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THE STATE IN THE SECTOR OF MILK PRODUCTION IN EUROPEAN UNION AND IN OUR COUNTRY

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Abstract: The paper gives an analysis of the state in milk production from the aspect of total produced quantities of milk and total purchased quantites of milk by the diaries in EU. The number of farms engaged in cattle production has been analysed, along with the farms engaged in milk production. Trend in development of cattle breeding in EU is going in the direction of decreasing the number of farms raising the breeding stocks of dairy cows and to the simultaneous increase in the number of cows per farm for milk production with constant increase of the quantity of milk produced per cow. In 2008 the number of cows per farm in EU27 was on average 9.8 cows, in EU25 on average 16.6 cows, with great variation among member countries observed. Average milk yield in total cow population in 2008 in EU15 was 6646 kg, in EU25: 6357 kg and in EU27: 6133kg. In Serbia the average milk yield in registered cows of Simmental breed is about 4500 kg, and in Holstein Friesian breed around 8700 kg. It is important to emphasize that in Serbia there is a far less number of cows under controlled milk yield (around 5.5% Simmental cows in total number), and that there is a decline observed in the number of cattle in Serbia in the last decade per average rate of 2-3 % annualy.

Key words: farms, cattle, milk yield, milk production.

Introduction

Cattle breeding, as a leading branch in livestock production, participate with between 60 and 70% in total livestock production in more developed European countries, while in Serbia this participation is below 50% (some estimations state 40-45 %). A trend in the development of cattle breeding in EU goes in the direction of decreasing the number of farms raising the breeding stocks of dairy cows and simultaneous increase in the number of cows per farms engaged in milk production with constant increase in the quantity of milk produced per cow. In Serbia, according to the Inventory from 2002, 97.61% farms had 1 to 5 cows and they owned 87% heads in a total number of cows in Serbia. In the last 10

years number of farms engaged in raising cattle has declined, likewise the number of cattle heads (per annual rate of 2 to 3 %). In 2008 number of cows per farm in EU27 was on average 9.8 cows, in EU25 on average 16.6 cows, with great variations between member countries. Average milk yield in total cow population in 2008 (Eurostat and Agriculture and Rural Development DG-C.4, 2009) in EU15 was 6646 kg, in EU25: 6357kg and EU27: 6133kg. Average milk yield in registered Simmental cows in Serbia was 4500 kg, and in Holstein Friesian breed around 8700 kg. It is important to state that in Serbia there is a far less cows under a controlled milk yield (around 5.5% Simmental breed), while for example, in Germany about 19% animals of Simmental breed are under milk yield control, in Slovenia about 15 %, Austria about 15% and Hungary about 11%.

Milk production – milk production balance

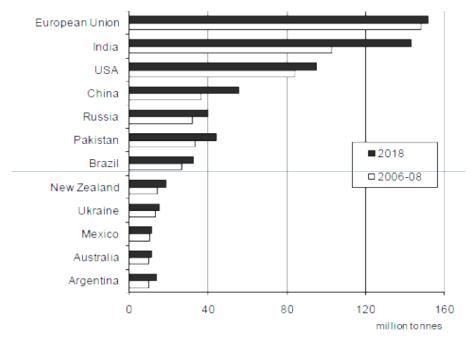
An overall world milk production includes five milk types such as follows: cow, buffalo, goat, sheep and camel milk. The average yield in total world production, as per FAO data in the last five years is as follows: 83.89% cow, 12.22% buffalo, 2.23% goat, 1.43% sheep and 0.23% camel milk.

Throughout the world, according to FAO, an overall milk production in recent years ranges from 650 and 700 million tonnes with average annual growth rate of 1.85%. The records for the countries the greatest milk producers in the period from 2005-2008 are shown in Table 1. The production of milk in Serbia has been compared with overall world milk production and described as more than modest one since in 2008 it participated with 0.25% in total world milk production. The countries of Oceania produce 35% of dairy processed products for trade on international market (Table 2).

