

ANALYSIS OF THE SPECIALIZED FARMS EVOLUTION IN THE NORTH-WESTERN REGION DURING 2005-2010

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Abstract

“The process of adhesion to the European Union caused major changes in the economy and society by accelerating the transition to a functioning market economy, an openness to international environment through progressive liberalization of movement of goods, persons, capital and services through business development in a legal and institutional frame, closer to the European one.” (Toma et al., 2009).

Key words: agriculture, livestock, farm structure, acreage structure, agricultural production, crop production, animal production.

INTRODUCTION

The agricultural policy measures involving market include: Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS); national complementary payments per hectare and per capita (top-up mechanism that ensures supplement to support agriculture production orientation to strengthen local market requirements); forms of support for market-intervention measures; forms of support from the state budget for sensitive sectors and activities in relation to market requirements and structural adjustment in order to eliminate disparities towards the EU.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The overall impact of adhesion on Romanian agriculture is reflected in macroeconomic and sectoral indicators registered during 2007-2011.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Regarding the animal farms, the North-West region gathers around 14% of the country's livestock, expressed in livestock units (LU). Livestock (expressed LU) within individual farms have been declining, reaching from a share of 95.3% in 2005 to one of 89.0% in 2010.

Most livestock holdings are found in farms smaller than 2 ha farms and farms between 2 to 4.9 ha (62.7% in 2010), a 5.1% bigger share than in 2005, mainly due to weaker share numbers of farms from 5 to 9.9 ha (Table 1). Although having a lower total share, livestock in holdings over 20 ha

have risen significantly, especially during 2007-2010 period (about 35-65%).

Table 1

Dynamics and structure of livestock (expressed in LU) in the North-West region, by class of utilized agricultural area during 2005-2010 period

	MU	2005	2007	2010	2005 %	2007 %	2010 %	2010/2005 %
Utilized agricultural area - total	number	591,510	533,770	528,460	100,0	100,0	100,0	89,3
Specialized-cereals, oilseeds and protein plants	number	48,070	37,410	35,110	8.1	7.0	6.6	73.0
Other field crops	number	71,010	154,380	138,520	12.0	28.9	26.2	195.1
Specialized - Horticulture	number	5,220	1,330	2,410	0.9	0.2	0.5	46.2
Specialized Viticulture	number	3,710	2,680	4,600	0.6	0.5	0.9	124.0
Specialized - fruits	number	12,660	9,530	14,470	2.1	1.8	2.7	114.3
Specialized – mixed permanent cultures	number	850	1,190	1,500	0.1	0.2	0.3	176.5
Specialized – dairy cattle	number	20,180	23,880	22,230	3.4	4.5	4.2	110.2
Specialized – cattle for fattening	number	13,390	5,260	9,980	2.3	1.0	1.9	74.5
Specialize – cattle (mixed – dairy)	number	1,370	8,210	6,450	0.2	1.5	1.2	470.8
Specialized – goats, sheep and other herbivores	number	38,970	23,760	27,910	6.6	4.5	5.3	71.6
Specialized – granivores (pigs, poultry)	number	35,700	47,920	88,950	6.0	9.0	16.8	249.2
Mixed - vegetal	number	93,900	16,780	14,580	15.9	3.1	2.8	15.5
Mixed – animal – mostly herbivores	number	85,850	51,010	55,760	14.5	9.6	10.6	65.0
Mixed – animal – mostly granivores	number	59,040	2,770	10,850	10.0	0.5	2.1	18.4
Combined – big crop and animals	number	40,110	45,150	4,850	6,8	8,5	0,9	12,1
Combined – various crops, vegetal and livestock	number	69,220	91,900	76,570	11.7	17.2	14.5	110.6

Source: based on data Eurostat, Structure of agricultural holdings 2010 and historical data (2000-2007) (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>) and INS-RGA (Institutul Național de Statistică, Recensămintele Generale Agricole 2005-2010).

We can say that the situation during 2007-2010 is a direct consequence of the CAP subsidy system and its application in our country. Thus, in the beef sector, subsidies are granted today considering registered livestock in 2008, which proved disincentives for their growth, especially given the decoupling production subsidies. In the sheep and goats sector, the way of granting, in accordance to production levels, proved to be stimulating, the workforce number increasing by 14.6% in sheep and 26.0% in goats. Changed legislation in 2012 is expected to slow this growth (new conditions of eligibility were imposed). Level of subsidization of pigs and poultry sector has proven to be very stimulating, the swine number increasing by 18.2% and flocks number increasing by 48.4%. It can also be noticed that the positive dynamics of flocks of sheep, goats, pigs and poultry occurred due to reduction in the number of farms that grow these types of animals, which show an increase in their actual size and thus performance.

