

# Information on the preliminary results of the Agricultural Census 2020

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 about **13%**  
decline in the number of farms compared to the AC 2010

According to the preliminary results of the Agricultural Census 2020, the total number of farms was approx. 1.3 million, which indicates a decrease of nearly 13% compared to data from the Agricultural Census 2010.

## Introduction

The Agricultural Census 2020 (AC 2020) was carried out on the territory of the Republic of Poland from 1 September to 30 November 2020, as of 1 June 2020 and was the second national agricultural census conducted in Poland since the country joined the European Union. According to the Regulation (EU) 2018/1091 of the European Parliament and of the Council, all EU member states were obliged to conduct a survey on integrated statistics concerning agricultural holdings in 2020. The primary aim of this survey was to provide information for the purposes of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union. The necessity to carry out a census arose from the needs of Polish information users and first of all from the verification of data derived from administrative sources and the requirement to update the sampling frames for future surveys conducted in the period between censuses. The national legal basis for the performance of the agricultural census was the Act on the Agricultural Census 2020 (Journal of Laws of 2019 item 1728 as amended).

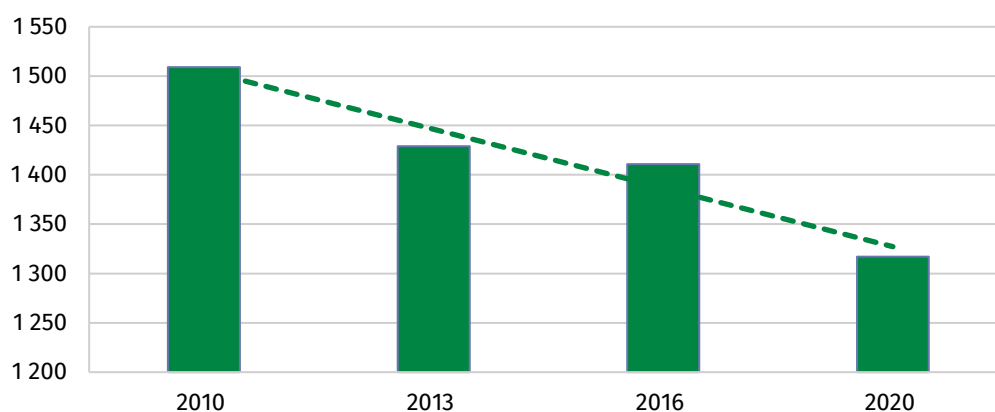
As a complete survey, the agricultural census included farms managed by natural persons (private farms), as well as legal persons and organisational units without legal personality.

The Agricultural Census (AC) was conducted on the territory of Poland from 1 September to 30 November 2020, as of 1 June 2020.

## 1. The number of farms and their average area

According to the preliminary results of the Agricultural Census 2020, **the total number of farms was approx. 1,317 thousand** and decreased by approx. 190 thousand, i.e. nearly 13% as compared to the Agricultural Census 2010 (AC 2010).

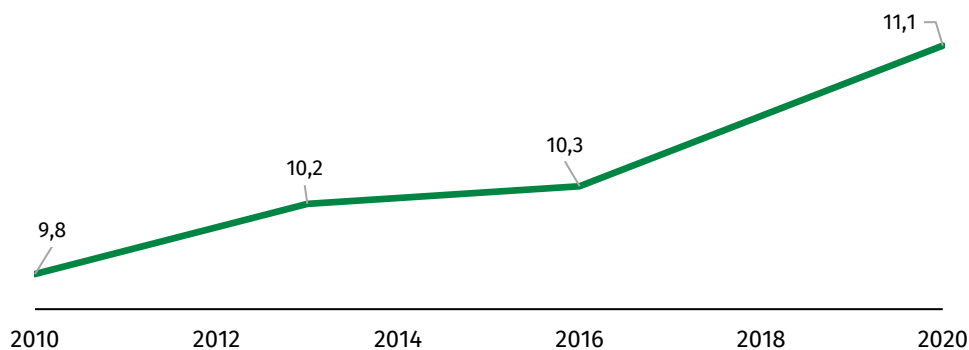
**Chart 1. Number of farms in thousands**



In 2020, the average agricultural area (AA) per farm amounted to 11.1 ha (by approx. 13% more than in the AC 2010).

The recorded decline in the number of farms, with a slight decrease in the agricultural area was reflected in an increase in the **average agricultural area (AA)** per farm by approx. 13%, i.e. from 9.8 ha in 2010 to **11.1 ha** in 2020.

**Chart 2. The average agricultural area (in ha) per farm**



Over the last few years, a tendency according to which the number of farms has decreased while their average area has increased has been observed.

