

Farm structure surveys, EU standard

- * The EU-law is a special regulation decided in 2008:
- * It states the following:
 - A full census in 2010
 - A Special survey on environmental items in 2011
 - Normal farm structure survey in 2013 and 2016
(sample surveys)

What should be surveyed?

- * Crops, hectares with the different crops
- * Livestock, number of animals on one day
(cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, horses and poultry)
- * Labour force
The farmer himself, work time, work outside the farm
His wife, work time, work outside the farm
Family workers (children's, parents, brothers and sisters)
Non family workers
(work time and gender for both family and non family workers)

What should be surveyed? (continued)

- * Non agricultural activities, does the farm also run other activities, could be:
 - Farm shop
 - Agro tourism
 - Doing work for other farms using own machinery.
 - Producing wine, butter and other products.

What should be surveyed? (continued)

- * Machinery:
 - Tractors
 - Combine harvesters
 - Other automatic machines for harvest
 - Equipment for producing renewable energy.
- * All in all the regulation states a set of mandatory variables
(Survey characteristics)

Survey thresholds

- * The purpose of a threshold is to exclude such small units whose contribution to the area and the livestock is negligible.
- * Without a threshold we should in principle survey all units:
 - Households with a few fruit trees
 - Kinder gardens with one goat as a pet animal.
 - Etc.

Survey thresholds (continued)

- * The EU-standard has three rules:
 - 1) All small farms being excluded should together have $\leq 2\%$ of the total farm area.
 - 2) And they should have $\leq 2\%$ of livestock units.
 - 3) However, farms with just one of these criterions should be included:
 - a) 5,0 ha, all crops
 - b) 1,0 ha fruits, berry, citrus and olive, vine and nurseries
 - c) 0,5 ha vegetables and strawberries
 - d) 0,5 with tobacco, hops or cotton
 - e) 0,1 ha with crops in green house.
 - f) 10 cattle
 - h) 50 pigs
 - i) 10 sows
 - j) 20 sheep
 - k) 20 goats
 - l) 1.000 poultries

More aspects

- * The countries are free to choose methods of data collection.
 - Postal survey
 - Personal interviews
 - Telephone interviews
 - Internet
 - Register information for some items
- * They design the questionnaire themselves.
- * Unimportant items should not be on the questionnaire.
(For instance citrus in Denmark)
- * Data are delivered to Eurostat as individual data.

Farm registers

- * A national statistical office has no explicit obligation to keep a farm register.
- * However, surveys would be impossible without!
- * Two register models are used:
 - 1) Keeping a completely independent farm register
(most common in Europe)
 - 2) Integrating the farm register in the general business register.
(Danish solution)

Requirements of the register

- * Should include all units with agriculture, *also if the main activity of the unit is different from agriculture.*
- * New units with agriculture should currently be added.
- * Closed down units should be deleted.
- * Sources for updating could be:
 - Administrative register on subsidies
 - Livestock registers
 - Cadastre register
 - Information from the surveys

The Danish model

- * The *local unit* is the survey unit for all surveys in the agricultural sector.
- * The business register has a special column for agriculture with the following value set:

Agriculture	Explanation
0	No agriculture and no forestry
1	Agriculture, no forestry
2	Forestry, no agriculture
3	Both agriculture and forestry

Sources for updating agriculture in the business register

- * Register of applicants for crop subsidies, so-called IACS register (Integrated Agricultural Control System).
(About 95 % of all Danish farmers apply for subsidies)
- * Livestock register
- * Register of organic farms.
- * Random observations from the surveys.