

# Farm structure (ef)

National Reference Metadata in ESS Standard for Quality Reports  
Structure (ESQRS)

Compiling agency: Please provide the name of the organisation of the  
contact points for the data or metadata. Statistics Netherlands

Time Dimension: 2013-A0

Data Provider: NL1

Data Flow: FSS\_ESQRS\_A:1.0

## Eurostat metadata

### Reference metadata

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## 1. Contact

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<b>1.1. Contact organisation</b>	<p><i>Please provide the name of the organisation of the contact points for the data or metadata.</i></p> <p>Statistics Netherlands</p>
<b>1.2. Contact organisation unit</b>	<p><i>Please specify an addressable subdivision of an organisation.</i></p> <p>Environmental, energy and spatial statistics, team Agriculture and Nature</p>
<b>1.5. Contact mail address</b>	<p><i>Please specify the postal address of the contact points for the data or metadata.</i></p> <p>Postbus 24500 2490 HA Den Haag</p>

## 2. Introduction

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### 2.a. Brief description of the national history of Farm Structure Surveys (FSS)

*This item is of special interest for countries with less experience in FSS surveys. In these cases it is useful to include a brief description about the related statistical activities e.g. establishment/update of the statistical register, etc. Please keep the description **brief** (expected length of maximum 250 words)*

There is a long history to the agricultural census in the Netherlands. From 1934 onwards a census has been carried out (almost) every year. In recent years it is no longer purely a statistical project, but serves several purposes: on the one hand production of statistics by Statistics Netherlands and creating a frame for sampling, on the other hand providing data on individual holdings for administrative purposes by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (the Ministry). Since the Ministry and Statistics Netherlands have a common interest in the census, it is held as a joint effort.

#### **Establishment and update of the statistical register**

Statistics Netherlands has a business register of all industrial and non-industrial commercial establishments, but the agricultural holdings are not yet fully covered in this register. The agricultural census therefore relies on the administrative farm register (AFR) of the Ministry held by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, RVO ('Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland'), an executive service of the Ministry<sup>\*)</sup>. By law farmers have to register with RVO. The AFR contains names, addresses and several other characteristics of holders or holdings and a unique registration number. With the census information of several years Statistics Netherlands has built up a statistical farm register (SFR). Relevant characteristics from the AFR (a.o. identification number, addresses, legal status) are also stored in the SFR. Changes in addresses are entered into the AFR throughout the year, changes in the SFR only once a year. The SFR provides a magnificent basis for stratification and efficient sampling of subsequent agricultural statistics. An annual census may seem expensive (even when only half of the cost is looked upon as expenses for statistics). But the excellent quality of the sample frame allows for relative small samples in related agricultural statistics and thus reduction of costs.

<sup>\*)</sup> formerly NSIR (National Service for the Implementation of Regulations).

## **2.b. Brief description of the national legislation of FSS**

*Please **briefly** specify the following provisions from the national legislation:*

<p>- the reference of the national legal base of the FSS survey (Act, Government Decree, etc.)</p>	<p>The main legal base for agricultural census, and therefore for the FSS (2013), is the Agricultural Act. This law provides the framework for all kind of rules and regulations concerning the agricultural sector in the Netherlands. Each year the announcement to hold an agricultural census is published in the Official Government Gazette.</p> <p>The agricultural census is part of the working program for Statistics Netherlands. The working program is established by the Central Commission for Statistics, an independent body in which many sectors of the society are represented (government, trade unions, employer organisations, research institutes etc.). The status of the Central Commission for Statistics is also established in the Statistics Netherlands Act.</p>
<p>- the scope and the coverage of the survey</p>	<p>The AFR is considered to contain all agricultural producers in the Netherlands. The active holdings in the AFR receive the questionnaire for combined data collection. Holdings above 3000 euros SO (Standard Output) belong to the scope of the agricultural census. This threshold is applied to separate professional from hobby farmers, and to minimize processing burden. The threshold is compliant with the thresholds described in regulation 1166/2008, and accounts for about 99% of total SO, 99% of agricultural land use and 99% of LSU in the Netherlands.</p>
<p>- the frequency and the reference period of the survey</p>	<p>Based on the Agricultural Act, the Minister for Agriculture issues a decision to hold an agricultural census every year.</p> <p>Data collection for the census starts 1 April. Farmers have to respond before 15 June. Reference periods are in line with the FSS regulation. For crop characteristics the reference period is 12 months, ending on 15 May; for animal characteristics the reference date is 1 April.</p>

- the responsibility for the survey	The survey is the joint responsibility of Statistics Netherlands and the Ministry.
- the administrative and financial provisions	RVO is responsible for the execution of the census, which includes (in cooperation with all stakeholders) the development of the questionnaire, the internet application, data collection and primary checks of the data. RVO is financed by the Ministry. Final checks, analysis and dissemination are performed by Statistics Netherlands. The annual census is part of the regular working program of Statistics Netherlands. In FSS years there is co-financing by the Commission.
- the obligations of the respondents with respect to the survey	According to the Agricultural Act it is compulsory for anyone who receives an agricultural census questionnaire to complete it faithfully and truthfully, to sign it and return it to the proper authority. There are financial incentives to (timely) respond to the survey. After 15 May they are cut backs on financial support. Data-collection stopped on 15 June 2013. Farmers that did not respond by then received several reminders, and risked being fined.
- the identification, protection and obligations of survey enumerators	There is no need for enumerators because the questionnaires are sent though the internet or by mail. Respondents are summoned to participate in the census by RVO. The filled in (web)forms are sent back to RVO by post or through the internet. In case of lack of clarity or incompleteness of the forms the correspondents are contacted by checking personnel during the processing of the survey forms.
- the right of access to administrative data	The Statistics Netherlands Act establishes Statistics Netherlands as executive office for community statistics. It also provides right of access to administrative data.
- confidentiality provisions	The census data are protected by the Act on Registration of personal data and the Statistics Netherlands Act. These Acts protect data on individual private or legal persons against illegal use, such as being published, sold, used or exchanged without permission of the persons involved. RVO as well as Statistics Netherlands and all personnel having access to the data have to comply with these acts. Furthermore Statistics Netherlands is not allowed to use census data for any other purpose than producing the statistics for which the data is meant and is not allowed to publish data in such a way that individuals or data on individuals may be traced.

### 3. Quality management - assessment

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[Not requested]

### 4. Relevance

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#### 4.1. Relevance - User Needs

##### 4.1.a Overview of the main groups of national characteristics

*Please indicate the main groups of national characteristics which are surveyed.*

*Please include references to characteristics surveyed only for national purposes and mention for which purposes and*

where the request came from (i.e. which are the users).

### Main characteristics

The list of characteristics for the annual census is determined by a group of experts on agriculture. In 'FSS-years' the FSS-characteristics are integrated in the annual census.

The number of characteristics is quite high. To maintain continuity in the data most of the characteristics are repeated annually, or in a regular scheme. Of course developments in agriculture are reflected in changes in the list of characteristics. The topics that appear every year in the census are:

- land: arable crops, horticultural crops, grasslands, rough grazings, fallow land, natural territory
- livestock: cattle, pigs, poultry, horse, rabbits, fur animals
- labour force: holder, spouse, family and non-family, regular and non-regular

For characteristics that do not change very fast, annual data are not necessary. For instance, the area of land in ownership and rented, the area of irrigated land, the presence of a successor to the present holder is included in a list with a lower frequency. Major additions of this kind occur in the years when the Farm Structure Survey is held. Additional FSS characteristics are combined with these non-yearly topics if possible.

When preparing the census, there is an almost constant pressure to introduce new items in the questionnaire, thus extending it bit by bit and constituting a threat for the project as such. Besides this there is increasing pressure to reduce the administrative burden. New proposals can therefore only be taken into account if provided with proper motivation and impact analyses and accompanied by deleting less relevant characteristics.

### Extended characteristics (for other EU-obligations and national purposes)

Several FSS characteristics are extended to meet other EU-requirements and national information needs. Other EU-requirements comprise a.o. crops and livestock statistics; the national information needs are mainly for enforcement of the manure law, provision of subsidies, emission calculations, and imposts by commodity boards.

Categories of extended characteristics:

- livestock: approx. 40 items; mainly for enforcement of the manure law and emission calculations
- arable crops: approx. 60 items; mainly for enforcement of the manure law and subsidies
- horticultural crops: over 100 items; because of the specific economic importance of this agricultural sector in the Netherlands

#### 4.1.b Reference periods/dates of the main groups of national characteristics

*Please indicate the reference periods/dates of the main groups of national characteristics. (new) Please provide justifications if the reference periods/dates from the Regulation 1166/2008 are not respected.*

In general the reference date is 1 April 2013, except for land characteristics (reference period 12 months, ending on 15 May 2013). Other reference periods refer to 1-3 years preceding the reference date.

Reference date 1 April 2013:

- general characteristics
- livestock
- other gainful activities of the holding

Reference period 12 months, ending on 15 May 2013:

- land

Reference period 1 year (April 2012 – March 2013):

- labour force
- irrigation

Reference period 3 years (April 2010 – March 2013):

- support for rural development

#### 4.2. Relevance - User Satisfaction

*[Not requested]*

#### 4.3. Completeness

##### Characteristics not collected (non-significant, non-existent or (new) possibly not collected for other reasons)

*For non-significant or non-existent characteristics, you may repeat the information sent to Eurostat according to art. 7 par. 3 of Regulation 1166/2008. You can also attach the relevant file to this section using the "Add file" button below. The overall answer to this item should provide information on:*

-the list of characteristics non-significant and the list of characteristics non-existent from the EU list of characteristics [\[1\]](#);

-the reasons i.e. the prevalence or physical thresholds;

-the source(s) of information used (for the prevalence or physical thresholds);

- (new) how are non-significant or non-existent characteristics marked in the dataset transmitted to Eurostat.

(new) In addition, please specify whether non-significant characteristics are reported under the headings of other characteristics (as in the case of some countries). If yes, please specify which those other characteristics are and please indicate if the Standard Output of those other characteristics is recalculated considering the inclusion of the non-significant characteristics.

#### **Non-existent and non-significant characteristics**

The non-existent or non-significant FSS characteristics in the Netherlands are given in the Annex.

Non-significant characteristics are marked as ':' and non-existent characteristics as '0' in the dataset transmitted to Eurostat.

NE/NS characteristics were not asked in the questionnaire, with the exception of Soya. The area for Soya is reported under the heading concerned.

