Standard documentation
Meta information
(Definitions, explanations, methods, quality)

on the

Agricultural and Forestry Register

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Executive summary

The task of the Agriculture and Forestry Register (AFR) is the systematic and timely recording of information on all economically active agricultural and forestry holdings located in Austria and their operators. An agricultural and forestry holding is defined as a technical/economic entity with a unified management that produces agricultural and forestry products or maintains land no longer used for production in good agricultural and environmental condition in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009 of the Council. A holding may, however, also produce other non-agricultural products and services.

The sole criterion for inclusion in the AFR is the criterion of "agricultural and/or forestry activity", irrespective of the size of holding. In contrast to the Statistical Business Register (URS), there are therefore no threshold limits for inclusion/non-inclusion in the register.

In addition to the master data relating to individual entities (e.g. the Agriculture and Forestry Holding Information System (LFBIS) number, address and name), the AFR also contains holding-specific data (e.g. information on land management and livestock farming).

The primary purpose of the AFR is to administer all agricultural and forestry entities in an up-to-date manner, such that a total population can be provided for relevant agricultural statistics surveys that is as up-to-date as possible. It therefore serves as a selection framework for sampling procedures.

In addition, information is transferred to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) on the basis of the LFBIS Act. According to the LFBIS Act (Agriculture and Forestry Holding Information System Act), Statistics Austria is tasked with the "processing and transfer of the master data of the LFBIS". This means that Statistics Austria is responsible for providing to the BMLFUW the master electronic data specified in the LFBIS Act (LFBIS number, name and address of the holding) for each agricultural and forestry holding. The active holding entities included in the AFR are updated daily based on information from various agricultural statistics primary surveys, but principally through comparison with various administrative data. The AFR is therefore not a "static picture", but a living system subject to constant change.

In order to be able to use administrative data, it is important to employ a common unique identifier. In the area of agriculture and forestry this is the LFBIS number that is "unique" for each agricultural and forestry holding and is assigned by Statistics Austria. This LFBIS number, which is also used in funding applications, enables the compilation and optimal utilisation of administrative data from a wide range of sources (see Figure 1).

The "classic" agricultural and forestry holding as an "entity" is still traditionally the dominant type in Austria. However, because of amalgamations of holdings etc., it has become necessary to include these new structures in the AFR, too. Four "levels" have therefore been defined: the agricultural and forestry holding as the lowest level, the Legal Entity (has legal and economic responsibility for the holding/holdings), the Agricultural Enterprise and the "Enterprise" (not identical with the term "enterprise" as used in the Statistical Business Register).

Since terms are traditionally used in the area of agriculture and forestry that may not be consistent with the designations in the Statistical Business Register, there are methodical and conceptual differences between the management/maintenance of the AFR and of the Statistical Business Register.

The entities are classified in accordance with ÖNACE 2008, with only those that fall within the scope of agriculture, forestry and fishing (ÖNACE Section A) being taken into consideration. Although entities from other economic sectors are recorded (e.g. wine merchants and shippers for the VIS), they are not classified in the AFR. The classification is based on standard output. Standard output is the average monetary value (in euros) of gross agricultural output at farm gate prices and describes the total marketed items of the overall agricultural and forestry holding. In the farm structure surveys, standard output is used amongst other things to classify agricultural and forestry holdings according to their type of farming.

The AFR is a non-public register.

The quality of the AFR is constantly being improved. For instance, a new version of the application is currently being developed in order to meet new requirements more effectively and also to be able to process the large amount and wide range of information even more quickly and efficiently.

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2 These four levels are designated in the following in this document as an (AFR) entity.
| **Agriculture and Forestry Register – most important elements** |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| **Main purpose of the statistics** | Recording of all agricultural and forestry entities in Austria. |
| **Observed unit** | Around 229,000 active Legal Entities with around 245,000 active holdings are currently administered. |
| **Type of statistics** | Statistical register |
| **Data sources/survey techniques** | Agricultural statistics surveys (full and sample surveys) Agrarmarkt Austria, Veterinary Information System (VIS), Wine Database (BMLFUW), Social Insurance Institute for Farmers (SVB), information from district chambers of agriculture, Buildings and Dwellings Register (GWR), tax office data, Commercial Register, Main Association of Austrian Social Security Organisations. |
| **Reference period or due date** | Day-to-day |
| **Periodicity** | The ongoing maintenance of the AFR is performed based on the information contained in agricultural statistics surveys and available administrative data. |
| **Survey participation (primary statistics)** | - |
| **Legal bases** | *Austrian Federal Statistics Act 2000 as last amended*  
| **Regional breakdown** | Municipalities; statistical grids also for analyses. |
| **Availability of the results** | Ongoing |
| **Other** | Since terms are traditionally used in the area of agriculture and forestry that may not be consistent with the designations in the Statistical Business Register (URS), there are methodical and conceptual differences between the management/maintenance of the AFR and the Statistical Business Register. |
1. General information

1.1 Objective and purpose, history

As a result of the increasing diversification of agriculture and forestry, there is a need for a statistical register tailored to the actual situation in order to be able to record and describe reality as comprehensively as possible. Furthermore, with stronger demands for a reduced burden on respondents, the need to use administrative data is becoming an ever more important issue. In particular, the integration of administrative data sources has required not only a reform of the old register, but has also resulted in increased pressure on the holders of administrative data in terms of the quality and availability of the data material.

Many of these new requirements (adaptation/expansion of characteristics, historicisation etc.) could not be completely met with the old AFR, which was designed to meet the requirements of the 1970s. In addition, due to a number of circumstances – i.e. agricultural statistics surveys being held at increasingly long intervals, sample surveys having to be given preference over full surveys and the size of samples being constantly reduced – it is clear that the up-to-date nature of the AFR cannot be guaranteed solely by means of information from agricultural statistics surveys.

Furthermore, there has been and continues to be a need for close cooperation with the Statistical Business Register (URS) in relation to entities that are recorded in both the URS and the AFR.

As a result of all these changes, it was necessary to develop a modified quality monitoring system since the focus of data procurement is increasingly shifting from primary data surveys towards the use of existing data. A solution needed to be found, in particular to meet the demand for survey-specific data that is as up to date as possible.

In 2005, therefore, a start was made on a redesign of the Agriculture and Forestry Register. In addition to the design phase of creating a new register structure and the realisation of a modern user interface, the foundations were also laid to enable the efficient use of administrative data. In 2007, the new register was put into operation after an in-depth test period and has since then been developed in small stages on an ongoing basis.

The main tasks of the register/managing the register therefore include:

- Recording and assignment of the LFBIS number for newly created holdings, administration of existing agricultural and forestry entities (Holding, Legal Entity, Agricultural Enterprise, "Enterprise") and deactivation of entities that are no longer relevant
- Ongoing updating and quality assurance/enhancement of all entities stored in the AFR with the aid of information from agricultural statistics surveys and administrative data
- Population for agricultural statistics surveys (in the case of sample surveys for the purposes of sample selection)
- Definition of project-specific survey populations (Farm Structure Survey, Basic Survey of Areas under Vine, Survey of Commercial Fruit Plantations etc.)
- Basis for agricultural statistics surveys for address purposes through the provision of names and addresses for pre-printing on survey documents

Of crucial importance for the utilisation of administrative data and the compiling of information from agricultural statistics surveys and administrative data is the unambiguous identification of each individual holding by means of the LFBIS number, i.e. that each agricultural and forestry holding is assigned a uniquely identifiable LFBIS number. The LFBIS numbers are assigned by Statistics Austria and the arrangements are governed by the LFBIS Act3. The LFBIS number is a 7-digit number, whereby the last digit is a "check digit", i.e. the last digit in the LFBIS number

3 See Federal Law Gazette No. 644/1983
is determined by means of the Mod 11 method. This LFBIS number is used throughout the agricultural sector (applications/processing of funding applications (Agrarmarkt Austria), reporting in the Veterinary Information System (VIS) etc.).

1.2 Main users

National institutions:
- Statistics Austria (internal users)
- Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (within the scope of the LFBIS Act)

1.3 Legal basis

- Austrian Federal Statistics Act 2000 as last amended

2. Concepts and processing

2.1 Statistical concepts and methodology

2.1.1 Object of the AFR

All economically active agricultural and forestry holdings within Austria are recorded in the AFR. The focus is on the recording of new entities as well as on the maintenance and updating of master/holding data of agricultural and forestry entities that have already been recorded. The AFR therefore represents the most important and most comprehensive survey basis (population) in terms of agricultural and forestry enterprises and their holdings in Austria. All surveys in which an entity takes part are stored in the AFR.

