



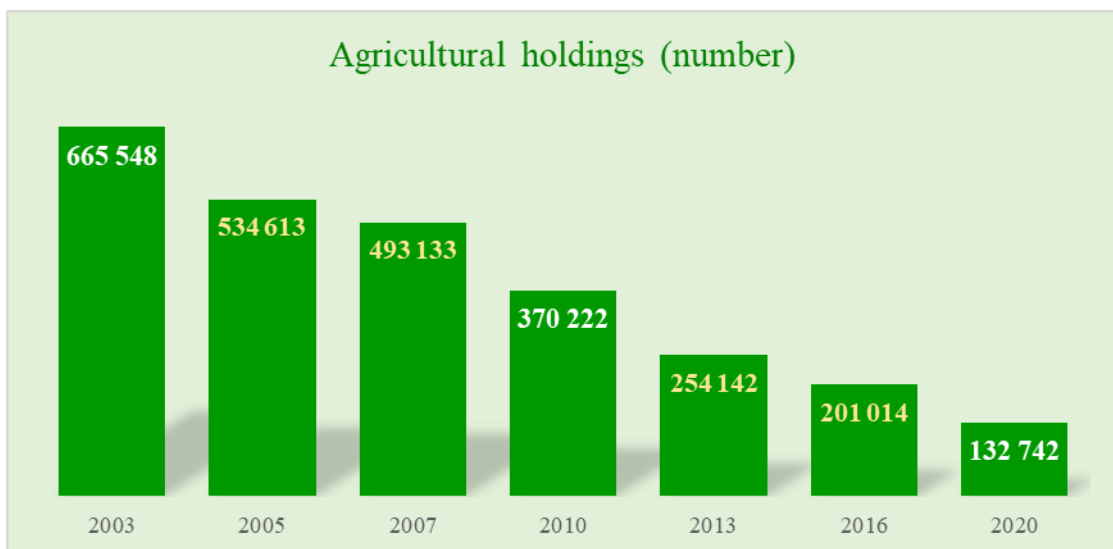
AGRICULTURAL CENSUS IN REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 2020

No 406 – October 2022

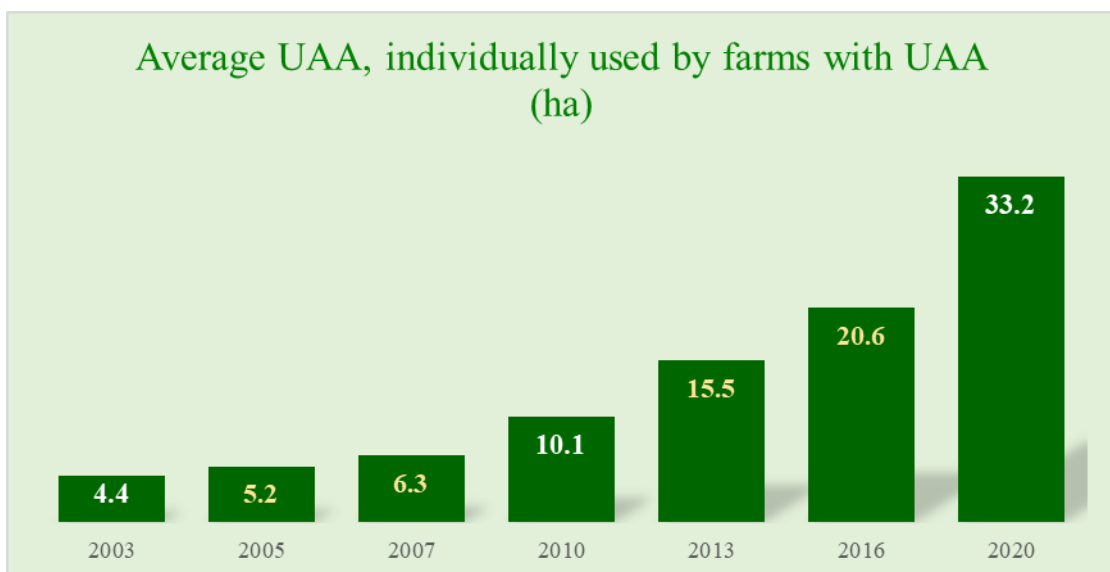
In 2020, there were 132 742 agricultural holdings in Bulgaria, the utilized agricultural area was 4 564 152 ha. 72 000 holdings raised farm animals, poultry or bee colonies, and the livestock units were 1 026 174.

The decreasing trend in the number holdings continued and compared to the 2010 census, their number dropped by 64%. 119 251 farms individually cultivated 3 959 288 ha of the total agricultural area (4 564 152 ha) with an average size of 33.2 ha.

Agricultural holdings (number)