A decline in the number of farms recorded among farms with up to 15 ha of agricultural area was approx. 16%, while an increase in the group of farms with agricultural area of 15 ha and more was approx. 6%.

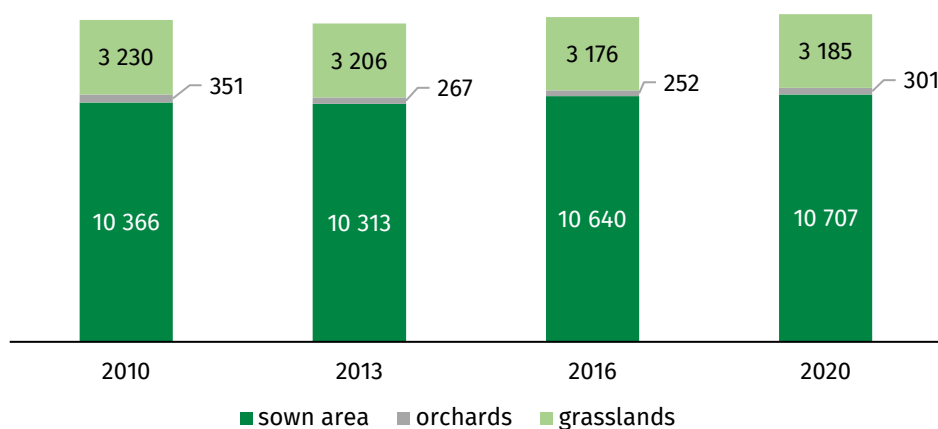
**The structure of farms** has marginally improved. The share of the smallest farms with up to 5 hectares of agricultural area decreased from 54.0% in 2010 to 52.5% in 2020 (by 1.5%), while the share of farms with 15 ha and more of agricultural area simultaneously increased from 13.0% in 2010 to 15.8% in 2020 (by 2.8%).

## 2. Land use

According to the preliminary results from the Agricultural Census 2020, the total agricultural area was approx. **14,637 thousand ha**.

Over the past ten years, i.e. since the Agricultural Census 2010, the agriculture area decreased by approx. 200 thousand ha (by 1.5%). In 2020, the sown area in the said farms increased by approx. 340 thousand ha (by 3.3%), while the area of orchards and permanent grassland decreased by approx. 50 thousand ha (about 14%) and approx. 45 thousand ha (about 1.4%) respectively compared to 2010.

**Chart 3. The area of main categories of utilised agricultural area**



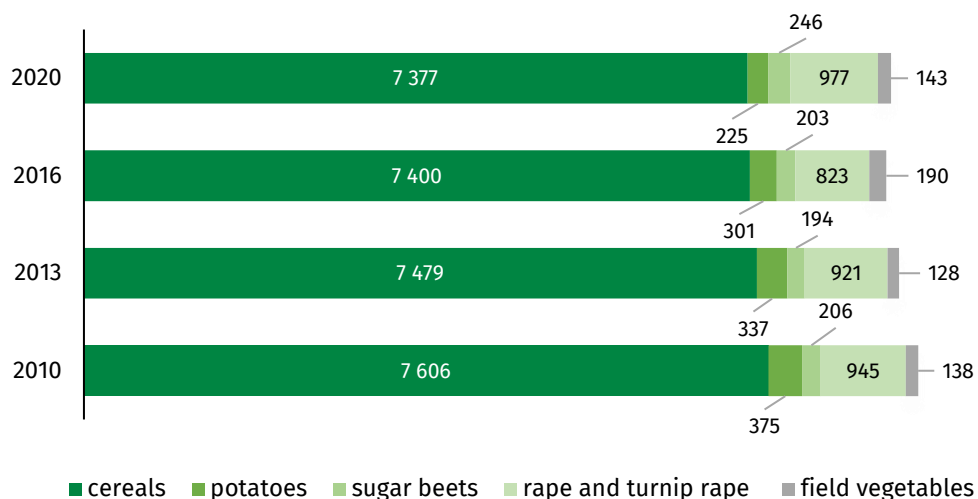
In the structure of agricultural area, the share of the sown area was 73.2%, which indicates an increase of 3.4 percentage points compared to 2010, the share of permanent grassland was 21.8 percent and increased by 0.1 percentage points, while the area of orchards was 2.1 percent, which is a decrease of 0.3 percentage points.

### 3. Sown area

The preliminary results of the Agricultural Census revealed that in 2020, the total sown area on farms amounted to over **10,707 thousand ha** and was higher by approx. **340 thousand ha** compared to 2010. The structure of crops is still dominated by cereals (about 70%) and their cultivated area amounted to approx. 7,377 thousand ha.