A significant factor in the handling of statistics is the possibility of historicising all characteristics. Agricultural and forestry entities go through a lifecycle: Agricultural Enterprises are created, they buy or lease land and can in turn sell or lease the land, thereby possibly changing their economic orientation. Furthermore, there may be locational changes or holdings may be temporarily discontinued. These changes to the reality of the situation must be taken into account and recorded as quickly as possible in the AFR.

A series of different characteristics (master and holding data) is recorded for every agricultural and forestry entity recorded in the AFR. Based on these characteristics, important information can be made available at holding level and unique identification is possible.

In contrast to the URS, no threshold values are used as inclusion criteria in the AFR; the circumstance of agricultural and/or forestry use is sufficient.

Since the LFBIS number, the assignment and administration of which has been entrusted to Statistics Austria by the BMLFUW pursuant to the LFBIS Act, is a prerequisite for submitting funding applications for agricultural and forestry subsidies, there must be entities recorded that are irrelevant for agricultural statistics surveys.

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4 See Annex 1
Agricultural and/or forestry areas outside Austria that are managed by Austrian legal entities are recorded in the AFR. Information about foreign legal entities with agricultural and/or forestry areas in Austria are only recorded in relation to agricultural subsidies/funding, principally by the AMA, and stored in the AFR as part of the synchronisation process with AMA data.

The following are recorded in the AFR:

- All entities with agricultural and/or forestry production (ÖNACE 2008, Section A)
- Entities that provide services for agriculture and forestry (e.g. machinery rings)
- Clients, transporters and abattoirs (within the framework of the VIS)
- Wine merchants

The separation of entities into those with agricultural statistics relevance and those required simply for administrative purposes is performed by means of a specific identifier or description in the AFR. For example, a transporter or wine merchant does not have an Agricultural Enterprise or "Enterprise" within the AFR if it does not engage in an activity that ultimately results in agricultural or forestry production. The coverage of holdings that produce agricultural and forestry products (see ÖNACE 2008 Section A) is 100%. Entities outside Section A are only included in the AFR if necessary. Where an agricultural and forestry entity engages in additional activities that are not connected to the agricultural and forestry activity (e.g. bakery), these are not recorded in the AFR.

**Figure 2 Separation of entities in terms of agricultural statistics relevance**
2.1.2 Register entities

The AFR currently records four types of entity, which are related to each other.

Figure 3 Relationships between the entities

- The agricultural and forestry holding is a workplace at a spatially specified location, i.e. a site at which agricultural and/or forestry production takes place. A holding is normally characterised by its on-site business facilities, i.e. buildings, machinery, land and livestock.

- The Legal Entity (LE) consists of a natural person, a group of natural persons or a legal person, on whose account and in whose name the holding is being managed and who is legally and economically responsible for the holding. It can be an owner, tenant farmer, hereditary tenant farmer, beneficiary/usufructuary or trustee. An LE can comprise several holdings; however, these are only assigned to the category of Agricultural Enterprise if agriculture and/or forestry production takes place. The key characteristics of the LE are name, location and legal form.

- The Agricultural Enterprise (AE) combines all agricultural and forestry holdings of a Legal Entity of relevance for agricultural statistics monitoring. If, for example, three holdings are assigned to an AE, only two of which are of relevance for agricultural statistics monitoring (e.g. the third might be an abattoir), only the first two are included in the Agricultural Enterprise. The fundamental characteristic of the Agricultural Enterprise is the business orientation, which comprises an agricultural and forestry activity.

- The "Enterprise" (E) comprises at least one Legal Entity that has sufficient freedom of decision-making in terms of the choice of production and the use of the available resources. The "Enterprise" is used in the AFR solely for entities in Section A of ÖNACE. The key characteristics of the "Enterprise" are the location and the business classification in Section A of ÖNACE.

Definitions of "agricultural and forestry holding"

The term "agricultural and forestry holding" is used not just in the field of statistics, but also in the administrative sphere. With the ever-increasing use of administrative data to update the Register, it is necessary to arrive at a standard differentiation of terminology. As a result of different legal requirements that govern the determination of terminology for individual
administrative entities, the term "holding" is used in different ways. Various definitions of the term "agricultural and forestry holding" are as follows:

- **Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA)**, which derives its definition of "holding" from Regulation 1782/2003/EC, defines the agricultural holding as "... all the production units managed by a farmer" (main and secondary holdings, equivalent to places of business) that are located in the sovereign territory of a member state. This definition of a holding equates to the business definition of the Agricultural Enterprise. Applications can therefore not be submitted for individual places of business or second holdings. Furthermore: "As part of the reform of the common agricultural policy, this term 'holding' is to be used for all areas relating to the common organisation of agricultural markets ..." (extract from AMA master data, change of holding operator, the term "holding"). "The term holding shall be understood as referring to the totality of all production units managed by the farmer (main holding and secondary holding(s)). The main holding is the one that represents the administrative centre of all managed secondary holdings." (AMA Communique, General Funding Requirements).

- In the **veterinary sector** - of relevance for the VIS - the definition refers to the place of business (local entity): "Holding: Any establishment, any facility or – in the case of free-range livestock – any location where animals are kept, bred, handled or housed."

- For the **tax authorities**, the type of income rather than any spatial classification is the decisive criterion. Income from the production of crop and animal products with the aid of the forces of nature is assigned to the income type "Agriculture and forestry". A minimum level of relationship to the land must exist here. Accordingly, an agricultural holding would be the totality of all production units contributing to the creation of income from the agriculture and forestry activities of a person.

The basis used by the "**Social Insurance Institute for Farmers**" (SVB) for the definition of terms in agriculture and forestry is the Austrian Agricultural Work Act as amended in 1984, which defines an agricultural and forestry holding as follows: "According to Section 139 (1) of the Agricultural Work Act 1984, a holding is any place of work that forms an organisational entity within which a physical or legal person or a group of persons uses tangible or intangible resources to achieve specific work products, irrespective of whether commercial motivation exists or not. An agricultural/forestry holding exists if the achievement of specific work products relates to those in Section 5 of the Agricultural Work Act."

The "unit value assessment" is normally the key criterion for the SVB in terms of contributions. The unit value is derived from the managed agricultural and forestry areas (unit value assessment taking into account any leasing arrangements). Where one holding operator manages several agricultural and forestry holdings, the sum of the unit values of all holdings is used.

The decisive criterion for the definition of the agricultural and/or forestry holding for the AFR is the presence of crop production and/or animal husbandry and/or forestry production, or areas that are maintained in a good agricultural and environmental condition in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009 of the Council. It is irrelevant whether the agricultural and forestry activity is pursued as a main or secondary activity.

As a result not only of structural changes but also of new requirements placed on agricultural and forestry entities (holding amalgamations, divisions etc.), their recording in the AFR is different to the situation a few years ago. Where a farmer formerly managed a "holding", he/she had just one LFBIS number for this holding, even if, for instance, farm buildings were spread over several locations. Now a separate LFBIS number is needed for all locations with livestock farming in order to be able to perform animal movements correctly from one location to another (notification requirements to the Cattle Database and Veterinary Information System).

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6 Cf. VwGH 19.3.1985, 84/14/0139
7 Natural or legal person
In the field of statistics, information is required as before at holding level. The AFR itself can provide data and information at the holding level, as well as at Agricultural Enterprise level, as the sum of relevant holdings and at "Enterprise" level.

**Legal Entity**

The Legal Entity can be a
- **natural person** or
- a **legal person**.

**Natural persons**

A natural person can either be an individual (sole holding operator) or a group of individuals (partner in a group holding).

The following are deemed to be natural persons:
- Farmer / sole proprietor
- Partnerships (particularly companies constituted under civil law (GesbR) and married couples)

**Legal persons**

A legal person\(^8\) is defined as a Legal Entity other than a natural person but having the normal rights and duties of an individual, such as the ability to sue or be sued. Legal persons can be public or private.

The assignment of legal form is based solely on the Legal Entity and can therefore be recorded for the holding.

**Relationships between the different entities**

In the AFR four different types of entity are currently defined (Holding, Agricultural Enterprise, Legal Entity, "Enterprise"). In order to be able to consider these entities in relationship to each other, there is clear and coherent differentiation between the individual entities. The identification number harmonised between the entities allows not only up-to-date analysis of the population of Holdings, but also a historical recording of each entity, beginning with the introduction of the new Register on 1 June 2007. As well a clear and correlated identification system, there is also a strict set of rules for forming and maintaining entities.

**Legal Entity – Holding**

At least one Holding must belong to each Legal Entity.

**Legal Entity – Agricultural Enterprise – Holding**

The Agricultural Enterprise combines the agricultural and forestry holdings of a Legal Entity where these meet agricultural statistics requirements:

\(^{8}\) See Regulation (EC) No. 1200/2009
A Legal Entity can only contain one Agricultural Enterprise.

