



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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More pigs

In August of this year there were 13.9 million pigs in the Netherlands, 300 thousand more than in August 1998 and about the same number as in August 1996, the year before the swine fever epidemic.

The number of pig farms was just over 15% lower than in 1998. According to Statistics Netherlands' figures, there are a quarter fewer farms with pigs than in 1996.

More litters and sows

The increase in the pig stock in 1999 was mainly the results of more young pigs than in 1998. The number of piglets with the sow rose by 8% while that of young pigs in general rose by 4%. The number of sows served rose slightly to 935 thousand, about the same number as in 1996. The number of porkers fell slightly in 1999 and is just under the level of 1998 and 1996.

Fewer pig farms

While just over 19 thousand farms kept pigs in 1998, this had dropped to 16 thousand in April 1999. Compared with 1996 the number of farms with pigs was down by a quarter according to Statistics Netherlands.

Fewer and fewer farms keep a small number of pigs. The number of farms with fewer than 300 pigs was nearly a quarter down on last year, while that of farms with 300 to 600 pigs fell by 20%. The number of farms with 600 or more pigs was fairly stable from 1990 to 1997, at around 7,700. In 1998 it fell to just over 7,100 and in 1999 to nearly 6,900.

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