

THE EFFECT OF THE COMMUNITY AND BUDGET SUPPORT FOR CATTLE BREEDERS IN BIHOR, IN THE PERIOD 2007-2017

Pavel Florian*

*University of Oradea, Faculty of Environmental Protection, 26 Gen. Magheru St., 410048, Oradea, Romania, e-mail: pavel21@yahoo.com

Abstract

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the main driver of a transition to more sustainable agriculture, with the possibility for development of the most integrated single market.

Thanks to the CAP, the EU's agricultural sector can meet citizens' requirements in terms of food safety, safety, quality and sustainability.

Between 2007 and 2017, the tendency to decrease cattle herds in Bihor County was more pronounced in small farms, peasant households and family farms, and we found that there are some villages where there are almost no cows and the few commercial farms emerged in recent years have failed to compensate for this fall.

In the period 2007-2017 cattle breeders in Bihor County benefited from 67566941 Euro through 5 payment schemes carried out through APIA Bihor and 14467470 Euro from the implementation of a number of 307 projects carried out through OFIR BIHOR, in total 82034381 Euro, community effort and budget that was to be found in the number and performance of cattle farms.

The Community and budget support granted to cattle breeders during 2007-2017 did not have the expected effect, because the support forms and their amount did not have the role of stimulating the establishment of new zootechnical farms capable of performance, quality and profit, but rather has helped maintain semi-subsistence holdings.

The continuous development of the absorption capacity of the community funds is indispensable for the development of the Romanian animal husbandry in the context of the use of the new financial exercise 2021-2027 which is intended to be a determinant for the full integration of the Romanian animal husbandry into the Common Agricultural Market.

Key words: Animal husbandry, cattle breeders, Bihor, buffalo, APIA, milk production

INTRODUCTION

The current and potential breeders of Bihor County are forced to integrate into a Common Agricultural Market based on productive performance, quality and profit, the exploitation system being a major concern and an indispensable factor for the exploitation of cattle in general and of dairy cows, in particular, under conditions of maximum economic efficiency.

The financial opportunities created through the European funds for agriculture and the benefits of the access by the Bihor farmers, along with

those allocated from the state budget, represent one of the important ways of sustainable development of the rural environment and of the modernization of the zootechnics in general, and of the sector of cattle breeding and exploitation in particular.

We need to think about what we are doing in the future because worldwide at every six seconds a child dies from hunger, 1.28 billion people suffer from inanition, and a demographic explosion can lead us in 2050 to a population of 9.3 billion souls, so the science of the future will be that which will feed mankind!

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The general information that led to the elaboration of the scientific paper was taken from the literature, according to the bibliography presented, and those concerning the evolution of cattle herds, the way of capitalizing on animal products, the forms of support granted to cattle breeders, their amount and the conditions of access, came from the records of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), The Paying and Intervention Agency for Agriculture (APIA), The Agency for Rural Investment Financing (AFIR), National Agency for Animal Husbandry (ANZ), and National Institute of Statistics (INS).

As an informational source I also used the following websites: MADR, APIA, AFIR, ANZ, INS, those of agricultural publications and, last but not least, the Operational Technical Reports provided by the Bihor Agriculture Directorate.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the period 2007-2017, the total number of cattle decreased by 20546 heads (22%), buffaloes total with 4126 heads (74%), and the herd of dairy cows fell by 18155 heads (33%), respectively buffaloes cows with 1824 heads (41%) (Table 1).

Table 1

The evolution of cattle effective in period 2007-2017

Specification	2007 heads	2017 heads	2007/2017	
			+/-	%
Cattle total	93240	72694	- 20546	- 22
Cows	53776	35621	- 18155	- 33
Bovine animals for fattening	22453	26697	+ 4244	+ 19
From which: Youth fattening	9205	10929	+ 1724	+19
Buffaloes total	5578	1452	- 4126	- 74
Buffalo cows	3109	1285	- 1824	- 41

The dimensional structure of dairy farms and of youth fattening at 31.12.2017

Structura dimensionala a exploatareilor de vaci de lapte si a tineretului la ingrasat la data de 31.12.2017 confirm the excessive dispersion of herds in semi-subsistence farms (Table 2 and 3).

