

Glossary: Livestock unit (LSU)

Statistics Explained

The **livestock unit** , abbreviated as **LSU** (or sometimes as **LU**), is a reference unit which facilitates the aggregation of livestock from various species and age as per convention, via the use of specific coefficients established initially on the basis of the nutritional or feed requirement of each type of animal (see table below for an overview of the most commonly used coefficients).

The reference unit used for the calculation of livestock units (=1 LSU) is the grazing equivalent of one adult **dairy cow** producing 3 000 kg of milk annually, without additional concentrated foodstuffs.

Holdings with livestock can have zero livestock units as LSU is only calculated for bovine animals, goats, sheep, equidae, pigs, poultry, and female breeding rabbits. Holdings with livestock and no LSU are holdings which have beehives or other livestock not elsewhere classified.

Bovine animals	Under 1 year old	0,400
	1 but less than 2 years old	0,700
	Male, 2 years old and over	1,000
	Heifers , 2 years old and over	0,800
	Dairy cows	1,000
	Other cows, 2 years old and over	0,800
Sheep and goats		0,100
Equidae		0,800
Pigs	Piglets having a live weight of under 20 kg	0,027
	Breeding sows weighing 50 kg and over	0,500
	Other pigs	0,300
Poultry	Broilers	0,007
	Laying hens	0,014
	Ostriches	0,350
	Other poultry	0,030
Rabbits, breeding females		0,020

Livestock unit coefficients

Further information

- [Agriculture, Environment, Rural Development: Facts and Figures - A Challenge for Agriculture](#)

Related concepts

- [Livestock density index](#)
- [Livestock pattern](#)

Statistical data

- [Agriculture statistics at regional level](#)