

THE HUNGARIAN ANIMAL PRODUCTION IN 1994

L. Fésüs

The economic recession in the EC countries, the decreasing domestic consumption as well as the changing of land ownership together determine the present situation of our animal production.

By the beginning of the year of 1994 our livestock population decreased considerably. Figures are given below:

Cattle	999.000
cows	450.000
Pigs	5.001.000
sows	401.000
Sheep	1.250.000
ewes	896.000
Poultry	30.813.000
laying hens	21.597.000

Production of the present livestock population covers the needs of the Hungarian population, some products of the swine and sheep breeding are still exported.

At present the primary aim of our animal production is to meet the requirements of our domestic markets, not only in quantity terms, since most of our domestic consumers are willing to pay only for products of good or excellent quality.

Some of our special products (Pick salami, canned ham, turkey cuts, kaskhaval cheese, etc.) reach nearly all markets in the world, our aim is the maintainance of these markets and to increase the variety of these special products. The restructured animal production should be subordinate to this strategy.

Below I shortly summarize the present situation in the various species.

Cattle production

The yearly per capita beef consumption is 6 kg, the per capita milk consumption figure is 110 litre/year. Average milk yield per cow is 4700 litre. There are some

Rad je priopćen na Fourth EAAP Round Table on Livestock Production in Central and Eastern Europe, April, 20.-24. 1994., Zagreb.

Prof. dr. László Fésüs, director general Research Institute for Animal Breeding and Nutrition, 2053 Herceghalom, Hungary

imported milk products present on the Hungarian market, their function is to increase market diversity.

70% of our beef products are for domestic consumption, 30% is exported. Our primary aim is still to satisfy our domestic population, and our beef surplus can easily be sold on the EC markets.

Parallel with the privatization process it can be expected that the population size of the dual-purpose fleckvieh will increase.

The number of small farms with 1 to 10 cows is now increasing, but the development of the Western-European-type farms with about 50 cows is delayed. Continuous efforts are made to improve milk quality to meet the EC standards.

Swine production

The yearly per capita pork consumption figure is about 27 to 28 kg (estimated). Primary aim of production is to satisfy our domestic consumers, but some special products (canned ham, Pick salami, dried sausages, smoked and cured products) are exported, too.

Beside the numerous small farms (2 to 10 pigs) the large units, with several thousand pigs are still operating.

Good quality breeding stock is available in Hungary, but the quality of our slaughter pigs should be improved further.

Introduction of the EUROPE slaughter pig classification system has been started recently, this will encourage pig producers to improve the quality of their slaughter pigs.

Sheep production

Our sheep production is still predominantly export-oriented. Our yearly per capita mutton and lamb consumption is as low as 1 to 2 kg. Main product is lamb meat, most of the amount produced goes to the EC markets.

89% of our sheep stock is merino. The amount we produce at present is not enough to fulfil our EC quotas.

The management system is predominantly extensive, the weaned lambs are grain-fed in an intensive system.

Poultry production

The yearly per capita consumption of poultry meat is 22 to 23 kg. This figure practically did not decrease during the last few years, the lower pork and beef consumption was compensated by increased poultry meat consumption.

Both in broiler and egg production the modern foreign hybrids are in leading position in Hungary.

Goose production

Our goose liver and feather production is considerable and important. Slaughtered goose products are marketed with problems. Our aim is to maintain the earlier established market positions.

Some facts about the privatization process in Hungary

The transformation of the structure of the agrarian industry has been practically completed by the end of 1993. New type cooperatives have been formed; the food processing companies, the state farms and the forestry farms have been converted into share holding companies. Number of land owners at present is more than 320.000, their property amounts to about 1.5 million hectares.

The changing of the ownership started first in the food processing industry. By the end of 1993, with the exception of the grain and milk industry, the privatization was completed in most braches of the food processing industry.

The privatization of the state farms is somewhat longer and more complicated process.