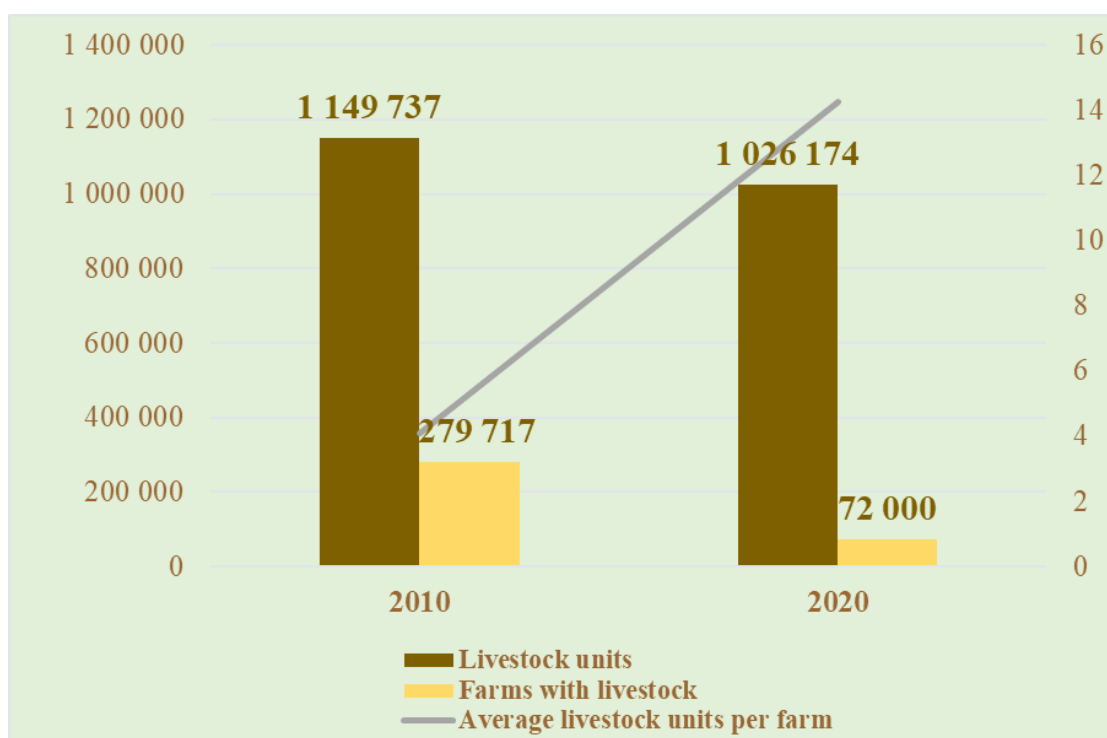
Average UAA, individually used by farms with UAA (ha)





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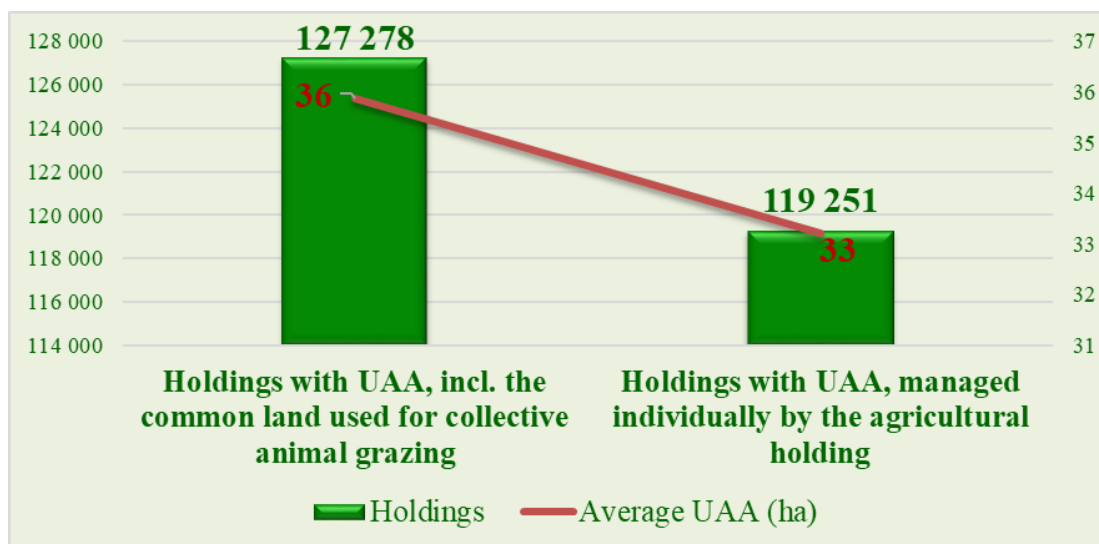
In 2020, 72 000 farms raised farm animals, poultry and bee colonies. 1 026 174 were the livestock units (11% less compared to 2010).



54 615 farms with herbivores used 604 864 ha of permanent grassland for collective animal grazing, and this area increased the average size of the farm's UAA by 2.7 ha.



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91% of the farms in 2020 were owned by physical persons. The tendency to increase the relative share of companies was maintained with companies reaching 6.5% of all holdings.

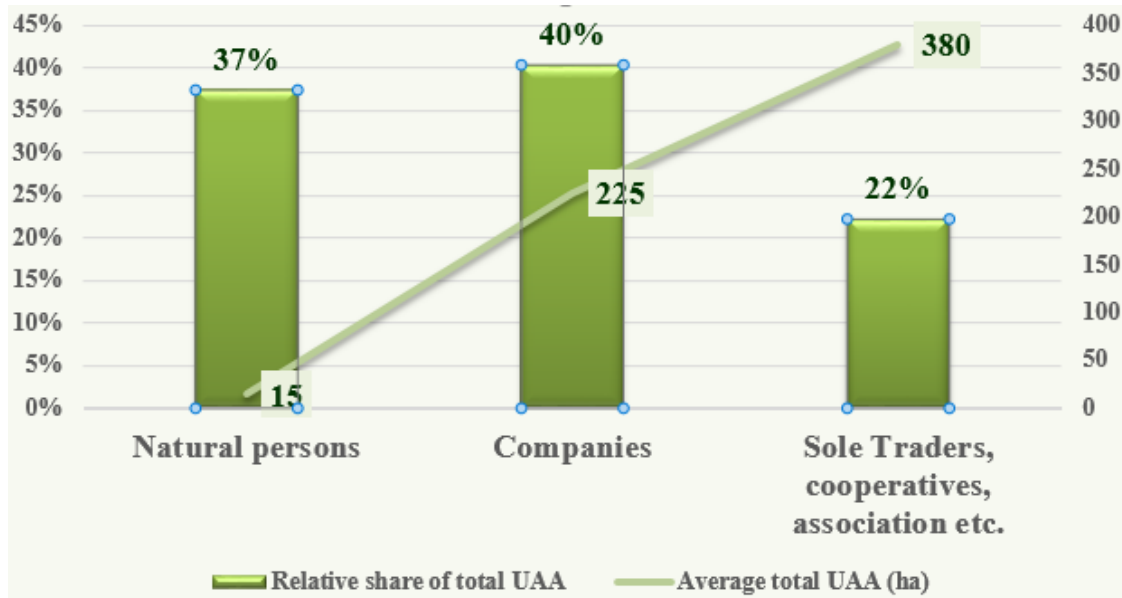
Census	2003	2010	2020
Natural person	658 594	362 766	121 372
Sole trader (ST)	3 072	2 257	1 751
Cooperatives	1 992	946	714
Company	1 518	3 921	8 624
Association and other	372	332	281
Total	665 548	370 222	132 742

