

Research and Comparisons Regarding the Evolution of Cattle Population in Romania and Some Member States of the European Union

**Ramona Ciolac, Ioan Csoz, Diana Marin, Simona Martin,
Ana Maria Dincu, Calina Marinau, Ioana Balan**

*Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Agricultural Management, 300645
– Timisoara, Calea Aradului, 119, Romania*

Abstract

Cattle husbandry occupy and will occupy a priority place in the economy of animal production in our country. Their increasing importance is given by the variety of products that they provide. Cattle husbandry is a traditional activity of the country. Variety of products they carry out, reduced energy consumption and nature kind of feed they consume, gives growth and exploitation of cattle activities a sustainable and perspective character. There is also the possibility to export beef cattle which can provide large profits for producers. Can be regarded as a source for trade and also provide stability of employment in rural and mountain area.

According to Euromonitor International study, Romania is placed first among states in developing the annual average growth of the dairy market in the 1998-2006 period, namely 25.8%. The Romanian market of dairy products was estimated at nearly one billion dollars last year. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development informations, demand for milk and milk products in Romania went up with 1.5% until 231.1 kilograms per inhabitant.

Keywords: cattle husbandry, comparison, evolution, existing livestock, Romania

1. Introduction

In terms of cattle, they are undoubtedly one of the most important species in the farm animals. Cattle husbandry occupy and will occupy a priority place in the economy of animal production. The importance of their growth is on the variety of products it provides:

- main products: milk, meat;
- second products: hides, manure;
- slaughter-house products: nails, horns, blood, hair.

Analyzing the evolution of cattle herds in the world, during 1989-2005, we see an increase of 1.04%, development by the continents of existing livestock being variable. The largest increase is

recorded on the African continent, by 28.05%, followed by South America, with an increase of 19.86%, 19.78% Oceania, Asia, 9.01%, while in North U.S. record decreases of 30.71%, followed by European continent, with 22.27%.

2. Materials and methods

The authors of the paper were used as methods of work: data collection, processing, analysis, observation and their interpretation.

3. Results and discussion

In Romania, in terms of herds of cows, buffaloes and heifers, they know a significant decrease, from 2468 heads in 1990 to 1812 heads in late 2005. The total number of cattle on December 1, 2006, shows an increase with 2.5% and jelly herd

* Corresponding author: Ramona Ciolac

(dairy cows, buffalo breeding and breeding heifers), remained almost constant. The total number of cattle on December 1, 2007, shows a decrease with 3.9%, herd queen (dairy, buffalo breeding and breeding heifers) has also

declined, by 4.4%. The total number of cattle on December 1, 2008, shows a decrease with 4.8% and jelly herd (dairy cows, buffalo breeding and breeding heifers) has also declined, by 5.4%.

Table 1. Existing livestock-comparisons

<i>Existing livestock-comparisons 2005-2006</i>			
	December 1, 2005	December 1, 2006	Diferences (±) 2006-2005
<i>Cattle - total</i>	2862	2934	+72
From witch: - cows, buffaloes and heifers	1812	1810	-2
<i>Existing livestock-comparisons 2006-2007</i>			
	December 1, 2006	December 1, 2007	Diferences (±) 2007-2006
<i>Cattle - total</i>	2934	2819	-115
From witch: - cows, buffaloes and heifers	1810	1732	-78
<i>Existing livestock-comparisons 2007-2008</i>			
	December 1, 2007	December 1, 2008	Diferences (±) 2008-2007
<i>Cattle - total</i>	2819	2684	-135
From witch: - cows, buffaloes and heifers	1732	1639	-93

Source: <http://www.insse.ro>

Decreased of cattle herd in 2008 was mainly due to unfavorable weather conditions fro 2007, this being a very weak year in the plant sector, leading to reduced production of feed and thus to increase the number of animals slaughtered.

After consecutive cattle herd increases, reaching to the end of 2006 to about 3 million cattle heads, respectively, over 6.8 million pigs followed consistently significant decreases in 2007 and 2008.