Note:

The following non-significant characteristics (when occurring) are reported under the heading of other characteristics: Hops is reported under Other arable land crops (B\_1\_11). The SO is not recalculated for the inclusion of this crop. Geese and Ostriches are reported under Other livestock (C\_99). There is no SO for this characteristic.

[\[1\]](#) See Annex III of Regulation (EC) 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) 571/88.

#### **Annexes:**

[FSS2013 NE/NS characteristics](#)

#### **4.3.1. Data completeness - rate**

[Not requested]

## **5. Accuracy and reliability**

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### **5.1. Accuracy - overall**

#### **Main sources of error**

Please provide a **brief** general assessment on the main sources of error (e.g. sampling errors, measurement errors etc.)

The main source of errors is measurement errors due to erroneous data given by the respondents. Other non-sampling errors are expected to be minimal.

Sampling errors do not occur because the FSS is integrated in the agricultural census.

### **5.2. Sampling error**

*Section 5.2 should be completed only in case of sample surveys.*

**Not applicable**

#### **5.2.a. Applicability of precision requirements (precision criteria)**

The precision requirements stipulated in Annex IV "Precision Requirements" of the Regulation 1166/2008 are applicable only in some cases, depending on the actual value of characteristics. Thus, we are first interested to know the actual value of characteristics, in order to determine the applicability of precision requirements.

Please provide the actual values of the characteristics in a separate Excel file (template provided by Eurostat) and annex the completed file using the "Add file" button below. Here, we are interested in the point estimates (the weighted values), NOT in the relative standard errors (RSEs).

#### **5.2.b. Method used for estimation of relative standard errors (RSEs)**

Please describe the method used for estimation of RSEs. You can annex a document with the description of method



and formulae applied, using the "Add file" button.

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### 5.2.1. Sampling error - indicators

#### 5.2.1.a Relative standard errors (RSEs)

*(new - the information request is not new, but only the template)* Please provide the RSEs in a separate Excel file (template provided by Eurostat) and annex the completed file using the "Add file" button below. The Excel file comprises tables related to the precision requirements stipulated in Annex IV "Precision Requirements" of the Regulation 1166/2008.

#### 5.2.1.b. (new) Reasons for possible cases where precision requirements are applicable and estimated RSEs are above the thresholds

The cases where precision requirements are applicable are identified with the information provided in section 5.2.a. For those cases, the requirement is that the estimated RSEs are below the thresholds stipulated in Annex IV "Precision Requirements" of the Regulation 1166/2008. However, in some of these cases, estimated RSEs might be above the thresholds. In the latter cases, please provide justifications.

n/

### 5.3. Non-sampling error

Section 5.3 should be completed only in case of a sample survey or a census

Section 5.3 should **not** be completed when data are entirely taken from administrative sources. In this case, section 12.1.e.5 of the report provides the relevant information.

#### Assessment of possible bias

If comparison with another source or consistency study is made, please give a **brief** description of the source used and the differences observed which can be proof of bias.

*(new)* Please also consider here bias risks associated with non-response by assessing the distribution of non-response across holdings' categories.

Non-sampling errors, mostly wrong data given by respondents, are generally detected and corrected at an early stage, by plausibility checks and intermediate analyses. Comparison with information from previous year and from I&R (animal Identification and Registration) registers are part of regular data processing.

Although bias risks associated with non-response are low because of the very high response rate (about 95%), a separate analysis was performed, comparing trends and distribution between the imputed non-response units and the response units.

The analysis showed no difference in trends and distribution between the imputed non-response units and the response units. A final check comes from the evaluation of the census results.

#### 5.3.1. Coverage error

##### 5.3.1.a Under-coverage errors

*Under-coverage units are target population units that are not accessible via the frame. This mainly includes new units not included in the frame, either through real birth or demergers, and wrongly classified units. This generally leads to bias in the estimates. If possible, please provide an assessment on the extent of under-coverage.*

Under-coverage is expected to be low, because of the legal base for registration with RVO, and the possible financial implications by failing to do so.

Under-coverage errors are mainly related to the AFR and are expected to be minimal. RVO closely monitors and corrects the AFR. See also section 12.1.

##### 5.3.1.b Over-coverage

*Over-coverage units are units that do not belong to the target population. Please mention whether the data was corrected for over-coverage and if yes, please describe.*

Over-coverage errors are mainly related to the AFR and are expected to be minimal. RVO closely monitors and corrects the AFR. See also sections 12.1 and 12.3.

##### 5.3.1.c Misclassification errors

*Misclassification refers to wrongly classified units (for example by geographical area or size) which belong to*

*the target population. Please provide an assessment on the extent of misclassification errors and how they were addressed.*

Misclassification errors are mainly related to the AFR and are expected to be minimal. RVO closely monitors and corrects the AFR. See also sections 12.1 and 12.3.

#### **5.3.1.d Contact errors**

*They refer to units with incomplete or incorrect contact data. Please describe how possible errors were corrected.*

Contact errors are mainly related to the AFR and are expected to be minimal. RVO closely monitors and corrects the AFR. See also sections 12.1 and 12.3.

#### **5.3.1.e Multiple listings**

*Multiple listings are units which are present more than once in the frame. Please indicate the proportion of multiple listings in the frame which are present more than once in the frame and specify how the duplicates were eliminated.*

Multiple listings are mainly related to the AFR and are expected to be minimal. RVO closely monitors and corrects the AFR. See also sections 12.1 and 12.3.  
Furthermore duplicates are detected and eliminated during processing of the data, e.g. through identification of duplicate registration in the land parcel identification system (LPIS)

#### **5.3.1.f Other relevant information, if any**

N/A

#### **5.3.1.1. Over-coverage - rate**

*Please provide the value of the over-coverage rate.*

*The over-coverage rate is the proportion of units accessible via the frame which do not belong to the target population (e.g. holdings with ceased activities still included in the frame).*

The over-coverage rate is 8.7%.

#### **5.3.2. Measurement error**

##### **5.3.2.a Causes of measurement errors in the FSS survey**

*The causes are commonly categorised as:*

- *Survey instrument: the form, questionnaire or measuring device used for data collection may lead to the recording of wrong values;*
- *Respondent: respondents may, consciously or unconsciously, give erroneous data;*
- *Interviewer: interviewers may influence the answers given by respondents.*

*Please include here possible problems caused by difficult questions, unclear definitions, sensitive questions etc. which are likely to determine measurement errors.*

Measurement errors are mostly due to erroneous data given by the respondents. These are largely detected at early stage, either by automated control programs, or from plausibility checks during the analysis phase. Measurement errors due to difficult or unclear questions or definitions are minimal because a census is held every year, and the questions are kept constant as much as possible or improved if necessary.

Survey instrument errors are likely to be minimal, because the internet application in use is already operational for several years, and virtually all respondents use this application. The internet application also eliminates interviewer caused errors.

##### **5.3.2.b If available, failure rates during data editing. Please mention if the data was corrected.**

N/A

##### **5.3.2.c If available, assessments based on comparisons with external data, re-interviews, etc.**

N/A

#### **5.3.3. Non response error**

**5.3.3.a (new) Unit non-response: reasons and treatment**

*Please specify the reasons for unit non-response and how the unit non-response was accounted for. Unit non-response can be accounted for by e.g. re-weighting, imputation.*

Unit non-response is very low because of the mandatory nature of the census and the possible financial consequences. In the case of non-response the farmer receives several reminders. If, despite this, response cannot be retrieved directly from the respondent there is usually fairly up-to-date information for estimation/imputation (due to the fact that there is a census every year).

Unit non-response is accounted for by imputation (see section 5.3.4.c).

**5.3.3.b Item non-response: reasons and treatment**

*Please mention any characteristic(s) having higher item non-response rate together with the reasons of the item non-response. This information is important and will be useful for the organisation of future surveys.*

*Please also specify how the item non-response was accounted for. Item non-response can be accounted for by e.g. re-weighting, imputation.*

Item non-response is in most cases difficult to detect. In the online form item non-response is minimized by built in controls (e.g. the respondent has to answer certain (blocks of) questions). Item non-response in paper forms however is virtually impossible to detect. Item non-response often shows up in the control programs or is detected by controlling personnel, and is corrected for whenever possible.

**5.3.3.1. Unit non-response - rate**

*Please provide the ratio of the number of non-responding holdings with no information or not usable information (item 5.1, table in section 12.3.d) to the total number of in-scope (eligible) units (item 5, table in section 12.3.d).*

unit non-response rate is 6.0%.

**5.3.3.2. Item non-response - rate**

*Please provide the ratio of the in-scope (eligible) units which have not responded to a particular item (characteristic) to the in-scope (eligible) units that are required to respond to that particular item (characteristic). Please provide this rate for characteristics with high item non-response.*

unknown (see also paragraph 5.3.3.b).

**5.3.4. Processing error****5.3.4.a Assessment of processing errors affecting individual observations**

*Please give a quantitative or qualitative assessment of processing errors.*

Processing errors are expected to be minimal because of the high automation level in the different processing stages.

**5.3.4.b Completion/correction methods applied**

*These can consist of follow-up interviews, imputation, re-weighting, use of other data sources etc. Please describe.*

Completeness of online forms is largely enforced by the application. When (possible) errors are detected during the data-control phase at RVO or before finalization of the control phase at Statistics Netherlands, the farm holders are contacted to correct these errors. If errors are detected later on, an impact analysis is made in order to decide whether or not a correction should be made. The way these corrections take place (call-back, imputation, expert estimate) depends on the type and severity of the error.

See also sections 5.3.3 and 12.4.

**5.3.4.c Imputation methods**

*Please specify what kind of imputation methods were used and for which items (characteristics).*

Unit non response: The small percentage of units that did not respond was imputed, using their data from the previous year. If no data from the previous year are available the unit is discarded (eligibility status unknown). New characteristics are imputed using next-neighbour imputation (best match from the current year, based on farm type and size). Analysis on the impact of the imputation is part of the validation process.

Note:

the information imputed from previous year may also be based on imputation (because the unit did not respond in that



year either). However, the use of imputed data is maximized to five years (units not responding for 5 years or more are assumed to have ceased activities and removed from the population).

#### 5.3.4.d Tools used and people/organisations authorised to make corrections

see section 12.4

##### 5.3.4.1. Imputation - rate

*Please provide the ratio of the number of replaced values to the total number of values for a given characteristic, for each main characteristic where this method was applied.*

The number of holdings above the national threshold of 3000 euro was 67 481 (this is also the number of holdings transferred to Eurostat); of these 4021 were imputed (6%).

see also section 12.3.d.

