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## INFLUENCE OF THE EU COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF BULGARIAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

N. Kostadinova\*

Department of Management, Trakia University, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

### ABSTRACT

The common EU agricultural policy is aimed at the setting up of a highly productive agriculture, guaranteed income of agricultural producers, at the sufficient supply of basic food products from plant and animal origin to the internal market at prices, accessible for people.

The membership of Bulgaria not only opens opportunities to it, but also sets serious challenges to the development of agricultural farms, and particularly, to the animal farms. The affiliation of our country to the unified European market faces animal husbandry with new and more stringent requirements about the quality of production, the veterinarian and sanitary standards, the humane attitude to animals, the protection of the environment..

**The aim** of this paper is to study the influence of CAP on the development of Bulgarian agriculture under the conditions of the unified European market .

The following **tasks** are solved in order to achieve this goal::

- to present and analyze the state of the animal husbandry subbranch ;
- to analyze the influence of CAP on the development of animal farms ;
- to reveal the main problems in animal husbandry and the possibilities for overcoming them;

**The methods used** for achieving this goal and resolving the tasks are analysis and synthesis, systemic and structural approach, induction and deduction, statistical calculations..

**Key words:** agriculture, production, productivity, agrarian policy, market.

### INTRODUCTION

The initial effect of Bulgaria's accession to the European Union and the implementation of the Common agricultural policy (CAP) in the animal husbandry have not been favorable enough. The implementation of the European legislation and regulations on the common market organization sets strict production standards on animal husbandry farms while the financial means, necessary for achieving them, are not sufficient and easily accessible. The separate sub branches of animal husbandry are characterized by economic and organizational differences resulting from particular biological features of animals and their different susceptibility to mechanization and automation of technological processes.

**The aim of this study is** to determine the CAP influence on Bulgarian animal husbandry

under the conditions of common European market.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

For achieving the aim the following tasks are solved:

- presentation and analysis of the animal husbandry current state and the CAP influence on its development ;
- revealing main problems in animal husbandry and the opportunities for overcoming them.

**The methods used** are: analysis and synthesis, systemic and structural approach, induction and deduction, statistical calculations.

In the last decennials several negative trends in the development of Bulgarian animal husbandry have shown up. They are the following:

- sharp decrease in animal number;
- low efficient activities in selection, artificial insemination and veterinary services which are hard to be carried out;

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\***Correspondence to:** Nadka Kostadinova,  
Department of management, Trakia University,  
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria, tel: 042 699 416; fax:  
042 699 416, [nadya\\_kostadinova@yahoo.com](mailto:nadya_kostadinova@yahoo.com)

- a sustainable trend of increase in the average age of people, employed in the animal husbandry sector.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

At the end of the nineties (2000) the fall in animal husbandry has already ended. A relative stability has been observed, marked by an

increase in the production and animal number, particularly in swine and poultry, which is the result of the implementation of EU pre-accession programs in agriculture. Data about animal numbers according to species and their dynamics as of year 2000 are shown in **Table 1**.

**Table 1.** Animal number and dynamics as of year 2000

Year	Cattle		Swine		Sheep		Poultry	
	Thousands capita	%						
2000	520000	100,0%	650000	100,0%	1500000	100,0%	14963000	100,0%
2001	634500	122,0%	788500	121,3%	1571400	104,8%	14990000	100,2%
2002	660100	126,9%	867700	133,5%	1947400	129,8%	18006000	120,3%
2003	728336	140,1%	1032300	158,8%	1598556	106,6%	21796380	145,7%
2004	671600	129,2%	931400	143,3%	1692500	112,8%	21700000	145,0%
2005	601000	115,6%	932000	143,4%	1449000	96,6%	19783000	132,2%
2006	593190	114,1%	956200	147,1%	1945000	129,7%	20134000	134,6%
2007	612800	117,8%	872400	134,2%	1876900	125,1%	17959000	120,0%
2008	505440	97,2%	517206	79,6%	1593081	106,2%	17765000	118,7%
2009	540000	103,8%	625400	96,2%	1685800	112,4%	15988500	106,9%

Source: MAF, Agristatistics

The accession of Bulgaria to the EU in 2007 resulted in problems in animal husbandry as a consequence of the new strict regulations and rules on the production conditions and the animal husbandry quality production.

