

Lepădatu, Claudia

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## Analysis of livestock holdings by size class in Romania during 2002 - 2010

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# ANALYSIS OF LIVESTOCK HOLDINGS BY SIZE CLASS IN ROMANIA DURING 2002-2010

LEPĂDATU CLAUDIA<sup>1</sup>

## **Abstract:**

*Romanian agriculture is heterogeneous in terms of operating structures and their dual nature is accentuated to the most EU Member States. Structures of exploitation in Romanian agriculture have some positive developments, but insufficient in adapting to the European agricultural model and to enhance the capitalization of national resources. Although there has been some progress still remains an excessive number of individual farms, small and very small performing as a few large and extra large units whose activity was not restructured to become compatible. The notion of size reflects the qualitative side of the production process of concentration and size of the quantitative side mirrors. Farm size refers to agricultural land used or the average farm. In this paper follow the evolution of livestock (no heads) in the farm size classes of utilized agricultural area. In the period 2002-2010, the operating structures in Romanian agriculture have been some developments, but insufficient in adapting to market demands for superior turning community resources that Romania has.*

**Keywords:** national resources, nonperforming, agricultural area, heterogeneous

## INTRODUCTION

Each category of farms has advantages and disadvantages, but in general you should prevail, medium-sized farms and very large and the small farms must be an exception. In practice must be kept in mind not only the economic but also the criterion of social and ecological abundance or scarcity, production, stocking, natural population, transitions. However, low production in agriculture survived over many centuries despite the changes. The tendency of growth of average size is naturally accompanied in another trend-that of reducing the total number of agricultural farms. The reduction is based on the disappearance in every year of an important number of small agricultural farms, economically unsustainable. The phenomenon of reduction the number of agricultural holdings and increase the average size of a farm meets with different intensity, in most countries of the world. In accordance with the structure of farms in the E.U. also Romania will be necessary as most of the livestock production, consumer market, designed to be operated in family farming. This type of farm may not appear and cannot develop on its own, but through a process spurred, supported and led. In Romania, the right direction can only be towards the organization of such size that the holdings to implement modern technologies and management. Socio-economic conditions in our country, raising livestock in terms of performance, competitiveness and profitability must be based on the family farm, were the farmer directly operates. General Agricultural Census 2002 indicates that coexist in our agriculture 2 types of farms: individual farms and farms mainly peasant.<sup>1</sup>

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

In Romania the small subsistence farms have proved to be very sturdy and survived, after 1990, over the structure of the old rural households. Structural changes should lead to the development of multi-purpose households, particularly through the development of organic production, the association for the marketing of products, such as industrial inputs. To reduce the numbers of subsistence farms and commercial training sector-sized holdings have not implemented adequate measures of structural policy, together with the reform of land property. From 2002 to

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<sup>1</sup> C.S. Claudia Lepădatu Intitutul de Cercetare pentru Economia Agriculturii și Dezvoltare Rurală  
[claudialepadatu2005@yahoo.com](mailto:claudialepadatu2005@yahoo.com)

2007, the total number of agricultural holdings decreased by only 447,57 thousand (about 90 thousand per year, and from 2005 to 2007 with 269,46 thousand, about 135 thousand per year). In Romania, the number of small family farms and very little remains high, and in the future due to the historical tradition of structures resulting from the application of the laws of the land unsuitable for this era.<sup>2</sup>

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the period 2002-2010, the structures of Agriculture of Romania had some unsatisfactory developments, but in the process of adapting to the requirements of the Community market and to make the top of the national resources that require an in-depth approach of reality. According to the provisional results of the General Census of Agriculture 2010, the number of agricultural holdings in Romania was 3.856 thousands. Reduction in the number of agricultural holdings was due mainly merging farms without legal personality.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 1 Evolution of agricultural holdings with livestock, on class size in the period 2002-2010 (number).**

The size of the used agricultural surface (ha)	2002				2010			
	cattle	sheep	swine	birds	cattle	sheep	swine	birds
under 1	540207	168572	1442916	1464815	176195	70083	757015	1406036
1-2	340604	139948	582643	694797	163359	50239	331615	508269
2-5	494445	239194	696951	787189	267406	91598	409035	559244
5-10	125445	74299	160747	176351	86277	38037	110476	139611
10-20	19951	12776	25719	27422	20949	11667	25850	30532
20-30	2700	1855	3702	3715	4205	3030	5494	6080
30-50	1682	1181	2451	2385	3231	2712	4338	4689
50-100	1318	1027	1902	1777	2370	2106	3221	3436
peste 100	1797	1159	2203	1601	2065	1794	2434	2490
<b>Total farms</b>	<b>1528149</b>	<b>640011</b>	<b>2919234</b>	<b>3160052</b>	<b>726057</b>	<b>271266</b>	<b>1649478</b>	<b>2660387</b>