By comparing data derived from the previous years to data from 2020, it is possible to observe certain changes in the structure of individual crops. Compared to 2010, the total share of cereals decreased by 4.5 percentage points while potatoes by 1.5 percentage points. The share of rape, turnip rape and field vegetables remained unchanged, while the share of sugar beet increased by 0.3 percentage points.

**Chart 4. The sown area of main crops**



### 4. Livestock population

According to the preliminary results of the AC 2020, the population of the main species of livestock on farms was:

- **cattle – 6,299 thousand heads**, which is an **increase** of more than 550 thousand heads (nearly **10%**) compared to 2010,
- **pigs – 11,203 thousand heads**, which is a **decrease** of approx. 4,000 thousand heads (over **26%**) compared to results from the AC 2010.

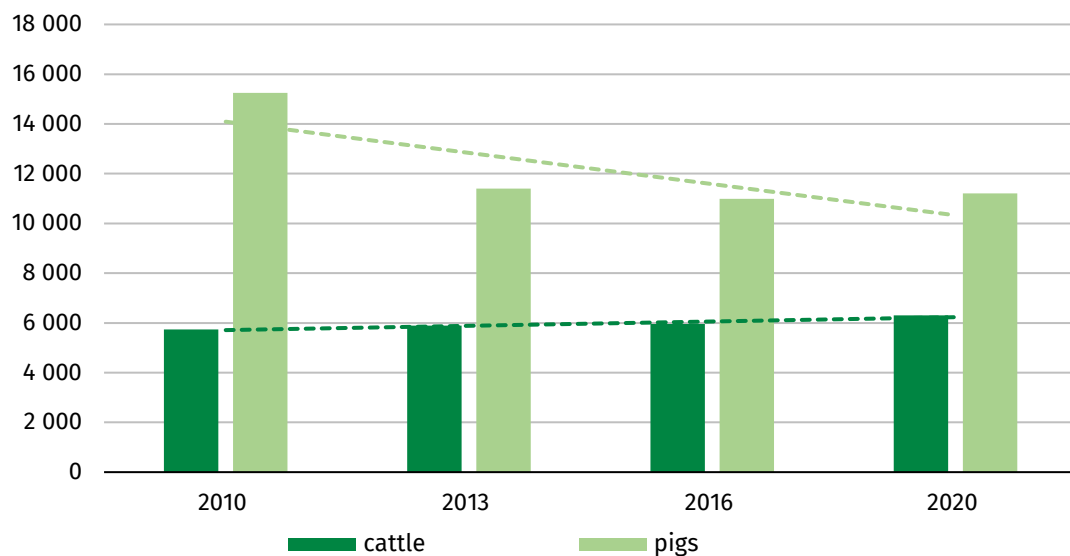
In 2020, the number of livestock per 100 ha of agricultural area was at the level of:

- cattle – 43 heads, i.e. over 10% more than in 2010,
- pigs – 77 heads, i.e. more than 25% less than in 2010.

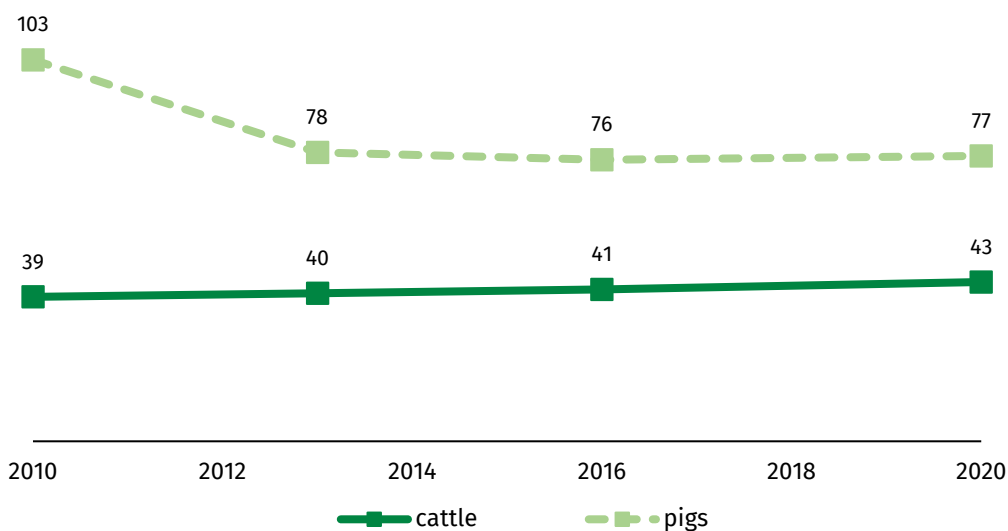
The cattle population was 6,299 thousand heads, which is 10% higher than in 2010.