An Agricultural Enterprise can only be assigned to one Legal Entity.

An Agricultural Enterprise only includes Holdings of relevance for agricultural statistics purposes.

Although both entities – Legal Entity and Agricultural Enterprise – basically cover the same circumstances, they differ in practice in terms of the number of Holdings they include.

The Legal Entity – Holding relationship describes a general link between Legal Entity and Holding, whereas the Agricultural Enterprise – Holding relationship includes only those Holdings that are relevant for statistics monitoring. The number of Holdings that can be included in the Legal Entity can therefore be higher than the number assigned to the Agricultural Enterprise.

Figure 5 Difference in the relationship of Legal Entity and Agricultural Enterprise to Holdings

In the AFR the above example shows that, for instance, farmer X (Legal Entity) has two Holdings with two LFBIS numbers. Holding 1 represents a traditional agricultural arable holding. Because farmer X also moves livestock as a transporter, he has a second LFBIS number for Holding 2. In terms of agricultural and forestry statistics, only Holding 1 is relevant so the Agricultural Enterprise only contains Holding 1.

**Agricultural Enterprise – Holding**

The Agricultural Enterprise includes all agricultural and forestry holdings of a Legal Entity that are relevant for agricultural statistics purposes:

- A Holding can only be assigned to one Agricultural Enterprise.
- An Agricultural Enterprise can include several Holdings, but only from the same Legal Entity.
Agricultural Enterprise – one Holding

Figure 6 Relationship between LE-AE and one Holding

This model corresponds at present to the type most frequently found in agriculture and forestry (1:1 relationship).

Agricultural Enterprise – several Holdings

Figure 7 Relationship between LE-AE and several Holdings

As a result of the increasing differentiation of production facilities (IACS, VIS etc.), the number of Holdings in a Legal Entity that are assigned to an Agricultural Enterprise is continually increasing (1:n relationship). In this case both Holding 1 and Holding 2 (of the Legal Entity) are relevant in terms of statistical considerations.

Legal Entity – "Enterprise"

Here:

- A Legal Entity can be assigned to only one "Enterprise".
- An "Enterprise" can however contain several Legal Entities.

In most cases an "Enterprise" contains only one Legal Entity. Although the technical possibility exists in the AFR of recording "Enterprises" in the field of agriculture and forestry with several Legal Entities, profiling is not currently being performed.

Agricultural Enterprise – "Enterprise"

The Agricultural Enterprise combines the Holdings of a Legal Entity that are of relevance for agricultural statistics:

- An Agricultural Enterprise can only be assigned to one "Enterprise".
An "Enterprise" can contain several Agricultural Enterprises.

"Enterprise" – Holding
- At least one Holding must be assigned to an "Enterprise".

Here a distinction needs to be made between "simple" and "complex" "Enterprises":

In a simple "Enterprise", the Legal Entity with at least one Holding and the Agricultural Enterprise performs no other economic activities. In this case the "Enterprise" can be considered to be identical to the Agricultural Enterprise.

**Figure 8 Structural overview of the simple "Enterprise"**

Complex "Enterprise"
At least two Agricultural Enterprises with their associated Legal Entities are contained in a complex "Enterprise".

**Figure 9 Structure of a complex "Enterprise"**

As previously mentioned, an "Enterprise" in the field of agriculture and forestry normally contains just one Legal Entity. Although the technical possibility exists in the AFR of having "Enterprises" with several Legal Entities, profiling is not currently being performed. Figure 9
therefore represents a purely theoretical possibility in the AFR; a possible situation could be as follows:
The starting point is a married couple who run a vineyard in the form of a marriage partnership. A Holding, an Agricultural Enterprise, a Legal Entity (the married couple) and an "Enterprise" therefore exist. For economic reasons the couple decide no longer to manage the areas under vine solely in the form of a marriage partnership; instead the wife is now to manage a small part of this land as tenant of the marriage partnership. This means that a separate Legal Entity must be created for the wife in the AFR, a new LFBIS number is assigned and a new Agricultural Enterprise is formed. In the course of profiling it would now emerge that she uses the same workforce, machinery, buildings etc. for farming and, in terms of freedom of decision making, there is a dependency on the marriage partnership and the individual farmer. Because of this situation, and because nothing has changed in terms of the original production processes, the newly created structure (Holding, LE and AE) is merged with the existing structure (married couple as holding operators and LE, Holding and AE) in the "Enterprise".

2.1.3 Data sources, coverage

The ongoing updating and maintenance of the AFR is largely based on administrative data from a wide variety of sources, as well as information from agricultural statistics full surveys, although these are only conducted at lengthy time intervals. In addition, information from sample surveys and special surveys (Survey of Commercial Fruit Plantations etc.) is used.

The following challenges are posed by the use of administrative data from different sources, as well as the use of information from agricultural statistics surveys:

➢ Different information about the same aspect as a result of different objectives
➢ Inconsistent quality of administrative sources

It is therefore necessary to check the data/information thoroughly, with only the "best" information actually being used for updating the AFR. Important data/information sources for the AFR are:

➢ Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS)
➢ Veterinary Information System (VIS)
➢ Social Insurance Institute for Farmers (SVB)
➢ Commercial Register (FB)
➢ Central Register of Associations (ZVR)
➢ Main Association of Austrian Social Security Organisations (HV)
➢ Tax office data
➢ Wine Database
➢ Mineral oil tax refund (MÖST) (up to 2012)
➢ Buildings and Dwellings Register (GWR)

Description of the data sources relevant for the AFR

Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS)

The Integrated Administration and Control System is based on Council Regulation 73/2009 and Council Regulation 1122/2009 and is used to administer and control EU funding measures. All area and livestock aid schemes are integrated in this system. Its implementation is the responsibility of Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA). The LFBIS number is also used in the entire area of funding/subsidies as a unique identification characteristic for all agricultural and forestry holdings.
**Veterinary Information System (VIS)**

The Veterinary Information System is part of the higher-level Consumer Health Information System and is used for various purposes, including the recording of holdings that keep livestock that are subject to the Animal Diseases Act (pigs, sheep, goats, cattle, poultry, bees, farmed game, horses, rabbits and hares, and aquaculture) in order to implement epidemic prevention and control measures as efficiently as possible in crisis situations. In addition, animal movements between these entities are recorded on the basis of specific legislation. The needs of the AFR were taken into account during the planning of the VIS, i.e. the LFBIS number represents the central "key" in the VIS. This enables the rapid entry of new information regarding master data for all holdings keeping livestock, as well as animal-specific information. Updates regarding farming structure are permanently imported into the AFR. Animal information is surveyed once a year and then recorded in the AFR.

**Social Insurance Institute for Farmers (SVB)**

The Social Insurance Institute for Farmers (SVB) administers farmers' health insurance as well as accident and pension insurance; according to the Farmers' Social Insurance Act, the system of compulsory insurance applies, i.e. an ex lege insurance relationship arises in respect of natural persons who exercise an occupational activity as a farmer. Depending on the unit value, the obligation to take out accident insurance arises where the unit value is 150 euros or more and the obligation to take out accident/pension insurance arises from a unit value of 1 500 euros or more. The unit value represents an income value defined by an assessment of the tax office; a wide range of holding-specific criteria is used to determine this value, e.g. soil quality, climate, type of usage and intensity of usage. Legal persons, central and local government authorities and purely livestock producers are not recorded by the SVB.

**Commercial Register (FB)**

The Commercial Register (Firmenbuch, formerly called the Handelsregister) is an official register managed by the Commercial Register Courts in a database. It includes the Cooperative Register, which was previously administered separately. The owner of the rights (pursuant to the Austrian Copyright Act) to the database is the federal government. The purpose of the Commercial Register is to list and publish details that must be recorded according to commercial legislation regulations. These include e.g. entries about the submission of annual statements and changes to authorised representatives or functions. The Commercial Register consists of the main register and the documents collection. The main register contains the Commercial Register entries (e.g. Commercial Register Number, company). The documents collection includes all documents on which the Commercial Register entries are based.

All entities in the AFR that are managed by legal persons are assigned a Commercial Register Number. This enables the correct company name to be updated on an ongoing basis and the existence of the entities to be checked.

**Central Register of Associations (CRA)**

The Central Register of Associations records all associations active in Austria. All entities in the AFR with the legal form of an association are provided with the relevant Register of Associations number. This enables the correct name to be updated on an ongoing basis and the existence of the entities to be checked.

**Main Association of Austrian Social Security Organisations (HV)**

The Main Association of Austrian Social Security Organisations (HV) records all employees throughout Austria. The assignment of HV employer numbers is performed in the AFR at the level of the Legal Entity.