Table 1. Milk production in countries with highest world milk production in the period 2005-2008 (in million tonnes)

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	Udeo u 2008.
India	95,6	100,0	102,9	106,0	15,29 %
SAD	80,3	82,5	84,2	86,5	12,48 %
China	32,0	37,5	41,1	44,5	6,42 %
Russia	31,1	31,4	32,2	32,8	4,73 %
Pakistan	29,4	31,2	32,5	33,8	4,88 %
Germany	28,5	28,0	27,9	28,1	4,05 %
France	25,7	25,0	24,5	24,7	3,56 %
Serbia	1,8	1,7	1,7	1,7	0,25 %
World total	645,0	664,1	676,3	693,2	100,00 %

Source: http://faostat.fao.org



Graph 1. Rise in milk production from 2006/08 to 2018

Source: OECD/FAO, 2009

Table 2. The most important importers and exporters of milk in period 2005-2008 (in million tonnes)

	Net import					Net export			
Country	2005	2006	2007	2008		2005	2006	2007	2008
Russia	1,9	2,6	2,9	3,1	New Zealand	10,6	11,6	11,2	9,8
Mexico	2,8	1,8	1,9	2,1	EU	11,6	7,7	7,0	6,9
China	2,9	1,8	1,5	1,4	Australia	4,3	3,8	3,0	2,8
Algeria	1,9	1,5	1,5	1,4	Belorus	1,6	1,6	1,6	1,8
Saudi Arabia	1,4	1,3	1,0	0,7	Argentina	1,7	2,1	1,1	1,2
Egypt	0,7	1,5	1,5	1,4	SAD	2,3	1,0	1,2	1,4
World total	42,7	39,3	37,8	36,5	World total	42,8	39,4	38,0	36,4

Source: http:// faostat.fao.org

An overall milk production in the member countries of the European Union is shown in Table 3. It can be observed that in the studied period the production was on an approximately equalised level, certainly due to the planning of production and respecting the permitted production quotas. Out of annual milk

production the dairies in EU purchase over 90 % milk (Table 3), while in Serbia the dairies purchase 50 % of produced milk quantities.

Table 3. Milk quantities purchased by diaries, as % in total quantity of milk produced

	2005		2006		2007		2008	
Country	000 t milk	% in total quantity						
EU 27	148 905	89,7	148 082	89,6	147 079	89,8	148 718	90,3
Belgium	3082	93,1	2917	97,3	2943	97,8	3098	92,0
Bulgaria	1287	62,4	1299	64,6	1148	64,9	1143	62,9
Czech Rep.	2813	90,4	2767	86,5	2839	86,1	2801	86,8
Denmark	4587	97,1	4627	97,1	4619	97,1	4656	98,4
Germany	28453	96,2	27995	96,0	28403	96,2	28656	95,8
Estonia	670	85,3	692	87,6	692	85,8	702	86,3
Ireland	5100	99,2	5272	99,3	5268	99,5	5199	98,2
Greece	761	86,7	764	87,7	774	92,5	760	90,8
Spain	6561	89,9	6378	91,3	6335	90,4	6500	89,8
France	24675	94,8	24367	94,0	23426	98,1	24516	97,2
Italy	10975	93,1	10989	92,8	11062	92,8	10962	95,8
Cyprus	147	98,6	149	93,5	144	100,0	152	100,0
Latvia	807	62,2	812	72,9	838	75,2	844	75,1
Lithuania	1854	64,8	1885	68,8	1931	69,8	1879	70,4
Luxembourg	270	96,3	268	95,1	274	94,6	278	95,3
Hungary	1929	78,7	1844	78,5	1842	78,6	1813	78,6
Malta	41	100,0	41	100,0	41	100,0	40	100,0
Netherlands	10845	96,6	10995	96,9	11128	97,0	11620	97,2
Austria	3114	84,2	3147	85,0	3155	84,4	3196	85,0
Poland	11923	74,0	11982	73,7	12096	72,3	12425	71,6
Portugal	2061	93,2	1984	93,3	1969	93,3	1890	99,8
Romania	4977	22,3	5285	21,4	4997	22,7	4854	21,6
Slovenia	659	77,1	642	79,6	666	79,6	659	79,5
Slovakia	1100	88,0	1092	88,1	1075	89,7	1057	89,5
Finland	2433	97,1	2413	97,3	2356	97,3	2311	97,8
Sweden	3206	98,7	3130	100,0	2986	100,0	2987	100,0
UK	14574	96,3	14348	97,0	14073	97,0	13719	97,3
EU 25	142 641	92,3	141 498	92,3	140 934	92,9	142 721	92,9
EU 15	120 698	95,1	119 594	95,2	118 770	96,1	120 439	96,1

