

# Whether and why in Serbia the number of cattle is decreasing ?

Serbia is an agricultural country with fertile soil and an ideal climate for livestock development. Despite this, livestock breeding, mostly cattle production, in Serbia is in constant decline (chart 1 and chart 2).

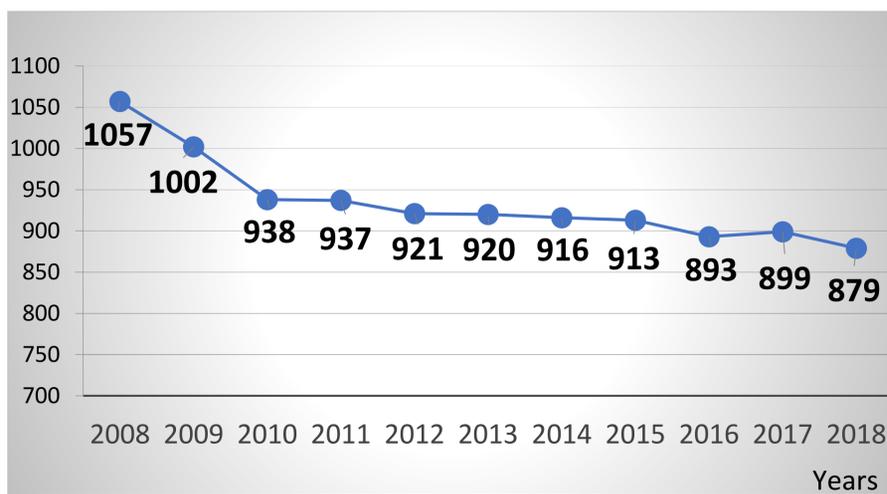
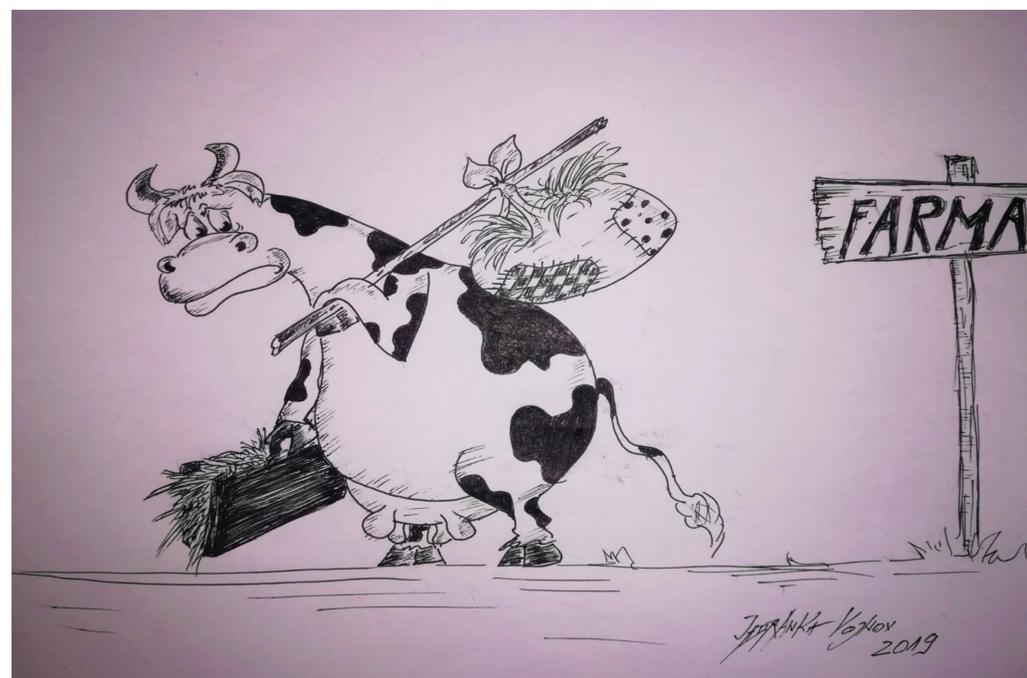


Chart 1. Number of cattle, in thousands, in Serbia from 2008 to 2018.

Objective: To prove, on the basis of statistical data, that the number of cattle in Serbia is decreasing and to find the reason why.

Hypothesis: We assume that the main reason for the decrease in the number of cattle is the trend of merging of agricultural plots, and the fact that cattle breeding is less cost effective than grain production.

Method: Statistical data for this survey were taken from the annual bulletin from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia from 2008 to 2018. Based on the relevant statistical data, charts were created.



Jadranka Vojnov has drawn this caricature for the purpose of this poster.