In 2020, the land was managed mainly by individuals and companies, 22% of the total UAA was managed by sole traders, cooperatives, associations and entities of other legal form.

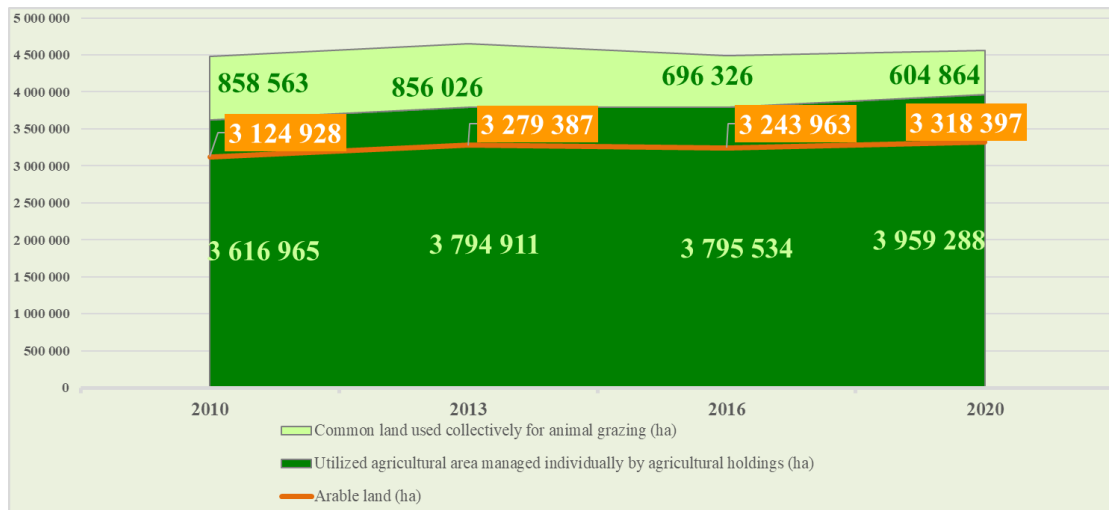


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The utilized agricultural area (including the common land collectively used for animal grazing) increased by 2% compared to 2010, and the arable land - by 6%.



5 464 agricultural holdings were without UAA. 84% of the UAA were managed by farms with 50 ha or more. Small farms with up to 1 ha of land were 29%.

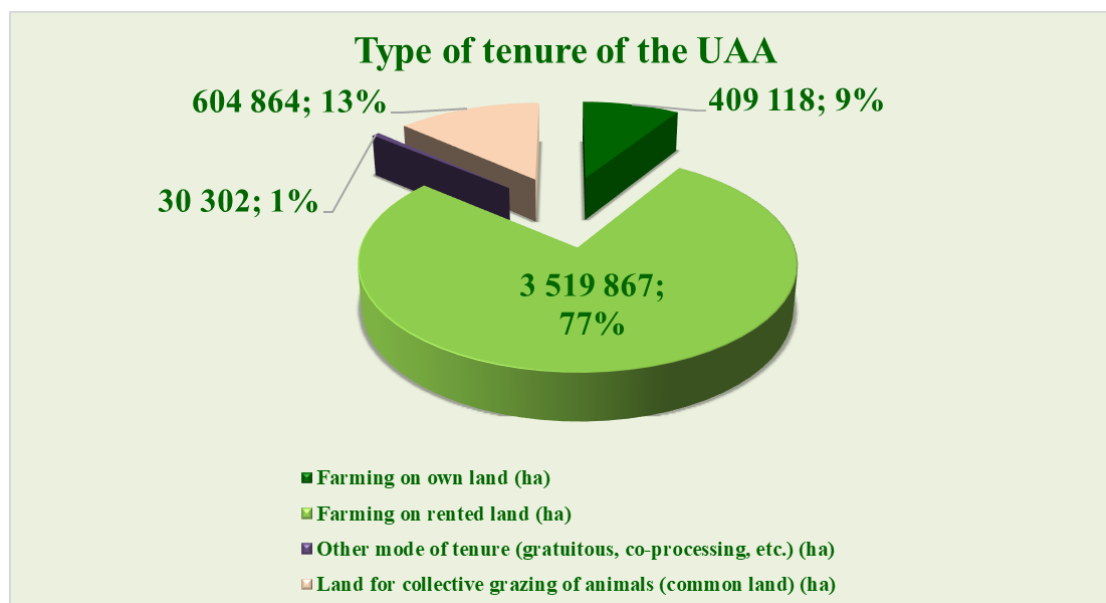


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Classes of general UAA	Number of holdings	UAA (ha)	Average UAA (ha)
>0.0 & <1 ha	37 452	16 213	0.4
>=1 & <2 ha	19 796	28 124	1.4
>=2 & <10 ha	34 510	157 050	4.6
>=10 & <50 ha	22 154	536 819	24.2
>=50 ha	13 366	3 825 945	286.2
Total	127 278	4 564 152	35.9

In 2020, own land accounted for 9% of the total utilized agricultural area.