Another important aspect of agricultural development is the degree of specialization of farms.

In 2010, 26.2% of farms were specialized in field crops, 16.8% were specialized in raising granivores (pigs and poultry), 4.5% were farms specialized in growing various vegetal crops and various animals (mixed) and 10.6% were mixed livestock farms (mostly herbivores). All these farms had a share of 68.1% in 2010 in the structure of holdings, compared to 44.3% in 2005.

Utilized agricultural area was owned by farms specialized in field crops (34.8%), mixed livestock farms (10.4%, mostly herbivores) and in the proportion of 9.7% of farms specialized in the cultivation of various crops and growth of various animals (mixed). Moreover, compared to 2005, their share in total area used almost doubled.

On the other hand, livestock (expressed in LU) focused in 2010 at a rate of 26.1% in the holdings specialized in raising sheep and goats, 22.7% in mixed livestock farms (mostly herbivores) and 15.5% in livestock farms specialized in granivores (pigs and poultry).

If we look at the evolution in dynamics during 2005-2010 period of specialized farms from the North-West region, by type of specialization, we can notice the following (Table 2):

- ✓ increased number of farms specialized in viticulture, fruit, various crops and animals, cattle and granivores (pigs and poultry);
- ✓ increased agricultural area used farms specialized in viticulture, various crops and livestock, field crops, cattle, dairy cows, cattle for fattening and granivores (pigs and poultry);
- ✓ livestock farms decreased in farms specialized in vegetal crops, which shows an increase in the degree of specialization;

- ✓ livestock have increased, especially in cattle farms (mixed) and in those specialized in raising cattle for fattening, the growth of their UAA proving a clear tendency to secure the feeding from its own resources.

Table 2

The dynamics of specialized farms, of their agricultural area used and LSU held during 2005-2010 period

	MU	2005	2007	2010	2005 %	2007 %	2010 %	2010/2005 %
Utilized agricultural area - total	ha	1,941,420	1,962,060	1,808,350	100.0	100.0	100.0	93.1
Specialized-cereals, oilseeds and protein plants	ha	216,610	218,370	233,860	11.2	11.1	12.9	108.0
Other field crops	ha	129,370	694,510	629,740	6.7	35.4	34.8	486.8
Specialized - Horticulture	ha	14,050	3,280	5,610	0.7	0.2	0.3	39.9
Specialized Viticulture	ha	1,890	2,620	4,460	0.1	0.1	0.2	236.0
Specialized - fruits	ha	48,310	30,360	30,840	2.5	1.5	1.7	63.8
Specialized – mixed permanent cultures	ha	2,790	2,760	3,290	0.1	0.1	0.2	117.9
Specialized – dairy cattle	ha	57,450	99,300	95,560	3.0	5.1	5.3	166.3
Specialized – cattle for fattening	ha	360	8,210	6,450	0.0	0.4	0.4	1791.7
Specialized – cattle (mixed – dairy)	ha	5,520	43,800	37,660	0.3	2.2	2.1	682.2
Specialized – goats, sheep and other herbivores	ha	491,200	156,200	165,700	25.3	8.0	9.2	33.7
Specialized – granivores (pigs, poultry)	ha	12,620	16,890	53,720	0.7	0.9	3.0	425.7
Mixed - vegetal	ha	254,680	53,400	43,460	13.1	2.7	2.4	17.1
Mixed – animal – mostly herbivores	ha	309,620	196,840	187,450	15.9	10.0	10.4	60.5
Mixed – animal – mostly granivores	ha	86,600	7,260	28,260	4.5	0.4	1.6	32.6
Combined – big crop and animals	ha	172,640	207,160	36,450	8.9	10.6	2.0	21.1
Combined – various crops, vegetal and livestock	ha	115,960	212,540	175,830	6.0	10.8	9.7	151.6

Source: based on Eurostat data, Structure of agricultural holdings 2010 and historical data (2000-2007) (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>) and INS-RGA (Institutul Național de Statistică, Recensămintele Generale Agricole 2005-2010).

CONCLUSIONS

Farms in the North-West region represented in 2010, according to the General Agricultural Census (GAC), 13.7% of the national farms and

covered 13.6% of the utilized agricultural area. These farms have experienced a more pronounced decrease during 2005-2007 (10.7%) than during 2007-2010 (only 1%).

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