

Historical outline

Farm Statistics have been compiled in the country since early twentieth century. From 1968 to 1995 a Farm Register (LBR) served the administrative and statistical needs. Agricultural surveys were carried out every year between 1968 and 1995 on the basis of this register with reference dates between 8 to 15 June. With the country joining European Union (EU) in 1995, the statistical system was adapted to EU standards and annual Farm Structure Surveys (FSS) was carried out. However, the item coverage and sample size of these surveys was varied keeping in view national needs and the requirements of Eurostat.

Organization

Since 1 January 1999, the Swedish Board of Agriculture is the authority responsible for a major part of agricultural statistics. A special legislation which regulates responsibility and content of agricultural census, gives Swedish Board of Agriculture and the Central Statistical Office (SCB) a mandate to conduct surveys required to meet statistical requirement at national and EU level. Public is legally obliged to provide information for the Farm Register. The department of environment and regional statistics within the SCB was responsible for conducting the 1999 FSS.

Enumeration period

From 10 – 17 June 1999 with a follow-up for non-response up to August 1999.

Reference date/period

The reference period was the census day 10 June 1999.

Definition

- **Holding** is a unit under a single management, which operates in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry or horticulture. It could be operated by natural persons or legal persons.
- **Holder** is a single or a group of natural persons, or a legal person, on whose account and name the holding is operated. The holder is legally and economically responsible for the holding, and takes the economic risks. The LBR provides for up to 3 holders for a holding. For providing data to Eurostat, the first person listed in LBR was a taken as holder. As a holder can own or lease the holding, a natural person cannot be a holder in a holding operated by a legal person.

Coverage

Geographically, the survey covered the entire territory of the country. A holding was counted in the 1999 FSS if it satisfied at least one of the following criteria:

- at least 2.1 ha. of arable land;
- at least 50 cows or 250 cattle or 50 sows or 250 pigs or 50 ewes or 1000 poultry;
- at least 200 square meter area under glass or 2500 square meter open door cultivation.

Cultivation in homestead garden or for own consumption was excluded.

Frame

Annual updates on the Farm Register (LBR) have guaranteed high quality data in the register. As such, usually an agricultural survey frame is based on previous Agricultural Structure Survey. The frame for 1999 FSS was thus provided by 1998 FSS which was updated on the basis of changes reported by holdings during 1999. In the event of inadequate supply of information on the survey form, further investigations were undertaken. The information available from monitoring property changes was also utilized to update the frame. This led to insignificant under-coverage of new holding.

Method

The survey was a complete enumeration of the holdings which satisfied the census criteria. However, a stratified probability sample was utilized to supply early preliminary information. The survey was conducted by post. At the end of May 1999 letters containing forms, instructions and reply envelope were sent to holdings already included in the LBR. Special analysis was carried out for the form reporting that another person has taken over all or a part of the land of the holding in the previous survey.

Data source

Farm Structure Survey 1999/2000, 2003 Edition, Agriculture and Fisheries Theme 5, European Commission, Eurostat.

Contact

Statistics Sweden (National Statistics Office), (SCB), Box 24300, SE-104 51 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel.: (+ 46) 8 506 940 00; Fax: (+ 46) 8 661 52 61; E-mail: scb@scb.se.

Website

<http://www.scb.se>