**Tax office data**

The tax authorities keep a unique code for all economically active natural and legal persons (SID - Subject IDentification number). This is assigned in the AFR to the Legal Entity. In
addition, data on all land relevant for agriculture and forestry is also kept by the tax office in order to be able to issue the corresponding unit value assessments. In contrast to the AFR, however, only the ownership structure is recorded here. Leasing arrangements are not recorded in the data on land parcels.

**Wine Database**

Every agricultural and forestry entity that farms an area under vine of more than 500m² must be recorded in the Vineyard Register of the federal provinces and entered in the Wine Database of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. In the course of the Basic Survey of Areas under Vine 2009 (see Federal Law Gazette I No. 163/1999) this data was provided to Statistics Austria so that no primary statistical survey needed to be conducted, thus relieving the burden on respondents. Since the LFBIS numbers are also recorded in the Wine Database as a unique identifier, synchronisation with the information in the AFR and/or updating is possible.

**Mineral oil tax refund (MÖST) (up to 2012)**

Agricultural and forestry holdings can obtain mineral oil tax refunds for their diesel vehicles and machinery. Remuneration is based on the area farmed or actual consumption; the latter method is only used by just under 10% of applicants. Here, too, the LFBIS number is used as an identifier, which enables quick merging with the data in the AFR. Since it was possible to claim refunds for mineral oil tax only up until 2012, this administrative data source is no longer available.

**Statistical Business Register (URS)**

Information can be found in the relevant standard documentation [in German only].

**Buildings and Dwellings Register (GWR)**

All entities in the AFR are assigned the relevant GWR object number on allocation of an address except holding entities that cannot be assigned an object number because of their nature, e.g. ponds.

**Farm Structure Survey – full survey**

The Farm Structure Surveys form an important basis for the AFR and are conducted at 10-year intervals as full surveys. In addition to updating the master data, important information on the structure of agricultural and forestry holdings can be obtained.

Information can be found in the relevant standard documentation.

**Farm Structure Survey – sample survey**

The holding entities actively managed in the AFR form the selection framework for the sample selection. Updates of master and holding data are performed on the basis of these surveys.

Information can be found in the relevant standard documentation.

**Survey of Commercial Fruit Plantations**

In accordance with the relevant EU regulation, this survey is conducted at 5-year intervals with the most recent survey being held in 2012.

Information can be found in the relevant standard documentation.

**Aquaculture Production Survey**

This survey is conducted annually. The standard documentation will be the subject of a feedback meeting in spring 2015 and then made available over the Internet.
2.1.4 Survey format
Statistical register.

2.1.5 Data transfers from administrative sources
The data suppliers transfer their information at different time intervals either as an overall or delta delivery\(^9\), depending on the source. In the transfer a differentiation is made between master and holding data.

Table 1 Transfer frequency of administrative data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative data source</th>
<th>Transfer frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMA master data</td>
<td>Every two months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMA area information</td>
<td>Once a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVB data</td>
<td>Several times a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOST data</td>
<td>Once a year, MOST (up to 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HV data</td>
<td>Once a month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax office</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIS animal data</td>
<td>Once a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIS master data</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Register</td>
<td>Ongoing, monthly update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register of Associations</td>
<td>Ongoing, monthly update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and Dwellings Register</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine data</td>
<td>Once a year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data linking
The use of the LFBIS number as a unique identifier throughout agriculture facilitates the use of administrative data. Master and holding data can therefore be assigned, checked and integrated relatively quickly and efficiently.

\(^9\) Delta delivery refers to a data transfer that only contains the differences between the current and previous delivery, e.g. SVB data transfer.
The LFBIS number is used by:

- AMA
- VIS
- MÖST
- Wine Database

If the LFBIS number is not used by an administrative source, the third-party keys are assigned based on the Legal Entity in the AFR. This assignment is also recorded in the form of a table with start and end dates. These data suppliers include:

- SVB
- HV
- Commercial Register
- Register of Associations
- Information from tax authorities

If, due to its legal form, the entity to be examined is an entity that is listed in the Commercial Register or Register of Associations, the name, legal form, address and "authorised representative/s" from these registers are always used. Updates from these constitutive registers are performed monthly.

Addresses are recorded solely using the object code of the Buildings and Dwellings Register, which also includes address information from third-party registers. If an address cannot be found in the Buildings and Dwellings Register, the matter is clarified by the relevant data administrator. If it is not possible to assign an object number, geo-coordinates are used instead.

Data from Agrarmarkt Austria and the Social Insurance Institute for Farmers (SVB) represents the most important administrative source for updating the master data of the AFR. The AMA, for instance, supplies around 2,500 master data updates every two months. A large proportion (about 80%) of this data can be immediately verified via at least one further third-party register and therefore imported automatically into the AFR. Important registers for verifying AMA data are the information from the SVB and the tax authorities.

Because of the obligation of farmers and foresters to report data to the SVB, this information is available within four months at the latest.

Tax office data is not entirely suitable for verification purposes as complete datasets are not transferred. In particular, entities with the legal form of GesbR or marriage partnership are missing or only incomplete information for these entities is available.

To enable the data synchronisation and import process to be as automated and rapid as possible, the timing of the data transfer of the individual data suppliers to Statistics Austria is precisely coordinated. For instance, the SVB generally transfers its data shortly after the AMA. Whereas the importing of AMA data is relatively straightforward, the updates reported by the SVB must always be synchronised with the AFR in the form of an initial synchronisation (synchronisation via name, address, date of birth etc.). This process is supported by complex algorithms, the aims of which are firstly to achieve as high as possible a success rate for existing entities, and secondly to make processing as easy as possible for the administrators. A matrix is used here that provides assignment possibilities in accordance with congruities between the SVB dataset and the AFR dataset. Manual research by the administrator is needed when there are differences in terms of legal form, name of the entity and/or address. In addition, the SVB data is also used for the deactivation of AFR entities. If there is a link between the Legal Entity and the corresponding SVB entity and the latter notifies the SVB that its business activity has ceased, it is also automatically deactivated in the AFR. This information is particularly important for those entities that do not make a funding application or are solely forestry holdings since they are only very partially covered in other third-party registers and therefore this information can only be obtained in this way.

---

10 The SVB does not use the LFBIS number for identifying its data
Currently 228,584 active Legal Entities are recorded in the AFR. This results in the following links to administrative data holders:

Table 2 List of data suppliers and links in the AFR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data supplier</th>
<th>Linked entities</th>
<th>in % of AFR entities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMA (funding applicants)</td>
<td>116,393</td>
<td>Around 51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVB</td>
<td>200,043</td>
<td>Around 88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Register</td>
<td>2,917</td>
<td>Around 1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register of Associations</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>Around 0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIS (solely animal husbandry in the AFR)</td>
<td>13,790</td>
<td>Around 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine Database</td>
<td>19,853</td>
<td>Around 8.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 June 2014
2.1.6 Register characteristics

The characteristics recorded for the register entities can be divided into four groups:

1. Identification characteristics: these are used to uniquely identify an entity in the AFR. They include: LFBIS number, identification number of the Agricultural Enterprise, identification number of the “Enterprise”, name, legal form, type of entity (“Enterprise”, Agricultural Enterprise, Holding, Legal Entity), status of entity (active or inactive), date founded and date of liquidation.

2. Address characteristics: these are both site and respondents' addresses according to the Buildings and Dwellings Register. They cover the following characteristics: street, house and door number, municipality number, municipality name, postcode, object code of the building.

3. Classification characteristics: used to assign the register entity to one or more classifications, such as the classification of economic activities ÖNACE 2008 – main and secondary economic activities.

4. Reference characteristics: the use of administrative data is indispensable in order to reduce the burden on respondents. To be able to use this data efficiently, the identification number of the entities from the administrative sources must be recorded with the corresponding entity in the AFR. Key reference characteristics include, for example, the identification numbers for the following registers: Social Insurance Institute for Farmers (SVB), Main Association of Austrian Social Security Organisations (HV), Commercial Register (FB), tax office data.

Detailed overview of characteristics

Most characteristics/fields in the AFR are self-explanatory from their name or description. The overview below describes which characteristics are saved for the individual entities – Holding, Agricultural Enterprise, Legal Entity, “Enterprise” and person. For database-related reasons, data on cultivated area and/or livestock is not saved directly with the holding but in a reference table. Each cultivated area and/or livestock category in a holding is provided with a validity period, the corresponding cultivated area data/livestock number and the information source. This enables data to be depicted historically. If holding-specific data is updated, the system also automatically updates numerous characteristics of the entities, such as standard output, main and secondary economic activities, and whether the holding is run on a full-time or part-time basis.

If a value is needed in a required field, this field must be filled in. This is done firstly by manual or automated entries when data is imported and secondly on the basis of calculations performed by the system (e.g. LFBIS number, standard output, main economic activity). A large amount of important information on the individual characteristics is historically recorded for the purpose of traceability.

