



Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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Structure of agricultural holdings in the EU

Cattle farming

Corrigendum¹

Results obtained from the Community survey 1999-2000 on the structure of agricultural holdings.

In EU-15, the 59 million Livestock Units (LSU) of the cattle population are distributed over 1.5 million agricultural holdings. The average cattle herd is thus 39 LSU per holding.

Half of the cattle holdings have an area less than 20 ha and each of these has fewer than 20 LSU of cattle. Together they contain 9% the cattle in the EU.

The cattle herds of fewer than 5 LSU remain relatively frequent in Spain (33% of the holdings with cattle), Italy (38%), Greece (46%) and especially Portugal (72%).

On the other hand, in Denmark, the Benelux countries and the United Kingdom, approximately 20% of the cattle herds have more than 100 LSU.

As many as 60% of cattle farms (i.e. 0.9 million holdings) are located in less-favoured farming areas.

* * *

The 20.6 million dairy cows in EU-15 are distributed over 730 000 farms, of which 463 000 (63%) are so-called "specialist dairying", because they obtain from dairy production more than 2/3 of their gross margin.

The average size of dairy herd is 28 dairy cows by farm.

The herds with fewer than 10 cows still represent 2/3 of the dairy herds in Greece, Austria and Portugal, and half of the dairy herds in Spain and Italy.

On the other hand, 12% of the Danish dairy herds and 25% of the British dairy herds have more than 100 dairy cows.

"Specialist dairying" holdings contain 74% of the dairy cows in EU-15. These specialised holdings generally have

- fewer than 20 dairy cows in Germany, France and the United Kingdom,
- more than 50 dairy cows in Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands,
- 20 to 50 dairy cows in the other Member States.

* * *

A further 400 000 holdings are "specialist cattle rearing and fattening" or "cattle – dairying, rearing and fattening combined". These farms are relatively un-intensive in manpower (1.1 work units per holding, against 1.7 work units in the "specialist dairying" holdings). They are comparatively numerous in Ireland and Belgium where they represent 1/2 and 1/4 of the farms respectively.

¹ The last ten lines of Table 2 have been re-arranged.
Data for Italy have been updated.

Table 1 – All holdings with cattle

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL
Number of holdings (1000)	1 529	38	24	238	28	188	282	124
- of which, in less favoured areas (1000)	899	7	0	154	21	146	140	77
Labour force (1000 AWU)	2 287	44	31	376	42	272	437	151
- AWU per holding	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.2
Agricultural area (1000 ha)	61 190	1 110	1 226	11 452	272	5 632	16 789	4 004
- ha per holding	40	29	51	48	10	30	60	32
Number of cattle (1000 LSU)	59 022	2 121	1 343	10 639	464	4 481	14 636	5 146
- LSU per holding	39	55	56	45	16	24	52	41
Number of dairy cows (1000)	20 579	616	640	4 765	154	1 242	4 193	1 177
Number of other cows (1000)	11 952	540	122	788	111	1 780	4 314	1 187
Distribution of holdings by AA class (%)								
- under 5 ha	21	15	1	8	47	43	9	7
- 5 to 20 ha	31	31	28	35	42	35	15	35
- 20 to 50 ha	26	37	33	35	9	11	29	40
- 50 to 100 ha	14	14	26	16	1	5	30	15
- 100 ha and over	8	2	12	6	0	6	17	3
Distribution of holdings by size of cattle herd (%)								
- under 5 LSU	22	11	15	13	46	33	12	9
- 5 to 20 LSU	28	21	27	29	32	35	19	32
- 20 to 50 LSU	24	24	18	30	13	21	26	31
- 50 to 100 LSU	16	28	20	20	6	7	29	19
- 100 LSU and over	9	16	20	9	2	4	14	9
Distribution of cattle LSU by size of cattle herd (%)								
- under 5 LSU	1	1	1	1	6	3	1	1
- 5 to 20 LSU	8	4	5	7	20	16	4	9
- 20 to 50 LSU	20	15	10	22	26	27	17	24
- 50 to 100 LSU	30	36	27	31	26	21	40	32
- 100 LSU and over	40	44	56	39	22	32	38	34
Distribution of holdings by farm type FT (%)								
- specialist dairying - FT 41	30	23	36	39	7	25	26	21
- specialist cattle - rearing and fattening - FT 42	21	29	3	8	8	29	28	58
- cattle – dairying, rearing and fattening combined - FT 43	4	9	0	4	3	5	4	3
- sheep, goats and other grazing livestock - FT 44	8	2	3	5	13	8	6	13
- mixed livestock holdings - FT 7	7	8	4	7	8	12	7	0
- mixed crops-livestock - FT 8	14	16	22	22	24	12	16	3
- other holdings	15	11	32	16	38	10	13	1

