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1.1	Contact organisation	National Statistical Service of Greece (ESYE)
1.2	Contact organisation unit	Primary Sector Statistics Division / Structure of Agricultural and Livestock Holdings Section
1.3	Contact name	Lemonia Dionisopoulou (Mrs)
1.4	Contact person function	Head of the Structure of Agricultural and Livestock Holdings Division
1.5	Contact mail address	Pireos 46 & Eponiton Str. 18510 - Piraeus
1.6	Contact e-mail address	lemdiony@statistics.gr
1.7	Contact phone number	(+30) 213 135 2052

1.8 Contact fax number	(+30) 213 135 2481

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3.1 Data description	
<p>The Farm Structure Survey is a large-scale regular statistical survey which helps collecting objective quantitative information and identifying the basic characteristics of the structure of the agricultural and livestock holdings of Greece.</p> <p>The Survey aims at achieving the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To learn about the structure of the holdings and measure their evolution • To monitor the evolution of the agricultural and livestock production and of the rural population and • To readjust the characteristics to the new needs and advances of the agricultural sector. <p>The evolution of the structure of agricultural and livestock holdings is a key point in drawing national and Community policy in the agricultural sector and therefore, it is necessary to collect information for the compilation of time series concerning the characteristics of these holdings.</p> <p>To this end, the European Community has elaborated a special programme for structural surveys which encompasses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a basic survey (Agricultural-Livestock Census), conducted every ten years • a sample survey conducted on a two-year basis. <p>More specifically, the Farm Structure Survey collects statistical data on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of agricultural and livestock holdings at national, regional and local level • the characteristics of the holdings in terms of their legal status, tenure status, the structure of the holding (types of crops, species of bred animals and birds, cultivating methods, etc) • methods of agricultural production. 	
3.2 Classification system	
<p>Typology a classification system of the agricultural holdings. Analytical information on the typology of agricultural holdings can be found in the following Community legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission Decision (EEC) No 377/85 of 7 June 1985, • Commission Decision of 19 April 1988 (88/284/EEC), • Commission Decision of 13 June 1996 amending Decision No 85/377/EEC establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings (96/393/EC), • Commission Decision of 22 October 1999 amending Decision 85/377/EEC establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings (1999/725/EC), • Commission Decision of 16 May 2003 amending Decision 85/377/EEC establishing a Community typology for agricultural holdings (2003/369/EC). 	
3.3 Sector coverage	
The Farm Structure Survey covers at least 99% of agricultural activity.	
3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions	

The main purpose of the Structure Survey is to measure in a harmonized way the characteristics, which are studied on the basis of common rules and procedures, thus offering the possibility to make comparisons among the agricultural and livestock holdings all over the European Union. As a result, a complex volume of statistical data is compiled. Both Farm Structure surveys and Agricultural-Livestock Censuses produce statistical information on specific targets set by the Common Agricultural Policy and at the same time they offer a basis for the compilation of statistical data on agriculture.

The surveyed **characteristics** and the relevant **definitions** are laid down by EU legislation.

The characteristics which are surveyed by the Farm Structure Survey are compliant with the relevant Decision of the Commission. More specifically, the collected information pertains to the following characteristics:

- The number of the agricultural and livestock holdings at national, regional and local level,
- Geographical location of the holdings
- Legal personality and management of the holding,
- Other areas of the holdings (wooded area, not utilized area under rough grazing, areas which are not cultivated for several reasons, etc)
- Tenure status of the utilized agricultural areas (owner farming , tenant farming, share farming)
- Utilized agricultural areas (arable land, permanent crops, permanent meadows, kitchen gardens)
- Animal capital
- Labour force of the holdings
- Watering and other cultivations methods
- Agro-environmental information and information on the development of rural areas

The survey characteristics are analytically listed in Annex I of Regulation (EEC) 571/88.

The survey typology, which is also laid down in Community legislation, consists of a harmonized classification of the holdings all over the European Union. The two factors on which the Community typology is based are the **type of farming** and the **economic size** of the holding. The **type of farming** and the **economic size** of the holding are determined on the basis of the Standard Gross Margin (SGM).

The type of farming pertains to the typology of the agricultural holdings on the basis of the specialization of their production.

The economic size of the holding is the total standard gross margin of the holding. This is calculated as the sum of the standard gross margins of each one of the several branches of production of the holding.