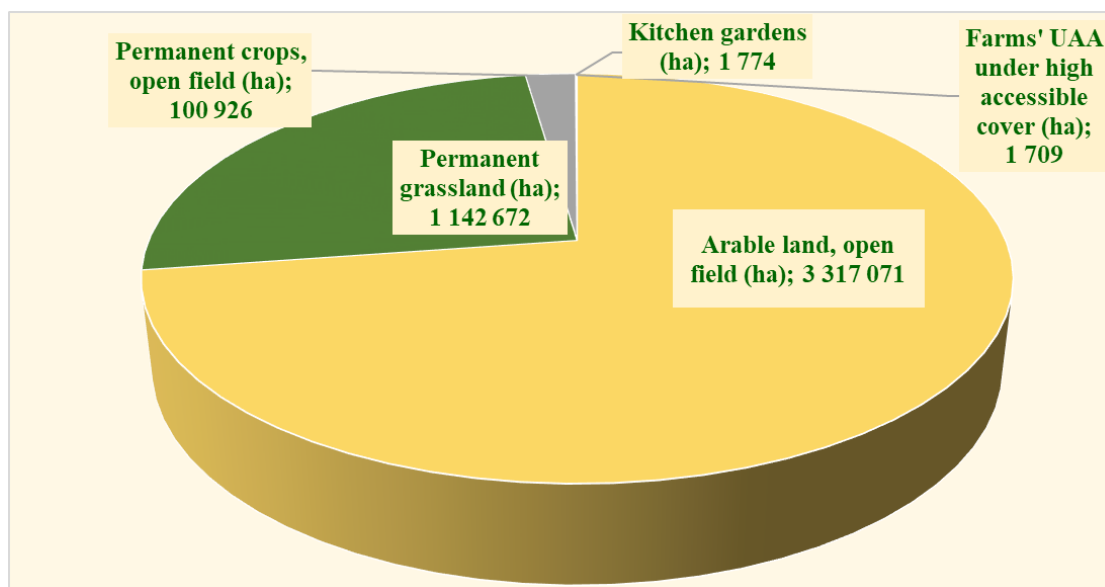


73% of the total UAA were open-field arable land, 25% were permanent grassland, incl. for collective animal grazing. 60% of the arable open field



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land were occupied by cereals, 31% by industrial crops, and fresh vegetables were grown on 26 825 ha.



The number of cattle raised on agricultural holdings increased by 6% compared to 2010, dairy cows were 237.2 thousand, and other cows 154.8 thousand. Buffaloes raised on farms were increasing and reached 14.6 thousand.

Types and categories of animals	Farms		Animals	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
Cattle	95 357	31 425	576 339	612 122
incl. cows	86 210	28 612	347 291	391 981
Buffaloes	1 028	654	10 038	22 027
Buffalo-cows incl.	817	459	6 323	14 577
Equidae	92 806	9 437	112 632	30 138
Goats	84 582	11 951	388 866	246 580



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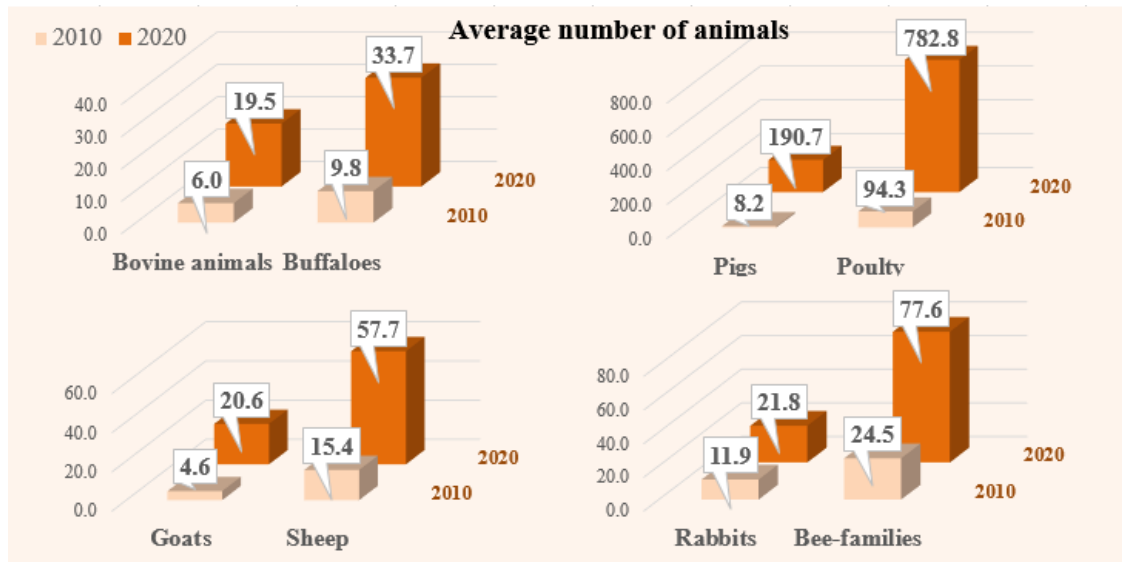
Types and categories of animals	Farms		Animals	
	2010	2020	2010	2020
female goats for breeding incl.	84 121	11 867	344 302	220 352
Sheep	91 793	22 350	1 415 181	1 290 314
female breeding ewes incl.	91 133	22 086	1 272 477	1 164 948
Pigs	82 265	3 367	670 469	641 978
sows for breeding incl.	15 235	612	73 547	65 924
Poultry	185 455	25 075	17 491 187	19 629 221
laying hens and pullets incl.	180 253	23 881	7 875 278	6 923 559
Rabbits	24 967	2 991	297 124	65 202
she-rabbits incl.	23 704	2 712	144 873	35 544
Bee families	23 982	11 242	588 694	872 772

The average number of all farmed types of animals increased.