##### 5.3.4.2. Common units - proportion

[Not requested]

##### 5.3.5. Model assumption error

In case of models used for estimation, please provide an estimation of related errors.

N/A

##### 5.3.6. Data revision

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##### 5.3.6.1. Data revision - policy

###### Brief description of the revision policy

In the revision policy a distinction is made between provisional and final data. As long as data are provisional changes can be made available as 'update'. Updates usually take place whenever additional or better information is available. An update does, besides the reason for the update, not require any further information for the user. As soon as data are final, changes can only be made available as 'correction' or 'revision'. Corrections require additional information for the user (reason for the correction, impact, etcetera).

Revisions take place when there are major changes in data and methodology, mostly with severe impact on time-series. Revisions also require additional information for the user. Mostly recalculations for previous data are made to re-establish comparable time-series.

##### 5.3.6.2. Data revision - practice

###### Data revision practice

*Please describe the practice, provide the main reasons for revisions and the extent to which the revisions improved accuracy.*

*Please provide the average number of revisions (planned and unplanned) for main characteristics.*

After first publication the data from the annual agricultural census are kept provisional for three months. During this period there are usually no further updates. When data are final corrections are only made if they have severe impact on the published data.

Normally there are only minor differences between provisional and final data; corrections after data are final are rare. Revision has taken place following the transition from SGM to SO and the new typology in 2010. Recalculations (based on SO 2004) have been made for the agricultural census back to 2000.

##### 5.3.6.3. Data revision - average size

[Not requested]

##### 5.3.7. Seasonal adjustment

[Not requested]

## 6. Timeliness and punctuality

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**6.1. Timeliness**

See below

**6.1.1. Time lag - first result**

*Please indicate the number of months from the last day of the reference period to the day of publication of first results.*

Since data collection ended 15 June 2013 and first provisional results were published by the end of July, the time lag between end of data collection and publication of first results was only about 1,5 month. Time lag from end of data collection until the first complete set of preliminary results (regular subjects of the census) was about 6 months.

**6.1.2. Time lag - final result**

*Please indicate the number of months from the last day of the reference period to the day of publication of complete and final results.*

After about 9 months from the end of the data collection the final results of the census were published.

**6.2. Punctuality**

See below

**6.2.1. Punctuality - delivery and publication**

*Please indicate the number of days between the delivery/ release date of data and the target date on which they were scheduled for delivery/ release.*

Publication of the regular subjects of the census was according to release plan. Publication of specific topics from FSS is not based on a predetermined release plan.

**7. Accessibility and clarity**[Top](#)

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**7.1. Dissemination format - News release**

[Not requested]

**7.2. Dissemination format - Publications****Regular and ad-hoc publications in which data are made available to the public****7.2.a The nature of publications**

*Please specify the nature of publications. For example, the publications can contain preliminary results or final results, can be technical reports, etc.*

*Please also specify if the publications contain metadata.*

All information is published on-line. Regular results of the census are released through the Statline database, according to a pre-determined release policy. Ad hoc and incidental information is released through articles on the Statistics Netherlands website.

The first results concern the main arable crops only, not yet based on the full response. There is a special need for having provisional data on main crop areas available at that time, because these serve as a basis for first yield estimates. The further provisional results are based on full response.

**7.2.b Date of issuing (actual or planned)**

First results were published in July 2013 (main arable crops only, not yet based on the full response) Further provisional results (based on the full response) were published from November 2013 onwards. Final results were published in March 2014.

First delivery of the full FSS dataset to Eurostat took place in May 2014.

**7.2.c References for on-line publications.**

Results of the census are published on 'Statline' (<http://statline.cbs.nl>) and the Statistics Netherlands website (<http://cbs.nl>). Through RSS-feeds users can be informed of new content on the website.

Information on the internet is free of charge. Metadata is included in all publications.

### 7.3. Dissemination format - online database

*Please provide information about on-line databases in which the disseminated data can be accessed.*

In the on-line database 'Statline' (<http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/?LA=en>) users may select their own indicators and information topics. Results are presented on several levels of aggregation (national, provincial, regional and municipal). To prevent disclosure of individual data of holdings, certain characteristics may be hidden. Besides the regular publications on internet, Statistics Netherlands has an information service desk available ([Infoservice](#)). Relatively simple information requests are handled by this desk. Complex requests are answered by specialised personnel for whom cost prices are charged.

#### 7.3.1. Data tables - consultations

##### The number of consultations of on-line data tables for a given time period

*Please indicate on-line data tables with an indicative number of consultations.*

see <http://statline.cbs.nl> (note: the indicative number of hits is based on calendar year 2013).

Dutch tables (under 'Landbouwtelling en biologische landbouw'):

Landbouw; nationaal (crops, livestock and land use at national level), approx. 15000hits

Landbouw; regio (crops, livestock and land use by region), approx. 40000hits

Landbouw; gemeente (crops, livestock and land use, by municipality), approx. 15000hits

Landbouw; bedrijfstype, nationaal (crops, livestock and land use by farmtype at national level), approx. 5000hits

Landbouw; hoofdbedrijfstype, regio (crops, livestock and land use, by general farm type and region), approx. 15000hits

Landbouw; arbeidskrachten, regio (labour force by region), approx. 5000hits

Landbouw; klassenindeling, regio (crops, livestock and land use, by size classes and region), approx. 5000hits

Landbouw; economische omvang (information by economic size classes and farm type), approx. 5000hits

Landbouw; economische omvang, regio (information by economic size classes general farm type and region), approx. 3000hits

Landbouw; verbreding (other gainful activities by main farm type and region), approx. 3000hits

Landbouw; biologisch, fase omschakeling (organic farming by stage of conversion), approx. 3000hits

Landbouw; biologisch, nationaal (organic farming at national level), approx. 3000hits

Landbouw; biologisch, regio (organic farming by region), approx. 3000hits

English tables (under agricultural census):

Agriculture; crops, livestock and land use by general farm type, region, approx. 3000hits

Agriculture; labour force by region, approx. 1000hits

### 7.4. Dissemination format - microdata access

[Not requested]

### 7.5. Documentation on methodology

#### 7.5.a Available documentation on methodology on FSS national survey

*Please provide references.*

- Working group "Structure of Agricultural Holdings": Handbook on implementing the FSS and SAPM definitions (Doc. CPSA/SB/652)
- Working group "Structure of Agricultural Holdings": Eurofarm Manual for Data Suppliers Farm Structure Survey 2013 (Doc. FSS2013/DSM)
- 'Gecombineerde Data Inwinning, internetapplicatie eGDI2013' (functional design), RVO
- 'Technisch rapport Landbouwtelling 2013' (technical report), CBS / RVO

#### 7.5.b Main scientific references

*Please provide references.*

n/a

#### 7.5.1. Metadata completeness - rate

[Not requested]

**7.5.2. Metadata - consultations**

[Not requested]

**7.6. Quality management - documentation****Available documentation on quality***Please provide references.*

the present methodological report for FSS.

**7.7. Dissemination format - other**

[Not requested]

**8. Comparability**[Top](#)**8.1. Comparability - geographical****8.1.a National vs. EU definition of a holding***Please indicate possible differences between the national definition and the EU[2]. Please also indicate the reasons.*

The holdings from the Administrative Farm Register (AFR) that meet the definition of an agricultural holding are included in the census. There is no difference between the national and EU definition of the holding, except that NL also includes raising and breeding of fur animals among agricultural activities.

**8.1.b National survey coverage vs. coverage of the records sent to Eurostat***Please indicate possible differences between the population covered in the national survey and the population covered by the records sent to Eurostat. Please also specify the reasons.**The population covered in the national survey may be different from the population covered by the records which are sent to Eurostat, in case very low national thresholds are applied or no national thresholds are applied.*

There is no difference in coverage between the national and the Eurostat population

**8.1.c National vs. EU definitions of characteristics***Please indicate the version of the Handbook on implementing the FSS definitions used for the organisation of the current FSS survey.**Please indicate possible differences between national and EU definitions of characteristics and classifications of characteristics, the differences, the reasons and the impact on the comparability with the EU definitions. This information is relevant for users.**Please also indicate the number of hours per year for a full-time employee, used to calculate the Annual Work Unit.*

The characteristics are defined as described in the FSS/SAPM implementing regulation (Commission Regulation 1166/2008). There are only differences in the level of detail because of the use of data for national purposes. For example, while 'flowers under glass' is needed for the FSS, all sorts of flowers under glass have to be specified in the questionnaire.

Revision 10 of the Handbook on implementing the FSS and SAPM definitions was used for the organisation of the FSS 2013. There are no differences in national and EU concepts.

The number of hours used to calculate Annual Work Unit is 2000.

Note: actual calculation of AWU is based on the average working hours per week, where 40 average working hours per week is considered 1 AWU; which corresponds to about 2000 hours per year.

**8.1.d Common land**

*The legal change of the utilised agricultural area concept, and also the fact that there are various options for the coverage of the common land make this an obligatory section in this report for all countries.*

**8.1.d.1 Current methodology for collecting information on the common land***If common land does not exist in the country, please specify this.**If common land exists and you do not collect information on common land, please specify this and the reasons.**If you collect information on common land, please describe the methodology by referring to the below options.*

*Combinations of the options are possible; if you use more options, please briefly describe each one.*

- *common land is included in the land use data of the agricultural holdings making use of the common land.*
- *common land is included as special holdings i.e. the common land holdings. In addition to records with data representing agricultural holdings, records representing the common land holdings are created.*
- *common land is collected at regional level and included in regional records. In addition to records with data representing agricultural holdings, records representing the regional sum of the common land are created. According to discussion in a Working Group, this third option has been converted into the second option (common land holdings) allowing all common land to be formatted and included in the Eurofarm tables.*

*In addition, please specify:*

- *whether there was a set of specific questions in the FSS questionnaire on common land or a separate questionnaire. In the case of a separate questionnaire, it should be attached to this report, section 12.3.e.*
- *(new) how was the common land treated in terms of tenure classification;*
- *(new) how can common land be identified in the data.*

In the Netherlands there is (virtually) no common land (characteristic is NE).