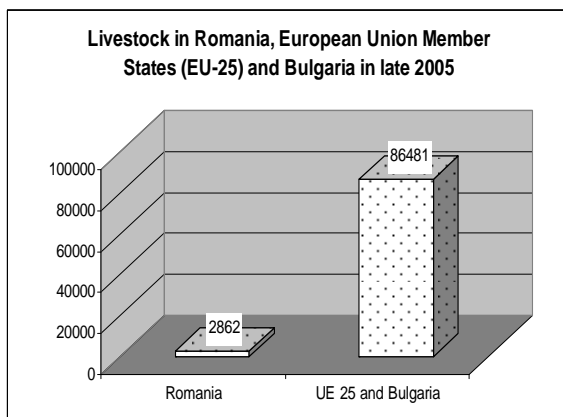


Figure 1. Livestock in Romania, European Union Member States (EU-25) and Bulgaria in late 2005

In late of 2005, our country will account for 3.2% of the total number of cattle owned by Member States. Romania occupy 9 place after: France (18930 thousands head), Germany (12919 thousands head), United Kingdom (10249 thousands head), Spain (6464 thousands head), Italy (6460 thousands head), Poland (5385 thousand heads), Ireland (6192 thousands head), Netherlands (3746 thousands head).

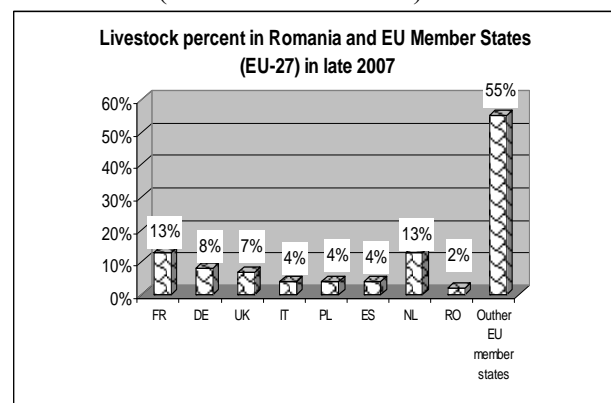


Figure 2. Livestock percent in Romania and EU Member States (EU-27) in late 2007

Estimates of livestock in the European Union (EU-27), in 2007 there were decreases in all species.

In late 2007, in European Union (EU-27), livestock cattle totaled 82830 thousand heads, down to the same period the previous year to 5633 thousand heads. Romania is in the top ten of the European Union countries, after Member States with a tradition in cattle husbandry such as France (19124 thousand heads), Germany (12609 thousand heads), United Kingdom (10078 thousand heads), Italy (6577 thousand heads), Spain (6409 thousand heads), Mexico (5406 thousand heads) and Holland (3820 thousand heads).

The total number of cattle, to December 1, 2007, was kneeling by 3.9% over the same period of 2006, to 2.81 thousand heads, reads a release of the INS. Number jelly, made from cow milk, buffalos breeding and breeding heifers, was also down with 4.4%.

Table 2. Cattle livestock to 100 hectares in Romania and some European Union Member States, the end of 2008 - provisional data -

Country	Existing livestock (thousand heads)	Animals/ 100 ha (heads)
Romania	2683,6	19,0
Belgium	2573,3	190,1
Czech Republic	1357,8	39,0
Denmark	1545,0	58,2
Germany	12707,3	76,0
Ireland	5902,2	142,6
Greece	682,0	23,2
Spain	6585,0	32,1
France	19366,2	73,2
Italy	6577,0	63,3
Lithuania	770,9	29,1
Hungary	701,0	12,8
Netherlands	3820,0	203,2
Austria	1997,2	63,3
Poland	5563,6	36,7
Portugal	1437,5	49,0
Slovenia	479,5	104,0
Slovakia	488,4	25,6
Finland	902,7	39,5
United Kingdom	10068,0	62,5

Source: <http://www.insse.ro>

Note: For Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Slovenia, Finland and United Kingdom we have used data from 2007

Romania was in the top ten countries of the EU, after Member States with a tradition of cattle husbandry, like France (19.12 thousand heads),

Germany (12.6 thousand heads), United Kingdom (10.07 thousand heads), Italy (6.57 thousand heads), Spain (6.4 thousand heads), Poland (5.4 thousand heads) and Netherlands (3.82 thousand heads).