Table 2

Dimensional structure of dairy cows holdings on 31.12.2017

Specification	Total Heads	1 – 5 Heads	6 – 10 Heads	11 – 20 Heads	21 – 50 Heads	51 – 100 Heads	>100 heads
Farms	13431	11466	1328	379	195	40	23
Heads	35621	14907	9586	6484	5875	2797	2456
Dimension	2,6	1,3	7,2	17,1	30,1	69,9	106,7

On December 31, 2017 a number of 13431 dairy farms owned 35621 heads (2,6 heads /farm), from which: 23 holdings with 2456 heads (106.7 heads /holding), 40 holdings with 2797 heads (69.9 heads /holding), 195 farms with 5875 heads (30.1 heads /holding), 379 holdings with 6484 heads (17.1 heads / holding), 1328 holdings with 9586 heads (7.2 heads /holding) and 11466 holdings with 14907 heads (85% of holdings with 2.6 heads /holding).

Table 3

Dimensional Structure of youth fattening holdings on 31.12.2017

Specification	Total	1 - 5 heads	6 - 10 heads	11 - 20 heads	21 - 50 heads	51 -100 heads	>100 heads
Farms	6103	5937	151	9	3	2	1
Heads	10929	8312	1132	155	110	105	1115
Dimension	1,8	1,4	7,5	17,2	36,6	52,5	1115

At the end of 2017, in Bihor county there were 6103 holdings of young fattened with 10929 heads (1,8 heads /farm) of which: a single operator specialized in breeding and intensive fattening cattle with 1115 heads, 2 holdings with 105 heads (52.5 heads /holding), 3 holdings with 110 heads (36.6 heads /holding), 9 holdings with 155 heads (17.2 heads /holding), 151 holdings with 1132 heads (7.5 heads /holding) and 5937 holdings with 8312 heads (97% of holdings with 1.4 heads /holding).

The way in which cows' milk was obtained and used during the period 2007-2017 shows a lack of concern for a product indispensable to human consumption (Table 4).

Table 4

Capitalization of cow milk production during the period 2007-2017

Specifications	2007		2017		2017/2007
	hl	%	hl	%	+/-
TOTAL	1299278	100	1377972	100	+ 78694 (6%)
Family consumption	398504	31	376451	27	- 22053 (5%)
Direct sales on the market	706966	54	752903	55	+ 45937 (6%)
Processing	193808	15	248618	18	+ 54810 (3%)

Capitalization of cow milk production during the period 2007-2017 highlights the dramatic decrease in milk production (-78694 hl, 6%), which denotes an exaggerated dispersion of cattle herds in semi-subsistence farms, lack of efficient collection and processing of milk production in Bihor county, so 27-31% of the milk obtained is for family consumption, 54-55% direct sales on the market and only 15-18% is processed in specialized units.

Cattle meat did also not receive any special attention during 2007-2017, as evidence that total meat production decreased during the analyzed period by 1641 tons (52%), and the method of meat utilization shows that 36-39% represents family consumption, 51-55% direct sales on the market and only 6-13% processed in specialized units (table 5).

Table 5

The use of cattle meat production during the period 2007-2017

Specification	2007			2017			2017/2007
	Heads	tone	%	Heads	tone	%	+/-
TOTAL	8299	3166	100	4412	1525	100	- 1641 (52%)
Family consumption	3386	1186	39	1835	551	36	- 635 (53%)
Direct sales	4416	1767	55	2100	778	51	- 989 (55%)
Processing	497	213	6	477	196	13	- 17 (6%)

The causes of cattle decline during 2007-2017 were as follows: - the price of food products; - unfair competition of falsified foodstuffs; - incomplete legislation, non-harmonized with EU legislation; - lack of a long-term national unified strategy; - discrimination of livestock farmers when granting subsidies; - low concern for authorities in promoting Romanian products; - consulting farmers on decision-making; - decision makers' lack of interest; - poor performance of livestock; - the impossibility of farmers to control the market; - lack of organization of farmers.