---

12 e.g. Farm Structure Survey 2010, AMA 2013, VIS 2013, etc.
13 Identified by "yes"
### Table 3 Overview of characteristics for holding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDP abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Historically relevant</th>
<th>Required field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LBETNR</td>
<td>LFBIS number</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VULGONAME</td>
<td>Name by which generally known</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STANDARDOUTPUT</td>
<td>Standard output</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACE_HT</td>
<td>ÖNACE main economic activity</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACE_NT</td>
<td>ÖNACE secondary economic activity</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJNR</td>
<td>Object number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDENTNR</td>
<td>ID number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAND</td>
<td>Country name</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLZ</td>
<td>Postcode</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEMNR</td>
<td>Municipality number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRNAM</td>
<td>Street name</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRPHON</td>
<td>Street name, phonetic</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR</td>
<td>House number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTNAM</td>
<td>Town name</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUERNR</td>
<td>Door number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRUENDDAT</td>
<td>Date founded&lt;sup&gt;14&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZUGANGDAT</td>
<td>Date added&lt;sup&gt;15&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMA#</td>
<td>AMA client number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VET#</td>
<td>Veterinary inspection number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNERW</td>
<td>Run on a full-time/part-time basis</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZUART</td>
<td>Addition type&lt;sup&gt;16&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFA</td>
<td>Multiple application AMA</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTB</td>
<td>Main/sub-holding AMA</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT</td>
<td>Relevant to agricultural statistics</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFBIS</td>
<td>Forwarded under LFBIS Act (yes/no)&lt;sup&gt;17&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIS</td>
<td>VIS holding</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETZTAENDUSER</td>
<td>User ID last changed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETZTAENDDAT</td>
<td>Timestamp&lt;sup&gt;18&lt;/sup&gt; last changed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO</td>
<td>Free text category</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>14</sup> Date that holding was founded  
<sup>15</sup> Date of inclusion in the LFR  
<sup>16</sup> On the basis of which information the Holding was created/maintained (e.g. BBK, AMA, municipality)  
<sup>17</sup> For example, wine merchants require an LFBIS number but this data is not transferred  
<sup>18</sup> Current system date and time
## Table 4 Overview of characteristics for Agricultural Enterprise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDP abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Historically relevant</th>
<th>Required field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LWUKZ</td>
<td>Agricultural Enterprise identification number</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKTIVDAT</td>
<td>Activation date(^{19})</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INAKTIVDAT</td>
<td>Deactivation date(^{20})</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETZTAENDUSER</td>
<td>User ID last changed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETZTAENDDAT</td>
<td>Timestamp(^{21}) last changed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACE_HT</td>
<td>ÖNACE main economic activity</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACE_NT</td>
<td>ÖNACE secondary economic activity</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STANDARDOUTPUT</td>
<td>Standard output</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNERW</td>
<td>Run on a full-time/part-time basis</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFOKAT</td>
<td>Free text category</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO</td>
<td>Free text</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

\(^{19}\) Date when Agricultural Enterprise was activated  
\(^{20}\) Date when Agricultural Enterprise was deactivated  
\(^{21}\) Current system date and time
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDP abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Historically relevant</th>
<th>Required field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REKZ</td>
<td>Identification number of Legal Entity</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RENAM</td>
<td>Name of Legal Entity</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RENAM_PHON</td>
<td>Name of Legal Entity, phonetic</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SID</td>
<td>Subject identification number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FB</td>
<td>Commercial Register key</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAGNR</td>
<td>SVB key</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HV</td>
<td>HV foreign key</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UR</td>
<td>URS key (enterprise identification number)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFORM</td>
<td>Legal form</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRUENDDAT</td>
<td>Date founded</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZUGANGSDAT</td>
<td>Date added</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INAKTDAT</td>
<td>Deactivation date</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>When deactivated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIQDAT</td>
<td>Liquidation date</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>When liquidated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZUART</td>
<td>Addition type&lt;br&gt;22</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABART</td>
<td>Removal type&lt;br&gt;23</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>LETZTAENDUSER</td>
<td>User ID last changed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETZTAENDDAT</td>
<td>Timestamp last changed&lt;br&gt;24</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACE</td>
<td>URS main economic activity</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJNR</td>
<td>Object number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDENTNR</td>
<td>ID number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAND</td>
<td>Country name</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLZ</td>
<td>Postcode</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEMNR</td>
<td>Municipality number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRNAM</td>
<td>Street name</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRPHON</td>
<td>Street name, phonetic</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR</td>
<td>House number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTNAM</td>
<td>Town name</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUERNR</td>
<td>Door number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOBJNR</td>
<td>Mailing object number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIDENTNR</td>
<td>Mailing ID number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLAND</td>
<td>Mailing country name</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPLZ</td>
<td>Mailing postcode</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VGEMNR</td>
<td>Mailing municipality number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSTRNAM</td>
<td>Mailing street name</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSTRPHON</td>
<td>Mailing street name, phonetic</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHNR</td>
<td>Mailing house number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VORTNAM</td>
<td>Mailing town name</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTUERNR</td>
<td>Mailing door number</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22 On the basis of which information the Legal Entity was created/maintained (e.g. BBK, AMA, municipality)
23 On the basis of which information the Legal Entity was deactivated/liquidated (e.g. BBK, AMA, municipality)
24 Current system date and time
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDP abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Historically relevant</th>
<th>Required field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HANDLF</td>
<td>Legal Entity with legal capacity[^25]</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFOKAT</td>
<td>Free text category</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO</td>
<td>Free text</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 Overview of characteristics for person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDP abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Historically relevant</th>
<th>Required field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PKZ</td>
<td>Personal identification number in AFR</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VORNAM</td>
<td>First name</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VORNAM_PHON</td>
<td>First name, phonetic</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACHNAM</td>
<td>Surname</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACHNAM_PHON</td>
<td>Surname, phonetic</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TITEL</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GESCHLECHT</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNKTION</td>
<td>Function in Legal Entity[^26]</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEBDAT</td>
<td>Date of birth</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVNR</td>
<td>Social insurance number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJNR</td>
<td>Object number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDENTNR</td>
<td>ID number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAND</td>
<td>Country name</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLZ</td>
<td>Postcode</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEMNR</td>
<td>Municipality number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRNAM</td>
<td>Street name</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRPHON</td>
<td>Street name, phonetic</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNR</td>
<td>House number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTNAM</td>
<td>Town name</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUERNR</td>
<td>Door number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TELNR</td>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TELNR2</td>
<td>Telephone number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAXNR</td>
<td>Fax number</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMAIL</td>
<td>E-mail address</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETZTAENDUSER</td>
<td>User ID last changed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETZTAENDDAT</td>
<td>Timestamp last changed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFOKAT</td>
<td>Free text category</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO</td>
<td>Free text</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[^25]: Refers to whether the entity itself has legal capacity (e.g. holding operators who are still minors)

[^26]: Describes the person's role in the Legal Entity, i.e. authorised agent, respondent, chairman/chairwoman, etc.
2.1.7 Classifications

Standard output

Standard output is a standardised figure that describes the average monetary value (in euros) of the gross agricultural output of an agricultural entity. Standard output is determined as the gross monetary output from the quantity produced multiplied by the associated “farm-gate price” for each cultivated area unit of a crop type or for each animal unit of a livestock category. Average yields and prices are applied, which are calculated for a reference period of five financial years. The standard output coefficients are determined by the Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics (AWI) in line with European Union requirements and then made available to Statistics Austria.

Standard output is used as the basis for determining the main economic activity and any secondary economic activities of a holding. The main economic activity is defined as the activity that accounts for the largest share of the total standard output. The resources of the holding are used to multiply the cultivated area and/or livestock numbers by the corresponding factor of the associated standard output coefficients. The values calculated are then sorted in descending order and the category with the highest standard output describes the main economic activity. All other activities are recorded as secondary economic activities provided that the standard output of the individual items exceeds 10%\(^27\) of the total standard output.

The following example is designed to illustrate this calculation method. The starting point for this fictitious example is a holding with agricultural and forestry land and with livestock farming.

Table 7 Example for calculating the total standard output of a holding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Area in ha/ number</th>
<th>Factor according to standard output table</th>
<th>Standard output share in €</th>
<th>% of total standard output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grain maize</td>
<td>10.39</td>
<td>454.84</td>
<td>4 725.78</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter barley</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td>469.66</td>
<td>1 216.41</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft winter wheat</td>
<td>11.08</td>
<td>493.57</td>
<td>5 468.75</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green area</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>295.11</td>
<td>844.01</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas tree crops(^28)</td>
<td>5.50</td>
<td>3 550</td>
<td>19 525</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>31 779.98</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laying hens</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>12.37</td>
<td>457.90</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male cattle older than 2 years</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>273.7</td>
<td>6 021.4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>93.02</td>
<td>186.04</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6 665.34</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber production areas</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>802</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total standard output:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39 247.32</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To determine the main economic activity in Section A of ÖNACE 2008, the figures are now differentiated according to the standard output within the division, in other words between agriculture and forestry.