#### **8.1.d.2 Possible problems encountered in relation to the collection of information on common land and possible solutions for future FSS surveys**

*Please provide this information in case information on common land is collected.*

n/a

#### **8.1.d.3 Total area of common land surveyed in the reference year**

*Please indicate the survey estimate in case information on common land is collected.*

n/a

#### **8.1.d.4 (new) Number of agricultural holdings making use of the common land or Number of (specially created) common land holdings in the reference year**

*Please indicate this number in case information on common land is collected.*

n/a

#### **8.1.e. Location of the holding**

##### **8.1.e.1 The origin of the coordinates**

*Please specify from which source you have obtained the origin of the coordinates (the geographical reference of the holding). This is required in the Handbook (document 3.1. Methodology - Handbook on implementing the FSS and SAPM definitions - REV 10). For example: cadastre information system, IACS (Integrated Administrative Control System), CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interview) with digital maps, address register (address of the farm or of the farmer), LAU2 (village, town, municipality etc.) region of the farm.*

The AFR contains the postal code of the main location of the holding. This is determined on registration of the holding with RVO, and updated when farmers report changes or whenever discrepancies are observed.

##### **8.1.e.2 (new) The reference system**

*Eurostat asks to transmit the coordinates based on the reference system ETRS89 (European Terrestrial Reference system 1989) but has set up his system to allow coordinate transformation from different reference systems. Please specify the reference system used in countries to store data on location of the agricultural holdings. This information is required by the Handbook (document 3.1. Methodology - Handbook on implementing the FSS and SAPM definitions - REV 10).*

The postal code is translated into latitude/longitude using standard GIS software.

##### **8.1.e.3 (new) The rounding of the coordinates**

*Eurostat recommends the transmission of the exact coordinates (the data is handled respecting statistical confidentiality provisions).*

*If countries still round the coordinates to a grid system, Eurostat recommends the grid based on the INSPIRE data specification on Coordinate Reference System.*

*Please specify if you transmit the exact coordinates or if you round them. If in the last case, please briefly describe the rounding method and the level of the rounding. For example: LAU2, regions lower than LAU2, census enumeration areas, grids, grouping by 5 holdings (ranked by latitude and longitude).*



exact coordinates are provided

#### **8.1.e.4 (new) The criteria used to determine the NUTS3 region of the holding**

*Please indicate which criterion is used to determine the NUTS3 region of the holding. Criteria:*

- the majority of the total area of the holding where the holding is located;
- the building (administrative, for livestock or other production);
- the most important parcel (in terms of production);
- the residence of the farmer (if it is not further than 5 km from the farm).

The postal code of the main location of the holding, from the AFR, is used to determine the municipality of the holding, which in turn is used to determine the NUTS3 region.

If the holding is also registered in the business register (BR), the main location corresponds to the seat of the holding in the BR (in case of a legal personality there has to be a registration in the BR).

If the holding is not (yet) registered with the BR the main location usually corresponds to residential address of the holder, which is checked with the municipality register.

Note: Since the postal code in the AFR is based on administrative data (BR or municipality register) there is no factual information that the postal code corresponds with the 5 km threshold to the place where the agricultural activity actually takes place. However there are several indications that this is the case:

- since the location of the holding in the AFR is, besides in the census, also used administratively, discrepancies are most likely to be noted and corrected early. One of the administrative purposes is e.g. enforcement of the manure law. Also for decisions on permits for business expansion and local emission calculations the location of the holding in the AFR is used.
- there are strict regulations and zoning plans that determine the destination and allowed activities of all (agricultural) land. Due to the dense population a distance of more than 5 km would most likely mean the agricultural activities would fall under different (possibly conflicting) local regulations or zoning plans.
- there has recently been a study that looked in detail into the housing of farm animals. In the census all animals are assigned to the main location of the holding; the actual housing may take place in stables on different locations. It was shown that even with allocation of the animals to the main location, overall over 80% of cattle, sheep and goats and over 2/3 of pigs and poultry are found within 5 km of this location.
- finally it has been practice for decades already to regionalize the Dutch agricultural census, based on the postal codes in the AFR. There have never been reports on large discrepancies.

#### **8.1.f (new) Organic farming**

##### **Possible differences between national standards and rules for certification of organic products and the ones set out in Council Regulation No.834/2007**

*Please mention possible differences. This information is requested by the handbook (document 3.1. Methodology - Handbook on implementing the FSS and SAPM definitions - REV 10).*

no differences

[\[2\]](#) See Article 2 of Regulation (EC) 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) 571/88

#### **8.1.1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics - coefficient**

[Not requested]

#### **8.2. Comparability - over time**

##### **8.2.a Possible changes of the definition of the holding the reasons and the impact of the changes on the comparability with previous sample survey/census data**

*Please indicate the relevant case from the ones below:*

- a. There have been no changes, in which case this should be reported.
- b. There have been some changes but not enough to warrant the designation of a break in series.
- c. There have been sufficient changes to warrant the designation of a break in series.

*In the second and third cases, please indicate the changes, the reasons and their impact on the comparability over time. Particularly in the third case, please indicate any information relevant for users.*

There have been no changes in the definition of the holding

##### **8.2.b (new) Possible changes in the coverage of holdings for which records are sent to Eurostat, the reasons and the**

**impact** on the comparability with previous sample survey/census data processed by Eurostat

Please indicate the relevant case from the ones below:

- There have been no changes.
- There have been some changes but not enough to warrant the designation of a break in series.
- There have been sufficient changes to warrant the designation of a break in series.

In the second and third cases, please indicate the changes, the reasons and their impact on the comparability over time. Particularly in the third case, please indicate which procedure Eurostat should apply to compare the data over years and any other information relevant for users.

There have been no changes in the coverage of holdings

### 8.2.c Changes of definitions and/or reference time and/or measurements of characteristics the reasons and the impact of the changes on the comparability with previous sample survey/census data

Please specify the characteristics whose definitions underwent changes, the reasons and the impact on the comparability over time.

Please indicate the relevant case from the ones below:

- There have been some changes but not enough to warrant the designation of a break in series.
  - There have been sufficient changes to warrant the designation of a break in series.
- Particularly in the second case, please indicate any information relevant for users.

There have been no changes in definitions and/or reference time and/or measurements of characteristics compared to the previous FSS.

### 8.2.d (new) Changes over time in the results as compared to previous sample survey/census, which may be attributed to sampling variability

This item is applicable when at least one of the two surveys whose results are compared is carried out as a sample survey.

Please indicate any information relevant for users.

-

### 8.2.e Common Land

#### 8.2.e.1 Possible change in the decision or in the methodology to collect common land compared with previous sample survey/census data and reasons.

Please specify possible changes and reasons.

In the Netherlands there is and was (virtually) no common land in the current and previous FSS (characteristic is NE).

#### 8.2.e.2 Change of the total area of common land and of the number of agricultural holdings making use of the common land / number of common land holdings compared with the previous sample survey/census data and possible reason(s)

Please specify.

n/a

### 8.2.f Major trends on the main characteristics compared with the previous sample survey/census data

Please complete the following table. Comments must be given in case there is a change of more than 10% in the current FSS survey compared with the previous one for any numeric main characteristic.

This comparison concerns the population covered by the records sent to Eurostat.

Main characteristic	Current FSS survey	Previous FSS survey	Difference in %	Comments
Number of holdings	67.481	72.324	-7%	
UAA (A_3_1), ha;	1.847.571	1.872.346	-1%	
Arable land,				

ha;	1.037.864	1.022.071	2%	
Permanent grassland (B_3), ha;	773.094	813.314	-5%	
Permanent crops (B_4), ha;	36.613	36.961	-1%	
Wooded area (B_5_2), ha;	12.234	11.570	6%	
Unutilised Agricultural area (B_5_1), ha;	7.420	12.459	-40%	The unutilized agricultural area varies considerably over the years, however since 2008 there has been an almost constant decrease of the area. Probably due to the scarcity of agricultural land unutilized agricultural land is converted to agricultural area.
Fallow land (B_1_12_1 + B_1_12_2), ha;	8.185	7.280	12%	Since 2008 the area fallow land varies between approx. 7 500 and 8 000 ha. The increase in FSS 2013 compared to FSS 2010 is not exceptional.
LSU in LSU;	6.602.053	6.711.499	-2%	
Cattle (C_2), head;	3.999.221	3.975.194	1%	
Family Labour force - in persons;	133.423	148.108	-10%	
Family Labour force - in AWU;	88.734	95.547	-7%	
Non family labour force - in persons;	59.821	63.706	-6%	
Non family labour force - in AWU	43.017	45.858	-6%	

### 8.2.1. Length of comparable time series

[Not requested]

### 8.3. Comparability - domain

#### Comparisons with other data sources at micro/macro level

*Other data sources can be for example administrative data, crop production surveys, animal surveys, labour force surveys, National Accounts.*

*If you run comparisons, please give a brief description of the results of these comparisons and possible adjustment made to FSS data. If not, please indicate why not.*

#### 8.3.a Comparisons at micro level

Comparing individual data on holdings usually only takes place as a result of the detection of errors or improbabilities in the aggregated data.

#### 8.3.b Comparisons at macro level

Evaluation of results comprises comparison with previous results and trends, and with agricultural data from other sources. Comparisons are made at several levels of aggregation: national, provincial and regional. Other

sources are other statistics (i.e. manure and nutrients statistics, land use statistics and agricultural income statistics), administrative data of commodity boards, and (CAP) regulations executive offices. The results of the evaluation prove that the agricultural census information is in general highly reliable.

## 9. Coherence

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### 9.1. Coherence - cross domain

#### (new) Coherence with other data sources

*Please indicate whether the FSS statistics are reconcilable (i.e. can be combined) with those obtained through other data sources or statistical domains.*

FSS statistics for the Netherlands are coherent with other statistics within the agricultural domain (crops, livestock, ..).

Because of differences in definition of the units this may not be the case over domains.

#### 9.1.1 Coherence - sub annual and annual statistics

[Not requested]

#### 9.1.2. Coherence - National Accounts

[Not requested]

### 9.2. Coherence - internal

[Not requested]

## 10. Cost and Burden

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### Co-ordination with other surveys: burden on respondents

*Please indicate if there is any co-ordination between surveys to avoid the situation that some farms have to answer multiple questionnaires with the same kind of questions.*

Questionnaires for crop yield predictions and other agricultural statistics are tuned to the census in order to prevent asking the same question to farmers twice. For the same reason the census questionnaire is combined with the application for the single payment scheme in the context of the CAP.

## 11. Confidentiality

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The confidentiality is required by law. This report should confirm these arrangements.

Please provide the requested information, taking into consideration that this report is a non-confidential document.

