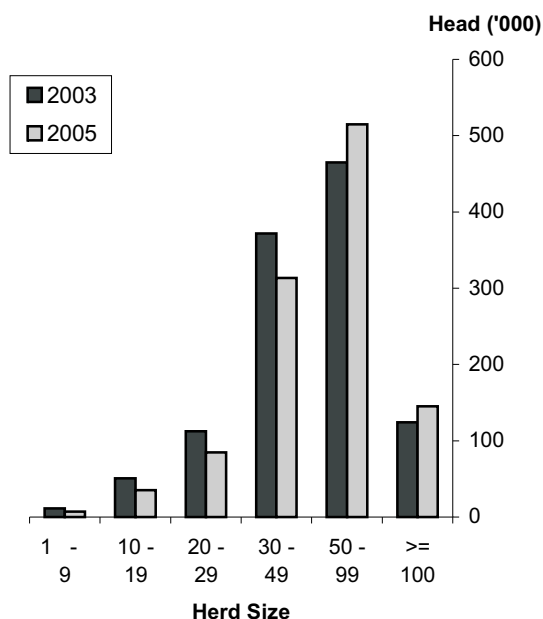


Size of Herd

December 2003 and December 2005

Dairy Cows



	Cattle herds	Dairy Cow herds	Other Cow herds
		'000	
2003	116.6	27.1	75.8
2005	114.3	26.8	74.8
% change	-2.0%	-1.1%	-1.2%

Increase in number of sheep flocks in 2005 but average size falls

There were an estimated 41,200 sheep flocks in December 2005, compared with 39,100 flocks in December 2003. Average flock sizes for the two reference dates were 103.2 and 124.1 animals respectively. *See Tables 1B and 2B.*

There were an estimated 114,300 cattle herds in December 2005 with an average herd size of 54.2 animals. The corresponding December 2003 estimates were 116,600 cattle herds averaging 53.4 animals. *See Tables 1A and 2A.*

There were an estimated 26,800 dairy cow herds in December 2005 with an average herd size of 41.1 animals. The corresponding December 2003 estimates were 27,100 herds and 42.0 animals. *See Tables 1A, 2A and graph.*

The number of pig herds declined between the two reference dates. There were an estimated 600 pig herds in December 2005 and 700 in December 2003. *See Tables 1C and 2C.*

A comparison of the December 2003 and December 2005 figures show that (*see Tables 1 and 2*):

- ◆ There was an increase in the number of sheep flocks with less than 200 sheep with the largest increase in the 10 to 49 size category.
- ◆ The average pig herd increased from 2,381.1 to 2,951.9.
- ◆ The number of dairy herds with less than 50 cows declined by 2,300 between 2003 and 2005 while the number of dairy herds with 50 cows or more increased by 2,000 in the same period.

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Table 1A: Estimated number of farms with cattle and number of cattle classified by the size of herd, December 2003 '000

Size of herd	Total Cattle (including Cows)		Total Cows		Dairy Cows ¹		Other Cows	
	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals
1 - 9	19.7	113.8	33.0	207.1	2.4	11.1	37.3	196.0
10 - 19	22.0	324.7	22.8	376.0	3.3	50.7	21.7	325.3
20 - 29	15.2	381.9	12.6	342.9	4.4	112.6	8.9	230.4
30 - 49	20.2	813.9	15.0	618.1	9.2	372.0	6.1	246.1
50 - 99	22.4	1647.0	9.5	585.1	6.9	465.0	1.7	120.1
>= 100	17.1	2942.0	1.1	150.7	0.9	124.3	0.2	26.3
Total	116.6	6,223.4	94.0	2,279.9	27.1	1,135.7	75.8	1,144.2
Average size of herd		53.4		24.2		42.0		15.1

Table 1B: Estimated number of farms with sheep and number of sheep classified by the size of flock, December 2003 '000

Size of Flock	Total Sheep		Total Ewes		Ewes 2 years and over		Ewes under 2 years	
	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals
1 - 9	1.5	8.7	1.9	10.9	2.5	13.6	4.8	24.1
10 - 49	12.4	380.0	13.6	406.6	14.9	437.1	11.8	280.9
50 - 199	19.0	2092.2	17.2	1793.1	15.8	1593.1	3.8	334.7
200 - 399	4.6	1313.7	3.4	933.0	2.3	620.4	0.3	62.4
400 - 699	1.2	633.2	0.7	364.3	0.4	205.9	0.0	16.4
>= 700	0.4	422.3	0.2	168.9	0.1	85.1	0.0	3.1
Total	39.1	4,850.1	36.9	3,677.0	35.8	2,955.3	20.6	721.7
Average size of flock		124.1		99.6		82.5		35.0

Table 1C: Estimated number of farms with pigs and number of pigs classified by the size of herd, December 2003 '000

