

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Cattle Survey (full survey)

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Executive Summary

Establishing the size of the cattle population on certain key dates is an important source of statistical information about the agricultural sector. The aim is to obtain up to date, realistic results concerning the structural conditions of agriculture in Austria that can be compared with the results of other EU member states. This information is required in order to investigate the causes and background of structural change in this area of the economy and subsequently to be able to draw specific conclusions for the future from these results. This data forms an essential basis for making appropriate agricultural policy decisions at national and international level.

The results (modelled administrative data, which is already in aggregated form when it is received by Statistics Austria (STAT)) are incorporated inter alia into statistics on milk production and use, and subsequently provide the underlying data for supply balance sheets and the Economic Accounts for Agriculture. Furthermore, the results of the cattle census provide a basis for making cattle production forecasts.

Commission Decision 2004/412/EC authorised Austria to establish the size of the cattle population using administrative data alone (AMA cattle database) as of 2004 (register evaluation).

The cattle database maintained by Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA) was put into operation on 1 January 1998 in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No. 820/97 (subsequently Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council). Every single bovine animal is registered in the cattle database from birth until death. With the exception of transporters, every livestock keeper is subject to full reporting obligations for each individual bovine animal.

All cattle and cattle holdings are registered in the cattle database. The holding numbers, or numbers of the Information System for Agricultural and Forestry Holdings (LFBIS numbers), are assigned centrally via the Agriculture and Forestry Register (LFR) kept by Statistics Austria. The master data is regularly reconciled between STAT and AMA.

With the exception of transport, all movements of cattle must be reported. A dual reporting system is used, i.e. sending and receiving livestock keepers make their reports independently.

Reports from the individual livestock keepers are regularly checked for plausibility by AMA. Demands for outstanding reports and corrections are handled by an automated reminder system. In addition, at least 5% of all cattle holdings are checked annually in on-site inspections.

Commission Decision No. 1999/571/EC recognised the fully operational character of the data source, the AMA cattle database.

AMA is certified to ISO standards 9001:2000 and ISO 27001:2005. The cattle database is maintained according to regulated procedures in compliance with the standards specified above. It has been inspected several times by the EU and various national control bodies.

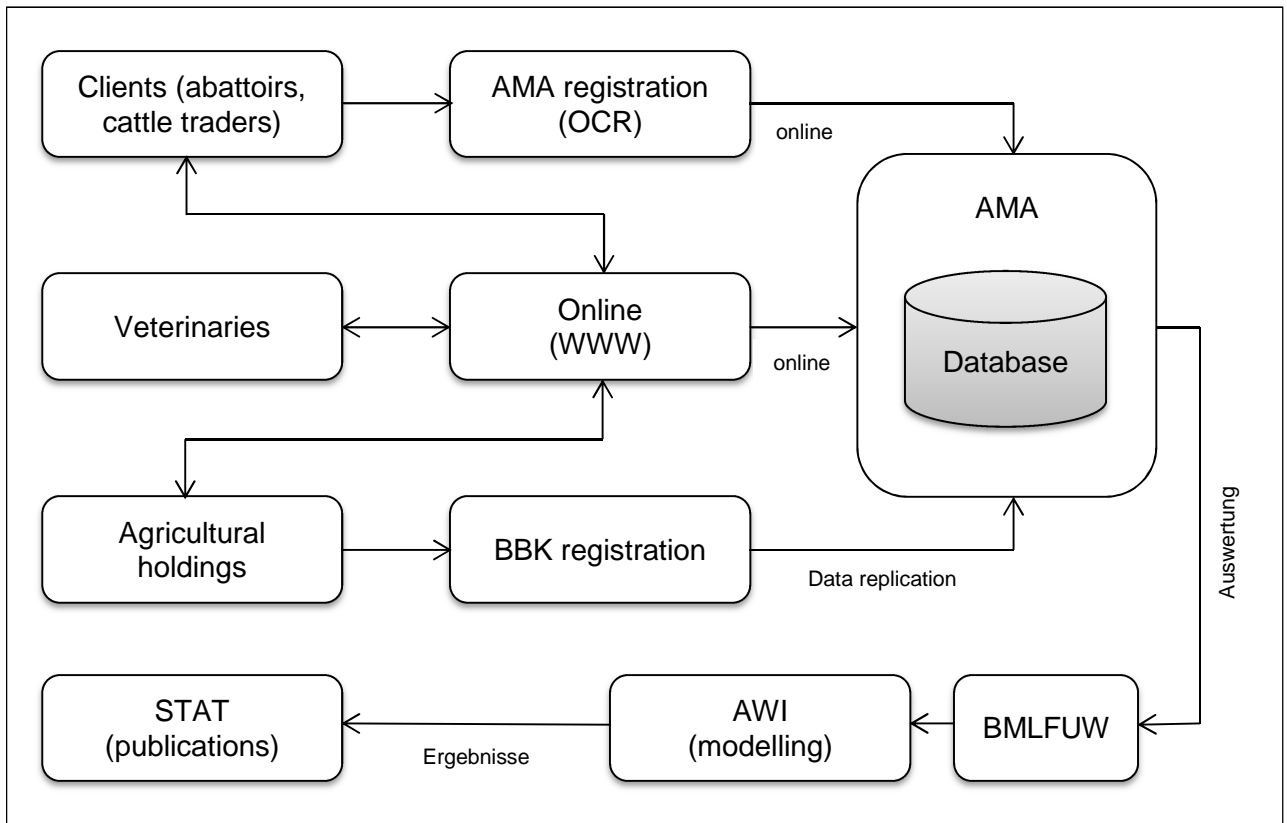


Figure 1: Entities subject to reporting obligations, reporting channels for the AMA cattle database and evaluation process

Cattle Survey (full survey) – Main Features	
Subject matter	Biannual calculation of the cattle population, broken down by age, use and gender categories
Population	Cattle holdings according to the AMA cattle database (~75 000; as at 1 June 2010)
Type of statistics	Secondary statistics (statistics based on administrative data), model based statistics and register evaluation
Data sources/Survey techniques	Model calculation by the Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics (AWI) based on a register evaluation (AMA cattle database)
Reference period or due day	1 June and 1 December of the respective year
Periodicity	Biannual
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	-
Main legal acts	<u>National</u> : Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) II No. 147/2009 Ordinance issued by the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management relating to statistics on the livestock population <u>EU</u> : Regulation (EC) No. 1165/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 concerning livestock and meat statistics and repealing Council Directives 93/23/EEC, 93/24/EEC and 93/25/EEC
Most detailed regional breakdown	Statistics Austria publication: Laender (federal provinces)
Availability of results	Final data: t+105 (June survey); t+75 (December survey)
Other	The definition of holding in the cattle census extends beyond that in ÖNACE Section A. All agricultural holdings that fulfil the above criteria must be surveyed, irrespective of whether agriculture is practised as a main or secondary activity.