### 11.1. Confidentiality - policy

#### Dissemination of micro-data to external users for research purposes

*Please mention if micro-data are also disseminated and if yes, the confidentiality provisions that are applied.*

Confidentiality and security are regulated by the Statistics Netherlands Act as well as the Act on Registration of personal data. To maintain confidentiality, no individual holding data may be disclosed by the published results. This is of particular importance in low-level regional tables and for 'sensitive' characteristics (labour force, economic value).

Statistics Netherlands also has several micro-data services for research.

- Custom-made research, conducted by the Centre for Policy Related Statistics

<http://www.cbs.nl/en-GB/menu/informatie/beleid/laten-onderzoeken/default.htm>

The Centre can carry out research based on the research questions of the applicant. If necessary they can add and link researchers own datasets to statistical data sources available at Statistics Netherlands (including the agricultural census). The results of the study are published on the website of Statistics Netherlands and are thus accessible to everyone.

Moreover, most publications appear in print as a research report of the Centre for Policy Related Statistics. This work is carried out for a fixed rate per hour.

- Own research using data from Statistics Netherlands

<http://www.cbs.nl/en-GB/menu/informatie/beleid/zelf-onderzoeken/default.htm>

Under certain conditions, Statistics Netherlands' Centre for Policy Related Statistics (CvB) makes available micro-data for statistical research. To be authorized to use this data the researcher must work at an organisation authorized by the Central Commission for Statistics (CCS). Research can be conducted on site at our offices in The Hague and Heerlen, or from the researchers own workplace using a secure internet connection (remote access).

All datasets remain on the dedicated server at Statistics Netherlands. Before statistical results are released, all data is checked for the risk of disclosure. Statistical results (e.g. statistical tables) can be relocated by CvB staff so they can be used outside the secure environment.

Statistics Netherlands requires that all statistical results be published and made available to other interested persons and organisations. Statistics Netherlands publish an overview of publications based on research based on micro-data from Statistics Netherlands.

## 11.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

### The procedures applied for ensuring confidentiality of the data during dissemination

*Procedures can include controlled rounding, cell suppression, aggregation of disclosive information, aggregation rules on aggregated confidential data, primary confidentiality with regard to single data values etc. Main reference: [Handbook on Statistical Disclosure Control](#) (2007).*

A solution could be to apply the rule of dominance, that is to hide the contents of table cells where the data are from few holdings. This is a very complicated operation. Very often a hidden cell value can be recalculated by difference from data in other tables. However once you start to adapt tables by making changes in some cells, you have to continue this in other tables and the hiding operation spreads throughout the table set like an oil spill. Therefore we have chosen an easier, pragmatic approach: tables with a danger of disclosing individual data are published only at country or province level, or the level of detail is lowered at regional level. Usually tables with sensitive characteristics, e.g. economic size, labour force, sometimes in combination with a second dimension e.g. farm type, are not published at the lower regional levels.

Besides regular publications via the Statline database, the website or press releases, requests for information can be addressed at our Infoservice. In the case custom-made tables are prepared confidentiality rules are applied whenever needed.

For custom-made tables a distinction is made in information on 'sensitive' and 'non-sensitive' characteristics. Sensitive characteristics are characteristics that could lead to disclosure of individual personal data (age of the farmer, education level, ..) or of economic data on the individual farm (SO). For this type of tables the confidentiality regime is very strict and provisions are made that each cell contains enough cases so that no individual farms or farmers can be identified, otherwise the cell will be kept confidential (and special attention is given to secondary disclosure). For non-sensitive characteristics (e.g. number of animals or crop areas) a less strict regime is used (often these characteristics can be easily observed, or are directly available from farmers own website). In these cases it is accepted that information on individual farms may be derived. In all cases privacy protection has the highest priority, therefore all requests for custom-tables are scrutinized.

## 12. Statistical processing

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### Survey organisation and calendar

Please provide *brief* information on:

In the work process several stages can be distinguished: determination of the content and format of the questionnaire, development of the web application and paper questionnaire, training of temporary personnel, data-collection (predominantly via a web application), pre-processing (at RVO), processing and analysis, dissemination and delivery of FSS/SAPM data to Eurostat.

In the following table, the working process phases are placed in time.



## 12.a The steps of the survey organisation and the starting and ending time of each step.

*This information could help countries in the future planning of the activities.*

*As guidelines, the steps can consist of the following. Please adapt to the national situation if needed.*

### 1. definition of survey objective and requirements:

*1.1. formation of workgroups for survey organisation;*

*1.2. consultation of users;*

*1.3. set-up objectives, target population, statistical units, classifications, precision requirements etc.;*

*1.4. survey promotion.*

### 2. survey design:

*2.1. set-up organisation of the survey (e.g. detailed timetable, specification of resources, costs estimation);*

*2.2. definition of the survey variables;*

*2.3. design of the sampling frame and sampling procedures;*

*2.4. design of data collection procedures (e.g. questionnaire design, selection of data collection modes etc.);*

*2.5. design of data processing procedures (e.g. CATI/CAPI/CAWI input programmes etc.);*

*2.6. pilot survey organisation and execution.*

### 3. data collection:

*3.1. sampling frame construction and sample selection;*

*3.2. recruitment of interviewers;*

*3.3. training of interviewers;*

*3.4. fieldwork;*

*3.5. evaluation and assessment of fieldwork.*

	Working process phase	Period
1.	Determination of the content and format of the questionnaire.	April 2012 – November 2012
2.	Development phase	August 2012 – March 2013
3.	Training phase	February 2013 – March 2013
4.	Data-collection phase	April 2013 – June 2013
5.	Pre-processing phase (RVO)	April 2013 – September 2013
6.	Processing and analysis phase	May 2013 – February 2014
7.	Dissemination phase	
8.	FSS delivery phase	May 2014
9.	FSS validation phase	June 2014 - (...)

### 1. Determination of the content and format of the questionnaire

A number of organisations active in the agricultural sector in the Netherlands is involved in this process. The data need is inventoried involving a group of experts. This group of experts forms a permanent working group on the census characteristics. The working group meets every year in March or April to discuss the characteristics of the census of the next year. After approval of the list of characteristics, drafts of the questionnaire and explanatory notes are drawn up and validated by the working group. A large number of questions and characteristics are constant over the years. A small number of questions expires, changes or is newly introduced (if properly motivated). In 2013 the additional questions required for the Farm Structure Survey 2013 were added to the list of characteristics.

### 2. Development phase

Statistics Netherlands and RVO, in cooperation with the expert group, prepare the questionnaire by formulating the questions concerning the required characteristics and the explanatory notes. Since 2006 it is possible to fill in the questionnaire using a web application. The number of respondents using the internet has since rapidly increased to over 95% for the 2013 census. RVO is responsible for building, testing and maintaining the web application and also for the final design and printing of the (still existing) paper questionnaire and instruction booklet. The instruction booklet gives definitions and explanatory notes for the farmers on how to fill in the questionnaire. In the web application the definitions and explanatory notes are available through information buttons. Controls are, as far as possible, integrated in the web application.

### 3. Training phase (RVO)

The management of the survey process is responsible for the training of the employees. Training is particularly aimed at temporary personnel for the data-entry and the controlling process. Partly, this training is on forehand and partly it is “on the job”.

### 4. Data-collection phase (RVO)

Each holder receives a summon to participate in the census before the starting date (1 April). In 2013 a paper questionnaire was only made available on demand. Farmers have to fill in the form before 15 May. Farmers that do not respond receive several postal reminders After 15

**4. data processing and validation:****4.1. data entry and data coding:****4.2. data validation (at record level);****4.3. data correction and imputation.****5. data compilation:****5.1. weight calculation and estimation;****5.2. calculation of derived variables;****5.3. calculation of quality indicators (e.g. non-response rates, relative standard errors, coverage errors, bias etc.);****5.4. aggregation and tabulation;****5.5. validation of aggregated data.****6. data analysis****7. data dissemination**

May farmers may be fined or may receive less financial aid. The data-collection phase ends 15 June.

The electronic forms are stored in the RVO database. Paper forms are processed (digitized) by a data-entry company. The data entry program performs a first check on typing and data errors. The files are read in and stored in the RVO database. The paper forms are archived by RVO as well.

**5. Pre-processing phase (RVO)**

Checking the information in the questionnaires takes place using a special control program. Data is checked for hard and soft errors. Hard errors are non-valid values. Soft errors are unlikely values. If necessary the checking personnel contacts the respondent to correct for errors.

After approval of a form the holder receives a confirmation. Then it still is possible to pass on changes. By the end of September this process ended. At that time 95% of the forms were received and processed. The pre-processed data are sent to Statistics Netherlands for further checking and the processing of a large range of statistics.

**6. Processing and analysing phase**

At Statistics Netherlands a more advanced check is performed on for instance internal contradictions and differences with the trends and results of previous years. Calculations are made for composed indicators. The data are rearranged, selected and transformed for dissemination purposes. Since the agricultural census is exhaustive the results are used as a sample base for other statistics such as yield assessments, labour and productivity statistics and environmental statistics.

**7. Dissemination Phase**

The main publication is the Statline database which is available on the internet ([www.cbs.nl](http://www.cbs.nl)). In this database internet-users may select their own indicators and information topics. Several times a year short publications on specific subjects are presented in the form of newspaper reports or internet-magazine articles.

**8. FSS delivery phase**

The first phases focus primarily on the national census characteristics. After finalization of the national census characteristics attention shifted to the FSS characteristics. After additional analyses and checks against the FSS validation rules the dataset was delivered to Eurostat.

**9. FSS/SAPM validation phase**

After the delivery of the FSS dataset the validation process started. In this phase the validation tables were evaluated and the NMR was drawn up.

**12.b The bodies involved and the split of responsibilities among bodies with respect to the main steps of the survey process**

The census is a joint effort of the Ministry of Economic Affairs – especially its executive service RVO - and Statistics Netherlands. Agreements on the division of tasks are recorded in a contract between the Ministry and Statistics Netherlands, and an agreement on data delivery between RVO and Statistics Netherlands.

Initial preparation of the census, final data processing, analyses and dissemination are performed by Statistics Netherlands. RVO is responsible for maintaining the AFR, setting up, printing, sending and collecting the questionnaires, digitising the data, as well as building and testing of the web application, initial validation of data and supplementary interviewing of holders (call-back). Pre-processed data is sent to Statistics Netherlands, where the data are further processed and analysed and statistical results are produced and disseminated.

