

4 STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BROKEN DOWN BY PRINCIPAL TYPE OF FARMING

As mentioned in the chapter General principles of the new classification system of agricultural holdings, the new typology employs a three-level system. The following part is focused on structure of agricultural holdings within the second level of the classification, i.e. principal types of farming.

The general type of Specialist field crops consists of Specialist cereals, oilseeds and protein crops and of General field cropping (combination of field crops, root crops and field vegetables). Almost two thirds of Specialist field crops represent holdings specialised in production of cereals and oilseeds; the other third is classified as General field cropping. The group of Specialist cereals, oilseeds and protein crops is characterized by high proportion of large and medium size holdings (54%) and, therefore, high average UAA acreage (171 ha/holding). Within agricultural holdings dealing with General field cropping, large and medium size holdings form 41% of the total number with their UAA acreage of approximately 127 ha/holding.

The group Horticulture specialist is divided into groups Specialist horticulture outdoor (58%) and Other horticulture (42%). Other horticulture involves holding specialized in nurseries, mushroom production etc. Holdings specialized in growing vegetables, flowers and ornamentals indoor (greenhouses, foil covers) have not been included in the Farm Structure Survey.

The group Specialist permanent crops consists of Specialist vineyards (73%), Specialist fruit (25%) and Various permanent crops combined (2%). Regional distribution of these specialisations depends on soil-climatic conditions the most compared with other types of farming. More than three quarters of the Specialist vineyards belong to the small economic size classes; Specialist vineyards have their average acreage of 10 ha/holding. Specialist fruit have a higher share of large and medium size holdings (29%) in comparison with Specialist vineyards; they utilise an average acreage of 23 ha/holding.

Specialist grazing livestock is the most frequent type of farming regarding the number of the holdings. It is represented by Specialist dairying (13%), Specialist cattle – rearing and fattening (39%), Cattle – dairying, rearing and fattening combined type (4%) and Sheep, goats and other grazing livestock type (44%). For the Specialist dairying a more intensive form of production is typical compared with other farming types. In the frame of FSS, these holdings include 46% of the total number of livestock units. One holding of Specialist dairying therefore rears on average 174 livestock units. Another important type of farming is Specialist cattle – rearing and fattening, sharing 46% of agricultural area and 38% of livestock units within the abovementioned general type of farming. Average number of LSU in this type of holdings reaches 49 LSU per holding. Enormously high number of the Sheep, goats and other grazing livestock type (3 439 holdings) is, however, due to absolute prevalence of very small holdings with negligible economic importance in this group. One average holding in this group owns only 9 livestock units. Small holdings share 94% of this type of farming.

Principal type Specialist granivores include Specialist pigs (53%), Specialist poultry (39%) and Various granivores combined type (8%). Specialist poultry include greater proportion of large holdings in comparison with Specialist pigs; this fact is based on higher share of legal persons (49%) among Specialist poultry type.

In the group Mixed crops – livestock principal type Field crops – grazing livestock combined dominates (58% of holdings), followed by types Various crops and livestock combined (22%), Mixed livestock, mainly grazing livestock (12%), Mixed cropping (5%) and Mixed livestock, mainly granivores (3%). Holdings dealing with Field crops – grazing livestock combined cover the highest share of both UAA (65%) and livestock units (53%). This group of holdings utilises on average 373 ha/holding, number of livestock units reaches on average 169 LSU per holding.