The legal and administrative measures carried out for synchronizing Bulgarian animal husbandry sector with the requirements of the European Union turned out to be low efficient. The clash of interests between producers and state puts serious obstacles in the choice of adequate objectives and priorities, as well as of a clear vision of animal husbandry development.

Meanwhile the people, employed in this branch, face serious obstacles. Firstly, the

small and medium farms, which do not have enough land and forage production of their own, are prevailing. This, in turn, makes difficult animal feeding up and increases the prime cost of production. Another problem is related to the farm categorization and milk quota distribution. The lack of mechanisms, which define buying prices of mutual interest, has marked the non-equal positions in the relationship *producer – manufacturer – consumer*. Subsidy procedures are subject to changes in respect of deadlines and conditions of acquiring, which creates ambiguities and allows a subjective approach in their distribution. Not the least comes the work of state organs and the dissatisfaction of people, employed in the animal husbandry sector, with it. The inefficient information campaign on explaining the deadlines, parameters and

conditions of European programs deprives the farmers of the opportunity to take profit of the European financial means. The question whether and to which extent the capacity of non-governmental organizations in the sector is used is disputable, which is partially explained by the lack of legal regulations regarding their activities and financing.

What is the state of animal husbandry different sub branches?

**Cattle breeding** is one of the most important and prospective sub branches of animal husbandry. Cattle can be raised all over the country. They allow an efficient mechanization of production processes, high labor productivity, low risk morbidity, and a decreased need of prophylactic use of drugs. The products of cattle breeding (milk, meat) are permanently on demand on the market because of their biological full value, good taste and reasonable prices, corresponding to their quality. The cow milk share is 90% out of the total quantity of milk consumed on a global scale. The relative share of beef out of all beef consumed is also high. The average meat and milk productivity in the sub branch in almost all countries all over the world tends to increase. In the recent years the highest milk yield per cow has been reached in Israel – over 10 400 l/year; USA – over 9 400 l/year; Canada – over 7 500 l/year, etc. According to selectioners the productive potential of cows, raised in Bulgaria, has been used by 2/3 and the annual milk yield reaches about 3 500 – 3 700 l per cow instead of 5000 l.

A factor, restricting the volume of milk production, which arose as a consequence of Bulgaria's accession to EU, is the implementation of the quota principle. As a result of this the production of cow milk decreased by about 13% in 2007, compared with that in 2006, and in 2008 – by 14%.

The meat yield per cow in Bulgaria has had the tendency to increase during the last years (2008-2009) and has reached 200 kg live weight. Veal is of higher quality, but is more expensive, and the low solvency of the bigger part of population makes it less easily accessible to the ordinary consumer. The cattle breeding production in the country is still characterized by a high prime cost for the producers because of the primitive conditions in which it is formed (small farms with 1-2-3 cows, low modernization, etc.). During the last

years the process of concentration in cattle breeding has developed and made progress. A bigger and bigger number of cattle breeding farms are expanding and reaching the effective scope of implementation of contemporary mechanization and technologies. In order to become competitive on the European and world markets and to take a profit of their advantages the cattle breeding farms must not only be modernized, but also must they develop their own forage production including natural sources as well.

According to tradition **the sheep breeding** has been considered as a principal source of income for a considerable part of the population for a long time. During the transition period to a market economy the development of sheep breeding has been restricted and decreased to a big extent - for the period 1990 – 1994 the sheep decreased by 4,3 million capita ( from over 8 million for 1990 ), being 2,5 million in 2000, and the forecast for 2010 is about 1,6 – 1,7 million, as a result of the difficult sale and low price of production. Goat breeding, developed during the transition period, has been an easy and accessible source of meat and milk for its producers, and has supported the bigger part of village population with a decreased solvency.

