

Glossary: Agricultural holding

Statistics Explained

An **agricultural holding**, or **holding** or **farm** is a single unit, both technically and economically, operating under a single management and which undertakes economic activities in agriculture within the economic territory of the European Union, either as its primary or secondary activity. The holding may also provide other supplementary (non-agricultural) products and services.

An agricultural holding is then defined by the following criteria:

- It is a single unit both technically and economically; in general this is indicated by a common use of labour and means of production (machinery, buildings or land, etc.)
- It has single management; there can be single management even though this is carried out by two or more persons acting jointly
- It carries out at least one of the following activities defined in [European Statistical Classification of Economic Activities](#) (NACE Rev. 2) for crop and animal production and related service activities:
 - Growing of non-perennial crops (NACE A01.1)
 - Growing of perennial crops (NACE A01.2)
 - Plant propagation (NACE A01.3)
 - Animal production (NACE A01.41 to A01.47 and parts of A01.49)
 - * Holdings raising and breeding ostriches or emus (NACE A01.49)
 - * Holdings raising and breeding rabbits (NACE A01.49)
 - * Holdings with bee-keeping, production of honey and beeswax (NACE A01.49)
 - * Holdings raising animals for the production of fur (NACE A01.49)
 - Mixed farming (NACE A01.5)
 - Holdings exclusively maintaining agricultural land in [good agricultural and environmental condition](#) (NACE A01.61)
- It has its activity in the economic territory of the European Union as defined in the [Regulation \(EC\) No 1059/2003](#) or, where applicable, the most recent legislation

Includes

- Agricultural holdings that have utilised agricultural area (or livestock) in different regions; the holding is treated as one unit as long as it remains a single unit both technically and economically (common use of the means of production) and operates under single management
- Holdings that for tax or other reasons are split up among two or more persons, but still have a single management (one common manager) and are therefore considered to be one economic unit (single holding)
- Two or more separate holdings, each having previously been an independent holding, that have been integrated into the hands of a single holder, are considered to be a single holding if they now have a common manager or if they use the same labour and equipment (single management and technical and economic unity)
- Agricultural holdings growing non-perennial crops (NACE A01.1)

- Agricultural holdings growing perennial crops (NACE A01.2) including
 - those that produce wine from self-produced grapes
 - those that produce olive oil from self-produced olives
- Plant propagation (NACE A01.3)
- Animal production (with some exceptions in A01.49) (NACE A01.4)
 - Raising and breeding of semi-domesticated or other live animals such as
 - * Holdings raising and breeding ostriches or emus (NACE A01.49)
 - * Holdings raising and breeding rabbits and animals for the production of fur (NACE A01.49)
 - * Holdings with bee-keeping, production of honey and beeswax (NACE 01.49)
- Mixed farming (NACE A01.5)
- Holdings exclusively maintaining agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental conditions (NACE A01.61)
- Bull, boar, ram and billy-goat breeding stations and studs
- Hatcheries
- Agricultural holdings of research institutes, sanatoria and convalescent homes, religious communities, schools and prisons
- Agricultural holdings which form part of industrial enterprises
- Common land consisting of pasture, horticultural or other utilised agricultural area, provided that such utilised agricultural area is operated as an agricultural holding by the local authority concerned (e.g. by the taking in of another persons' cattle to graze as in "taking of animals into assignment")
- Common land units (a virtual entity created for the purposes of data collection and recording, consisting of the utilised agricultural area used by agricultural holdings but not belonging directly to them)
- Livestock holdings with no animals present on the reference day, due to temporary breaks in the production cycle (e.g. regular sanitary cleaning of animal houses, disease outbreaks, or similar reasons)
- "Single-product group-holdings" if they are independent of the "parent" holdings and they mainly use their own factors of production and do not rely mainly on the factors of production of the "parent" holdings
- Migrating herds, which do not belong to holdings using agricultural areas (independent holdings)

Excludes

- Holdings with the activities covered by NACE code A01.49 that are not mentioned above, such as:
 - worm, mollusc or snail farms
 - raising of silk worms
 - raising of pet animals
 - operation of frog farms, crocodile farms or marine worm farms
 - operation of fish farms
 - raising of diverse animals
- Single-product group-holdings in the case that they are not independent from the parent holding
- Riding stables, racing stables, gallops (i.e. land used for exercising racehorses), if they do not have breeding activities
- Kennels
- Markets
- Slaughterhouses (without rearing)

- Game reserves growing crops only for the purpose of feeding the wild animals or maintaining the land in good environmental condition (but not receiving agricultural support for it)
- Holdings having only kitchen gardens (no market activity)
- Holdings producing farming goods only for its own subsistence, without market activity (NACE T98.10)
- Holdings that carry out support activities to agriculture and post-harvest crop activities (NACE A01.6) when they are undertaken exclusively (exception applies to NACE A01.61)
- Hunting, trapping, and related service activities (NACE A01.7)

Differences Before 2007 maintaining land in [good agricultural and environmental conditions](#) was not considered as an agricultural activity.

Further information

[Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1091](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on integrated farm statistics and repealing Regulations [\(EC\) No 1166/2008](#) and [\(EU\) No 1337/2011](#) (Text with EEA relevance)

Related concepts

- [Agricultural area](#)

Statistical data

[Farms and farmland in the European Union - statistics](#)