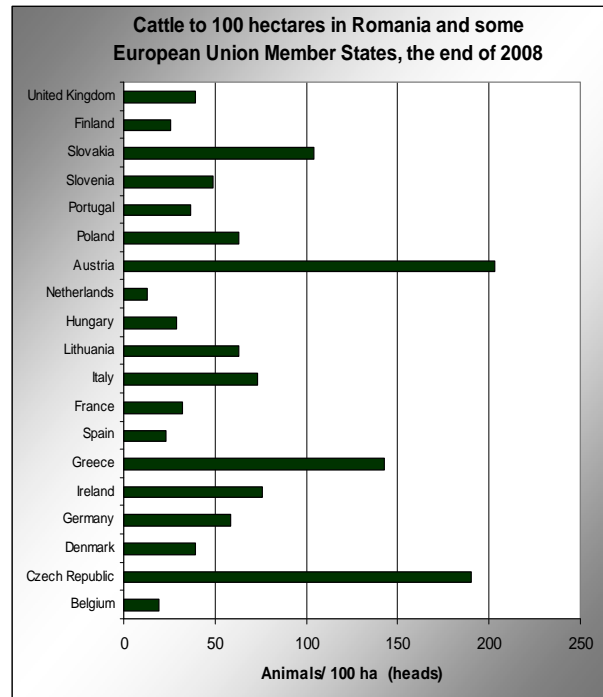


Figure 3. Cattle to 100 hectares in Romania and some European Union Member States, the end of 2008

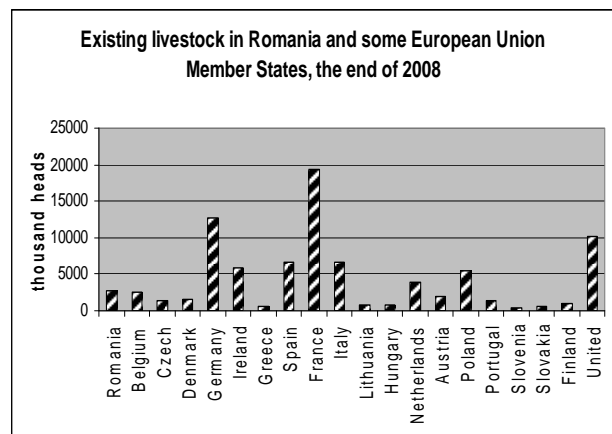


Figure 4. Existing livestock in Romania and some European Union Member States, the end of 2008

As the number of animals back to 100 hectares, our country is among the last, followed by Bulgaria and Hungary.

4. Conclusions

Starting from the evolution and structure of the cattle herd in the last 47 years and especially after 1990 with decreasing character marked by a change of ownership forms and the advanced age of owners, is leading the evolution of increasing the proportion of the herd queen and decreased of heifers herd.

Rehabilitation objectives that our country must have regard, in respect of the cattle sector are:

- Revitalizing the industry needs to provide meat for public consumption;
- Support and recovery industry is considering increasing the quality and quantity of bovine meat production;

- Align with European Community standards on how to grant subsidies and the classification of carcasses;

- Financial support for balancing the producer price at recovery in the EU.

References

1. Alloire, G., Boyer, R., La grande transformation de l'agriculture, Ed. Economica, Paris, 1995
2. Baudin, P., L'Europe face a ses marches agricoles, Ed. Economica, Paris, 1993
3. Chiran, A., Economia creşterii animalelor, Bucureşti, 2002
4. <http://www.insse.ro>
5. www.insse.ro/cms/files/statistici/comunicate/com_anuale/