Forestry standard output: 802
Agriculture standard output: 38 445\(^29\)

\(^{27}\) Activities below 10% of the total standard output are not recorded as separate secondary economic activities in the LFR for the sake of clarity.

\(^{28}\) Under ÖNACE 2008, Christmas tree crops are assigned to subclass 01.29 – Growing of other perennial crops.

\(^{29}\) Consists of agricultural land and animals
Since the production figure for agriculture is higher than that for forestry, the main economic activity is assigned in the corresponding subclass in agriculture (A.01). All items listed in Table 6 are grouped according to the subclasses in ÖNACE 2008 and allocated the relevant share of total standard output\textsuperscript{30}.

**Table 8 Grouping to determine ÖNACE 2008 in the corresponding subclasses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subclass</th>
<th>Share of total standard output</th>
<th>Cultivated area items and animal categories included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.290</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Christmas tree crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.110</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>Grain maize, winter barley and soft winter wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.420</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Male cattle older than 2 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The holding is consequently assigned the main economic activity 01.290 – Growing of other perennial crops. The secondary economic activities 01.110\textsuperscript{31} and 01.420\textsuperscript{32} can be assigned to the holding in accordance with their share of the total standard output.

**ÖNACE classification**

ÖNACE is the Austrian version of NACE (the EU classification of economic activities). The current version is ÖNACE 2008, which replaced ÖNACE 2003 on 1 January 2008.

The assignment of entities to the ÖNACE classification as recorded in the AFR is of key importance when compiling statistics. First, it is used to delimit the survey areas and thus the survey obligations; second, these assignments form the basis for depicting statistics according to economic activities.

The ÖNACE classification is a required field, i.e. there is no agricultural and forestry entity that is relevant to agricultural statistics that does not have an ÖNACE code. All relevant entity types are classified according to ÖNACE:

- “Enterprise”
- Agricultural Enterprise
- Holding

Entities that merely fulfil a functional role in the register, such as wine merchants or shippers, are not classified. In other words, these entities are included in the AFR since they require an LFBIS number; however, as they are not relevant from an agricultural statistics perspective, these entities do not need to be classified.

Added value forms the basic concept for classifying an entity according to economic activities. Value is added when certain products or services\textsuperscript{33} are produced through a combined input of production factors, such as work or resources of the holding.

In addition to their main economic activity, holdings and Agricultural Enterprises can also have up to ten secondary economic activities, which are also included in the register. Historically, however, only the assignment to the main economic activity is stored. This system therefore also enables every past and current classification date to be shown.

The main economic activity is defined as the activity that, at production prices, makes the largest contribution to added value of the entity to be classified. All other activities are shown as secondary economic activities. The top-down method is used to determine the main economic activity.

Secondary economic activities refer to all other activities of an entity that take place in the production process but that are secondary to the main economic activity.

\textsuperscript{30} Provided that the share exceeds 10%

\textsuperscript{31} Cultivation of cereals (excluding rice), pulses and oilseeds

\textsuperscript{32} Farming of other livestock

\textsuperscript{33} Landscape conservation, for example
Regional classifications

All entities in the AFR are stored with their actual address (no PO box addresses) and can therefore be uniquely assigned regionally. To make this possible, the AFR has a direct link to the Buildings and Dwellings Register (GWR), in which the official building addresses are recorded. This also enables an object number to be assigned to the entities. As a result, the entities are uniquely assigned regionally and data can also be evaluated at regional level with respect to the classification.

As well as improving the quality of the AFR, the direct link to the GWR also enables territorial changes (divisions/mergers of municipalities, introduction of street names) to be adopted automatically.

2.1.8 Regional breakdown

Data in the AFR can as standard be analysed down to municipality level and the corresponding aggregates (e.g. political districts, federal provinces) and displayed directly from the user application.

Moreover, data for all entities can also be analysed and displayed at grid level (from 100m to 50km).

However, regionally detailed analysis is useful at holding entity level since Agricultural Enterprises and "Enterprises" can have more than one holding entity, which may be in different regions.

Figure 12 Regional overview from the AFR maintenance application

In addition to tabular analysis options, thematic maps can also be generated using the AFR GIS tool. The register is designed in such a way that it permits flexible interrogation with regard to

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34 This excludes holdings not included in the GWR due to their nature (e.g. open waters). Coordinates are saved here.
the topic, e.g. number of arable holdings as a percentage of total number of holdings, the period of time (possible from 1999 onwards) and the regional breakdown at grid level. The range of display options also includes combinations of administrative boundaries and grids.

### 2.2 Register maintenance, quality assurance measures

Maintaining the AFR refers to:

- adding new register entities (2.2.1),
- maintaining characteristics or structures for existing register entities (2.2.2.) and
- deactivating register entities (2.2.3).

It also includes plausibility and quality checks. Maintenance covers automated and manual steps that cannot be seen statically but need to be adjusted in line with current circumstances or requirements. The redesign of the AFR involved automated quality assurance measures (plausibility checks, warnings, etc.) being integrated in the system to a greater extent. Problematic cases can sometimes be processed automatically. All negative checks that cannot be processed automatically must be edited manually by administrators. To ensure that all administrators tasked with maintenance have access to the same information, a maintenance manual is available that explains the tasks, plausibility checks and warnings as well as the general use of the AFR maintenance application. The manual is constantly being expanded and updated. Urgent changes during maintenance or to concepts are explained at regular meetings.

The areas of increased EDP maintenance support include:

- The AFR maintenance application. The support provided here is primarily designed to make it easier for administrators to carry out manual maintenance. The aim is to ensure that no duplicates are created in the system and all required fields are filled. Suggestions on the assignment of third-party keys and the online allocation of identification numbers are automated. An online link to the GWR checks the addresses entered and assigns the correct object code to them.
- All data supplied by administrative sources must be aligned with the AFR and its contents must be checked. For instance, during the automated incorporation of master data it is checked whether the information in the third-party register is indeed new information or whether the data being transferred is an older dataset from the perspective of the AFR. This quality assurance tool has already enabled a large amount of "misinformation" to be filtered out in the past. During the alignment process itself, an attempt is made in several steps to create a correlation between the AFR and third-party register. If a correlation of sufficiently high quality can be established, the third-party key is automatically added; correlation that is merely due to an identical address, for example, is an insufficient quality criterion.
- Finally, data is also evaluated in terms of plausibility, quality analysis is performed, register data is evaluated and/or the corresponding files are provided.

#### 2.2.1 Inclusion of new register entities

**Recording data when new entities are added**

Since the LFBIS number is assigned by Statistics Austria in accordance with the LFBIS Act, it is highly unlikely that Statistics Austria will become aware of new holdings, i.e. holdings that are not yet included in the AFR, when administrative data is transmitted.

New entities are generally created either as a result of the farmer making direct contact or, more usually, on the basis of information provided by the district chambers of agriculture (BBK).

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35 Cf. Annex II
36 If the agricultural and forestry activity is ended or suspended
New entities can be created automatically or manually in the AFR. They are usually added automatically by a "change of holding operator" on the basis of information from AMA. This involves the existing link between the holding and Legal Entity being ended by a "timestamp" and the new Legal Entity being created if it is not already included in the AFR. The processes required with respect to filling in information to create the new entity structure are identical to those performed by the administrator when a new entity is added manually. Key factors in the process are verification of the information reported using other third-party registers and allocation of unique identification numbers from the various sources; these are performed when the entity is created.

Figure 13 Automated updating of master data by AMA

If the information from AMA cannot be verified during the automated alignment and assignment process, the new entity is created but checked again against other third-party register sources at a later date (after four months). If the data still cannot be verified automatically at this later date, the complete entity structure is edited manually by administrators. In many cases, the differences are due to the spelling of the name of the Legal Entity or missing data, e.g. there is no date of birth or addresses are incomplete. The investigation is more complex if there is differing information about the same subject. If dates of birth differ, information from the Central Population Register is used in all cases. If, for example, AMA reports a new Legal Entity with the name "Joe and Jane Bloggs", but by contrast only one entity called "Joe Bloggs" exists in the SVB (with compulsory insurance) and at the tax office (with sole use of the agricultural and forestry land), the data must be assigned and described in accordance with the entity recorded at the tax office and in the SVB. At present around 1% of AMA data has a different farming structure from that in the AFR.