3.5 Statistical unit

The statistical unit of the survey is the agricultural, livestock or mixed holding whose owner:

- a) Owns at least one (1) stremma * of utilized agricultural area or at least half a stremma (500 m²) of greenhouses, irrespective of the type of tenure status and the area in which it is located or
- b) Breeds animals of its own and more specifically at least: one (1) or more cows or totally two (2) and more "big" animals, of any species and of any age (cattle, horses, asses, hinnies, mules) or totally five (5) or more "small" animals (sheep, goats, pigs) of any age and male or female, or fifty (50) and more pieces of poultry, or twenty (20) or more "domestic" or "European" beehives, or five (5) or more ostriches.

* (1 stremma: Greek unit of land area equal to 1,000 square metres)

3.6 Statistical population

The sampling frame, which was used for the 2007 Farm Structure Survey, was the updated Register of Agricultural and Livestock Holdings as this was compiled after the conduct of the 1999/2000 Agricultural and Livestock Census. This Register is updated with data deriving from other surveys conducted by NSSG, such as the structure surveys, the special annual agricultural surveys (on fruit trees, vines, cereals, or other arable cultivations, surveys on pig, cattle, sheep and goat capital). The Register is also updated with data coming from administrative sources (Ministry of Rural Development and Food).

The Agricultural-Livestock Censuses are conducted for all the holdings of the Register, while the farm structure surveys are sample surveys.

3.7 Reference area

The survey was conducted in all the Departments of Greece (NUTS 3), covering 51 Departments and the 4 Prefectures of Attiki.

3.8 Time coverage

Data are available for the years 1999/2000, 2003, 2005 and 2007.

3.9 Base period

The Standard Gross Margin is the average value of output minus certain specific costs of each agricultural product (crop or livestock) in a given region.

This difference which is applied depending on the region, is defined and applied for each branch of production of the holding, either per hectare of utilized agricultural land, in case of crop output or per animal head in the case of livestock output. The Standard Gross Margin is expressed in European Currency Units.

The base year of the weights of the Standard Gross Margin for the 2007 Farm Structure Survey was the year 2004.

4. Unit of measure

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Two kind of units of measure are usually used:

- The units for measuring the survey characteristics (stremmas for agricultural areas- 0.1 ha, number of heads for livestock, persons or annual work units for the labour force), and
- The number of agricultural holdings having the specific characteristic.

5. Reference period

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The reference period for the 2007 Farm Structure Survey, as regards crops, labour force and other characteristics was the cultivation period from 1 October 2006 until 30 September 2007. The reference date as regards animal capital of the holding was the 1st November 2007.

6. Institutional mandate

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6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

The National Statistical Service of Greece is an independent General Secretariat, which is supervised by the Ministry of Finance. The main legislation governing the NSSG is the Legislative Decree No 3627/16-11-56, as amended by: Presidential Decree 224/10-7-86, the Law No 2392/9496 and Presidential Decree 226/8-9-2000.

The 2007 Farm Structure Survey was conducted pursuant to the joint Ministerial Decision No 9509/Γ2-1580/30-8-2007 of the Ministers of Finance, Interior and Public Administration and Decentralization and Rural Development and Food.

The rules governing the Farm Structure Surveys are laid down in a number of Community Regulations and Decisions published in the Official Journal of the European Communities:

- Basic rules on organising the survey up to the 2007 FSS (Regulation (EEC) No 2467/96 and 571/88).

- List of surveyed characteristics in the Member States (Regulation (EC) No 204/2006, 2139/2004, 143/2002, Decision (EC) No 377/98, 621/97, 170/96, 677/94, 156/93, Regulation (EEC) No 807/89, 571/88)
- Definitions of the characteristics (Regulation (EC) No 1444/2002, Decision (EC) No 115/2000, 418/97, 170/96 and (EEC) No 651/89)
- Use of data sources other than statistical surveys (Regulation (EC) No 124/2005, Decision (EC) No 377/98, 621/97)
- Deadlines for transmission of FSS data (Regulation (EC) No 2139/2004, Annex 3 , 68/2003, 714/1999, 407/97, Decision (EEC) No 502/93, 652/89)
- Classification of holdings on the basis of their economic size and farm types (typology) up to the 2007 FSS (Decision (EC) No 369/2003, 725/1999, 393/96, Decision (EEC) No 284/88, 377/85).

6.2 Data sharing

None

7. Confidentiality

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7.1 Confidentiality policy

Confidentiality policy is governed by Legislative Decree 3627/16-11-56, as amended by Presidential Decree 224/10-7-86, Law 2392/9-4-96, Presidential Decree 226/8-9-2000, as well by article 14 of the Law 3470/2006.

Council Regulation (CE) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 (OJ No L 52/1) and Council Regulation (EURATOM, EEC) no 1588/90 of 11 June 1990 on the transmission of the data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (OJ No L 151/ 1) lay down the detailed rules implemented for receiving, processing and disseminating confidential data.