Source: Eurostat and Agriculture and Rural Development DG-C.4, 2009

The size of farms for milk production in EU countries

An average number of cattle on farms in EU 27 in 2007 was 26.9 heads of all categories of cattle wherein 9.8 were cows. There are great variations among the countries shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Number of cattle and dairy cows on farm and changes in number of farms and number of dairy cows

Country	Number of cattle per farm (2007)	Number of dairy cows per farm (2007)	Number of farms (% 2007/2005)	Number of dairy cows (% 2007/2005)
Belgium	93,1	39,3	-6,5	-2,4
Bulgaria	4,5	2,9	-11,7	-1,0
Czech Rep.	101,6	74,1	-9,4	-2,8
Denmark	100,3	101,4	-10,4	-1,7
Germany	74,7	40,3	-4,4	-1,9
Estonia	34,1	17,7	-20,8	-3,3
Ireland	88,0	49,6	-5,5	-1,1
Greece	62,6	19,6	-9,9	-3,2
Spain	34,0	26,1	-6,4	-1,4
France	46,3	41,0	-5,5	-0,9
Italy	43,3	30,1	1,0	0,8
Cyprus	201,5	94,4	0,0	-3,4
Latvia	8,4	4,2	- 7,6	2,8
Lithuania	5,9	3,2	-16,3	-10,7
Luxembourg	129,7	36,7	6	1
Hungary	35,5	21,8	-14,5	-3,9
Malta	82,2	42,5	2,7	5,3
Netherlands	106,7	59,9	2,0	1,2
Austria	25,7	10,5	-4,9	-1,3
Poland	8,2	4,3	-5,5	-1,5
Portugal	25,4	20,2	-8,1	-2,6
Romania	2,6	1,6	-5,7	-2,2
Slovenia	11,6	6,5	-7,7	-4,3
Slovakia	32,5	15,4	-7,7	-4,3
Finland	49,8	20,6	-8,2	-3,7
Sweden	65,3	52,1	-9,3	-3,1
UK	105,2	69,4	3,0	-2,8
EU 25	40,4	16,6	- 6,3	-1,5
EU 27	26,9	9,8	- 6,3	-1,6

Source: Eurostat and Agriculture and Rural Development DG-C.4, 2009

Thus in Germany, for example, there were 40.3 cows per farm, in Slovenia 6.5 cows per farm for milk production and 11.6 cattle per farm for cattle breeding. A trend in development of cattle breeding in EU is directed towards declining in the number of farms that raise breeding stocks of dairy cows and simultaneous

increase in the number of cows per farm with constant rise of the quantity of milk produced per cow. As a consequence of such events it can happen that the % of decline of number of farms be greater than the % of decline of number of milking cows (because of the increased number of cows per farm), and that an overall milk production is maintained on approximately the same level and with decreased number of cows since the production of milk per cow is being increased further on.