Size of herd	Total Pigs ²		Fattening Pigs 50 kg and over Liveweight		Young Pigs Less than 50 kg Liveweight		Female Breeding Pigs ³	
	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals
1 - 9	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2
10 - 49	0.1	1.4	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.1	1.4
50 - 199	0.0	5.1	0.1	8.0	0.0	4.9	0.1	14.6
200 - 399	0.0	9.2	0.1	19.6	0.1	15.2	0.1	33.5
400 - 999	0.1	67.4	0.2	94.8	0.1	67.5	0.1	49.6
>= 1000	0.3	1,647.5	0.1	457.4	0.2	883.1	0.0	76.2
Total	0.7	1,731.0	0.6	580.8	0.6	971.9	0.5	175.5
Average size of herd		2381.1		1048.3		1,757.5		365.7

¹ Dairy cows are those kept principally to produce milk for sale or for human consumption.

² Fattening pigs, young pigs, breeding pigs and boars.

³ Gilts in pig, sows in pig, other sows for breeding and gilts not yet served.

Table 2A: Estimated number of farms with cattle and number of cattle classified by the size of herd, December 2005 '000

Size of herd	Total Cattle (including Cows)		Total Cows		Dairy Cows ¹		Other Cows	
	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals
1 - 9	15.9	84.5	29.3	178.9	1.8	7.3	34.3	171.6
10 - 19	19.0	254.3	22.0	343.8	2.6	35.3	21.7	308.5
20 - 29	14.9	339.4	13.2	332.5	3.8	84.7	10.1	247.8
30 - 49	20.9	761.6	14.6	555.2	8.8	313.6	6.3	241.6
50 - 99	23.9	1,592.4	11.4	663.1	8.6	515.0	2.2	148.2
>= 100	19.6	3,159.5	1.6	177.5	1.2	145.2	0.2	32.3
Total	114.3	6,191.7	92.1	2,251.1	26.8	1,101.1	74.8	1,150.0
Average size of herd		54.2		24.4		41.1		15.4

Table 2B: Estimated number of farms with sheep and number of sheep classified by the size of flock, December 2005 '000

Size of flock	Total Sheep		Total Ewes		Ewes 2 years and over		Ewes under 2 years	
	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals
1 - 9	1.8	9.0	2.0	9.8	2.3	11.1	4.9	20.0
10 - 49	13.4	352.4	14.6	369.0	15.7	392.2	11.1	215.4
50 - 199	19.8	1,826.1	18.3	1,586.7	17.2	1,435.3	3.1	219.2
200 - 399	4.6	1,113.1	3.3	776.8	2.6	596.5	0.2	50.3
400 - 699	1.2	539.3	0.7	309.2	0.4	179.4	0.0	11.1
>= 700	0.5	417.2	0.2	157.1	0.1	78.0	0.0	0.0
Total	41.2	4,257.0	39.1	3,208.6	38.4	2,692.5	19.4	517.1
Average size of flock		103.2		82.0		70.2		26.7

Table 2C: Estimated number of farms with pigs and number of pigs classified by the size of herd, December 2005 '000

Size of herd	Total Pigs ²		Fattening Pigs 50 kg and over Liveweight		Young Pigs Less than 50 kg Liveweight		Female Breeding Pigs ³	
	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals
1 - 9	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
10 - 49	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.8
50 - 199	0.0	2.2	0.0	5.3	0.0	4.5	0.1	11.0
200 - 399	0.0	7.5	0.1	17.4	0.0	12.4	0.1	28.8
400 - 999	0.1	50.7	0.1	84.1	0.1	52.4	0.1	49.0
>= 1000	0.3	1,609.3	0.1	425.6	0.2	890.8	0.0	85.0
Total	0.6	1,670.8	0.4	533.0	0.5	960.8	0.4	174.7
Average size of herd		2,951.9		1242.4		2066.2		400.7

¹ Dairy cows are those kept principally to produce milk for sale or for human consumption.

² Fattening pigs, young pigs, breeding pigs and boars.

³ Gilts in pig, sows in pig, other sows for breeding and gilts not yet served.

Background Notes

Introduction This release presents estimates of the numbers of cattle and pig herds, and sheep flocks, based on returns to the December livestock surveys.

Coverage A farm is defined in accordance with the definition adopted for the EU surveys as

a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which provides agricultural products.

Farms where the agricultural area used was at least 1 hectare (2.47 acres) may be included in the December livestock survey. Farms with less than 1 hectare may also be included if they were engaged in intensive production. A separate survey of the larger pig units was also conducted due to the intensive nature of these activities.

Results The results are calculated by applying grossing factors to each active farm returned in the December surveys. The resulting estimates are adjusted to agree with previously published figures on numbers of cattle, sheep and pigs.