Source: INS 2002-2010, RGA 2002-2010

**Table 2 Development of livestock in agricultural holdings by size classes, during the period 2002-2010 (heads)**

The size of the used agricultural surface (ha)	2002				2010			
	cattle	sheep	swine	birds	cattle	sheep	swine	birds
sub 1	627647	1594820	2934212	37774120	324907	1287289	1741386	38249027
1-2	594483	1093458	1364917	13166839	289930	703129	655778	9658043
2-5	1031598	2283751	2113602	18059995	606625	1731009	1095567	15058046
5-10	358481	1156288	813900	6502098	306093	1313854	407674	6285640
10-20	90552	432333	347705	4850267	138724	872837	187183	4046561
20-30	22321	126828	129470	157465	46660	418580	111798	249132
30-50	17919	109680	143934	158618	50279	543546	48580	726692
50-100	18053	137978	68898	196483	55557	602582	125992	831679
peste 100	109728	303268	343042	1541167	166402	912923	1013482	3761935
<b>Total result</b>	<b>2870782</b>	<b>7238404</b>	<b>8259680</b>	<b>82407052</b>	<b>1985177</b>	<b>8385749</b>	<b>5387440</b>	<b>78866755</b>

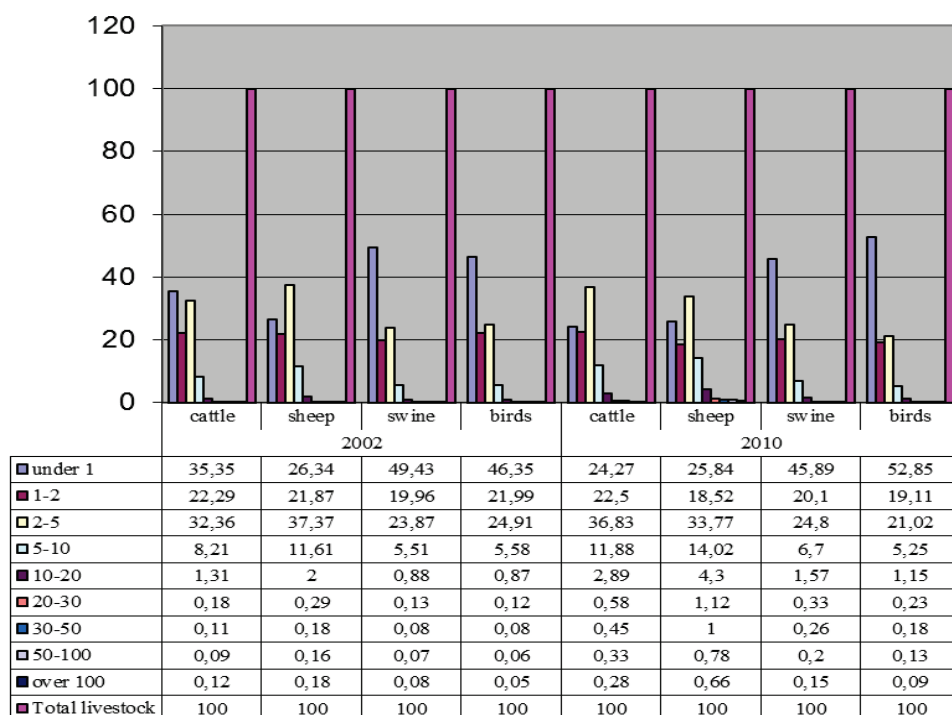
Source: INS 2002-2010, RGA 2002-2010

Evolution of agricultural holdings with livestock in the period 2002-2010 shows the following trends:

- analysis of the structure of the class size under 1 ha in 2010 to the birds was recorded a decrease of farms with livestock of 11,08% in cattle, hogs 3,54% compared to 2002, while the birds to registered an increase of 6.50% in 2010 compared to 2002;

- for classes of 1-2, 2-5 ha in 2010 has registered a growth of farms with livestock from cattle of 4.31% from 2002 and on other species increases in 2010 compared to 2002 have not been significant being between 2-3.5%.
- for agricultural enterprises with livestock with the class size ranging between 5-10 and 10-20 hectares in cattle has registered an increase of 3.67% in 2010 compared to 2002, 2.41% in sheep in 2010 compared to 2002;
- for class size ranging between 20-30, 30-50 hectares and over increases for agricultural enterprises with livestock were negligible in 2010 compared to 2002 which is between 0.07-0,87%.