	In both Statistics Netherlands and RVO a permanent team of personnel issues the regular work. At RVO temporarily personnel is hired for data-entry and the first data-controls.
<b>12.c Serious deviations (if any) from the established calendar and reasons.</b> <i>Please mention only serious deviations with significant consequences on the quality and the transmission time of data to Eurostat.</i>	n/a
<b>12.1. Source data</b>	
<b>12.1.a Target population</b>	
<b>12.1.a.1 The national definition of an agricultural holding</b> <i>Please mention if the national definition of the holding is as according to the EU definition [3] or not. If not, please mention the national definition of a holding.</i>	
<p>The definition of holdings in the agricultural census is tuned to the FSS <sup>(1)</sup>, and the activities considered are the same as in Annex 1 of Regulation 1166/2008. Not all holdings in the AFR meet the definition of a holding in the agricultural census (e.g. also riding stables and manure transporters are included). The non-agricultural holdings are excluded for the census. The national census however does cover raising and breeding of fur animals, this activity not being eligible for the EU.</p> <p><sup>(1)</sup> according to Regulation 1166/2008: “a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which undertakes agricultural activities listed in Annex I of the Regulation 1166/2008 within the economic territory of the European Union, either as its primary or secondary activity”.</p>	
<b>12.1.a.2 The number of holdings in the population disregarding any possible thresholds applied (the entire number of holdings in the country),</b> according to the EU definition of a holding or, if different from the EU definition of a holding, according to the national definition. <i>Please indicate the number. If it is not possible to provide this information, please provide the reasons.</i>	
75 758 holdings were surveyed; 6598 holdings showed to be ineligible, and for 1679 the eligibility status was unknown, resulting in 67 481 eligible holdings (see also section 12.3.d).	
<b>12.1.a.3 The national survey coverage; the thresholds applied in the national survey (if any) and the geographical coverage</b> <i>Please briefly describe the national target population which is the population for which national inferences are made.</i> <i>Please consider possible thresholds applied in the national survey and please mention them.</i> <i>Please mention the geographical coverage (including any geographical areas not covered).</i>	
<p>Only agricultural holdings above a certain threshold are taken into account in the census. This threshold is applied to separate professional from hobby farmers, and to minimise processing burden. The threshold applied is 3000 euros SO (‘extended size calculation’), which is compliant with the physical thresholds in the FSS regulation. In the 2013 census (and the FSS) 67 481 holdings are above the threshold. Together these holdings work nearly 1 850 000 ha of agricultural land. The difference between types of farming, specialisation, economic size and area is considerable. About 1700 holdings, mainly industrial livestock farms, do not have agricultural land at all. Farming is spread all over the country, but several regions have their own characteristic type of agricultural activities. A number of crops are concentrated in parts of the country or in relatively small areas. For instance bulb cultivation takes place mainly in the coastal sand districts and in the clay districts arable farming is predominant.</p>	
<b>12.1.a.4 (new) The number of holdings in the nationally covered population</b> (see 12.1.a.3), according to the EU definition of a holding or, if different from the EU definition of a holding, according to the national definition. <i>Please indicate the number. These are holdings in the national survey coverage. If national thresholds are applied, the size of the national survey population is the number of holdings in the population by considering the thresholds applied in the national survey (see 12.1.a.3).</i>	
The number of holdings in the nationally covered population is 67 481; this is the same as the coverage of the records	

sent to Eurostat, and corresponds to holdings above the threshold of 3000 euros SO (Standard Output).

#### **12.1.a.5 (new) The survey coverage of the records sent to Eurostat**

*The survey coverage of the records sent to Eurostat can be different from the national survey coverage in case very low (or no) national thresholds are applied.*

*Please indicate if the coverage of the records sent to Eurostat is different the national survey coverage. If yes, please indicate the differences and how you selected the records sent to Eurostat.*

The coverage of the records sent to Eurostat is equal to the national coverage.

**12.1.a.6 The number of holdings in the population covered by the records transferred to Eurostat**, according to the EU definition of a holding and, if different from the EU definition of a holding, according to the national definition (*this number should be reported as item 1, in the table from section 12.3.d*).

67 481 holdings are transferred to Eurostat

**12.1.a.7 (new) Records sent to Eurostat on holdings with standard output equal to zero.**

*These can be holdings with only fallow land and/or only kitchen gardens and/or only crops and animals for which standard output coefficients are not defined (crops and animals not valued). In the case of a few countries, a significant amount of records have been sent to Eurostat with standard output equal to zero. Please provide any information that could help Eurostat and users to better understand why standard output is equal to zero and why those holdings are included in the survey.*

There are 119 records with standard output equal to zero sent to Eurostat. This are holdings with (e.g.) only fur animals, or only activities like bulb forcing; these are considered agricultural holdings in the national population.

In FSS 44 holdings are ineligible, this are holdings with only fur animals. The other holdings only have: bulb forcing (32 holdings), Belgian endive cultivation (23 holdings), special mushroom cultivation (like oyster mushrooms, shiitake) (19 holdings), and "other livestock not mentioned elsewhere" (1 holding). There is no SO for these activities, and (besides "other livestock not mentioned elsewhere"), there are no fields/variables in the dataset where the activity can be recorded (bulb forcing and Belgian endive cultivation do not require UAA, and for special mushroom cultivation only the amount of substrate used is known, not the effective growing area).

#### **12.1.a.8 Proofs that the requirements stipulated in art. 3.2 and(new) 3.3 of the Regulation 1166/2008 are met in the data transmitted to Eurostat**

*Art. 3.2: However, Member States which use a survey threshold above one hectare shall fix this threshold at a level that excludes only the smallest agricultural holdings which together contribute 2% or less to the total utilised agricultural area excluding common land and 2% or less to the total number of livestock units.*

*Art. 3.3: In any case, all agricultural holdings reaching one of the physical thresholds specified in Annex II shall be covered.*

Together the holdings above the economical threshold for the census (3000 euros SO (Standard Output)) account for about 99% of total SO, 99% of agricultural land use and 99% of LSU in the Netherlands. The threshold is compliant with the thresholds described in regulation 1166/2008. Therefore the census is considered to be exhaustive.

The FSS regulation contains a list of physical thresholds, which means that several selection criteria would have to be applied. However, there are also some 'activities' for which no threshold is given (e.g. mushrooms, equidae). In order to also include these activities and to have one single criterion, which is easier to handle, the different physical thresholds are 'translated' into one single criterion: the economic size of the holding (SO-threshold).

The economic size of the holding is determined by an 'extended size calculation'. This uses more detailed SO-coefficients than the FSS (SO-coefficients for all extended crops and livestock characteristics). Extensive analysis, based on the agricultural census of 2009, was carried out to determine the level of the SO-threshold. A threshold of 3000 euros SO proved to be fully compliant with the physical thresholds of the FSS regulation.

#### **12.1.b Source of data**

*Please mention the source of data for example exhaustive coverage of units in a survey (census), sample survey, use of administrative sources, combinations, etc.*

Each year, the agricultural census is carried out by an exhaustive enumeration of all the agricultural holdings above the threshold of 3000 euros SO. The FSS is fully integrated in the agricultural census. Sampling designs and sampling methods are therefore not in use.



The information of the exhaustive agricultural census provides the basis for sample enumeration of more specific agricultural research, like crop yield predictions. Methods and designs used for those statistics are not discussed in this paper.

### 12.1.c (Sampling) frame

*Section 12.1.c refers to the frame used to identify holdings to be surveyed and therefore should be completed only in case of a sample survey or a census.*

Section 12.1.c should **not** be completed when data are entirely taken from administrative sources. In this case, section 12.1.e of the report provides the relevant information.

#### 12.1.c.1 Source of the frame

*Please specify the source of the frame, for example a statistical register (farm register, business register etc.), an administrative source etc.*

The frame for the agricultural census / FSS is the Administrative Farm Register (AFR). This frame is constantly updated. Active holdings with an economic size above the threshold at least once in the past three years were selected for the census / FSS (an estimate of the economic size was made for new holdings).

#### 12.1.c.2 Type of frame

*Please specify whether it is a list frame or an area frame, whether you used a combination of multiple frames etc.*

The AFR is a list frame.

#### 12.1.c.3 Time reference and updating process for the frame

Every year there are many mutations in the data of the AFR, these are continuously processed. There can be take-overs of holdings or changes in address, telephone number, size of the holding etc. Mutations can be reported directly to RVO and also with the agricultural census questionnaire there is a possibility to report mutations. These mutations will be processed first to ensure a proper connection of the census data and the AFR. Periodically there are additional checks for actuality and completeness of the AFR (see section 12.1.e.3).

### 12.1.d Sampling design

*Section 12.1.d should be completed only in case of a sample survey.*

*Please describe the sampling design according to the following structure. This structure aims to increase the clarity and comparability of information between countries.*

#### 12.1.d.1 the name of the sampling design and whether it is a probability design.

*A probability sampling design ensures known probabilities for units selected. In practice, non-response generally makes samples depart from the probability ones. However, the point here is to report on whether or not the gross sample (net sample plus non-respondents) has been selected in a probability way.*

n/a

#### 12.1.d.2 (new) the number of sampling stages.

*If the survey sample is selected from another sample (e.g. master sample) please consider this stage. If you use sub-sampling for some of the characteristics, please distinguish the cases in your answer.*

n/a

#### 12.1.d.3 (new) the sampling unit at each stage

*For example, sampling units can be holdings in a single-stage design or municipalities/villages as primary sampling units and holdings as secondary sampling units in a two-stage design etc.*

n/a

#### 12.1.d.4 the stratification variables and the sampling stage where they are applied

*For example, in a single-stage design, holdings can be stratified by region and size.*

n/a

#### 12.1.d.5 (new) the sampling method at each stage



*The sampling method can be exhaustive selection, simple random sampling, systematic sampling with equal probabilities, systematic sampling with probabilities proportional to size, etc.*

n/a

#### **12.1.d.6 the list and description of full coverage strata**

*Full coverage strata are strata with complete enumeration (all units are selected in the sample).*

n/a

#### **12.1.d.7 the overall sample size, how it was determined and any allocation method used**

*Allocation methods can be equal allocation, proportional allocation, Neyman allocation, optimal allocation considering different costs across strata etc.*

n/a

#### **12.1.d.8 sampling across time**

*This item refers to whether a new sample is drawn in each occasion, or a part or the whole sample is retained over all/several occasions. The latter two cases should be justified.*

n/a

#### **12.1.d.9 the software tool used in the sample selection**

n/a

#### **12.1.d.10 other relevant information, if any**

n/a

### **12.1.e Use of administrative data sources**

#### **12.1.e.1 Name, legal base, time reference and (new) updating of the source**

*If more than one administrative data source is used, please provide this information for each of them.*

The administrative sources used are:

##### **1. the Administrative Farm Register (AFR)**

The AFR, held by RVO. All agricultural holdings are registered in the AFR. Registration is based on several legal obligations. All holdings falling under the Manure Act have to register with RVO. Also regulations for the commodity boards stipulate that anyone engaged in agricultural activities falling under the responsibility of the respective commodity board has the obligation to register within 4 weeks. Furthermore anyone requesting CAP support has to register with RVO. Every holding in the AFR has a unique identification number. The AFR is continuously updated. Note: since 2008 farmers also have to register in the Business Register (BR), however for 2013 the AFR of RVO is still used as the basis for the frame of the agricultural census / FSS and as the source of several characteristics.

