



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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Less livestock

Between April this year and April 1999 the cattle on agricultural holdings diminished by 2.5% to just about 4 million heads. Ten years ago there were nearly 5 million heads. The preliminary figures by Statistics Netherlands further show that the number of pigs and sheep has also diminished this last year.

Fewer dairy cows

The number of dairy cows diminished by 4.7% between April last year and last April to 1.5 million. Ten years ago there were almost 1.9 million dairy cows. Between 1990 and 2000 the number of dairy cows decreased by an average of 2% a year.

Milk production per cow nearly doubled in recent decades. In 1950 one dairy cow produced about 3 500 litres of milk a year. In 1999 it was 7 000 litres. This means that the daily milk production per cow went from 11.5 to 23 litres in the last 50 years.

More dairy cattle in Zeeland

Dairy cattle diminished in nearly all provinces over the last decade, except for Zeeland. Within ten years the number of dairy cows here increased by 8%. In Groningen and Flevoland the reduction in dairy cattle was slower than elsewhere in the country, with an 8% fall in numbers against more than 19% nation-wide. In North Brabant and Limburg the number of dairy cattle fell most drastically, namely 25% in the last ten years. The province of Friesland had the most heads of dairy cattle in April 2000, namely 260 thousand heads.

Fewer pigs and sheep, more chickens and goats

The number of pigs diminished from 13.6 million in April 1999 to 13.3 million in April this year. In the same period the number of sheep fell by almost 100 thousand, reaching 1.3 million.

The number of chickens increased by nearly 800 thousand to almost 106 million, which ended the period of rapid increases that started in 1995. In 1995 there were less than 90 million chickens.

The number of milk-producing goats increased by over 12 thousand, bringing the total number to 98 thousand in April this year.

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Livestock/Veestapel, April

	1990	1995	1999	2000 *
	<i>x 1 000</i>			
Cattle/Rundvee	4 926	4 651	4 206	4 100
Dairy cattle/ melkkoeien	1 878	1 708	1 588	1 514
Pigs/Varkens	13 915	14 397	13 567	13 254
Sheep/Schapen	1 702	1 674	1 401	1 322
Goats/Melkgeiten	37	43	86	98
Chickens/Kippen	92 764	89 561	104 767	105 554

* preliminary results/Voorlopige uitkomsten

Source/Bron: Statistics Netherlands/CBS

Melkkoeien per provincie

	1990	1995	1999	2000*
	<i>x 1 000</i>			
Groningen	87,5	80,2	82,4	80,0
Friesland	302,4	275,4	268,6	260,0
Drenthe	113,4	101,1	94,2	90,0
Overijssel	301,1	278,0	256,1	245,0
Flevoland	28,0	27,7	27,0	26,0
Gelderland	314,5	287,1	259,4	246,0
Utrecht	105,2	97,5	90,2	86,0
Noord-Holland	98,9	87,5	81,5	77,0
Zuid-Holland	129,4	118,0	108,7	104,0
Zeeland	12,9	12,5	14,7	14,0
Noord-Brabant	310,7	278,1	247,6	232,0
Limburg	73,7	64,7	58,1	54,0
Nederland	1 877,7	1 707,9	1 588,5	1 514,0

* preliminary results/Voorlopige uitkomsten

Source/Bron: Statistics Netherlands/CBS