakers, for example, could buy flour at a more competitive price than is obtained through importation.



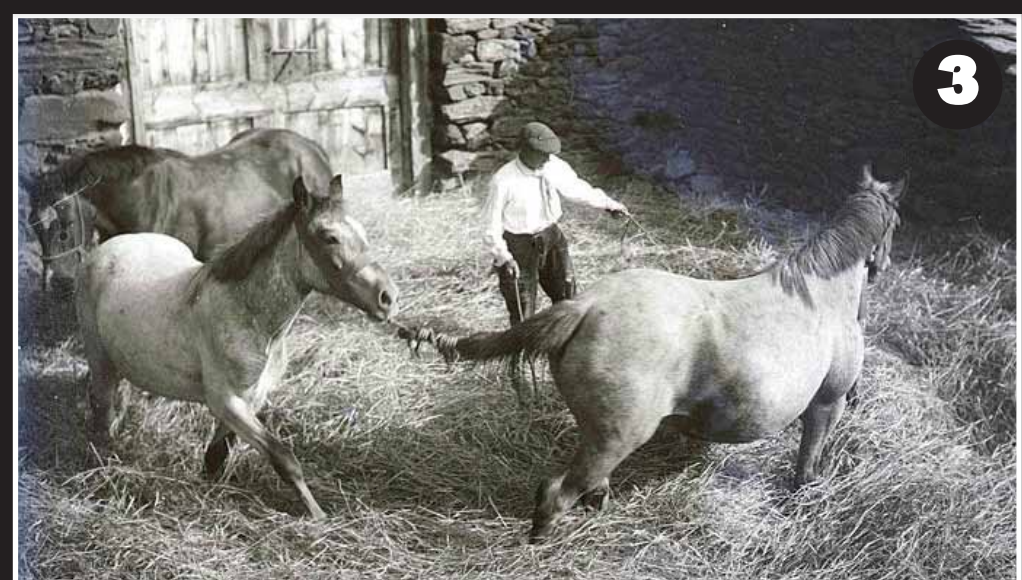
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The beauty of the golden fields could make Andorra dress up, in addition to recovering a disappeared fauna

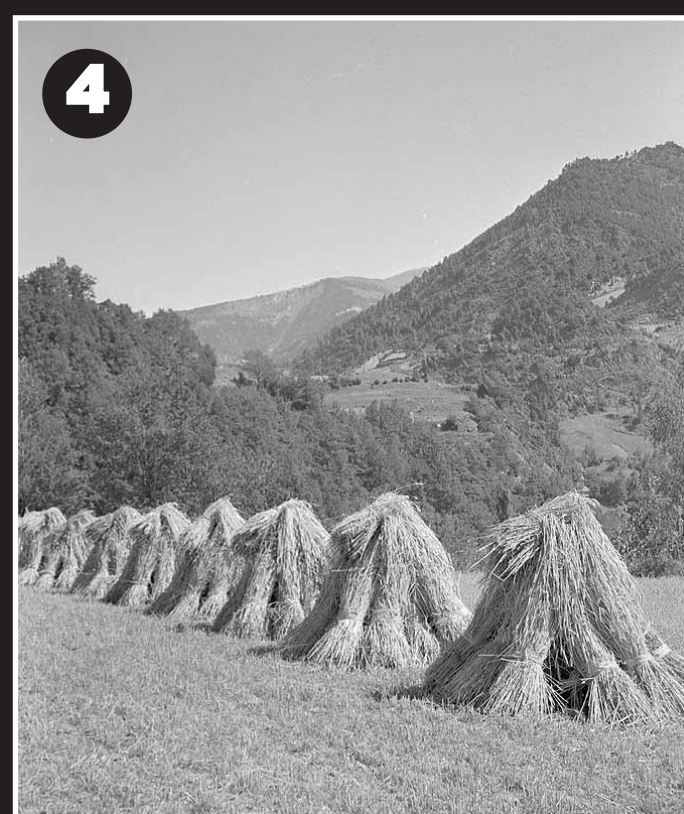
On the other hand, offer farmers an alternative to make their fields profitable and not be forced to sell them in favor of construction. And finally, in the landscape field, the Principality would make a great leap. The beauty of the golden fields could dress up the Andorran valleys, in addition to bringing back fauna that, with the disappearance of wheat, also disappeared, such as quails or partridges. ●



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1 The era of the Guem house, in Ordino. **2** Some fields of Canillo. **3** Horses threshing wheat. **4** Horses in a field. In the background you can see the village of Anyós.