

**SURVEY ON THE STRUCTURE OF AGRICULTURAL FARMS (EEA) 2005**

## **Agricultural used surface area remains stable while the number of farms falls in the A.C. of the Basque Country en 2005**

### ***Slight increase in the ratio of used agricultural surface area (1.8%) and total agricultural surface area (3.1%) per farm***

The number of farms in the A.C. of the Basque Country fell from 22,234 in 2003 to 21,730 in 2005, 2.3% fewer. Both total agricultural surface area and used agricultural surface area (worked land and permanent pasture land) hardly varied with regard to 2003, 0.5% more for the former and 0.5% less the latter, according to Eustat data.

The average size of used agricultural surface area for farms in the A.C. of the Basque Country is 11.03 hectares, although with considerable differences between Araba, 29.2 hectares, and the other two provinces, Gipuzkoa (7.9 ha.) and Bizkaia (5.9 ha.).

### ***41% of land is occupied by forest arboreal species and 36.6% by pasture and grassland***

The rest of the use of land shows 18.8% of the area is earmarked for worked land, mostly dedicated to growing herbaceous species in the province of Alava.

**Table 1.- Agricultural surface area classified by type of use and province. 2005**

	BASQUE COUNTRY		ALAVA		BIZKAIA		GIPUZKOA	
	Farms	Ha.	Farms	Ha.	Farms	Ha.	Farms	Ha.
<b>TOTAL SURFACE AREA</b>	<b>21.730</b>	<b>432.403</b>	<b>4.209</b>	<b>182.603</b>	<b>10.621</b>	<b>132.410</b>	<b>6.901</b>	<b>117.391</b>
<b>Worked land</b>	<b>19.131</b>	<b>81.346</b>	<b>3.643</b>	<b>75.268</b>	<b>9.188</b>	<b>2.899</b>	<b>6.300</b>	<b>3.178</b>
Herbaceous	17.306	64.176	2.715	61.836	8.746	1.452	5.845	887
Fruit	6.505	3.625	359	353	1.846	1.009	4.300	2.264
Olives	454	219	454	219	-	-	-	-
Vines	1.557	13.254	1.339	12.852	205	382	13	19
Woody crop nurseries	24	72	2	7	15	56	6	9
<b>Permanent pasture land</b>	<b>18.889</b>	<b>158.433</b>	<b>1.807</b>	<b>47.546</b>	<b>10.367</b>	<b>59.443</b>	<b>6.715</b>	<b>51.444</b>
Permanent fields or grassland	18.554	128.350	1.674	25.275	10.321	55.610	6.559	47.465
Other pasture areas	1.661	30.084	492	22.272	314	3.833	854	3.979
<b>Other land</b>	<b>15.205</b>	<b>192.624</b>	<b>1.873</b>	<b>59.788</b>	<b>6.781</b>	<b>70.068</b>	<b>6.551</b>	<b>62.768</b>
Untilled	724	4.709	562	4.631	-	-	162	78
Scrubland	3.229	8.322	334	3.026	951	1.296	1.944	4.000
Forest arboreal species	11.849	177.129	705	51.120	5.807	68.312	5.336	57.697
Other surfaces	7.309	2.464	645	1.011	940	460	5.724	993
<b>Used agricultural surface area</b>	<b>21.720</b>	<b>239.779</b>	<b>4.199</b>	<b>122.815</b>	<b>10.620</b>	<b>62.342</b>	<b>6.901</b>	<b>54.622</b>

Source: EUSTAT

### ***Drop in the number of livestock farms and heads of cattle and sheep, while the number of pigs increased***

In 2005 there were 1,000 fewer farms with bovine livestock (-11.7%) and 443 fewer pig farms (-23%) than in 2003. The decrease in sheep farms came to 393 fewer farms, i.e. 7.7% fewer.

The evolution in the number of livestock heads varies: positive for pig livestock (6.6%), but negative for cattle (-5.6%) and sheep (-1.1%).

If we take into account these two evolutions, the number of livestock heads per farm increased over the two years between 2003 and 2005.

Table 2. Livestock. Type of livestock and units. 2005

	BASQUE COUNTRY		ALAVA		BIZKAIA		GIPUZKOA	
	Farms	Head	Farms	Head	Farms	Head	Farms	Head
<b>Cattle</b>	7.525	153.334	632	35.480	3.782	58.968	3.111	58.886
<b>Sheep</b>	4.720	295.939	611	82.137	1.757	59.370	2.352	154.432
<b>Goats</b>	1.681	18.973	149	7.197	1.146	9.813	386	1.963
<b>Pigs</b>	1.497	40.851	293	15.219	700	10.108	503	15.524
<b>Horses</b>	3.893	17.457	344	3.682	2.046	7.106	1.502	6.670
<b>Poultry</b>	9.880	1.710.846	807	316.590	4.830	628.627	4.243	765.630
<b>Mother rabbits</b>	2.885	29.038	209	1.150	1.745	12.576	930	15.312
<b>Bee hives</b>	203	2.139	39	319	112	1.237	52	584

Source: EUSTAT

**Methodology note:** Data refer to the agricultural campaign between the 1 October 2004 and the 30 September 2005, agricultural year 2005. This survey was carried out in collaboration with the National Statistics Institute (INE) in the A.C. of the Basque Country.

**For further information:**

Euskal Estatistika-Erakundea / Instituto Vasco de Estadística

C/ Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz

Tel:+34-945-01 75 49 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01 E-mail: [eustat@eustat.es](mailto:eustat@eustat.es)

Contact: Mariano González

Tel:+34-945-01 75 47 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01

Press releases on the Internet: [www.eustat.es](http://www.eustat.es)

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