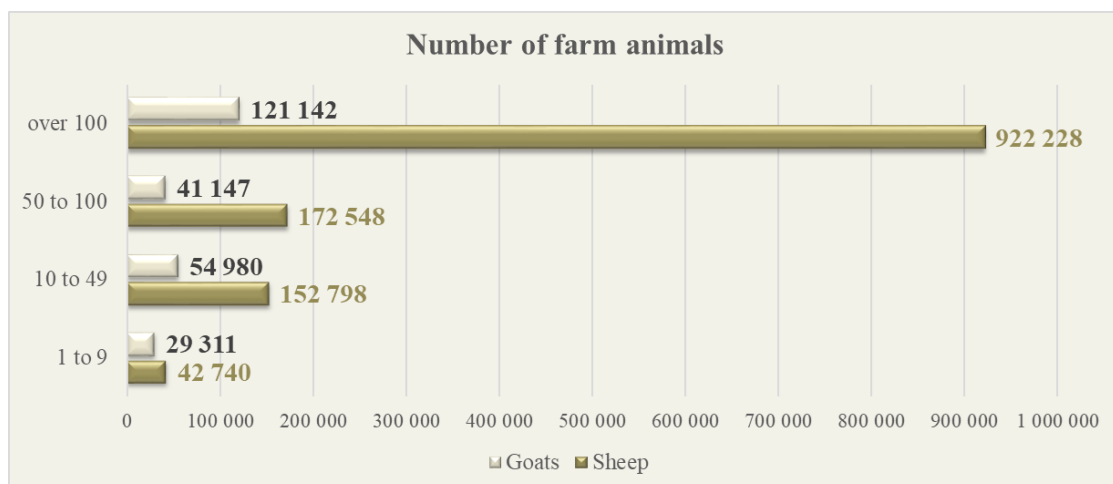


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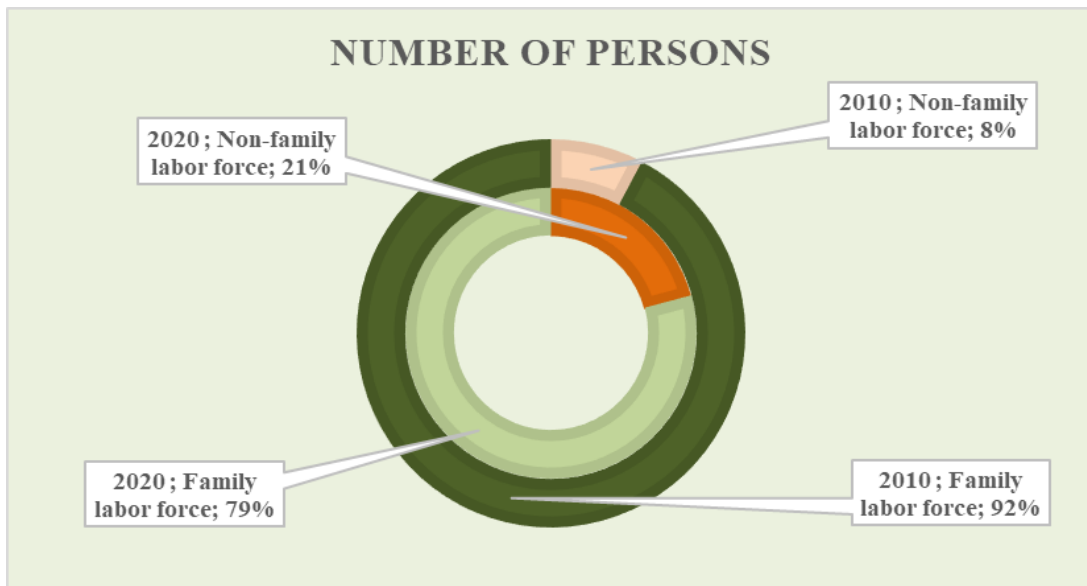
Farms with 50 or more bovine animals accounted for 64% of the cattle in 2020, compared to 37% in the 2010 census. In 2020, 95% of pigs were raised on farms with 1 000 or more pigs, up from 64% in 2010. Poultry also saw an increase in the relative share of those raised on farms with 20 000 or more birds: 2020 – 87%, 2010 – 69%. 608 065 (70%) bee colonies were kept on farms with 100 and more hives.