I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	
174	2	48	101	102	30	34	115	Number of holdings (1000)
98	2	0	83	70	27	24	50	- of which, in less favoured areas (1000)
276	3	80	109	180	54	44	187	Labour force (1000 AWU)
1.6	1.7	1.7	1.1	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.6	- AWU per holding
3 227	121	1 268	1 653	1 813	961	1 760	9 902	Agricultural area (1000 ha)
19	64	27	16	18	32	52	86	- ha per holding
4 528	149	3 007	1 564	1 029	748	1 220	7 946	Number of cattle (1000 LSU)
26	79	63	16	10	25	36	69	- LSU per holding
1 896	45	1 650	697	356	364	449	2 335	Number of dairy cows (1000)
446	32	91	176	341	28	165	1 829	Number of other cows (1000)
								Distribution of holdings by AA class (%)
34	3	12	20	70	3	2	7	- under 5 ha
42	11	34	55	21	30	26	21	- 5 to 20 ha
16	25	45	22	5	52	36	27	- 20 to 50 ha
5	47	9	2	2	14	24	23	- 50 to 100 ha
2	14	1	1	3	2	11	22	- 100 ha and over
								Distribution of holdings by size of cattle herd (%)
38	5	8	23	72	7	12	9	- under 5 LSU
33	11	18	49	17	38	33	22	- 5 to 20 LSU
17	18	21	26	7	48	30	24	- 20 to 50 LSU
7	36	34	2	3	7	18	21	- 50 to 100 LSU
5	30	19	0	2	1	6	23	- 100 LSU and over
								Distribution of cattle LSU by size of cattle herd (%) (%)
3	0	0	4	13	1	1	0	- under 5 LSU
13	2	3	36	16	20	11	4	- 5 to 20 LSU
20	8	12	50	21	58	27	12	- 20 to 50 LSU
20	34	40	9	19	18	35	22	- 50 to 100 LSU
43	56	45	1	30	3	26	62	- 100 LSU and over
								Distribution of holdings by farm type FT (%)
31	48	56	47	14	72	38	22	- specialist dairying - FT 41
10	15	8	13	9	11	15	29	- specialist cattle - rearing and fattening - FT 42
1	9	3	17	2	4	1	1	- cattle - dairying, rearing and fattening combined - FT 43
7	2	17	4	7	1	2	26	- sheep, goats and other grazing livestock - FT 44
6	6	6	6	19	1	2	1	- mixed livestock holdings - FT 7
16	15	5	8	18	8	24	8	- mixed crops-livestock - FT 8
29	5	7	4	31	3	19	12	- other holdings

Table 2a – Holdings with dairy cows

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL
Number of holdings (1000)	730	18	11	153	12	78	128	32
Number of dairy cows (1000)	20 579	616	640	4 765	154	1 242	4 193	1 177
- dairy cow per holding	28	34	57	31	13	16	33	37

Table 2b – Specialist cattle holdings “dairying”

Number of holdings (1000)	463	9	9	92	2	47	75	26
- of which, in less favoured areas (1000)	268	2	0	66	1	35	31	12
Labour force (1000 AWU)	787	12	15	147	3	80	131	42
- AWU per holding	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.6
Agricultural area (1000 ha)	16 190	283	560	3 345	12	551	4 131	1 125
- ha per holding	35	32	65	36	6	12	55	43
Number of dairy cows (1000)	15 264	378	542	2 945	69	997	2 624	1 067
- dairy cow per holding	33	43	63	32	34	21	35	41
Distribution of holdings by AA class (%)								
- under 5 ha	12	4	1	4	61	32	3	2
- 5 to 20 ha	30	24	7	32	35	54	8	15
- 20 to 50 ha	34	57	34	43	4	11	40	53
- 50 to 100 ha	18	15	43	18	0	2	39	27
- 100 ha and over	5	1	15	4	0	1	10	4
Distribution of holdings by number of dairy cows (%)								
- 1 to 9 dairy cows	21	6	1	14	26	33	7	6
- 10 to 19 dairy cows	20	11	4	22	19	30	12	13
- 20 to 49 dairy cows	39	48	36	47	33	30	62	53
- 50 to 99 dairy cows	16	32	46	15	17	5	18	25
- 100 dairy cows and over	4	3	13	2	6	2	1	4
Distribution of dairy cows by number of dairy cows (%)								
- 1 to 9 dairy cows	3	1	0	3	4	7	1	1
- 10 to 19 dairy cows	9	4	1	10	7	20	5	5
- 20 to 49 dairy cows	37	39	21	46	30	41	58	44
- 50 to 99 dairy cows	32	48	50	30	33	16	32	39
- 100 dairy cows and over	18	8	28	11	26	16	3	12