##### **2. the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS)**

IACS is held by RVO. IACS is the control system for direct aid and agri-environmental schemes of the CAP, based on Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009. IACS contains the same identification number as the AFR. The IACS register is continuously updated.

##### **3. the I&R (animal Identification and Registration) register on bovine animals**

The I&R register is held by RVO. The register is based on Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000, which establishes a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals. The I&R register is continuously updated.

#### **12.1.e.2 Definition of the reporting unit (holding)**

*If more than one administrative data source is used, please provide this information for each of them.*

The definition of the holdings in the administrative sources is equal to the definition in the FSS regulation.

#### **12.1.e.3 The purpose(s) of the use of administrative sources**

Purpose	Administrative source <i>Please specify the name of the administrative source(s) in the rows of this column. The row(s) where the name(s) of the source(s) is (are) specified indicate(s) the purpose(s) of the use of that (those) source(s).</i>

- to totally replace the survey, on all characteristics and on the whole survey population	n/a						
- to replace the survey on some of the characteristics and on the whole survey population. <i>Please indicate these (groups of) characteristics, the common identifiers and the method(s) of integration (record linkage algorithm).</i>	<p><b>AFR</b> was used as direct data source for the characteristics:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Code 1.01</td> <td>Geographic location (based on the postal code)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Code 1.02</td> <td>Legal personality of the holding</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>IACS</b> was used as direct data source for the characteristics:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Code 7.01</td> <td>Rural development</td> </tr> </table> <p>Since IACS uses the same identification number as the AFR, data from IACS could directly be linked.</p>	Code 1.01	Geographic location (based on the postal code)	Code 1.02	Legal personality of the holding	Code 7.01	Rural development
Code 1.01	Geographic location (based on the postal code)						
Code 1.02	Legal personality of the holding						
Code 7.01	Rural development						
- to replace the survey on all characteristics and on a part of the survey population	n/a						
- to replace the survey on some of the characteristics and on a part of the survey population. <i>Please indicate these (groups of) characteristics, the common identifiers and the method(s) of integration (record linkage algorithm).</i>	n/a						
- to build/update the (sampling) frame (used for census or for sample survey)	<b>AFR</b>						
- to pre-fill answers in the questionnaires which are then checked by farmers during the survey	<b>I&amp;R</b> (animal Identification and Registration) register on bovine animals						
- to impute item/unit non-response	n/a						
- to validate the survey data (quality control). <i>Please indicate actions taken in case of large discrepancies</i>	<p><b>I&amp;R</b> (animal Identification and Registration) register on bovine animals</p> <p>The number of bovine animals from the I&amp;R register is pre-filled and shown in the online questionnaire; no specific action is taken if the respondent changes this number. If later plausibility checks raises questions on the number reported a checkback to the respondent can be made.</p>						
- to calibrate of survey estimates. <i>Please indicate the calibration variables</i>	n/a						
- other ( <i>please specify in the next column</i> )	n/a						

#### 12.1.e.4 Difficulties of using administrative source(s) and measures taken

For each administrative source used, please briefly describe any difficulties and the way those difficulties were addressed. Examples of difficulties:

- incoherence of concepts/definitions;
- incoherence of classification systems;
- different population coverage;
- problems creating the links between the units: the units in administrative sources do not correspond directly to the definition of required statistical units;
- problems creating the links between databases caused by e.g. the lack of common identifiers, obstacles related to IT issues etc.;
- impossibilities to establish cooperation with register owners;
- (too high) costs charged for the access by the register owners;

- problems related to data quality of the source;
- resistance to change caused by a general lack of trust in the quality of the source;
- timeliness and punctuality: the final validated data in the source may not be in time to meet statistical deadlines or may relate to a period which does not coincide with the statistical reference period;
- risks concerning the stability of the source to political changes etc.

n/a

### 12.1.e.5 Quality assessment of the administrative sources

Section 12.1.e.5 should **not** be completed when administrative sources are used only for building/updating the (sampling) frame of a census or a sample survey . In that case, other sections of the report (sections 5.3, 12.1.c, 12.3.d) provide relevant information.

		<b>Administrative source and assessment of errors</b> Please specify the name of the administrative source(s) in this column, along with information required for each row.
<b>-coverage:</b>		
	<b>- over-coverage</b> If the source covers more units than it should, please provide an assessment of the over-coverage rate and mention whether the out-of-scope units were excluded.	<p><b>AFR</b> Over-coverage is prevented by the use of a unique registration code. Over-coverage will also be detected on handling applications for the single payment scheme.</p> <p><b>IACS</b> Member States must take the necessary measures to ensure that transactions financed are actually carried and implemented correctly. Therefore the risk of over-coverage is minimal.</p> <p><b>I&amp;R</b> (animal Identification and Registration) register on bovine animals The register is closely monitored; the risk of over-coverage is minimal.</p>
	<b>- under-coverage</b> If the source covers less units than it should, please provide an assessment of the extent of under-coverage (if possible) and mention if and how the missing information is derived.	<p><b>AFR</b> From time to time the AFR is checked for under-coverage by checking with the registers of the commodity boards. Under-coverage is supposed to be small, because of the negative financial consequences for the farmers.</p> <p><b>IACS</b> Member States must take the necessary measures to ensure that transactions financed are actually carried and implemented correctly. Therefore the risk of under-coverage is minimal.</p> <p><b>I&amp;R</b> (animal Identification and Registration) register on bovine animals The register is closely monitored; the risk of under-coverage is minimal.</p>
	<b>- misclassification</b> Please mention whether the information allows for the requested classification of units and whether there are errors in classification variables.	n/a
		<p><b>AFR</b> Multiple listings are prevented by the use of a unique registration code for each holding and regular checks on for</p>

<p><b>- multiple listings</b> Please provide an assessment on units which were present more than once in the source and specify how the duplicates were eliminated.</p>		<p>instance duplication in names, addresses and postal codes. Multiple listings cannot be excluded, but is supposed to be very small. Most common reason for possible duplication in the register is partnerships such as between father and son where both partners are registered and both partners receive a census questionnaire. In these cases usually one of the questionnaires is not returned or is returned with a note that the doubling should be corrected. Multiple listings will also be detected on handling applications for the single payment scheme. Clearing up the AFR is usually time-consuming.</p> <p><b>IACS</b> Member States must take the necessary measures to ensure that transactions financed are actually carried and implemented correctly. Therefore the risk of multiple listings is minimal.</p> <p><b>I&amp;R</b> (animal Identification and Registration) register on bovine animals The register is closely monitored; the risk of multiple listings is minimal.</p>
<p><b>- rate of unreported events</b> If data of the System for the Identification and Registration of Bovine Animals is used, please provide an assessment of the rate of unreported events. Unreported events refer to births, deaths or loss, sales or change of owners etc. of animals, which create under – and/or over-coverage errors for the estimates of animals.</p>		<p>The register is closely monitored; the rate of unreported events is minimal.</p>
<p><b>- missing data</b> (analogue to item and unit non-response errors in a survey). Please provide an assessment of missing data, specify for which characteristics and how it was accounted for (e.g. by imputation).</p>		<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>- errors in register variables</b> (analogue to measurement errors in a survey) i.e. erroneous values for certain variables</p>		<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>- processing errors.</b> Please provide an assessment. You can mention here imputation methods used, if any.</p>		<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>- coherence</b> (comparison to other available data) of the administrative data (ex-ante and/or ex-post)</p>		<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>- other drawbacks (if any)</b> of the use of data from the administrative source. Please specify the drawbacks in the next column.</p>		<p>n/a</p>

[3] See Article 2 of Regulation (EC) 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) 571/88

## 12.2. Frequency of data collection

*(new) Please indicate the frequency of data collection.*

The Farm Structure Survey is integrated in the agricultural census which is held every year.

### 12.3. Data collection

#### 12.3.a Data collection modes

*Please specify the data collection mode(s) used.*

*These can be for example:*

- Telephone

*The data collection is carried out through the telephone interviews, usually supported by the CATI technology.*

- Face-to-face

*An interviewer visits selected holdings to directly communicate with them and get the required data.*

- Internet

*The data collection is carried out by using questionnaires which can be completed through internet applications.*

- Self-completed paper questionnaires

*The data is gathered through self-completed paper questionnaires which can be collected on a spot or sent to the survey organisation by mail.*

- Mixed-mode

*Several modes for data collection are combined. The typical example is the survey where the telephone interviews are complemented with the face-to-face interviews for the respondents who were not reached by telephone.*

Data collection for the 2013 agricultural census / Farm Structure Survey took place mainly through the internet.

Only a small percentage of respondents still used a paper form. A letter, summoning the respondents to participate in the census, was sent by RVO in March; a paper form was no longer supplied, but could be requested.

About 95% of respondents filled in the census via the internet. The electronic form provides a number of online controls and validations, diminishing the need for additional telephone interviewing. Also the respondent receives only relevant questions (for example: questions about livestock only if there are animals on the holding), thus reducing the administrative burden.

During the processing and analysis phase farmers may have been interviewed by telephone in order to receive missing data or corrections of errors.

For efficiency reasons the questionnaire of the agricultural census nowadays also serves as an application form for the single payment scheme and animal, crop and arable land subsidies in the framework of the European Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), as well as for the enforcement of the minerals regulation (manure). The combined questionnaire and application form is extended with geographical information on the location of the crops (parcel registration).

#### 12.3.b Data entry modes

*Please specify the data entry mode(s) used.*

*These can be, for example:*

- Optical character recognition (OCR);
- Electronic data capture during personal interview;
- Entering the data online by the holder etc.

Respondents could access the electronic form by logging in to their own personal portal. After completion of the form and providing an electronic signature, the data was automatically transmitted to RVO.

Paper questionnaire could be returned to RVO using pre-stamped return envelopes.