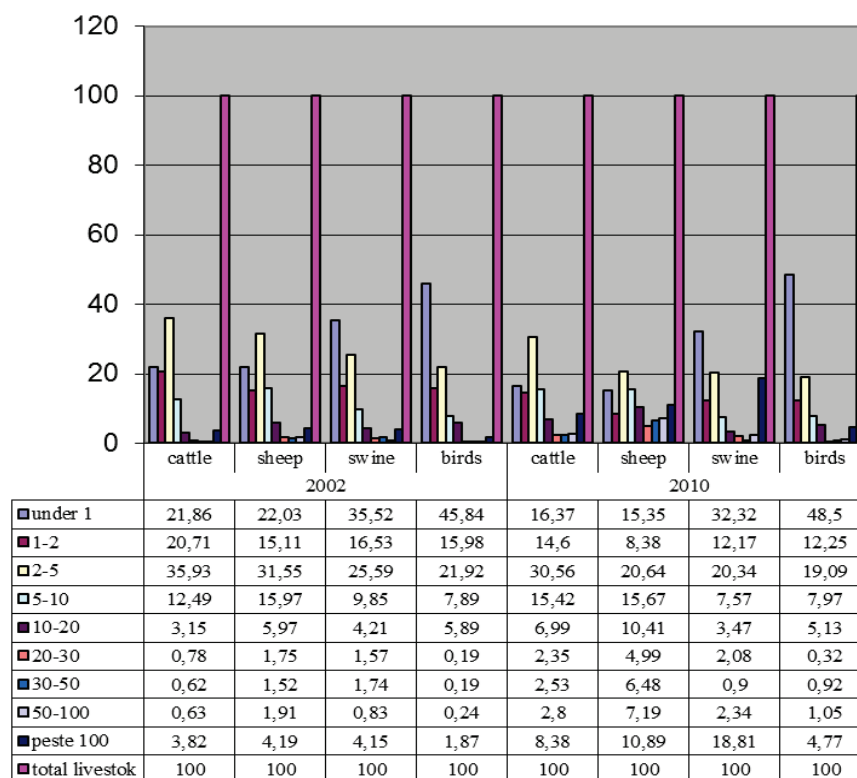
**Figure No. 1 the structure of agricultural holdings with livestock from 2002-2010**



Livestock development in the period 2002-2010 shows the following trends:

- the share of livestock in class > 1 ha recorded a trend descending to the level of species: cattle animals (5%), sheep (7%), swine (3%) and a slight increase in bird species (3%) in 2010, compared with 2002;
- the share of livestock in the classes of size 1 to 2, 2 to 5 ha had also held to a trend in the species-cattle (6%), sheep (6%), swine (4%), poultry (2%);
- weights of classes of size 5-10, 10-20 hectares were registered in cattle (an increase of 2%-3%) in 2010, compared with 2002 in sheep (4%) in 2010 compared to 2002 and at the swine and bird species were recorded in 2010 towards decreasing of 2002 approximately 0,80%;
- for class size ranging between 20-30 hectares and over livestock share recorded a slight growth in 2010 compared with 2002 almost all animal species mentioned in table 2;
- for the amount of over 100 hectares, the weights have increased significantly (4,5%) in cattle, sheep (6.7%), swine (14.6%), poultry (2,90%).

**Figure No. 2 structure of the livestock farms in the period 2002-2010**



## CONCLUSIONS

Livestock, very important domain of agriculture will have to become a huge national housing wealth. To this end, strategic, sustained financial imperative should ensure not only the increase in the number of livestock, but more importantly, productivity per animal, the quality of production and economic efficiency, implementation and use of animal products.

To do this, it must be implement the process of genetic improvement of livestock, modern biotechnology is used for breeding, to introduce a new concept of animal nutrition in accordance with physiological requirements of each category.

The main directions of restructuring of large companies specializing in agriculture can be connected with: diversification of economic activities, the development of cattle breeding farms, cooperation with small and medium enterprises sector, the structural adjustment of production to market requirements.

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