Through the Payment and Intervention Agency for Agriculture (APIA) the cattle breeders in Bihor County had the possibility to access 5 payment schemes in 2007-2017.

The value of community and budget support carried out through APIA BIHOR County Center during 2007-2017:

- National Direct Payments (PNCD) = 173645056,00 lei

- National Transit Help (ANT) - milk = 18454991,48 lei
- National Transit Aid - National Transit Assistance (ANT) - cattle = 59026109,04 lei
- Specific aid to milk and beef producers = 21672100,64 lei
- Support Coupled Livestock (SCZ) = 37962374,73 lei

Total APIA BIHOR = 310760631,89 lei (4,5993 lei/euro) = 67566941 euro

The amount of community support carried out through the County Office for Rural Investment Financing (OFIR) BIHOR during 2007-2017:

- Installation of young farmers = 193 implemented projects = 7345000 euro
- Investments in agricultural holdings = 8 implemented projects = 5035988 euro
- Support for investments in the processing / marketing and / or development of agricultural products = 1 implemented project = 533982 euro
- Support for small and semi-subsistence farms = 105 implemented projects = 1552500 euro

Total OFIR BIHOR = 307 implemented projects = 14467470 euro

Considering that financial support for cattle breeders can not have immediate effects, to draw accurate and well-founded technical conclusions, I analyzed comparatively the evolution of cattle, milk and meat production during 2014-2017 (Tables 6, 7, 8 and 9).

Table 6

Evolution of cattle herds during the period 2014-2017

Specification	2014 Heads	2017 Heads	2014/2017	
			+/-	%
Cattle total	75157	72694	-2463	- 3%
Cows	36366	35621	-745	- 2%
Heifers	2362	2151	-211	- 9%
Male for breeding	144	96	-48	- 33%
Female for breeding	9179	8129	-1050	- 11%
Cattle for fattening	27106	26697	-409	- 1,5%
From which: youth fathening	11830	10929	-901	- 7,5
Buffaloes total	2425	1452	-973	- 40%
Buffalo cows	1570	1285	-285	- 18%

Table 7

Capitalization of cow milk production during the period 2014-2017

Specification	2014		2017		2017/2014
	hl	%	hl	%	+/-
TOTAL	1245240	100	1377972	100	+ 132732 (10%)
Family consumption	507083	41	376451	27	- 130632 (3%)
Direct market sales	603363	48	752903	55	+ 149540 (3%)
Processing	134794	11	248618	18	+ 113824 (84%)

Table 8

Capitalization of buffalo cow milk production period 2014-2017

Specification	2014		2017		2017/2014
	hl	%	hl	%	+/-
TOTAL	7043	100	9343	100	+ 2300 (2%)
Family consumption	3521	50	4788	51	+ 1267 (2%)
Direct market sales	3522	50	4555	49	+ 1033 (2%)
Processing	-	-	-	-	-

Table 9

Capitalization of meat production during the period 2014-2017

Specification	2014			2017			2017/2014
	Heads	tone	%	Heads	tone	%	+/-
TOTAL	4332	1478	100	4412	1525	100	+ 47(3%)
Family consumption	1821	546	36	1835	551	36	+ 5 (1%)
Direct market sales	2055	750	51	2100	778	51	+ 28 (4%)
Processing	456	182	13	477	196	13	+ 14 (7%)

2014-2017 are the first 4 years of the 2014-2020 Community exercise, the period during which the level of the Community and budget amounts related to the schemes and payment measures benefited by the cattle breeders in Bihor county increased compared to the first exercise 2007-2013.

Between 2014 and 2017, the decline in total cattle herds declined significantly (-3%, 2463 heads), i and cattle for fattening decreased by only 1.5%, respectively 409 heads. Instead, there is a significant drop in buffalo (-40%, -973 heads), which requires, as a necessity, to pay special attention and support to avoid their disappearance.

