



European Commission  
Agriculture and Rural Development



# FARM ACCOUNTANCY DATA NETWORK (FADN)

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# Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN)

- Established in 1965
- Objectives:
  - To collect accountancy data from commercial agricultural holdings
    - for the determination of income
    - for business analysis of agricultural holdings
- About 80 000 returning holdings
- Representing almost 5 000 000 farms in 25 Member states



# Legislation in force

1. Council Regulation 79/65 (Basic regulation)
2. Commission Regulation 2237/77 (Definition of details of farm return)
3. Commission Regulation 1915/83  
(Deadlines for and payments of farm return)
4. Commission Regulation 1859/82 (Selection of holdings)
5. Commission Decision 85/377 (Farm typology)
6. Commission Decision 90/36 (Economic size unit)
7. Commission Regulation 37/99 (Standard fee).



# Basic regulation (79/65)

- Objectives, Art 1
- Definitions, Art 2
- FADN committees, Art 5, 17-22  
(National, Regional and Community Committees)
- Liaison agencies, Art 6,9
- Selection of returning holdings, Art 4
- Confidentiality, Art 15



# Regulations on Farm Return (2237/77, 1915/83)

## 2237/77 (amended by 1837/2001 and 2253/2004)

Detailed information of farm return (General information, type of occupation, livestock, costs, farm capital, debts, VAT, grants, subsidies and compensation payments, production, quotas and other rights)

## 1915/83 (amended by 113/2003)

- Contract between Liaison Agency and Accountancy Offices
- Deadlines for and payments of farm return



# FARM TYPOLOGY

**(85/377/EEC is amended by 2003/369/EC)**

- Allows a uniform classification of holdings in the Union.
- Is common to the FADN and to the Farm Structural Survey.
- Is based on two classification criteria:
  - **Type of farming**
  - **Economic size**



# Standard Gross Margin

- Defined for all crop and livestock items in each region of a Member State
- Determined by using average basic data calculated over a reference period of three years to even out fluctuations in production (e.g. due to bad weather) or prices
- Updated every two years, to take into account of changes in price levels and technical performance



# ECONOMIC SIZE OF A HOLDING

- Determined on the basis of the total standard gross margin of the holding
- Expressed in terms of European Size Units (ESU)

## EUROPEAN SIZE UNIT (ESU)

- The value of one ESU is defined as a fixed number of ECU of Farm Gross Margin
- Currently, one ESU is equivalent to 1200 ECU of Standard Gross Margin (Commission Decision 90/36)
- Over time the number of ECU per ESU may change to reflect inflation





# Type of farming

The type of farming of a holding is determined by the relative contribution of different enterprises to the total standard gross margin of the holding

- The Community farm typology identifies 17 principal types of farming
- Principal types of farming are further broken down into 50 particular types
- There are 32 subdivisions which concern some of these particular types



# **Selection of returning holdings (1859/82 amended by 1187/2005)**

- Threshold in ESU for returning holdings by Member State ( varies between 1-16 ESU)
- Number of returning holdings per region
- Selection plan
  - stratification
  - selection rates
  - selection procedure
  - breakdown of holdings in the field of survey according to Community typology
- Implementation report



# STRATIFICATION

- Used to define the sample of national farms which will be included in the annual survey (selection plan)
- Ensures that the selected sample of farms adequately the diversity of farming
- Three basic criteria:
  - economic size classes
  - type of farming
  - region



# Contacts and information



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## F. A. D. N.

The **Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN)** is an instrument for evaluating the income of agricultural holdings and the impacts of the Common Agricultural Policy.



The concept of the FADN was launched in 1965, when Council Regulation 79/65 established the legal basis for the organisation of the network. It consists of an annual survey carried out by the Member States of the European Union. The services responsible in the Union for the operation of the FADN collect every year accountancy data from a sample of the agricultural holdings in the European Union. Derived from national surveys, the FADN is the only source of micro-economic data that is harmonised, i.e. the bookkeeping principles are the same in all countries. Holdings are selected to take part in the survey on the basis of sampling plans established at the level of each region in the Union. The survey does not cover all the agricultural holdings in the Union but only those which due to their size could be considered commercial. The methodology applied aims to provide representative data along three dimensions: region, economic size and type of farming. While the European Commission is the primary user of analyses based on FADN-data, aggregated data can be found in the Standard Results database.

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