It is also possible for there to be no evidence at all of a possible link to another administrative register. In this case, the entity can only be updated and verified as part of a survey.

37 June 2014
38 Corresponds to 1 180 entities
When new entities are added manually, administrators must perform the processes or comply with the requirements below:

- Assign the name of the Legal Entity
- Date founded; the date the entity is added is automatically assigned by the system
- Addition type (who reports the addition, e.g. Chamber of Agriculture)
- Legal form
- Legal capacity (e.g. if holding operators are still minors, a trustee also needs to be added to the persons)
- Subject identification number (can also be searched for and assigned by a computer-assisted process)
- Commercial Register number (only by computer-assisted search)
- LAGNR (SVB identification number; only by computer-assisted search)
- HV employer account number
- Address of Legal Entity (computer-assisted alignment with the GWR and assignment of object number by the GWR)
- Assignment of mailing address (computer-assisted alignment with the GWR and assignment of object number by the GWR)
- Definition of function of persons of Legal Entity (e.g. holding operator)
- Name of person
- Gender
- Date of birth
- Social insurance number
- Communication options (e.g. telephone number)
- Address of person (computer-assisted alignment with the GWR and assignment of object number by the GWR)
- Information on the agricultural and forestry holding
  - Data on cultivated area and/or livestock information
  - Address of holding (computer-assisted alignment with the GWR and assignment of object number by the GWR)
  - In addition to data on cultivated area and/or livestock, further information on, for example, organic farming can also be given.

The addition of new entities is accompanied by internal plausibility checks performed by the system. This can, for example, prevent identical entities from being created or ensure that existing persons are only assigned rather than being newly created.

2.2.2 Maintenance of characteristics or structures in existing register entities

Updates to the AFR are mainly ensured by administrative data sources. To this end, the administrative data described in Section 2.1.5 is aligned with the AFR data in accordance with its transmission frequency. If there are any deviations, the administrator must edit the data manually.

With respect to the data transmitted, a distinction is made between master data and holding data (cultivated area, livestock numbers, etc.) Master data is updated more frequently than cultivated area or livestock numbers. In addition to the standardised data that is transmitted electronically by the various administrative data owners, there is also close contact to staff at the district chambers of agriculture.
Master data maintenance

Changes to master data are usually made when the agricultural and forestry holding is transferred, i.e. the existing holding is farmed by a new Legal Entity (change of holding operator).

Figure 14 Diagram of a typical change of holding operator

Information relating to a change of holding operator primarily comes from the data transmitted by AMA and from the VIS.

If due to its legal form, the entity to be examined is an entity that must be listed in the Commercial Register or Register of Associations, the name, legal form, address and "authorised representative/s" are always taken from these constitutive registers.

Changes of address are aligned with the GWR and information from this register is transferred to the AFR provided that it does not relate to an entity from the Commercial Register or Register of Associations.

Information on cultivated area and livestock numbers

The main suppliers of data on cultivated area and livestock include AMA and the VIS. Due to the various funding programmes in the agricultural sector and the associated obligatory data reporting to AMA, a range of data (in particular cultivated area data) can be accessed that allows data in the AFR to be updated at least once a year.

Similarly, extensive use can also be made of information from the VIS, in which all animal data is stored and which is also regularly updated.

Both data owners use the LFBIS number as an identification characteristic, making it easier to align or import information to the AFR. Manual searches or editing by administrators are therefore rarely necessary.

The characteristics of agricultural and forestry holdings that do not make funding applications and/or do not keep livestock (e.g. vineyards) are updated on the basis of information from the BMLFUW's wine database, the SVB or other information available.

The abolition of the mineral oil tax refund (in 2012) caused an important source for updating data, particularly on forestry land, to be lost.
Information from agricultural statistics surveys

Information obtained in the course of agricultural statistics surveys conducted by Statistics Austria is also used to update master data as well as cultivated area and livestock numbers. Since these surveys are not conducted regularly and are usually only sample surveys, it is not possible to regularly update the data on the basis of this information. From this point of view too, it is therefore important that a full survey is conducted at least every 10 years in the agricultural sector.

Plausibility checks performed by the system during the maintenance process

These plausibility checks are primarily performed during manual maintenance of the register. If a required field is not filled in or is filled in incorrectly (e.g. date of birth in the future), the system does not allow any further processing. Moreover, combinations of entries are checked. It is, for example, not possible to state a large agricultural area for a holding and to explicitly define this holding as not relevant to agricultural statistics.

Figure 15 Example of a warning in the AFR

When the system performs checks, a distinction is made between:

- entries that cannot be saved because the information is incorrect or insufficient, and
- entries that require the administrator to make a decision and merely indicate possible duplicates (e.g. if there is already a holding at this address).

If entries are missing or incorrect, all fields that need to be checked are displayed directly in the maintenance application.

Plausibility lists

For the purpose of quality assurance of the register, discrepancies in comparison with other administrative data sources are evaluated at regular intervals. In many cases, automated maintenance is not possible here or separate plausibility checks create notes for the administrator which must be processed.

On the basis of these plausibility lists, the checks carried out include the following:

- Missing assignments to third-party registers: if, for example, a legal form is entered for an “Enterprise” that refers to an entry in the Commercial Register and if this third-party
key is missing, the key must be added. This case is more common among entities transmitted by AMA since the "company name" or Commercial Register number are often not transmitted.

- Inactive entities in the system that appear in various third-party registers with cultivated area and/or livestock information are reset as active.
- Deceased persons who, however, still appear in the register with cultivated area and/or livestock information. In this case, an attempt is made to discover who the successor is. If these entities were to automatically receive the status "liquidated", valuable information would be lost.
- Discrepancies in cultivated area and/or livestock data; more detailed research or manual editing is required here.
- In the case of entities for which no SID link is specified; during manual research, the administrator checks whether a corresponding entity in tax office data can be assigned.
- Different information relating to the same subject in the administrative registers. To ensure that the same discrepancies are not constantly checked, however, checks of this kind are logged and do not undergo further examination until a later date.
- Missing address assignments to the GWR (Buildings and Dwellings Register). Transferring unchecked address data from a wide variety of third-party registers may result in the addresses given not being able to be automatically assigned to the GWR due to spelling mistakes, for example. This is checked and corrected by administrators.

Table 9 Annual manual plausibility checks between 2008 and 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manual plausibility checks</td>
<td>31 400</td>
<td>28 900</td>
<td>29 200</td>
<td>29 800</td>
<td>27 400</td>
<td>27 500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plausibility checks conducted on an ad hoc basis

In addition to the checks performed by the system, event-related checks are also carried out. Checks of this kind, which are mainly conducted before agricultural statistics surveys, are principally intended to ensure that master data is up-to-date; the main aim is to prevent a high return rate of survey documents.

2.2.3 Deactivation of register entities

An agricultural and forestry holding is deactivated if there is no current link to a Legal Entity or the Legal Entity itself has become inactive. If a Legal Entity is deactivated, all associated entities (Holding, Agricultural Enterprise and "Enterprise") are also deactivated.

2.2.4 Other quality assurance measures

Link to the Buildings and Dwellings Register (GWR)

To ensure the highest possible quality of addresses, the AFR is directly linked to the Buildings and Dwellings Register (GWR). When an address is entered manually, a search is performed in the GWR for an object number and this is transferred to the AFR. It is technically possible to enter the address of an entity without a GWR link, but this only occurs in cases in which the address has not yet been entered in the GWR. In the case of holdings that are relevant to the
VIS but whose address is not available in the GWR (e.g. open water areas), geographical coordinates\textsuperscript{39} can be used.

**Surveys**

Based on feedback from agricultural statistics surveys, the quality of entities participating in surveys is particularly high. Data errors of all kinds are rectified here and corrected directly in the AFR as far as possible.

**2.3 Publication (accessibility)**

The AFR is not a publicly accessible register.

Data from the AFR is not published directly.

**2.3.1 Treatment of confidential data**

Data from the AFR is only passed on at individual data item level if required by legal regulations\textsuperscript{40}.

**3. Quality**

**3.1 Relevance**

The AFR contains all agricultural and forestry entities in the territory of Austria and therefore forms the basis for all agricultural statistics surveys. Data stored includes not just the master data (LFBIS number, name, address, date of birth, telephone number, etc.) for these entities but also a range of holding characteristics (cultivated area, livestock numbers, type of holding (holding growing fruit or vegetables), etc.).

Only with the aid of these characteristics is it possible to manage the relevance of certain entities for certain agricultural statistics surveys, such as the Survey of Commercial Fruit Plantations. Since the AFR provides the basis for all agricultural statistics surveys, it is extremely important to update the AFR on a daily basis. The use of a range of third-party registers, administrative data and information from agricultural statistics surveys play a key role here.

