

# **The original Danish farm register**

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from Statistics Denmark

# Danish Farm Register 1976-2009

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- Characteristics about the register:
- It was mainly based on the Danish so-called property register – a register used by local authorities for collection of land taxes.  
*(often called cadastre information)*
- It was created independently of the business register.
- The register was supported by very frequent total farm structure censuses:
  - 1976-1983: every year
  - 1984-1989, every second year
  - 1990-2009: Only one census in 1999
  - In other years: Sample surveys, about 20-50 &



# Content of the property register

**A property is a ground, often but necessarily with a building, owned by a private person, a business unit or an institution**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Code of the property	9 digits
Name of the owner	Private person, company, institution
Address of the property	Street, town and postal code
Personal code, if owned by a private person	A 10 digit code which every Danish inhabitant has
Size of the area	Measured at square meters
Use of the property	For instance agriculture

# Types of farms based on property information

## *Owner farms:*

- A farmer owns one property.
- A farmer owns more than one property.
- A farmer owns one or more properties but leases some land in addition from one or more properties.

## *Tenant farms:*

A farmer owns no properties but leases land from one property.

A farmer owns no properties but leases land from several properties, maybe parts of several properties.

## *No land farms:*

A farmer is not an owner nor a leaser of land in the normal way but owns a stable with cattle or other animals.

## *Inactive “farms”:*

Leases the whole property out to one or more farmers.

Owner of a former agricultural property but no long used for agricultural purposes.



# Updates, keeping the farm register up to date by means of the property register

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- At Statistics Denmark we received every year a copy of the property register before conducting the yearly farm structure survey.
- Of course only agricultural properties.
- So we updated our farm register.
- Next we selected the population for a total census or a sample for a sample survey.
- And finally the farmers received a questionnaire by post.

At the following slide we will see the types of updates.

# 1) New owner of an existing farm

Farm register at the Statistical office		
	Before update	After update
Farm number	111	111
Property	4444	4444
Owner	David	Jacob
Personal code	89	99
Area	23,9 ha	26,7 ha
Conclusion:	It's still the same <i>farm</i> but Jacob has replaced David as the <i>farmer</i> .	



## 2) Adding a new property to an existing farm

Farm register at the Statistical office		
	Before update	After update
Farm number	111	111
Property	4444	4444
Personal code	89	89
Owner	David	David
New property		5555
Personal code		89
Owner		David
Conclusion:	It's still the same <i>farm</i> but David is now the owner of <i>two properties</i> . Since we already know David we avoid to create a new farm unit.	



### 3) Creating a new farm

Farm register at the Statistical office		
	Before update	After update
Farm number		197
Property		6611
Personal code		85
Owner		Jonas
Conclusion	Before update we don't know Jonas and we don't know property 6611. Therefore we have to create a <i>new farm</i> .	



## 4) Re-opening an inactive farm as active

Farm register at the Statistical office		
	Before update	After update
Farm number	237	237
Property	4388	4388
Personal code	28	38
Owner	Ester	Sarah
Farm type	Inactive farm	Owner farm
Conclusion:	Sarah has bought the property from Ester. The farm unit has until now been inactive. We assume that Sarah is a new and <i>active farmer</i> .	



## 5) Splitting one farm into two

Farm register at the Statistical office							
Before update				After update			
Farm number	Pro- perty	Owner	Per- sonal code	Farm number	Pro- perty	Owner	Per- sonal code
489	2089	Daniel	23	489	2089	Daniel	23
489	2099	Daniel	23	589	2099	Joseph	29
Conclusion:		Daniel has sold one of his properties to Joseph. We create a new farm where Joseph is the farmer.					



# Updates in the survey

Observations made in the survey	Action to be taken
A farmer tells he has leased/sold all his land to somebody else.	<p>Update the existing farm as inactive.</p> <p>If the tenant/new owner already is known in farm register nothing else needs to be done.</p> <p>If not create a new farm, either a tenant or an owner.</p>
A farmer tells he still owns the land but he has no crops or livestock. "Closed down farm".	Update the existing farm as inactive.
A farmer completes the questionnaire but the farm is "small".	Update the farms as small. It won't be selected in the next survey.
A farmer sells his animal stable to another farmer but not the land.	<p>Create a new no land farm</p> <p>Nothing should happen with the existing farm.</p>



# Problems if property register is our only source

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- We need to have frequent farm structure surveys to update our register.
- Especially to delete inactive farm units.
- Only the the survey can “make a small farm big”.
- It is difficult to find no land farms.
- The property register knows nothings about tenants, only owners.

Solution:

- Use other sources in addition to the property register:
  - Business register
  - Livestock register
  - Subsidy register

