

# 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.