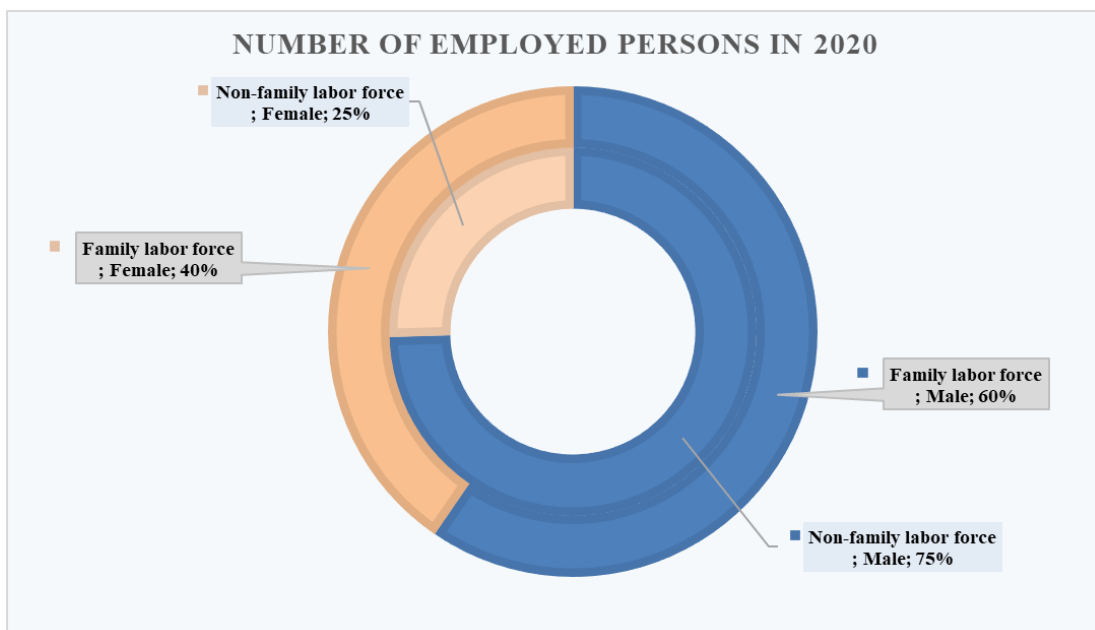


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In 2020, 294 306 people were permanently employed in agriculture, contributing a total of 168 043 annual work units (AWU). 13 841 AWU were invested by temporarily hired and indirectly hired persons under contracts.



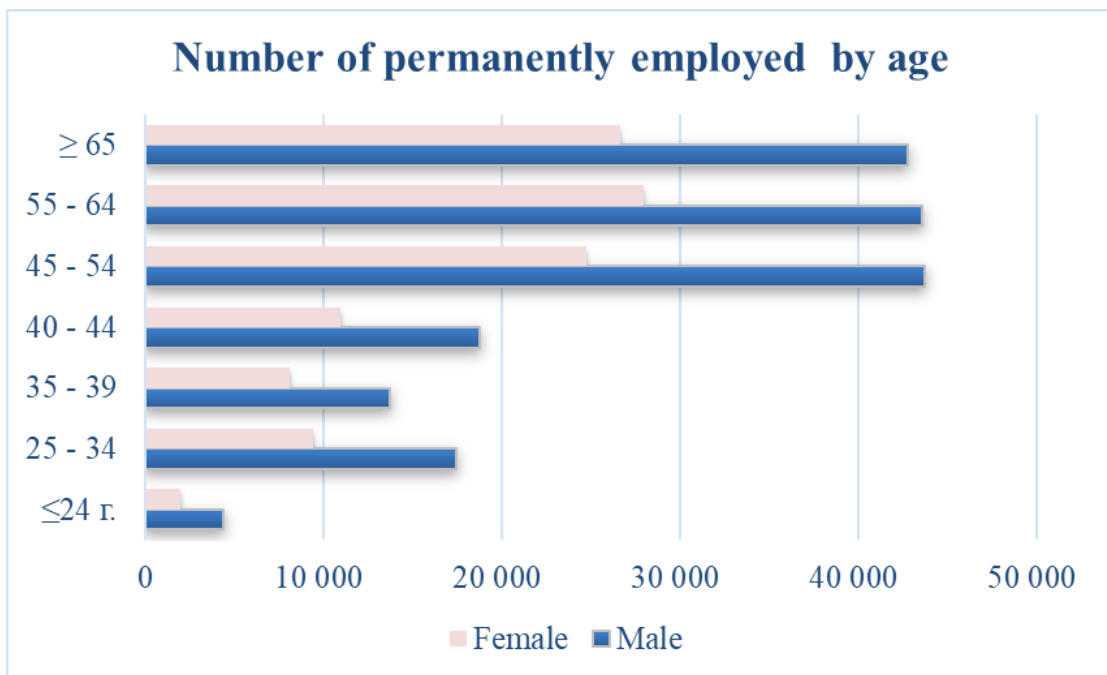
63% of the permanently employed in agriculture were men, and they invested in agriculture a total of 113 074 AWU.





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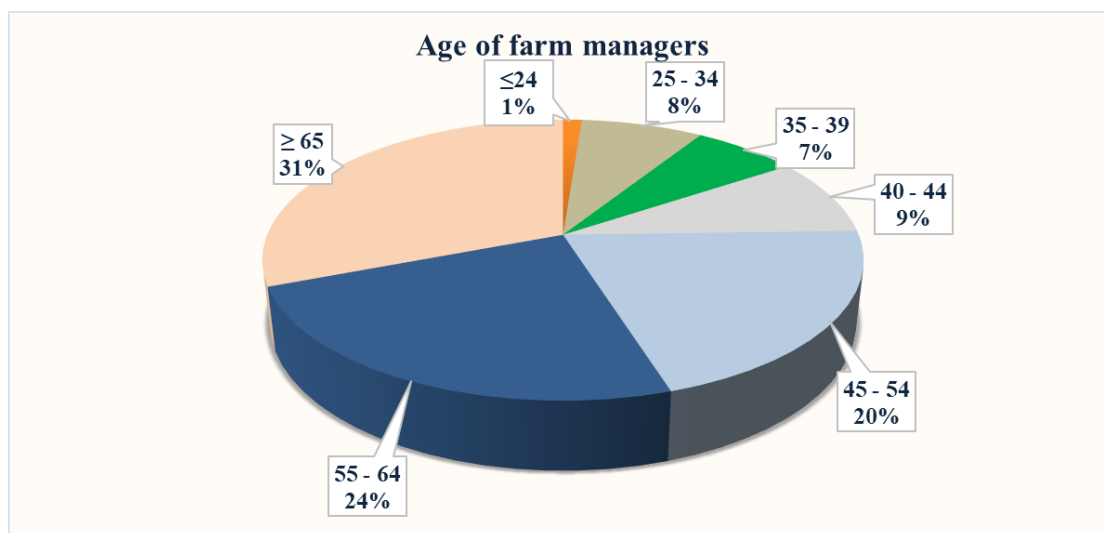
24% of those permanently employed in agriculture were aged 65 and over, 11% were under 35 years of age.



