

1 Introduction

The Farm Structure Survey 2016 was conducted during autumn 2016 as a sample survey. It followed the sample surveys carried out in 2013, 2007, 2005, 2003 and Agricultural census 2010 in its contents and aims. Farm structure surveys contribute to systematic building of European Communities' statistics on structure of agricultural holdings which provide comparable outputs for all EU member states.

The aim of the survey is to obtain detailed and complex information on the whole scale of the Czech agriculture, i.e. its size, structure and development of agricultural holdings, about their equipment, specialisation of their production and other gainful activities. The results are used in classification of agricultural holdings by their production orientation, economic size.

The data obtained in the survey are used for update of the Farm Register, which serves as a basis for yearly surveys in agriculture. Results will be used for agricultural policy forming not only in the Czech Republic but also in the European Union.

1.1 Legislation

The Farm Structure Survey is conducted in all the European Union member countries following requirements of EU/EC legislation. The most important legal act is the Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council of 19 November 2008, on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 571/88 as last amended by the Commission Regulation (EU) No 715/2014¹. The implementing regulation for this legislation is the Regulation No 1391/2015 of 13 August 2015.

In the Czech Republic, the survey is conducted on the basis of the Act No 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, as amended; and of the Programme for Statistical Surveys for the year 2016².

1.2 Definition of the agricultural holding

Agricultural holding means a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which undertakes agricultural activities based on the common statistical classification of economic activities (CZ-NACE), either as its primary or secondary activity. Among these activities belong: growing of non-perennial crops (01.1); growing of perennial crops (01.2) including wine production from self-produced grapes; plant propagation (01.3); animal production (01.4); mixed farming (01.5); support activities to agriculture and post-harvest crop activities (01.6). Agricultural holdings raising other animals (01.49) are excluded, except ones raising and breeding ostriches, emus and rabbits, and dealing with bee-keeping and production of honey and beeswax. Furthermore, all agricultural holdings carrying out activities under 01.6 of CZ-NACE are excluded, except holdings exclusively maintaining agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition.

Threshold values for Farm Structure Survey 2016 were set in such way that only the smallest agricultural holdings representing up to 2% of utilised agricultural area and up to 2% of livestock units³ were excluded.

Threshold values for the survey:

- Acreage above 5 ha of utilised agricultural area (own or rented);

¹ Commission Regulation (EU) No 715/2014 of 26 June 2014 amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1166/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on farm structure surveys and the survey on agricultural production methods, as regards the list of characteristics to be collected in the farm structure survey 2016

² Decree No 302/2015 Coll., of 2 November 2015, chapter 128/2015 Coll.

³ Livestock unit (LSU) means a standard measurement unit that allows the aggregation of the various categories of livestock in order to enable them to be compared. 1 LSU represents 500 kg of live weight of an animal.

- Or more than 1 ha of orchards, or 3,500 m² of vineyards;
- Or sum of acreages for vegetable, strawberries and flowers above 2,500 m²;
- Or breeding of 5 heads of cattle, or 10 heads of pigs, or 10 heads of sheep and goats;
- Or 100 heads of poultry including ostriches.

1.3 Questionnaire and Reporting duty

Reporting duty applied to all reporting units included in the sample.

Legal persons and natural persons obtained the questionnaires using data boxes or by post. Small natural persons and self-suppliers were interviewed by trained interviewers at their home or place of business.

Pursuant to Act No. 89/1995 Coll., on the State Statistical Service, as amended, the reporting unit shall supply all requested data.

1.4 Farm Structure Survey results in international comparison

European statistical office (Eurostat) collects results from all Member States and compiles publications summarizing main characteristic features of agriculture in each of them. These publications are available on Eurostat internet pages: (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/publications/all-publications>).

Eurostat provides on its website a database which is intended to serve for the comparison of the Farm Structure Survey results on an international level; it contains aggregated tables in a demanded structure (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>).

Several methodological differences should be taken into account when using data from the Eurostat database:

- *According to the EU definitions hop is included in crops grown on arable land. In the Czech Republic, however, hop or hop-gardens are reported as permanent crops according to the Law No 252/1997 Coll., on agriculture, as amended. Due to this different approach data on total arable area and permanent crops in Eurostat database differ from the data published on the national level. Data on total utilised agricultural area (permanent crops plus arable land) are identical.*
- *According to the EU definition, nurseries are included in permanent crops. In the Czech Republic, on the contrary, nurseries are reported as crops grown on arable land. Due to this fact data in Eurostat database differ from the data published on the national level likewise.*
- *According to the EU methodology, trees and bushes grown for use for energy production only are included in wooded area (of which short rotation coppices). In the Czech Republic they are included in other permanent crops (of which short rotation coppices). Therefore in the Eurofarm database total utilised agricultural area is lower and wooded area is higher than in national data.*
- *According to the EU definition, temporary grasslands are included in permanent grasslands in the frame of organic farming while on the national level they are included in plants harvested green on arable land (perennial green fodder).*
- *Tillage methods on outdoor arable land and Soil cover on outdoor arable land during the winter: the area presented in the tables differs due to different classification of nurseries (see above).*