When we analyse the participation of farms according to their size (number of cattle heads per farm) it can be observed that the greatest participation is of the medium farms with 30 to 49 (11.9%) cattle heads and of those with 50 to 99 heads (18.6%), as well as of large farms with more than 100 heads of cattle participating with 34.3% in total number of cattle farms which raise 58% of total number of cattle (Table 5). The participation of farms for milk production in total number of farms for milk production is greatest for small farms owning 1 to 2 cows (67.5%) and farms with 3 to 9 cows (13.7 %). The situation in cattle breeding in the countries which have lately become the members of EU (in Bulgaria the average number of cows per farm is 2.9, and in Romania 1.6) certainly contributed to such a great participation of petty farms in total number of farms for milk production. As a consequence thereof an average size of farms observed per number of cows on the farm which produce milk differs significantly between EU 25 (16.6 cows per farm) and EU 27 (9.8 cows per farm). However, if we observe the participation of the number of cows on large, medium and small farms in total number of cows for milk production, it can be seen that in the groups of farms with 30 and more cows, which make total of 9.4% in total number of farms, they raise 68 % of total number of cows in EU 27 (Table 5).

Table 5. Number of dairy cows per groups of farms and participation of group of farms in total number (%) in EU 27

Size of farm	Cattle heads	Cattle farms	Cows	Farms for milk production
1-2 heads	2,2%	5,1%	8,7%	67,5%
3-9 heads	4,5 %	11,1%	6,7 %	13,7 %
10-19 heads	4,3%	10,7%	8,3%	5,9 %
20-29 heads	4,3%	8,3%	8,3%	3,4%
30-49 heads	8,0%	11,9%	17,0%	4,4 %
50-99 heads	18,7%	18,6%	25,6%	3,7%
≥ 100 heads	58,0%	34,3%	25,4%	1,3%
Total	100 %	100%	100 %	100%

Source: Eurostat and Agriculture and Rural Development DG-C.4, 2009

In Serbia, according to the Inventory from 2002, the 97.61% farms had 1 to 5 cows and they owned 87% cows in total number of cows in Serbia. According to

Popović (2008) a prevalent portion of farms has no prerequisites to produce quality milk. For that reason, and for the reason of splitting and disorganisation of farms an average price of milk in Serbia is at considerably lower level in relation to milk prices in more developed countries.

Table 6. Changes in number of farms for milk production and number of dairy cows in EU 27

Size of farm	Change in number of cattle farms (% 2007/2005)	Change in number of cattle (% 2007/2005)	Change in number of farms for milk production (% 2007/2005)	Changes in number of dairy cows (% 2007/2005)
1-9 heads	-7,8	-6,6	-7,1	-2,7
10-19 heads	-3,4	-3,2	-2,7	-2,7
20-29 heads	-1,7	-1,9	-5,6	-5,8
30-49 heads	-3,4	-3,5	-4,9	-4,8
50-99 heads	-2,8	-2,9	-0,4	0,2
≥ 100 heads	0,7	2,2	4,2	4,6
EU 27	-6,0	-0,3	-6,3	-1,6

Source: Eurostat and Agriculture and Rural Development DG-C.4, 2009

Cow milk yield in EU countries and in Serbia

In EU the state in breed composition in cattle is always changing, the main breeds in milk production being Holstein Friesian and Simmental breed. The average milk yield in total cow population in 2008 (Eurostat and Agriculture and Rural Development DG-C.4, 2009) in EU15 was 6646 kg, EU25: 6357kg and EU27: 6133kg, what is displayed in Table 7. It is interesting to stress that an average milk yield per cow is greater in the countries that base their production of milk mostly on Holstein Friesian breed and other specialised dairy breeds, therefore the highest world mean values per cow are made in Great Britain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland and Sweden. In the countries that also have an intensive cattle production, but with a significant participation of other breeds in milk production as well, such as for example Simmental, Brown Swiss, Montbeliarde and Norman breed, they have a somewhat lower average milk production. Typical examples are Germany with average of 6776 kg per cow (because of the participation of Simmental breed in overall cattle population with around 30% and significant participation of Brown Swiss breed), as well as Austria with average of 6028 kg and participation of Simmental breed in overall cattle population of over 80%.