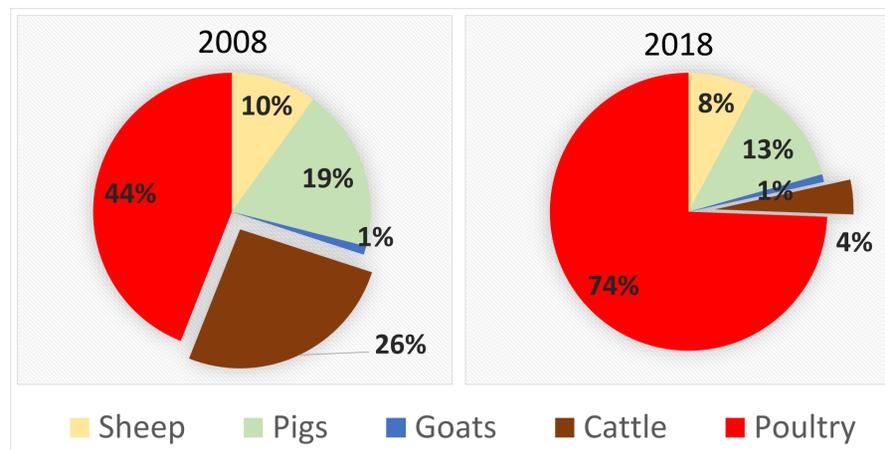


Chart 2: Percentage representation of animal species in Serbia's livestock production.

Discussion: According to the statistical data, the number of cattle in Serbia is decreasing from year to year. From chart 3 we can see that the increase of the holding in hectares reduces the share of entire cattle production.

Conclusion: In Serbia, during the last decade, there is a trend of the consolidation of agricultural land. Farmers who were carriers of livestock (with plots smaller than 20 ha) are slowly disappearing and with them also cattle breeding. In the recent years, the average price of grain is annually increasing while for the same period milk price almost stagnates (chart 4). Therefore, farmers with larger plots are focused on grain production which is more profitable and less demanding than cattle breeding.

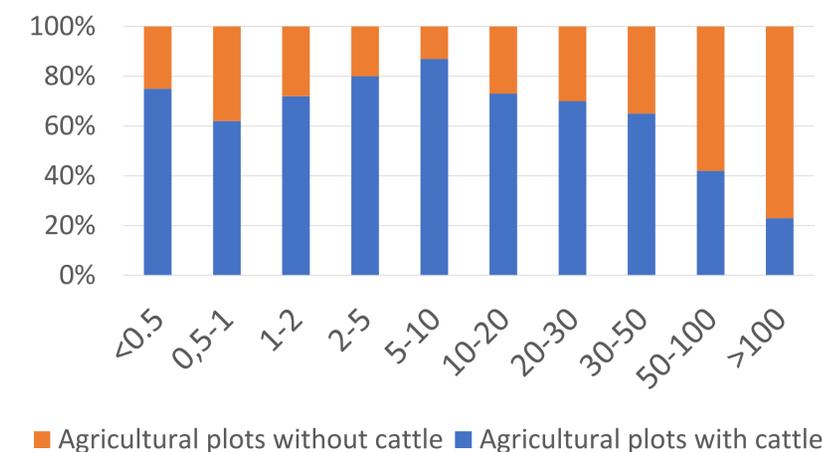


Chart 3. Share of agricultural plots with cattle production according to the size of agricultural plot use (ha)

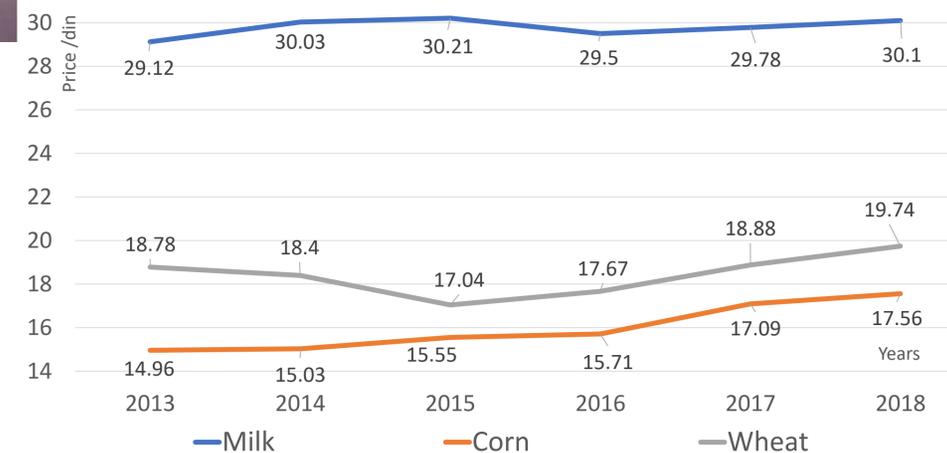


Chart 4. The annual change in the price of milk, corn and wheat.