95 645 were male farm managers. 28% were female farm managers and they invested 20 223 AWU in agriculture. 31% of managers were aged 65 and over.



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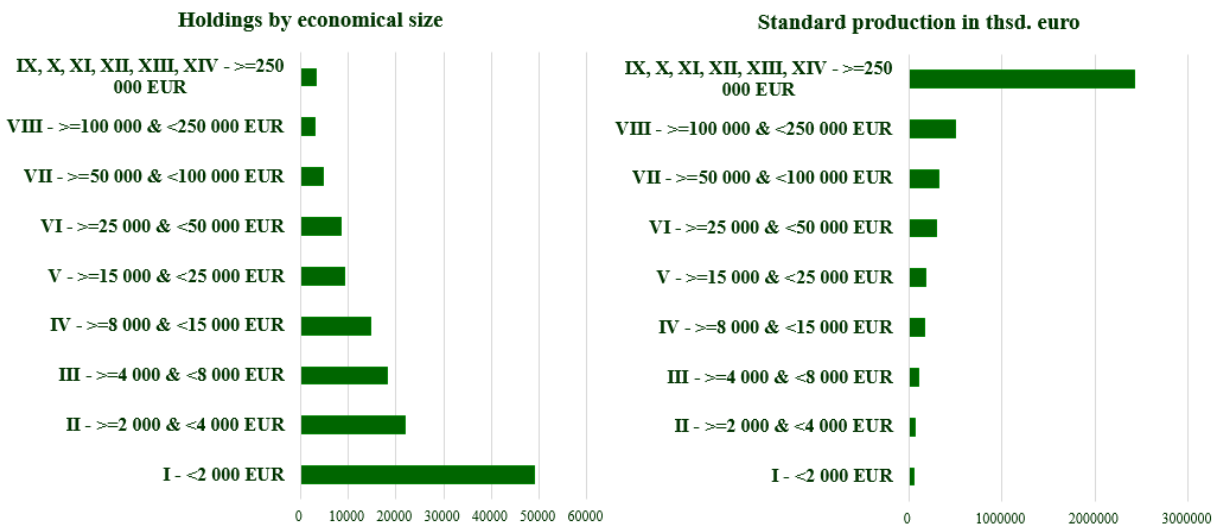
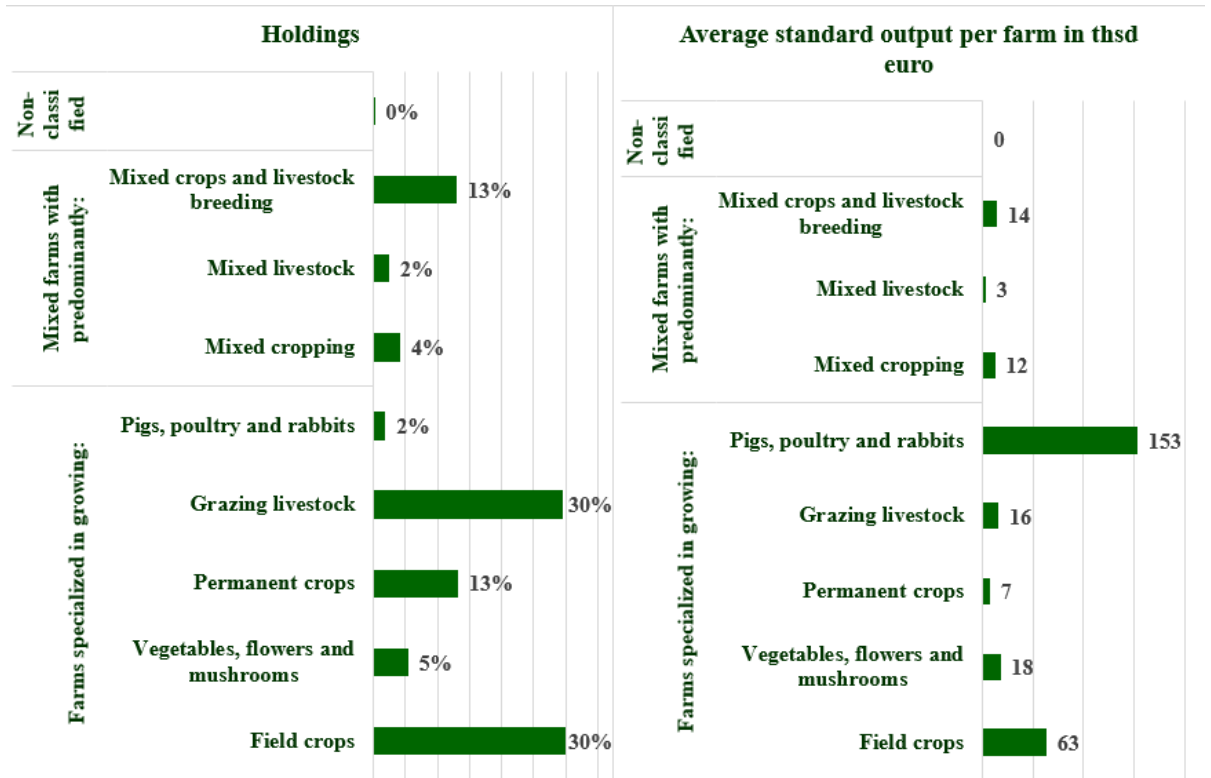


30% of the agricultural holdings were specialized in the cultivation of field crops and generated 62% of the total standard output (SO). 37% were the farms with a SO below 2 000 EUR. Farms with SO 250 000 and more EUR were 2% and generated 59% of SO.