Statistical data for the last 5 years and more show that in both sub branches there has been a fall which is more clearly marked in goat breeding than in sheep breeding. After the year 2000 the sheep number has been decreasing as a result not only of diseases (foot-and-mouth disease, etc.), but also of high labor consuming production processes.

In Bulgaria the sale of sheep and goat milk on the market is very low (particularly that of the goat milk - hardly about 3% of the milk produced). The low demand of milk for manufacturing needs is accompanied by low buying prices (0.60 – 0.65 BGN/l for sheep milk). The quantities consumed from both sub branches are smaller than those, consumed in EU, because of the fact that the prevailing part of lamb is exported. The market demand for mutton and goat meat is not well developed because the production is aimed at milk production; that influences the meat quality, and, in turn, the market competitiveness and money return. In this way both sheep breeding and goat breeding are becoming a source for

supporting the population's low incomes in the villages. In relation to Bulgaria's membership in the EU they can become, among others, competitive sub branches since they are a source of unique products which hold a separate market niche.

**Swine breeding** ensures from 1/3 to 50% out of the meat for direct consumption and processing by food-and-tobacco industry in Bulgaria. Swine number has been sharply decreasing after 1990 (from over 4 million has fallen to about 1 million as of 2010). МЛН. КЪМ 2010 г.). Swine breeding is concentrated in cereal producing regions – North-central region, North-east and South region. About ½ of the pigs are raised in big farms equipped by modern technologies and the other half – in private yards, where sanitary and hygienic norms as well as veterinary requirements are hard to be complied with. Pork is a main food source for Bulgaria – it represents 1/3 out of the total meat quality, consumed in our country. Statistics data for the last years have shown that pork production meets only the needs of direct fresh meat consumption, and the processing industry imports meat for Brazil, Denmark, Germany. On a world scale as well as in our country swine breeding has been developing more slowly. Those producers who obtain a low production prime cost as a result of the swine genetic fund enhancement, equipment modernization and improvement will be successful on the market.

**Poultry breeding** is the fastest reproducing sub branch of animal husbandry. It is characterized by the implementation of a high level mechanization and labor productivity, the use of highly productive hybrids and lines. All this results in good production and economic results. The trend of poultry breeding development in Bulgaria has been stable after the year 2000. As of 2010 the total poultry number exceeds 20 million compared with 15 million in 2001 (in 1990 their number was 36 million). About 60% out of the chicken and egg production is carried out in big, modern poultry farms. They are characterized by a high-rate mechanization and automation of production, high productivity and quality of chicken products, by complying with the veterinary requirements, ensuring a humane attitude to chickens as well as meeting the ecological requirements for environmental protection. In small farms poultry is raised only for personal needs and only a small part of it is

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offered on the market. The production is extensional, without complying with technological standards and requirements, which results in low productivity and competitiveness.

CAP does not include a direct support for the poultry raising sector. It is limited in organization of the market where the chicken product export is supported by export subsidies, and customs protection is implemented against the import of eggs and chicken meat.

Chicken products – meat and eggs – are irreplaceable in population feeding. On a world scale they are the preferred ones and their consumption is on the increase. About 1/3 of meat consumption in our country is that of chicken and holds a leading position in the fresh meat consumption. The consumption of chicken products will keep its leadership because of their delicious taste and their price – they are the cheapest ones compared with the other animal food products. Their production in the country is modernized to a great extent and corresponds to world acquisitions, it has a very good genetic fund, a developed forage production, good market realization, offering opportunities for export increase.

## CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the research carried out the following conclusions and recommendations can be made:

- in order to improve the environment where Bulgarian animal husbandry develops it is necessary to permanently renovate and modernize the equipment and the genetic fund;
- strict implementation of European standards in relation to the physiological and technological norms in animal raising;
- enhancement of production quality;
- complying with the veterinary requirements for animal raising farms and ensuring good sanitary – ecological conditions as well as a humane attitude to animals.

The implementation of these recommendations increases the opportunity for acquiring more financial means from the European funds which will help Bulgarian animal husbandry become competitive on the European and world market.

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