The pig population was 11,203 thousand heads, which is more than 26% lower than in 2010.

**Chart 5. Cattle and pig population**



**Chart 6. The number of cattle and pigs per 100 ha of agricultural area**



In 2020, one farm keeping a given species of animal had on average:

- 24 heads of cattle compared to 11 heads in 2010;
- 133 heads of pigs compared to 39 heads in 2010.

The above data indicate the specialisation of farms breeding cattle and pigs, as well as the concentration of those animals in the said farms.

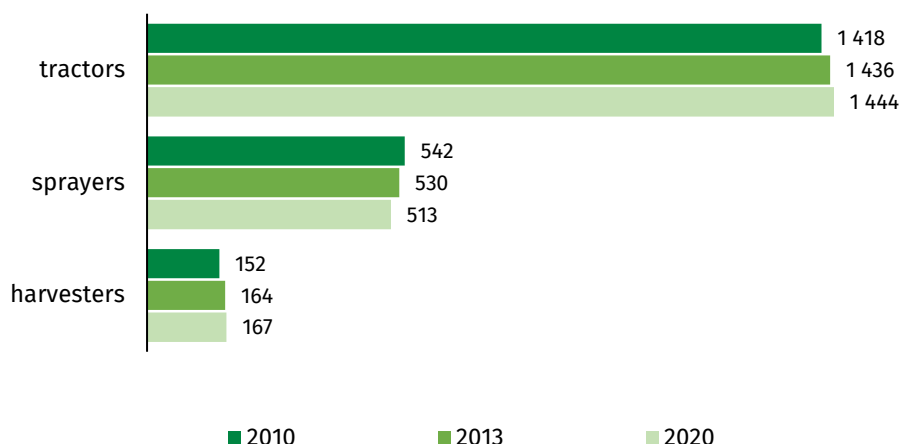
Pig diseases, in particular ASF (African swine fever), which have been emerging since 2014 and entail the necessity to ensure bio-security on farms, resulted in the withdrawal of producers from small-scale production in favour of intensive (industrial) rearing.

### 5. The number of tractors and agricultural machinery

According to the preliminary results of the Agricultural 2020, farmers owned approx. **1,444 thousand tractors**, i.e. nearly 2% more than in 2010. In 2020, there was an average of 1.1 tractors per farm, which is an increase from 0.9 tractors in 2010. Despite the increasing number of tractors per farm, the average agricultural area per one tractor has remained at a similar level of approx. 10 ha (compared to 10.5 ha in 2010).

The number of tractors on farms was approx. 1,444 thousand pieces, which is 2% higher than in 2010.

**Chart 7. Tractors and selected agricultural machinery**



Changes occurring in the main crops cultivation area, the progressive process of modernisation of agriculture and the availability of various sources of financing that enable the purchase of modern machines (including grants from the Common Agricultural Policy, agricultural loans and leases) have affected the current state of equipment of farms with agricultural machines and devices. In 2020, with the prevailing predominance of cereals in the structure of the sown area and the simultaneous increase in the rape cultivation area, farmers owned approx. **167 thousand harvesters**, i.e. over 10% more than in 2010. In contrast, the number of **sprayers** intended for the application of crop protection products decreased by 5% (513 thousand) compared to 2010.

**Summary**

The results of the Agricultural Census 2020 (AC 2020) indicates dynamic changes in Polish agriculture. It is possible to observe an increasing specialisation of farms with a progressive concentration of agricultural output. The prevailing trend, recorded for at least two decades, consists in a decrease in the number of farms, while the agricultural area remains at a similar level. Therefore, the average farm area and the number of livestock per farm are increasing. Furthermore, farm modernisation is also progressing along with farm specialisation.

It is necessary to emphasise that the structure of Polish farms is still fragmented and that there is a very significant percentage of small farms, which do not produce their products for the market. However, it can be observed that large and specialised units dominate many categories of agricultural output (e.g. animal production).

Changes in agriculture result from its adaptation to the economic environment, consumer demand for a particular quality of agricultural products, as well as adjustment to climate and environmental changes. The implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy, which stimulates structural changes in agriculture, is also significantly important.

Tables – Date preliminary PSR2020.xls.

When citing data from the Central Statistical Office, please include the information: "Source of data from the Central Statistical Office", and when publishing calculations made on the data published by the Central Statistical Office, please include the information: "Own study based on GUS data".

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