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METHODOLOGY



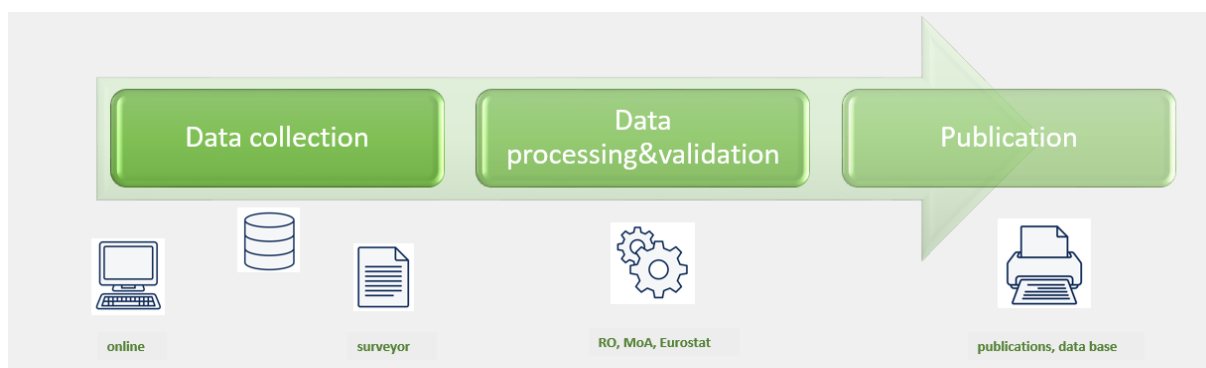
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Pursuant to European Union (EU) legislation in the field of agricultural statistics, detailed and comprehensive data on agricultural holdings is collected every 10 years by conducting a census of agricultural holdings. The data is updated within the 10-year period between each two censuses, through sample statistical surveys.

The census in 2020 was carried out according to a methodology consistent with the requirements of the European Union - Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 and the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1874. This ensures the comparability of the obtained results with those of other EU member states. Pursuant to the Farm Census Law in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2020, the census took place in the period from September 1 to December 18, 2020.

This publication presents and analyzes the data of 132 742 agricultural holdings that meet the thresholds for an agricultural holding defined in the Law.

Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the Law on Statistics, the Farm Census Law in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2020, the data received from the holdings is used for statistical purposes only. Participants in the census are administratively and criminally liable if they divulge the information received.



DEFINITIONS USED

Results and analyses



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Agricultural holding or "holding" is a separate unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which produces agricultural produce or maintains in good agricultural and ecological condition agricultural land which is no longer used for production purposes, carries out other activities within the meaning of art. 2, letter "a" of Regulation (EU) 2018/1091, as well as meets at least one of the criteria specified in Annex No. 2 of Farm Census Law in the Republic of Bulgaria in 2020.

Survey period: for area, the survey period is the crop year from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020 or until harvest; the number of animals is reported as of 31.08.2020; labor force is reported for a period of 12 months ending on 31.08.2020.

Utilized agricultural area (UAA) of farms includes their cultivated land, permanent crops, permanently grassland and kitchen gardens. The common area used collectively for animal grazing by several holdings is also included in the holdings' UAA. The area covered by the census does not include area in small agricultural units that do not meet the definition of an agricultural holding in the Law.

Area for collective animal grazing (common land) – this is the land that does not directly belong to the agricultural holding. This land is used by several farms. For collective use, permanent grassland is mainly used for grazing of animals from several farms. According to the Eurostat guidelines, this land is allocated as permanent grassland to the holdings, in proportion to their animal units of grazing animals.

Animal unit means a standard unit of measurement that allows different categories of animals to be grouped together for the purpose of comparison. Animal units are defined based on feed requirements for individual animal categories.

Farm manager is a natural person who makes the daily decisions related to the farm activities: period of sowing and harvesting, implementation of phytosanitary measures, repair of herds, etc. The farm manager can be the owner himself, but they can also be a person specially hired for the purpose.



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Annual work unit (AWU): The amount of labor input is calculated in annual work units (AWU). This indicator should not be equated with the number of people employed in agriculture. According to the definition given in the European legislation, 1 AWU is equal to the hours worked by one full-time worker within one year. In Bulgaria, it is accepted that 1 AWU is equal to 1 856 hours worked per year or 232 man-days. If the person has worked 1 856 man-hours or more, their work is equal to 1 AWU. If the person worked less than 1 856 man-hours, their work is calculated as a share of 1 AWU. The man-days worked by seasonal workers are divided by 232 days to convert their labor into AWU. Labor force: divided into family and non-family labor force, temporarily employed persons and persons indirectly employed by the agricultural holding.

Standard output (SO) is the standard value of gross output. The SO is used to classify the agricultural holdings according to the Union typology of agricultural holdings (where the type of farming is determined by the main production activities) and to determine the economic size of the agricultural holding.

Type of farming – holdings are grouped into nine general types, which are subdivided into 22 main and 62 specific types (Annex IV of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/220), amended by Implementing Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/1975.

Economic size of the holding is measured in euro and represents the total standard farm output. It shows the farm potential, but not its financial results. The economic size allows the comparison of farms with different specializations, because the physical size (average area, number of animals, etc.) does not give sufficient information. The economic size of a holding is determined by the total farm SO. Farms are grouped into size classes (from I to XIV).

The publication was editorially closed on 14.10.2022

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