I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	
82	1	35	77	33	24	14	32	Number of holdings (1000)
1 896	45	1 650	697	356	364	449	2 335	Number of dairy cows (1000)
23	37	47	9	11	15	32	73	- dairy cow per holding
55	1	27	48	14	22	13	25	Number of holdings (1000)
33	1	0	41	8	19	9	9	- of which, in less favoured areas (1000)
106	2	51	53	27	41	23	53	Labour force (1000 AWU)
1.9	1.9	1.9	1.1	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.1	- AWU per holding
1 057	66	875	729	154	675	829	1 798	Agricultural area (1000 ha)
19	72	33	15	11	31	65	72	- ha per holding
1 617	35	1 481	483	287	343	420	1 976	Number of dairy cows (1000)
30	38	55	10	20	16	33	79	- dairy cow per holding
29	0	1	22	45	3	1	2	Distribution of holdings by AA class(%)
45	1	21	58	42	27	9	7	- under 5 ha
18	21	64	18	10	56	37	32	- 5 to 20 ha
5	65	12	1	2	13	38	38	- 20 to 50 ha
2	13	1	1	1	1	15	21	- 50 to 100 ha
								- 100 ha and over
37	1	2	57	42	23	8	3	Distribution of holdings by number of dairy cows (%)
20	5	5	32	22	50	22	5	- 1 to 9 dairy cows
26	78	40	11	27	26	54	26	- 10 to 19 dairy cows
11	14	46	0	7	1	14	39	- 20 to 49 dairy cows
6	1	7	0	2	0	2	27	- 50 to 99 dairy cows
								- 100 dairy cows and over
6	0	0	28	9	9	1	0	Distribution of dairy cows by number of dairy cows (%)
9	2	1	43	15	45	10	1	- 1 to 9 dairy cows
27	70	26	27	40	43	52	12	- 10 to 19 dairy cows
25	23	56	2	22	2	27	36	- 20 to 49 dairy cows
33	4	16	0	14	0	10	51	- 50 to 99 dairy cows
								- 100 dairy cows and over

Table 3 – Specialist cattle holdings “rearing and fattening” and “dairying, rearing and fattening”

	EU-15	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL
Number of holdings (1000)	387	15	1	27	3	63	90	76
- of which, in less favoured areas (1000)	263	5	0	19	2	53	56	52
Labour force (1000 AWU)	439	14	1	26	5	77	109	80
- AWU per holding	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1
Agricultural area (1000 ha)	12 274	347	16	736	22	1 827	4 493	1 925
- ha per holding	32	23	20	28	7	29	50	25
Number of cattle (1000 LSU)	15 093	881	33	1 044	140	1 794	4 932	2 418
- LSU per holding	39	59	42	39	44	29	55	32
Distribution of holdings by AA class(%)								
- under 5 ha	22	26	8	17	71	41	15	9
- 5 to 20 ha	36	34	70	44	23	36	21	44
- 20 to 50 ha	24	26	14	27	4	11	24	36
- 50 to 100 ha	12	13	6	9	1	6	26	9
- 100 ha and over	6	2	3	3	1	6	14	2
Distribution of holdings by size of cattle herd (%)								
- 1 to 9 LSU	14	11	0	9	13	22	12	10
- 10 to 19 LSU	36	27	40	41	26	44	24	39
- 20 to 49 LSU	26	21	40	28	29	21	22	33
- 50 to 99 LSU	15	21	12	15	22	8	25	13
- 100 LSU and over	9	20	8	8	10	5	17	5
Distribution of cattle LSU by size of cattle herd (%)								
- 1 to 9 LSU	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1
- 10 to 19 LSU	10	5	13	12	7	17	5	14
- 20 to 49 LSU	21	12	29	23	22	23	13	33
- 50 to 99 LSU	26	25	19	26	35	20	33	28
- 100 LSU and over	41	57	40	39	35	38	48	23

I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	
19	0	5	31	12	4	5	35	Number of holdings (1000)
13	0	0	26	9	4	4	19	- of which, in less favoured areas (1000)
24	1	6	33	17	6	5	35	Labour force (1000 AWU)
1.3	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.4	0.9	1.0	- AWU per holding
379	25	52	526	340	121	167	1 297	Agricultural area (1000 ha)
20	57	11	17	29	27	31	37	- ha per holding
828	35	406	538	225	115	154	1 551	Number of cattle (1000 LSU)
43	78	83	18	19	26	29	44	- LSU per holding
								Distribution of holdings by AA class(%)
39	6	40	18	59	8	4	12	- under 5 ha
36	21	45	55	24	41	46	38	- 5 to 20 ha
16	24	13	25	8	38	36	31	- 20 to 50 ha
5	31	2	2	3	11	11	13	- 50 to 100 ha
3	18	0	1	5	2	4	6	- 100 ha and over
								Distribution of holdings by size of cattle herd (%)
23	6	1	18	44	12	4	10	- 1 to 9 LSU
36	15	30	49	38	42	50	34	- 10 to 19 LSU
22	24	27	30	11	34	34	30	- 20 to 49 LSU
10	24	17	3	4	10	10	16	- 50 to 99 LSU
9	31	26	0	4	2	3	10	- 100 LSU and over
								Distribution of cattle LSU by size of cattle herd (%)
1	0	0	3	6	1	0	1	- 1 to 9 LSU
9	3	4	32	20	20	21	9	- 10 to 19 LSU
16	10	10	52	17	42	37	22	- 20 to 49 LSU
16	23	14	12	13	27	23	26	- 50 to 99 LSU
57	64	71	1	43	10	18	42	- 100 LSU and over

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