

Albania

CURRENT SITUATION OF CATTLE BREEDING

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Country background

- Surface 28,748 km²
- Population 2,793,592
- Climate Mediteranean
- Arable land: 611,346 ha
- Farm size average: 1.2 ha
- Number of cows: 278,000 cows
- Milk prod. Per lact 3089 kg



Who is considered a smallholder dairy farmer in Albania?

There is no definition of small farms used to classify farms by size and distinguish small farms from other size groups of farms for policy-making.

According to one area-based classification used by INSTAT and MARD for statistical purposes, large farms are those:

- **that are at least 10 ha in size, in the case of agriculture farms; or**
- **with at least 8 heads of cattle; or**
- **with at least 150 head of small ruminants (sheep and/or goats).**

In the case of livestock, according to Law 9426 “on livestock breeding,” dated 6 October 2005, cattle farms are classified as below:

- Large agricultural farms that breed more than 50 dairy cows on a daily basis
- Medium farms that breed 10 to 50 cattle; and
- Small farms that breed fewer than 10 cattle

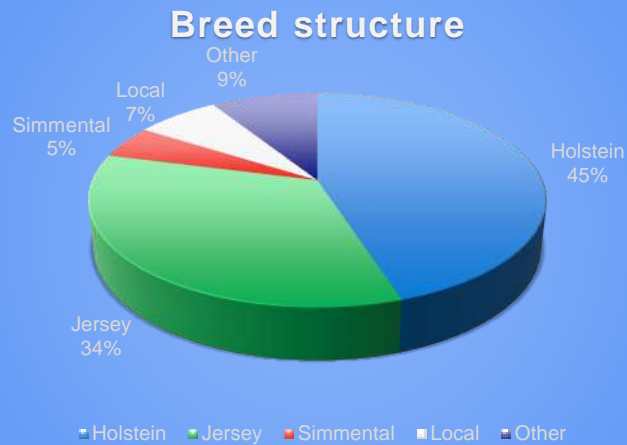
Who is considered a smallholder dairy farmer in Albania?

Farm size	nr	%
1 head	94,481	59.25%
2 - 3 heads	52,155	32.71%
4 - 5 heads	7,756	4.86%
6 -10 heads	3,328	2.09%
11-20 heads	1,477	0.93%
21-50 heads	213	0.13%
Over 50 heads	58	0.04%
Total	159,468	100.00%

What are the most common cattle breeds in Albania?

Breed	Breeding (%)		Total
	Pure breed	Crossed breed	
Holstein	4	27	31
Jersey	8	26	34
Black and White	2	12	14
Simmental	1	4	5
NRF	1	2	3
Brown Swiss	1	0	1
Tarentaise	0	1	1
Local	0	7	7
Other	0	4	4
Total	17	83	100

What are the most common cattle breeds in Albania?



What are the most common feeding systems on smallholder farms?

1. Pasture-based systems
(mountain areas, seasonal pasturing)
2. Partial mixed ration (PMR)
(small farms)
3. Total mixed ration (TMR)
(larger farms with intensive production)

Food market

Hay	0.20 Eur/kg
Alfalfa hay	0.25 Eur/kg
Maize:	0.40 Eur/kg
Soyabean meal	0.68 Eur/kg
Combined concentrate	0.60 Eur/kg



What is the current situation of artificial insemination in the country?

- Short history
 - Beginning 1967 (fresh semen)
 - 1982 deep frozen semen
- A.I. under animal breeding law of 2005.
- More than 400 free lance technicians. Most of them are vets offering vet services at the same time.
- About 65% of cows under artificial insemination

What is the current situation of artificial insemination in the country?



- Since 2000, no semen for artificial insemination is produced in Albania. Most of the semen is imported by several operators (11 operators).
- The number of imported doses is around 300,000 doses per year.

60% this amount is of Dairy breeds, mainly Holstein breed. (imported from USA, Germany, Netherland, etc)

40% from beef breeds mainly used for crossbreeding for meat production and only a few for pure breeding (Blu Belge, Sharole, Limuzin, etc.)

Which supporting systems are available for cattle breeding?

- Identification system is in place. (Problems with slaughterhouses)
- There is no performance recording system, apart in large farms.
- No heard book
- Pedigree records are kept only in large farms

Other

- No farmers association. Some local initiatives emerge time after time, but associations are not sustainable
- Extension service not fully capable to support intensive production.
- Capacities of extension specialist to advice high producing cows are poor. Recently Ministry of agriculture has contracted experts from Agriculture university of Tirana to organize some trainings for extension service specialists on different.
- Conservation program for local breeds is missing.

THANK YOU

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