7.2 Confidentiality – data treatment

Confidential are considered the cells:

- where the number of individual records used for the calculation of the cell is too small,
- which contain the 2 individual records with the highest values representing at least 85% of the cell value.

8. Release policy

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8.1 Release calendar

The release calendar fully meets legal requirements concerning the deadlines for the release of data by:

- meeting the legal and contract requirements concerning the deadlines for the transmission of the survey results,
- ensuring the longest possible time for data checking,
- ensuring additional time in case it is needed.

8.2 Release calendar access

The reference period for the 2007 Farm Structure Survey, as regards crops, labour force and other characteristics was the cultivation period from 1 October 2006 until 30 September 2007. The reference date as regards animal capital of the holding was the 1st November 2007.

The results were published 14 months after the end the reference period of the survey.

8.3 User access
Users can have direct access to the results of the survey through the updated database and the webpage of Eurostat.

9. Frequency of dissemination	Top
The results of the basic survey (Agricultural-Livestock Census) are disseminated every 10 years and the results of the sampling surveys are disseminated every two years.	

10. Dissemination format	Top
10.1 News release	
10.2 Publications	The results of the 2007 Farm Structure Survey have been published in the Statistical Yearbook of Greece of the years 2008 and 2009 and moreover in a special publication.
10.3 On-line database	Tabulated data are available on the website of the NSSG (see also paragraph 10.5 Other)
10.4 Micro-data access	Users cannot have access to micro-data.
10.5 Other	Users can be given data or other statistical analysis, after submitting an application to the Statistical Information Dissemination Section – NSSG, 46, Pireos & Eponiton Str, 80847 Piraeus, Tel +30 213 135 311, fax +30 213 1352 312, e-mail: data.dissem@statistics.gr and data.source@statistics.gr Moreover, the results of the 2005 FSS are published in a special publication of Eurostat.

11. Accessibility of documentation	Top
11.1 Documentation on methodology	The documentation on the survey methodology and the dissemination mode of the survey results are laid down by the NSSG, taking into consideration international practices, guidelines and rules set out by Eurostat on the specific statistical theme.
11.2 Quality documentation	The National Methodological Report of the survey can be made available to users upon request. Users can send their orders to the following postal address: Hellenic Statistical Authority, Division of Statistical Information and Publications, 46 Peiraios & Eponiton str. P.O.Box 80847, 18510 Piraeus (tel. +30 213 135 2311, fax +30 213 135 2312), or via e-mail: : data.dissem@statistics.gr and data.source@statistics.gr

12. Quality management [Top](#)

12.1 Quality assurance

Quality is ensured through the systematic validation of data and the relevant national quality report.

12.2 Quality assessment

Phase 1

During phase 1 the following works took place:

1. Logical checks and completeness checks. At a first stage, the interviewers and then the assistant supervisors checked all the questionnaires for completeness and consistency.
2. Data entry. The data are checked automatically during data entry. Any errors are to be corrected either directly, or in a later stage, as soon as the correct answer is available.
3. Quality checks at the level of the Department (NUTS 3). The unified file was checked at the level of the Department in order to identify general errors, such as double recordings of holdings, etc. Moreover, quality checks were conducted to the aggregated data of the Departments. Quality checks aimed at ensuring quality both of the final file and the file at the level of the Department.

Phase 2

The final file was checked at a central level for the following:

1. Validation of the individual files of the 51 Departments
2. Integration of data and creation of a unified Oracle Database.
3. Checks on the data of the Database
4. Identification of double recordings or multiple recording in the Database. A series of checks, similar to the checks conducted at the level of the Department, was conducted in the central Database which included all the data. In the cases where errors were found, there was a contact with the Regional Statistical Offices in order to validate the data or to correct the errors.
5. Quality checks of data. The results of the 2007 survey were compared with the results from other surveys and with the available administrative data in order to identify the longitudinal trend and to assess the results over time.

13. Relevance [Top](#)

13.1 User needs

As already mentioned, main users are considered all both national and European experts involved in the drawing of national and Community agricultural policy, as well as researchers.
Finally one of the main users is the Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

13.2 User satisfaction

No feedback analysis.

13.3 Completeness

The results are presented by means of a series of tables
Annex I of the Regulation (EEC) 571/88 lists all the characteristics which are surveyed by the FFS.

