



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## *Less nitrogen in Dutch manure*

The amount of nitrogen found in the manure of Dutch livestock in 1998 was reduced to the 1980 level. There is a great fluctuation from year to year in the nitrogen count.

However, the nitrogen count has been falling since 1986, on account of the reduction of cattle. Moreover, pigs produced substantially less nitrogen in 1998.

According to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands, however, the phosphate count was up again in 1998 for the first time in years.

### *Less nitrogen in pig manure*

Pigs produced 7 million kilograms less nitrogen in 1998 than they did in 1997, totalling 135 million kilograms. This is because farmers used less nitrogen-rich feed. The reduction in nitrogen production by cattle was most considerable, according to Statistics Netherlands. However, most of it was not structural. Due to the amount of rain in 1998 cows were not out in the meadows as much as usual. They were fed more rough feed containing less nitrogen.

The reduction of nitrogen levels in chicken feed was cancelled out by the increased number of chickens.

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### *Phosphate up slightly*

One result of the law on manure production has been that the total phosphate production went down from almost 260 million kilograms in 1986 to 190 million kilograms in 1997. In 1998 the figure was up 3 million kilograms again.

In poultry farming the amount of phosphate increased again because of the growing number of chickens as well as the slight increase of production per animal.

Cattle farmers did buy feed with less phosphate than in 1997. However because of the high phosphate contents of the silage there was no decrease in the phosphate production of cattle.

### ***Manure transport figures for 1997***

Statistics Netherlands has calculated where the manure produced in 1997 ended up, on the basis of the registrations by the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Levies. Some 80% was used on the farm where it is produced. In 1997 almost 16 million tons was transported to other farms. About a third went to farms in provinces without a manure surplus. The rest was sold to colleagues in provinces with a manure surplus.

### ***Explanatory notes***

Dutch farm animals produced a total of over 76 million tons in manure. Some 75% comes from cattle, and some 20% from pigs. The manure production calculated by Statistics Netherlands is based on standards, updated each year, for the production of minerals per animal and the number of animals. The standards for 1998 were set by a working party of six expert institutes.

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