

## THE ALBANIAN ANIMAL PRODUCTION

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Albania has an area of 28,750 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 3,3 million inhabitants.

In the total area of the country, farming land occupies 25%, while 36% are forests, 15% pastures and 24% is composed by others (rocks, rivers, lakes, reservoirs). Albania is one of the European countries with little farming land per capita, only 2100 m<sup>2</sup>.

Agriculture gives 55% of the GDP and livestock gives 50% of the GDP of agriculture.

In the approximate two - year period (1994 - 1995) since the Fourth Round Table on the Livestock Production in the Central and Eastern European Countries (Zagreb, 20-24. 04. 1994), as a result of the further deepening of the privatization process of the whole economy, changes in agriculture and especially in livestock have followed in the positive sense, which is presented in the table below:

Table 1. - NUMBER OF HEADS AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTIONS (1990 - 1995) (IN THOUSAND HEADS AND TONS)

	1990	1993	1994*	1995**
1. Cattle total (heads)	633.0	654.7	820.0	850.0
Cows	301.0	358.1	451.1	480.0
2. Small Ruminants	2791.0	3205.4	4025.7	4200.0
3. Swine	200.0	92.8	98.1	102.0
4. Poultry	5259.0	3359.0	3642.0	3700.0
5. Horses	181.0	197.5	200.5	215.0
6. Total milk production	517.0	670.6	803.2	965.0
Cows milk	421.0	536.7	647.4	808.0
Small milk Ruminants	96.0	133.9	155.8	157.0
7. Total meat production	92.0	96.2	112.0	128.0
Veal and beef	40.0	44.1	51.4	61.5
Small Ruminants meat	25.0	30.3	36.9	40.5
Pork	18.0	18.5	20.0	21.0
Poultry meat	9.0	3.3	3.7	5.0
8. Egg production (million)	343.0	276.2	283.3	297.0

\* The figures for 1994 in comparison with 1993 have changes as a result of more accurate statistics, because farmers in their statements in 1993 kept reservation for fear of taxes, although it was made clear to them that there would be no taxes in livestock.

\*\* The figures for 1995 are forecast.

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### *Cattle production*

During this period the increase in the number of heads continued to be greater than milk productivity per cow. Therefore the number of cows in 1995 is 34% higher than in 1993, while productivity increased only by 6,5% mounting up to 1700 litres per cow compared to 1598 litres in 1993. Low milk productivity in cows and increase in weight in calves were the result of insufficient feeding (90% of the cows are pure breed or cross-breeds of the "Black & White" and "Jersey"), as well as quite low use of concentrate (compound feed). The compound feeds were used less frequently because the price of 1 kg was \$ 0,25 while the price of 1 litre milk was \$ 0,2 - 0,3 and 1 kg meat was \$ 2,5.

The increase in production caused an increase in consumption of milk of local production to 250 kg per capita in comparison with 140 kg in 1990. While the consumption of beef of local production rose to 9,5 kg per capita in comparison with 6 kg in 1990.

To date the total milk production and its derivatives as well as meat production are for family consumption, at the time when considerable quantities of sausages, meat as well as cheese and butter are being imported.

It is important that during the last two years the number of farmers with 3 - 5 cows has increased, while farmers with 5 - 10 heads are few, but they will increase with the beginning of the purchase and sale of land (the respective law was endorsed by the Parliament in August 1995).

The future increase of cattle products will be affected by the setting up of milk and sausage collecting and processing centers, which have two crediting lines to date.

### *Sheep and goats production*

As can be seen from the figures in Tab. 1 small ruminants in Albania are important because they give 31% of meat production, or 6 kg per capita. The total production is directed towards the inner market, but there are possibilities of exporting annually more than 500000 heads of lambs and kids.

The productivity of sheep and goat milk is low, respectively 49 and 92 litres of milk and the increase in the weight of lambs and kids is not very high. This is the result of their extensive raising. Production of sheep milk is affected by the breed as well, which are cross-breed of "Merino" and "Tsigaja", because during the period 1950 - 1990 sheep was given priority for wool (at that time 1 kg of wool cost as much as 30 litres of milk). While in goats there are only local breeds.

### *Pig production*

Pork meat consumption of local production is 4 kg. The increase in pig production during these years was not very great, because the number

of pigs in 1993 was 42,5% of those in 1990, a drop which came as a result of the breaking up of the former cooperatives and agriculture enterprises, because in many of those economies there was pig raising but it was not in the tradition of those regions, while in the north and northeastern regions where the tradition existed, this number increased.

Pig raising was familiar with 1 - 2 pigs for slaughter or 2 - 3 sows for sale of piglets. Towards the end of 1995 there was an interest in putting back into function some of the existing complexes (capacity 400 sows), this which was affected by the demand of the market for fresh meat or sausage.

The problem at present is the quality of meat because the thickness of fat is over 40 mm. Farmers like "White Large" breed.

#### *Poultry production*

Poultry production is very low, consequently local production is consumed less than 1 kg per capita, which is supplemented with the very large exports of this kind of meat.

During the period 1994 - 1995 the traditional increase was 10 - 15 hens per family (local breed), but some of the poultry raising units started working (presently privatized) for egg production with the capacity of 10 - 50 thousand laying hens and there was an interest in further growth. This was influenced by the egg price which was very high, \$ 0,1 per egg. The opposite was the case with the broiler units, where none started to function, because the price of imported meat was very low, \$ 1,6 per kg (frozen chicken).

#### *Extension service*

The slow beginning in the end of 1993 was speeded up after September 1994 and presently it is functioning very well in 17 districts supported by PHARE Program and IFAD - 1, while during 1996 it is expected to cover 10 other districts with the aim of covering 36 districts of the country in 1997.