14. Accuracy and reliability [Top](#)

14.1 Overall accuracy

The initial sample included 100,407 agricultural and livestock holdings (sampling fraction = 11.8%) The size of the sample was defined taking into consideration economic criteria and criteria in terms of precision and more specifically:

1. At national level, the standard relative error for an arable crop must be less than 5% when this crop covers an area bigger than 0.5% of the total utilized area (at national level)
2. At national level, the standard relevant error for the number of cattle, pig, sheep, goat and poultry must be less than 3.0%.
3. At the level of the region (NUTS 2), the standard relative error for an arable crop must be less than 5%, when this specific crop covers an area bigger than 5% of the total utilized area at the level of the region, under the condition that the utilized agricultural area of this region (NUTS 2) is bigger than 5% of the total utilized area at national level.
4. At the level of the region (NUTS 2), the standard relevant error for the number animals of a specific species must be less than 5% when the animal units of the specific species are more than 5% of the total animal units of the region, under the condition that the animal units of the region are more than 5% of the total animal units at national level.

14.2 Sampling error

Sampling errors, expressed as coefficient of variation, CV (%), figure in the following table:

Table 1: Sampling errors expressed as coefficient of variation (CV %) by variable

Code		CV(%)	Code	Variable	CV(%)
A11	Utilized agricultural land	0.4	D18	Forage plants (total)	1.2
D01	Common wheat	1.7	D21- D22	Fallow land	1.4
D02	Durum wheat	1.1	D23	Tobacco	2.2
D03	Rye	4.5	D25	Cotton	1.0
D04	Barley	1.6	G01	Fruit plantations	1.2
D05	Oats	1.8	G02	Citrus plantations	1.4
D06	Grain maize	1.3	G03	Olive plantations	0.4
D07	Rice	3.6	G04	Vineyards (total)	1.0
D01- D08	Cereals (total)	0.6	G01- G06	Permanent crops (outdoors)	0.3
D09	Edible pulses	3.7	J02- J08	Bovine animals (total)	2.2
D10	Potatoes	2.6	J09	Sheep (total)	0.9
D11	Sugar beets	4.2	J10	Goats (total)	1.3
D13	Industrial plants	0.9	J11 – J13	Pigs (total)	1.7
D14- D15	Fresh vegetables (total)	1.7	J14 – J16	Poultry (total)	2.4

14.3 Non-sampling error

The Farm Structure Survey covered all the area of Greece and therefore there were not any under-coverage errors. Non-sampling errors are those errors which are due to any other reasons than sampling and they arise during the designing, conduct, processing and the final stages of estimation in all the surveys.

Due to the problem that the Farm Register of the NSSG included some holdings which had closed and due to the fact that some holders did not respond, the initial sample was slightly reduced. As a result, the sampling error for the estimation of the survey characteristics slightly increased

Measurement and processing errors were detected and they were corrected through logical tests.

Non-sampling errors are not possible to be measured through the sampling data. However, the survey results

were compared with the corresponding data from administrative sources (Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food), annual agricultural statistical survey, as well the livestock and the crop production statistics surveys in order to identify any non-sampling errors. The comparisons did not identify any statistically significant differences, consequently, non-sampling errors are considered almost negligible.

15. Timeliness and punctuality

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15.1 Timeliness

The deadline for the submission of data is 14 months after the reference period of the survey (T), that is (T+14).

15.2 Punctuality

The data are produced within the deadlines.

16. Comparability

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16.1 Comparability – geographical

The main purpose of the Farm Structure Survey is to provide a common list of characteristics, which are surveyed on the basis of common rules and procedures, thus ensuring homogeneity and comparability all over the European Union.

16.2 Comparability over time

17. Coherence

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17.1 Coherence cross-domain

17.2 Coherence – internal

Internal coherence of data is ensured by a common set of validation rules, as well as by common definitions of variables and formulae.

18. Cost and burden

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According to the calculations for the cost and work burden for the 2007 survey, it is estimated that the personnel of the NSSG worked during 52,500 hours per year.

19. Data revision

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19.1 Revision policy

The first data, which are released, are provisional. The data become final after having been checked and validated by the Statistical Service and by Eurostat.

19.2 Revision practice

In case errors are identified during a specific analysis, the data may be corrected.

