

Status of livestock production in Bosnia and Herzegovina

S. Muratovic & F. Dizdarevic

*Faculty of Agriculture Sarajevo, Zmaja od Bosne 8,
71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina*

Total area		51 197 km ²
Inhabitants	1991	4 380 000
No. of farms	1991	569 581
Arable land per capita (ha)	1991	1.18
Agricultural land per inhabitant (ha)	1991	0.51

**Bosnia and
Herzegovina
general
information**

Agricultural land includes 1 million ha of arable land, 460 000 ha of meadows and improved pastures and 930 000 of mountain pastures.

General background of the livestock sector (number of animals and milk production).

**Animal
production**

Table 1. Number of animals.

	1991	1999	
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Cattle	873 605	231 492	-
Cows and heifers	622 919	176 408	147 326
Bull for breeding	-	2 341	-
Sheep	1 301 340	299 069	-
Pigs	613 556	68 114	-
Goat	-	3 2794	-
Horses	99 863	32 794	-
Rabbit	-	1 7563	-

Table 2. Milk production (000 litres).

	1991	1999	
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Milk cows	880 118	286 522	-
Milk ewe	12 940	7 378	-
Milk goat	-	3 928	-

Table 3. Milk production per lactation (litres).

	1991	1999	RS
	BiH	FBiH	
Milk cows	1 540	1 901	-
Milk ewe	-	50	-
Milk goat	-	185	-

The pre-war small farmers kept the major part of animals mainly in extensive production systems with an average of 2.28 cattle or 13 sheep per farm. An average farm had between 1 and 3 ha of land.

Four percent of animals were kept on large production units. The State sector (ex-social sector) owned 29 800 cattle of which 12 000 were dairy cows (several farms with 500 to 1 500 cows) 110 200 pigs, 13 000 sheep and 2.5 million poultry. Productivity was at a level attained in intensive production units in Western Europe.

Livestock reconstruction project in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Conditions for the economic reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina and thus, for livestock reconstruction are also created through gradual implementation and establishment of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Cattle import took place during the last four years (1996-1999) of the "Livestock Reconstruction Support in Bosnia and Herzegovina" project.

Table 4. Import of pregnant heifers in the Bosnia and Herzegovina (between 1996-1999).

Breeds	Heifers	%
Simmental	22 544	82.25
Brown Swiss	1 159	4.23
Grauvich	1 336	4.87
Holstein Friesian	2 312	8.65
Total	27 411	100.00

Source: PIU Housing (2000).

Although a central breeding service did not exist throughout the entire period between 1945 to 1992, institutions in charge of breeding programmes have functioned at the level of agro-industrial combines and complexes. Some research and development institutes of these combines have carried out projects related to the evaluation of production potential of endangered local breeds (e.g. Programme for *Busa* carried out by the UPI) or breeding programmes for the improvement of specific traits of local breeds (Bosnian Mountain Horse, milk production of the *Vlasicka* straps of *Pramenka* sheep). A programme of crossing domestic *Pramenka* with imported Merino types aimed at ensuring self-sufficiency in wool production was soon abandoned because of poor results and resistance from farmers.

In 1995 animal recording had not yet been established. Further implementation of the livestock reconstruction programme should include animal recording.

Bosnia and Herzegovina trade with the international community to prepare and realise the programme "Sustainable Development of the Livestock Production Sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

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Animal breeding

Animal recording

Conclusion

References