Under the Federal Statistics Act 2000 as most recently amended and the LFBIS Act, Statistics Austria is tasked with maintaining the AFR; furthermore, the institute is also responsible for assigning the LFBIS number unique to every agricultural and forestry holding, which is also used in the funding area.

Under the LFBIS Act, Statistics Austria is also obliged to transmit certain precisely defined items of data (LFBIS number, name, address) to the BMLFUW.

**3.2 Accuracy**

**3.2.1 Coverage (misclassifications, undercoverage/overcoverage)**

Due to the fact that Statistics Austria has the authority to assign LFBIS numbers under the LFBIS Act, all agricultural and forestry entities in the territory of Austria are shown in the AFR. To ensure a high quality of data in the AFR, information is used from a range of third-party registers, administrative data and agricultural statistics surveys.

Since, in contrast to the AFR, the third-party registers do not contain all agricultural and forestry entities, a "third-party source" can only ever be used to update a proportion of the entities stored in the AFR or their characteristics. As this information covers various entities, however, and/or differs over time, it can be assumed that it is regularly – at longer or shorter intervals – updated.

\textsuperscript{39} Specification of UTM coordinates with reference to the ETRS89 reference system and the GRS80 ellipsoid

\textsuperscript{40} Cf. Section 17, para. 2 of the Federal Statistics Act (BStatG)
Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA)
Since the information in question is transmitted to AMA as part of funding applications and is also checked by AMA, it can assumed that it is of high quality. Around 51% of the entities stored in the AFR (master data) can be updated on the basis of data transmitted by AMA. This master data is forwarded to Statistics Austria every two months.

Veterinary Information System (VIS)
Data from the VIS is subject to continuous plausibility checks with the result that it can generally be assumed that the data is of very high quality. These plausibility checks involve both the annual surveys and reports of movements. In addition, the results of all official holding inspection visits to livestock holdings are documented in the VIS by the veterinary authority, with the result that a very high degree of coverage can be assumed which, depending on the species of animal, is close to 100%. All livestock numbers stored in the AFR are therefore taken from the VIS.

Social Insurance Institute for Farmers (SVB)
Precise information is only recorded by the SVB about natural persons who farm land. No comprehensive information is kept on legal persons and public entities. Information on cultivated area and also on the farming structure is used. Around 88% of the legal entities stored in the AFR can be updated on the basis of data forwarded by the SVB.

In summary, it can therefore be said that individual third-party registers only cover some of the agricultural and forestry entities shown in the AFR; all this information is collated in the AFR, enabling a very up-to-date and comprehensive picture to be obtained of all agricultural and forestry entities in the territory of Austria.

3.2.2 Missing values (unit non-response, item non-response)
Missing values in the true sense do not occur in the AFR; therefore not relevant.

3.2.3 Processing errors
Errors may occur during both automated and manual processing. When they occur during automated processing, they are detected by plausibility checks and can therefore be corrected. In the case of manual processing, monitoring performed by the system is in place that does not permit certain combinations of characteristics.

3.3 Timeliness
To ensure that the AFR is kept as up-to-date as possible while maintaining a high quality of data, information is used from both third-party registers and agricultural statistics surveys. The increasing amount of information available from third-party registers enables master data for approx. 90% of agricultural and forestry entities to be updated at least once a year. In addition, cultivated area data and a large proportion of livestock numbers from the VIS can be updated once a year for around 80% of these entities.

3.4 Comparability

3.4.1 Comparability over time
Since the AFR underwent a fundamental "renewal" in 2007 and has also been subject to a continuous optimisation process since that date, there may in some cases be limited comparability over time for some of the register information/characteristics for the time prior to 2007.

However, comparability over time is ensured for all agricultural and forestry entities since the introduction of the new register on 1 June 2007.
3.4.2 Comparability over region

Comparability of the AFR over region is fully ensured. There are no specific regional features related to maintenance of the AFR. Irrespective of their regional location, all register entities are treated the same. Neither the use of various administrative sources nor the maintenance concept and application differ according to territorial dimensions.

3.5 Coherence

Coherence relates to the relationship and comparability with other (statistical) registers and thus to the relationship and comparability with the Statistical Business Register (URS). Since the terminology traditionally used in agriculture and forestry cannot be equated with the terms used in the URS, both methodological and conceptual differences arise in the management/maintenance of the AFR compared with the URS. Entities that are included in both the AFR and the URS are aligned in order to prevent different information from being stored about the same entity.

4. Outlook

The requirements for a register that is ideally updated daily and contains information of the highest quality are continuously increasing. In order to meet these new and constantly changing requirements, a new AFR application is currently being developed. The objectives of the new AFR are greater ease of use, storage of even more information, use of even more administrative sources and/or the optimal use of existing data, and quicker and more efficient evaluation options. Special attention should be paid to the analysis options in order to make these available to users in the best way possible.

Improved integration of administrative data sources

Registers need to be up-to-date. A wide range of administrative sources are therefore already being used to update agricultural and forestry entities. Optimising existing transfer processes, be it in terms of time, content or IT, is a key element in the considerations relating to the new AFR. The same applies to the use of possible new data sources.

New information/characteristics

To date, the agricultural and forestry holding represents the smallest entity in the AFR. In terms of the increasing need for better regional representation options, consideration is being given to also showing the land parcel structure of agricultural and forestry entities in the AFR in future.
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List of abbreviations

AE                  Agricultural Enterprise
AMA                 Agrarmarkt Austria
AWI                 Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics
BBK                 District chambers of agriculture
CAP                 Common Agricultural Policy
GIS                 Geographic information system
GWR                 Buildings and Dwellings Register
HV                  Main Association of Austrian Social Security Organisations
IACS                Integrated Administration and Control System
LAGNr.              SVB identification number
LE                  Legal Entity
LFBIS               Agriculture and Forestry Holding Information System
AFR                 Agriculture and Forestry Register
MÖST                Mineral oil tax refund
ÖNACE               Classification of economic activities used in Austria; the acronym NACE stands for Nomenclature générale des activités économiques dans les communautés européennes
SID                 Subject identification number
SVB                 Social Insurance Institute for Farmers
TAPAS               Technical action plan for improving agricultural statistics
TKZVO               Animal Identification Regulation
U                   "Enterprise"
URS                 Statistical Business Register
URV                 Administrative Business Register
VIS                 Veterinary Information System
VwGH                Administrative Court
Annex I

Modulus 11 check digit calculation

Check digit methods are derived from an asymmetric encryption method and should, as a general principle, be used to prevent errors when entering or transmitting data.

The most efficient method using a single-figure check digit is known as the modulus 11 method. The original number and check character added (check digit) together form a self-checking number. This process has been used at Statistics Austria for all internal holding identification numbers and municipality identification numbers since registers first started being compiled and maintained (around 1970).

Other check digit methods are used for external identification numbers (e.g. tax number, insurance number).

Calculation:

All digits are first multiplied individually by a multiplier. The multiplier corresponds to the position of the digit +1 from the right, i.e.:

last digit * 2, digit next to last * 3, etc.

All resulting products are added. The result is then divided by 11. The resulting remainder (modulus 11) is deducted from 11 and then gives the check digit. If the result 11 is calculated in this checksum procedure, the check total is 0. 0 could not normally be calculated as the result since 11 is an impossible result in the previous step (remainder when divided by 11).

Example: Holding number 228306:

2 2 8 3 0 6
multipl. by 7 6 5 4 3 2 gives (seen from the right) 12+0+12+40+12+14= 90 (total)
90 : 11 = 8 remainder 2
11 - 2 = 9 = check digit
Annex II

Number of arable holdings as a proportion of the total number of holdings per municipality

Number of pig holdings as a proportion of the total number of holdings per municipality

Legend: 4 und mehr → 4 and more; Kilometers → kilometres; Q: STATISTIK AUSTRIA → S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA; erstellt am → created on
Annex III

The figure below shows the database structure used in the AFR, i.e. how the characteristics of the individual entities (Holding, Legal Entity, Agricultural Enterprise, "Enterprise" and persons in the Legal Entity) are linked in a unique relationship. To this end, the field name (e.g. first name, date of birth) and field type with its length are specified in the figure.

The names of the tables are highlighted in yellow, while fields that must be unique are highlighted in green. If a number of fields in one table are highlighted in green, the combination of highlighted fields must be unique, i.e. there cannot be any other datasets containing the same information.

Identification numbers/ID: These are unique keys for identifying the particular entity in the register. The individual entities are interrelated and are therefore also correlated via reference tables. For instance, the identification number of the "Enterprise", the entity at the top of the hierarchy, can be used to determine all identification numbers of the associated holdings. In combination with date fields, historic processes and freely definably points in time of structural information can also be simulated as a result.
Database structure of the AFR  

[Legend: WEB-MELDUNG → WEB REPORT]