Table 7. Milk yield in cows in EU countries

Country	Average per cow (kg) in 2005	Average per cow (kg) in 2006	Average per cow (kg) in 2007	Average per cow (kg) in 2008
Belgium	5622	5484	5613	5963
Bulgaria	3700	3710	3419	3632
Czech Rep.	6436	6631	6969	7008
Denmark	8220	8337	8332	8197
Germany	6834	6905	6949	6776
Estonia	5924	6350	6717	6999
Ireland	4632	4849	4844	4706
Greece	4999	4552	5160	4936
Spain	6446	6771	7013	7317
France	6334	6414	6233	6463
Italy	5958	6059	6015	5988
Cyprus	5976	6219	6076	6441
Latvia	4356	4452	4647	4955
Lithuania	4451	4723	4774	4761
Luxembourg	6562	5802	6822	6049
Hungary	6768	6881	6925	6893
Malta	5317	5469	5413	5543
Netherlands	7298	7620	7459	7322
Austria	5827	5965	6015	6028
Poland	4328	4544	4518	4607
Portugal	6361	6458	6440	6285
Romania	3052	3224	3177	3272
Slovenia	5478	5709	5687	5813
Slovakia	5539	5901	5966	6076
Finland	7776	7799	7955	8013
Sweden	8206	8137	8155	8169
UK	7262	7156	7118	7209
EU 15	6569	6654	6635	6646
EU 25	6224	6341	6329	6357
EU 27	5982	6093	6084	6133

Source: Eurostat and Agriculture and Rural Development DG-C.4, 2009

A similar situation can also be found in France, where besides Holstein Friesian breed in milk production a significant participation make Montbeliarde breed, Simmental breed and Normandy breed. These three mentioned countries are also significant for cattle breeding in Serbia (Perišić 1998; Perišić et al., 2009), taking into account that both breeding animals and the semen of bulls are mostly imported from Germany, Austria and France. A compromise in raising a specialised dairy and combined breeds can be seen on the example of Switzerland (although not a member country of EU), which has a great portion of population of Simmental breed crossed with Red Holstein breed wherein the effects of mass crossing can be observed in higher average production of milk per cow (Table 8), the similar data being stated by Bigler (2001) for Swiss Simmental breed, Montbeliarde, Red-White Holstein and Black-White Holstein, as well as by Strapak and Strapakov (1997) for Simmental breed and the effects of crossing in Slovakia.

In Serbia there are around 500 000 cows, and the cow milk yield in overall population is unequalised and according to some estimations it ranges from 2500 kg in cross-breeds and in Simmental cows raised in poorer raising conditions, to the level of between 5000 and 6000 kg reached on the farms of the commodity producers of milk with more intensive production and more productive heads of Simmental breed or cross-breds of Simmental and Red-White Holstein Friesian breed (*Perišić et al.*, 2002, 2008; *Perišić* 2007).

Observed per major breeds in milk production in Serbia (according to the Report and results of accomplished work on selection coordination measures from 2010), an average production of registered cows of Simmental breed was around 4500 kg, and Holstein Friesian breed about 8700 kg in lactation. Overall average milk vield per cow in Serbia (milk vield of controlled cows and estimated milk yield of population out of milk yield control) ranged from between 3000 and 3500 kg. In Slovenia, according to official records (http://www.kis.si), the milk yield of Holstein Friesian population under control was 7247 kg, Simmental breed 5023 kg, and overall population 5813 kg. In Germany the milk yield in controlled population is 8783 kg for Holstein Friesian breed and 6854 kg for Simmental breed. Milk yield in registered cows of Simmental breed in Serbia, which ranges from 4000 kg to 5000 kg milk in standard lactation depends on a great number of non-genetic factors, and also on a genetic potential for milk production which is rather unequalised (Perišić et al., 2006). A significant fact is that in Serbia there is a considerably smaller part of cows under milk yield control (in 2009, 26222 cows of Simmental and 7400 cows of Holstein Friesian breed)) in relation to overall number of cows, what for example, in Simmental breed makes about 5.5% in total number, while for example, in Simmental breed in Germany about 19% animals are under milk control, in Slovenia about 15 %, Austria around 15% and Hungary about 11%.