Total cow milk production increased by 10%, the quantity of milk intended for processing by 84% and by 3% the value of the milk used directly on the market, and total meat production increases by 3% and processed by 7%.

Although buffalo herds are continuously decreasing, a good thing is that the production of buffalo cow milk increases by 2%, with the same percentage the production exploited directly on the market, Bihor county still does not process buffalo milk in specialized units.

CONCLUSIONS

Holdings whose average size is 2.6 cows and 1.8 grown youngsters can not guarantee performance, quality and profit for growers, which is why it is necessary, as a necessity, to support the family farms able to integrate into the Common Agricultural Market

The Community and budget support to cattle breeders in 2007-2017 did not show the expected effect, because the forms of support and their amount did not have a role to stimulate the establishment of new zootechnical farms capable of performance, quality and profit, but rather contributed to keeping semi-subsistence holdings active

The effect of the community and budget support granted to the cattle breeders in Bihor during 2014-2017 was below the expectations, but the tendency to stabilize herds, to increase milk and meat production is perceptible

In the context of improving the payment schemes / measures and their amounts in the future Community exercise 2021-2027, cattle are able to grow in number and quality, especially for meat production.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We are currently at a crossroads, in a big stalemate, because, we have the choice for the Romanian animal breeding to be integrated into the European Union, namely: industrial production or organic production.

The only system that will lead to the harmonization of man with nature in terms of animal production is rational animal husbandry, with the two essential elements: zootechnical production and ecological balance, are always respected and controlled by specialists.

Mărimea exploatațiilor adaptată optim specificului fiecărei țări și în deplină concordanță cu cerințele de lapte și carne de pe piață, constituie un element indispensabil în procesul de creștere și exploatare a bovinelor.

For the future, ensuring animal welfare, compliance with biosecurity conditions and code of good practice in processing animal livestock production, together with the protection of the environment and the ecological balance, are essential elements for modern animal husbandry.

In the next financial year 2021-2027, it is necessary, as a necessity, giving major priority to conservation activities and measures, establishment,

consolidation and development of private zootechnical holdings of a size that ensures the possibilities of obtaining productive performances in terms of quality and profit.

The production of milk and beef is a matter of great responsibility, which have become professions among professions that are practiced in agriculture, a farm producing milk or meat is accepted only if the products meet the hygienic quality parameters.

Welfare of animals, biosecurity measures and codes of good practice in processing animal livestock production are essential elements for the European future of the Romanian animal breeding.

Efficient and pragmatic exploitation of pastoral heritage represents, above all, a moral obligation corroborated with a vital necessity for the future of animal husbandry and the Romanian rural space.

In 2014-2020, it is necessary as a necessity, sustaining rural development, where the family farm can be a necessary and useful strategy

Creating link bridges between livestock farmers and processors through professional associations on the product, of producer groups in conjunction with the real support of private co-operation, as an essential element for taking over, processing and capitalization of animal production.

REFERENCES

1. Pavel F. (2007) – Pinzgau de Transilvania in Romania. Editura Universitatii din Oradea.
2. Pavel F. (2011) – Cresterea bubalinelor. Editura Universitatii din Oradea.
3. Pavel F. (2013) – Cresterea bovinelor. Editura Universitatii din Oradea.
4. *** (2017) – Comunicare a Comisiei catre Parlamentul European, Consiliu, Comitetul economic si social european si Comitetul regiunilor – Viitorul sectorului alimentar si al agriculturii, Bruxelles, 29.11.2017, COM (2017) 713 final.
5. *** (2018) – Proiect de raport referitor la viitorul sectorului alimentar si al agriculturii (2018/0000(INI), Comisia pentru agricultura si dezvoltare rurala, Bruxelles, 12.03.2018.
6. *** (2007-2017) – Rapoarte tehnice operative – Directia pentru Agricultura Bihor.
7. *** (2007-2017) – Rapoarte tehnice operative – Oficiul pentru Zootehnie Bihor.