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20. Statistical processing	Top
20.1 Source data	
<p>The sampling method used by the National Statistical Service of Greece is the single random stratified sampling.</p> <p>The sampling unit is the agricultural, livestock or mixed holding. The final sampling size was 98.875 holdings, which is more than 11.6% of the total of the agricultural and livestock holdings of Greece. The stratification was based on the Department (NUTS 3), the Typology of the holding and the Economic size of the holdings.</p> <p>The sampling units were randomly selected from the sampling frame. For each stratum, the sample was selected from all the holdings belonging to this stratum having equal possibilities and using random sampling.</p> <p>For each Department (NUTS 3), the sample of each stratum was allocated in the stratum according to Neyman allocation method.</p>	
20.2 Frequency of data collection	
<p>The Farm Structure Survey (FSS) is conducted every two years -within the intermediate census period- in order to collect objective quantitative information relating to the structure of the agricultural sector.</p>	
20.3 Data collection	
<p>The data collection of the Farm Structure Survey was carried out through personal interviews with the farm holders using a specially designed questionnaire.</p> <p>The questionnaire for the Farm Structure Survey was drawn up to meet both national and Community requirements for statistical information. It covered all the variables listed in the Council Regulation 204/06/EC of 6 February 2006, which are considered necessary for drawing the agriculture policy and assess the development programmes.</p> <p>The questionnaire was designed and drawn up on the basis of consultation with main users, (Ministry of Rural Development and Food, the Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works), and co-responsible departments of the NSSG, (Divisions of Organization and Methodology, Informatics, Statistical Information and Publications and National Accounts).</p> <p>The data collection of the Farm Structure Survey was carried out through personal interviews with the farm holders or managers.</p> <p>The Regional Statistical Offices had the responsibility to collect the data. Every Supervisor was responsible to organise and coordinate all the statistical tasks in the Department under his competency. The Assistant-supervisors were assisting the Supervisor and together they trained the external survey workers, they assigned to them the holdings they had to survey and they monitored their work.</p> <p>In cases where it was difficult to survey some holdings (non-response, the surveyed persons were always absent) the initial holding of the sample was replaced by another holding according to the guidelines that were given to the external survey workers.</p> <p>If a holding had been divided into two or more holdings, the external survey worker had to survey all the newly created holdings.</p> <p>The external survey worker was also obliged to inform the competent assistant supervisor on the progress of the tasks on a weekly basis, and to submit the questionnaires he had filled in.</p> <p>The assistant supervisors collected the filled in questionnaires with the aim to check their quality. They had the right to correct any errors, marking them with red pen and at the end they signed the questionnaires.</p>	

If the filled in questionnaires did not meet the survey requirements, they had to be returned to the external survey worker in order to be dully corrected.

20.4 Data validation

The system for processing the survey data is decentralized in the Regional Statistical Offices. The processing and checking of the data was carried out in two phases as follows:

Phase 1

The first phase encompassed the processing of the questionnaires by officials of the Regional Statistical Offices (supervisor and assistant supervisors).

The first phase included the following tasks:

1. Logical checks and completeness checks of the questionnaires. The interviewers and then the assistant supervisors checked all the questionnaires in order to ensure their completeness and consistency and correct them accordingly.
2. Data entry. The data were checked automatically and at the same time data entry took place. The errors depending on the case could be corrected immediately or at a later stage according to the availability of the correct answer.
3. Quality checks at the level of the Department (NUTS 3). The aggregated file was checked at the level of the Department in order to identify more general errors, such as double recording of holdings, etc. Moreover, quality checks were conducted to the aggregated data of the Departments. The purpose of these checks was to ensure the quality of both the final file and the file at the level of the Department.

Phase 2

The final file was processed at the Central Office .The processing at central level involved:

1. Validation of the individual files of 51 Departments (NUTS 3).
2. Aggregation of data and creation of one Oracle Database
3. Checking the data in the database.
4. Detection of double or multiple entries in the database. A similar set of checks that had taken place at the level of the Region was conducted for the central database, including all the data sets. If there were still some inconsistencies or problems at this stage of work then the Regional Statistical Offices were asked to confirm these or to correct them.
5. Quality controls of the data. The data were compared with data from previous Agricultural-Livestock Censuses and from other Farm Structure Surveys, other agricultural surveys as well as administrative sources in order to evaluate the trend longitudinally and assess the results.

20.5 Data compilation

In cases where incorrect or incomplete data were detected, additional interviews took place, mainly through telephone.

In cases of incorrect or missing data, the imputation procedure was used on the basis of the correct answers in relevant questions of the questionnaire.

Re-weighting was also used for handling missing or incorrect data items. The initial weights (inverse probability of selection) were re-weighted by multiplying with the inverse response rate in each stratum.

Finally, a complementary sample was also drawn in order to replace holdings in the following cases:

- the holding was sold/rented and merged with other holding
- the holding was temporarily closed down (for less than 6 months)
- the holding changed location and the new location is out of the surveyed stratum.
- the holder is unknown and/or the sampling unit has been misclassified in the agricultural sector
- the holder refused to give the required information (unit non-response).

20.6 Adjustment

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