Milk yield in the population of Simmental cows in some European countries is shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Milk yield of Simmental cows in some European countries

Country	Year	Lactation, day	Milk, kg	Fat,%	Fat, kg	Proteins,%	Proteins,kg
Hungary	2004	293	5 023	3,99	201	3,43	175
Czech Republic	2006	294	6 162	4,08	252	3,46	213
Slovenia	2006	305	5023	4,17	209	3,29	165
Slovakia	2004	297	4 919	4,09	201	3,30	162
Fleckvieh Switzerland	2006	299	6 847	3,99	273	3,24	222
Simental Switzerland	2006	297	5 681	3,88	220	3,30	187
Austria	2006	305	6 483	4,18	271	3,43	222
Norway	2004	266	5 229	4,15	217	3,35	175
Croatia	2006	305	4 459	4,07	181	3,35	149
Italy	2006	293	6 528	3,92	256	3,41	223
Montbeliarde - France	2006	296	6 907	3,91	270	3,46	239
Germany	2006	316	6 854	4,14	284	3,48	239
Poland	2006	-	4785	4,01	192	3,36	161

(www.Cattlenetwork.net)

Table 9. Number of cattle, cows and milk production per cow in Serbia

	Number of ca	Number of cattle in Serbia (000)				
Year	Total number	Cows and pregnant heifers	Milk production (000 000 lit.)			
1975	2649	1370	1576			
1980	2367	1284	1716			
1985	2250	1242	1847			
1990	1979	1145	1759			
1995	1776	1082	1758			
2000	1272	843	1566			
20011	1186	812	1576			
2002^{1}	1177	801	1580			
2003^{1}	1162	790	1576			
2004^{1}	1102	742	1579			
2005 ¹	1079	720	1602			
2006 ¹	1106	721	1587			
20071	1087	648	1549			
20081	1.057	625	1.534			
2009 ¹	1.002	584 (548)	1.478			

Source: RZS Serbia

In Serbia, besides the problem of relatively low average milk yield per cow, the problem of splitting the farms should be added as well, which, according to *Popović* (2008), in majority of cases, have no prerequisites to produce quality milk, primarely from the hygienic aspect. The same author has established a

positive correlation between the size of herd, level of average production per cow and price of milk. The larger farms (with 20 and more cows) have advantage in all parameters. Taking into account that the participation of larger farms for milk production in Serbia is still low, along with present great disorganisation of small producers of milk the average price of milk in Serbia is at a considerably lower level in relation to the price of milk in developed countries.

Besides a decrease in the number of farms in the last decade there is a decline in the number of cattle which is 2% - 3% at annual level (Table 9). Such a state is reflected directly on the decrease in overall production of milk (which has a negative trend) as well as the production of meat.

Conclusion

On the basis of the analysis of the state in the sector of milk production in EU and Serbia it can be concluded:

- the level of overall milk production in the countries of EU27 in the last several years ranges from about 148 million tonnes whilst in Serbia there is a decrease in milk production, so in 2009 the production was 1.478 million tonnes, and in 2008 it was 1.7 million tonnes;
- out of total produced milk quantities in EU27 the dairies purchase over 90%, while in Serbia about 50% milk is purchased;
- a trend in development of cattle production in EU goes in the direction of decreasing the number of farms which raise breeding stocks of dairy cows and simultaneous increase in the number of cows per farms engaged in milk production with constant increase of the quantity of produced milk per cow. Even besides enlarging the farms engaged in milk production, there is a trend of decreasing the number of milking cows (because of achieved high yields of milk per cow in specialised dairy breeds, as well as the supplies of milk), wherein the consequence is the rise in the population of cattle for the production of meat raised in the system cow-calf.
- In 2008 the number of cows per farm in EU27 was on average 9.8 cows, EU25 on average 16.6 cows, with great variation between member countries. An average milk yield in overall population of cows in 2008 in EU15 was 6646 kg, EU25: 6357kg and EU27: 6133kg. Average milk yield of registered cows of Simmental breed in Serbia is around 4500 kg, and Holstein Friesian breed about 8700 kg, while milk yield in total population of cows in Serbia (controlled heads and estimated milk yield of cows) ranges from 3000 and 3500 kg.
- In Serbia, according to the Inventory from 2002, 97.61% farms had 1 to 5 cows and they owned 87% of total number of cows in Serbia. In the last 10 years the number of farms engaged in raising cattle decreased, the same as the number of cattle (per annual rate of 2 to 3 %). Such a state is reflected directly on the decrease

in total production of milk (which has a negative trend) as well as the production of beef meat.

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Stanje u sektoru proizvodnje mleka u Evropskoj uniji i kod nas

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Rezime

Analizirano je stanje u sektoru proizvodnje mleka u EU i Srbiji sa aspekta ukupno proizvedenih količina mleka i ukupno otkupljenih količina mleka od strane mlekara. Analiziran je broj gazdinstava koja se bave govedarskom proizvodnjom, kao i gazdinstava koja proizvode mleko. Nivo ukupne proizvodnje mleka u zemljama EU27 u poslednjih nekoliko godina je oko 148 miliona tona, dok je u Srbiji prisutno smanjenje proizvodnje mleka i u 2009-oj godini proizvodnja je iznosila 1,478 miliona tona, a u 2008-oj 1,7 miliona tona. Od ukupno proizvedenih količina mleka u EU27 otkupi se od strane mlekara preko 90%, dok se u Srbiji otkupljuje oko 50% mleka.

Trend u razvoju govedarstva u EU ide u pravcu smanjenja broja gazdinstava koja gaje zapate mlečnih krava i istovremenog povećanja broja krava po gazdinstvima, koja se bave proizvodnjom mleka uz stalno povećanje količine proizvedenog mleka po kravi. I pored ukrupnjavanja gazdinstava koja se bave proizvodnjom mleka, prisutan je trend smanjenja broja muznih krava (zbog postignutih visokih prinosa mleka po kravi kod specijalizovanih mlečnih rasa, kao i postojanja zaliha mleka), što kao posledicu ima porast populacija goveda namenjenih proizvodnji mesa, koja se gaje u sistemu krava-tele.

U 2008. godini broj krava po gazdinstvu iznosio je u EU27 prosečno 9,8 krava, EU25 prosečno 16,6 krava, sa velikim variranjem između država članica. Prosečna mlečnost ukupne populacije krava u 2008. godini u EU15 iznosila je 6646 kg, EU25: 6357 kg i EU27: 6133 kg. Prosečna mlečnost umatičenih krava simentalske rase u Srbiji je oko 4500 kg, a holštajn frizijske rase oko 8700 kg, dok mlečnost celokupne populacije krava u Srbiji (kontrolisana grla i procenjene mlečnosti krava) iznosi između 3000 i 3500 kg.

U Srbiji je, prema popisu iz 2002. god., 97,61% gazdinstava raspolagalo sa 1 do 5 krava i pri tome su posedovali 87% od ukupnog broja krava u Srbiji. U poslednjih 10 godina broj gazdinstava koja gaje goveda se smanjivao, isto kao i broj goveda (po godišnjoj stopi od 2 do 3%). Takvo stanje se direktno odražava na smanjenje ukupne proizvodnje mleka (koja ima negativan trend) kao i proizvodnje goveđeg mesa.

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