Data-entry for the paper forms was performed by a specialised private company using electronic scanning methods and manual correction, supplementation and controls.

During data-collection and data-control phase pre-processed data of completed enumerations was periodically delivered to Statistics Netherlands.

#### 12.3.c Measures taken to increase response rates

*Please specify, for example:*

- call-back strategies, written / telephone reminders, contacting respondents who have only partly completed the questionnaires;
- giving priority to more important, for example large holdings;
- taking care that the mailing list is based on up to date information;
- training staff in handling difficult respondents;



- legal actions taken on non-response.

It has become government policy that, in order to reduce administrative burden, the same data may only be collected once ('collect once – use often'). This policy is also applied in the census, by combining data collection for statistical and administrative purposes. The questionnaire combines data collection for the agricultural census / FSS, as well as requests for subsidies (single payment scheme) and enforcement of manure law.

This policy also means that registers and/or administrative data have to be used whenever available and suitable (under the condition of quality and continuity).

The mailing list for the combined data collection is based on the AFR. Much effort is put into taking care that the information in the AFR is up to date (both in coverage and actuality), for example by checking with the business register, municipal register, and registers of commodity boards. This reduces response burden by preventing that respondents may be approached wrongly or more than once.

Finally, the use of the internet application is strongly stimulated, a.o. by supplying a paper form on request only (the possibility to make the internet application compulsory is investigated).

### 12.3.d Monitoring of response and non-response

*The following table should be completed only in case of a sample survey or a census.*

*It should **not** be completed when data are entirely taken from administrative sources. In the latter case, section 12.1.e.5 provides relevant information.*

*The following table aims to collect exact information of the number of holdings in a uniform way. This information allows, among other, calculating response rates according to the definition of response rates in the Eurostat (2009) [ESS Handbook for Quality Reports](#), page 49. These definitions of the response rates are presented in the handbook for sample surveys but, as stated in the same handbook, page 57, they are also applicable to censuses.*

**The following table refers to the number of holdings covered by the records sent to Eurostat.**

*- If you send records on all surveyed holdings to Eurostat, then please include all surveyed holdings.*

*- If you send records on a subset of surveyed holdings to Eurostat (that, according to Regulation 1166/2008, account for 98% of the utilised agricultural area and 98% of the livestock units), then please consider only the subset of holdings transferred to Eurostat, if possible. If this is not possible, please explain and then include information concerning all holdings surveyed in the country.*

*This table refers to the number of holdings according to the EU definition, and, if different from the EU definition [\[4\]](#), according to the national definition. Please specify the case.*

*Common land holdings (special holdings created to report common land), if any, should not be included in the number of the holdings of any category below. They should be reported in section 8.1.d.4*

1.	<p><b>Number of holdings in the population covered by the records sent to Eurostat</b> Please note that the survey coverage of the records sent to Eurostat can be different from the national survey coverage in case very low (or no) national thresholds are applied. In case of a census <b>1=3+4+5</b></p>	<p>75 758 67 481 holdings were sent to Eurostat. This is the same number as in the national agricultural census. These comprise all holdings, above the threshold of 3000 euro SO. This accounts for over 98% of total SO, 98% of the utilised agricultural area and 98% of the livestock units.</p>
2.	<p><b>Number of holdings in the gross sample</b> The number of holdings selected from the sampling frame to be included in the sample. <i>This item should be completed <u>only</u> in case of a sample survey, in which case <b>2=3+4+5</b></i></p>	<p>n/a</p>
3.	<p><b>(new) Number of ineligible holdings</b> The number of surveyed holdings which result to be out-of-scope (the frame is not updated and the data collection reveals that some holdings e.g. fall below set thresholds during the reference period), which do not exist at the selected address, which have the activities</p>	<p>6 598 these comprise 3 989 holdings below the threshold of 3000 euro SO, and 2 609 holdings with ceased activities (see 3.1)</p>

	<i>ceased during the reference period etc.</i>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Number of holdings with ceased activities</b> <i>This item is a subset of 3.</i> <b>3.1&gt;=3.1.1+3.1.2</b>	2 609  for 1222 holdings information was received that they had ceased activities; 1387 holdings were non-respondent for over 5 years in the annual census, they were considered to have ceased activities (confirmed by further analysis of a subset).
<b>3.1.1</b>	<b>Number of holdings which definitively ceased i.e. the land is abandoned.</b> <i>This item should be completed only if information is available.</i>	n/a
<b>3.1.2</b>	<b>Number of holdings with ceased activities following the change of manager</b> <i>This item should be completed only if information is available.</i>	n/a
<b>4</b>	<b>(new) Number of holdings with unknown eligibility status</b> <i>The number of surveyed holdings which could not be contacted (e.g. in a CATI survey) and for which it is not certain if they are eligible (e.g. in scope) or not.</i>	1 679
<b>5</b>	<b>(new) Number of eligible holdings</b> <i>The number of surveyed holdings which are eligible</i> <b>5=5.1+5.2</b>	67 481
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Number of non-responding holdings</b> <i>The number of eligible holdings which:</i> - were contacted but refused to take part in the survey; - were contacted but were unable to participate in the survey for various reasons; - participated in the survey but the entire survey form cannot be used because of poor quality etc. <i>This item refers to holdings for which no data is collected (unit non-response).</i> <b>5.1&gt;=5.1.1+5.1.2</b>	4 021
<b>5.1.1</b>	<b>Number of non-responding holdings – re-weighted</b>	
<b>5.1.2</b>	<b>Number of non-responding holdings – imputed</b>	4 021
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Number of responding holdings</b> <i>This item includes holdings which provided completed questionnaires, either entirely or partially.</i>	63 460

**12.3.e Questionnaire(s)**

*Please annex the questionnaire(s) used for the data collection, using the "Add file" button. If possible, please provide the questionnaire in English, French or German.*

The annex contains the paper questionnaire for the agricultural census 2013 ('1a -Gecombineerde opgave 2013'), and the

summary form for the total area per crop ('1b - Opgave gewaspercelen 2013'). The application form for nature conservation subsidies and the brochures with explanatory notes are not included.

[4] See Article 2 of Regulation (EC) 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) 571/88

## Annexes:

[Questionnaire for agricultural census 2013](#)

[Summary form for the total area per crop](#)

### 12.4. Data validation

#### 12.4.a Edit rules/checks

*Please mention edit rules applied. For example: data format checks, completeness checks, routing (skip) checks, range/outlier checks, relational checks, ratio edits, etc.*

There are two types of errors: hard errors and soft errors. Hard errors are values that cannot occur in reality. For example the age of the holder is over a certain limit, the total area of the holding differs from the sum of the sub-areas, or there are pigs but no housing for pigs. Soft errors are data that are unlikely but not impossible e.g. the recording of a certain crop that is very uncommon in the region; a number of animals that is extremely high; the amount of labour is not in line with the size of the holding.

Hard errors have to be corrected before processing can continue; soft errors may be accepted (for the time being) but have to be validated during further processing (after additional analysis or check-back). All error checks are described in the functional design of the web application.

#### 12.4.b Tools used for data validation

*Please mention tools used.*

##### *Controls at data-entry*

About 95% of the questionnaires were filled in online. The online questionnaire already contains a lot of controls and validations, documented in the 'functional design' of the application.

Paper forms are digitized by a data-entry firm and processed by RVO in the same way as the online questionnaires. There are several quality controls to ensure correct digitization. First forms are checked for a holder's signature, completeness and the presence of mutation forms. The data is entered twice by different persons to increase reliability of the output. The output of the data-entry service is tested with random checks.

#### 12.4.c Level of data validation

*Please mention. For example, data validation can be done at the level of the interviewer, of the supervisor, of the local collection centre, of the final collection centre.*

*Data validation is performed in two successive stages.*

##### *Data control at RVO*

After data collection and data entry the input data go through an extensive error control phase. In this phase (additional) checks are made on missing values, valid values, unlikely values, range checks, checks of correlation in the data, checks of totals and so on. When necessary additional information is collected from the farmers by phone. Data that is checked and accepted by RVO is forwarded to Statistics Netherlands.

##### *Control at Statistics Netherlands*

Data processing by Statistics Netherlands involves further checks for hard and soft errors, and enrichment with additional information, such as total SO and typology. At Statistics Netherlands non-response imputations are performed (see section 5.3.4). Further analyses are made at several levels of aggregation and comprise comparison with previous results and agricultural data from other sources.

### 12.5. Data compilation

*Sections 12.5.a and 12.5.b should be completed only in case of sample surveys.*

**Not applicable**

#### 12.5.a Methods for deriving the extrapolation factor (the weight)

*Please give a description of the extrapolation procedures used to weight the data of the sampled holdings to the population, discussing the different steps taken, as follows:*

**12.5.a.1 Design weights**

Please explain how design weights were obtained. In case the approach departed from the usual one that consists of taking the inverse of the inclusion probabilities, then the latter should be explained.

Design weights are defined as the inverse of the units' selection probabilities.

N/A

**12.5.a.2 Adjustment of weights for non-response**

Please mention if you applied re-weighting for non-response. If yes, then the method used to determine the correction factors should be explained: reweighted Horvitz-Thompson estimator, ratio estimation, regression estimation, etc.

Please indicate if response homogeneity groups have been created.

N/A

**12.5.a.3 Adjustment of weights to external data sources**

Please mention if you adjusted the weights to external sources and if so please describe and mention the variables used from the sources and the sources. Generally, samples are adjusted to external data sources in order to make their accuracy better. For instance, the calibration technique aims at calculating new weights which provide error-free estimates for a certain number of characteristics. If the characteristics are strongly correlated with the variables of interest, then the level of accuracy for most of the survey estimates is improved.

N/A

**12.5.a.4 Any other applied adjustment of weights**

For example, extreme weights (which increase the variance of the estimates) can be trimmed.

N/A

**12.5.b Formulae applied for estimation methods**

Please annex the formulae applied for estimation methods, using the "Add file" button.

**12.5.c Other relevant information (if any)**

N/A

**12.6. Adjustment**

[Not requested]

**13. Comment**[Top](#)**13.a Any regional specification**

Please include relevant information such as on extreme weather conditions in certain region(s) during the agricultural year (reference period), differences in methodology across regions etc.

n/a

**13.b Possible improvements in the future**

Please suggest possible improvements.

n/a

**13.c Other annexes**

Please annex any other(s) file(s), deemed as useful, using the "Add file" button.

Please indicate here the nature and purpose of the file(s).

n/a

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## Annexes

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