

**CZECH UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES PRAGUE
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT**



Czech University Of Life Sciences Prague

**Faculty of Economics
and Management**

AGRARIAN PERSPECTIVES XXIX.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES OF AGRARIAN SECTOR

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TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE BOVINE MEAT AND DAIRY SECTORS IN WALLONIA

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Annotation: The paper shows the great importance and the evolution of the cattle breeding sector in Wallonia, which seems to decline (number of heads and number of cattle breeders) and is faced to economic problems. In addition, the challenges for the future are identified: population growth, changes in consumption patterns, new societal expectations, new structures of the food chain, emergence of different types of crises, and the Common Agricultural Policy for the period 2021-2027. To be more resilient in the future, the cattle breeding farm should be more diversified and autonomous, relying on the forage produced on farm and having more direct links with the consumers/citizens. This paper presents the results of the first step of a foresight research project dealing with the possible futures of cattle breeding in Wallonia. In the following steps, it will define contrasted scenarios for the year 2040.

Key words: Cattle breeding, milk, bovine meat, foresight study, Wallonia

JEL classification: Q18

1. Introduction

Dairy production and cattle breeding are very important in Walloon agriculture: in 2018, the production of milk and dairy products and the production of bovine meat represented as much as 44.7 % of the total value of agricultural production. However, the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) deeply transformed the bovine sector during the last decades. Today and tomorrow, it must face many challenges. As a consequence, the features of the future milk and bovine meat sectors in Wallonia are unclear and uncertain. So, the objectives of the paper are to describe and analyse the evolution of the bovine productions economy in Wallonia, to try to explain the most important changes, and to identify and discuss the challenges which will determine its future.

2. Materials and Methods

The analysis is firstly based on the available statistical data, dealing with the Walloon agriculture and the cattle in particular, coming from the annual agricultural general census, from the federal Ministry of Economics, the Direction for Agricultural Economics Analysis (DAEA) of the Ministry of the Walloon Region, and the Farm Accounting Data Network (FADN).

Secondly, a literature review is made concerning the future of agriculture and cattle breeding in Wallonia. Due to the problems observed in this field during the last years and to the market and policy uncertainty, such studies are more numerous today.

Thirdly, the main challenges to which agriculture and cattle breeding are faced are identified through a literature review.