



Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia

Animal breeding in Latvia

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Facts on Latvia

Area km² 64 57

Population, mio (at beginning of 2012) 2.024

Population density per 1 km² 31.3

Borderline 1 866 km
including coastline 498 km

Length of the territory, km
from the North to the South 210
from the West to the East 450

Average elevation above the sea level 87 m

Highest point (Gaiziņkalns) 312 m

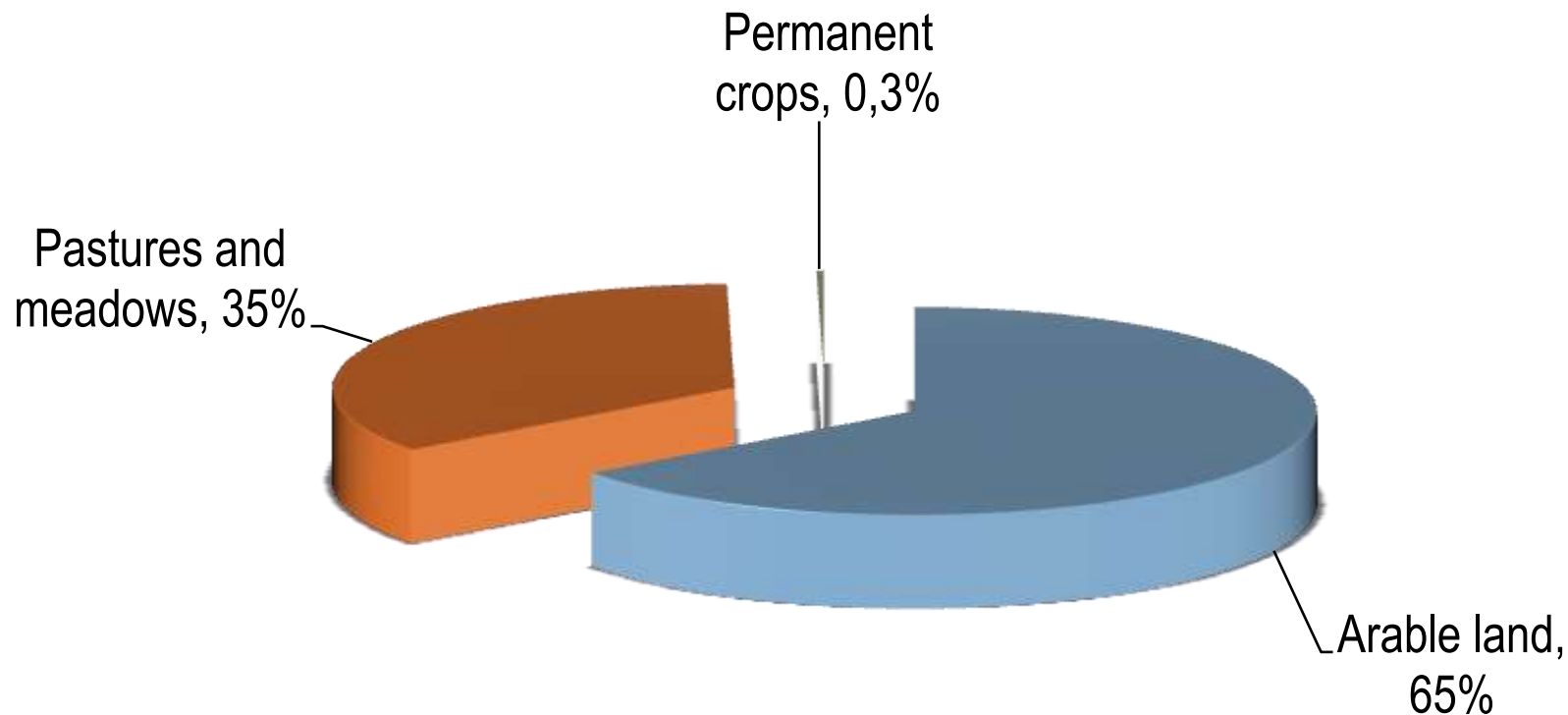
Mean monthly air temperature C° in Riga

Average	+7.3
Average Jan.	-3
Average Jul.	+19.8

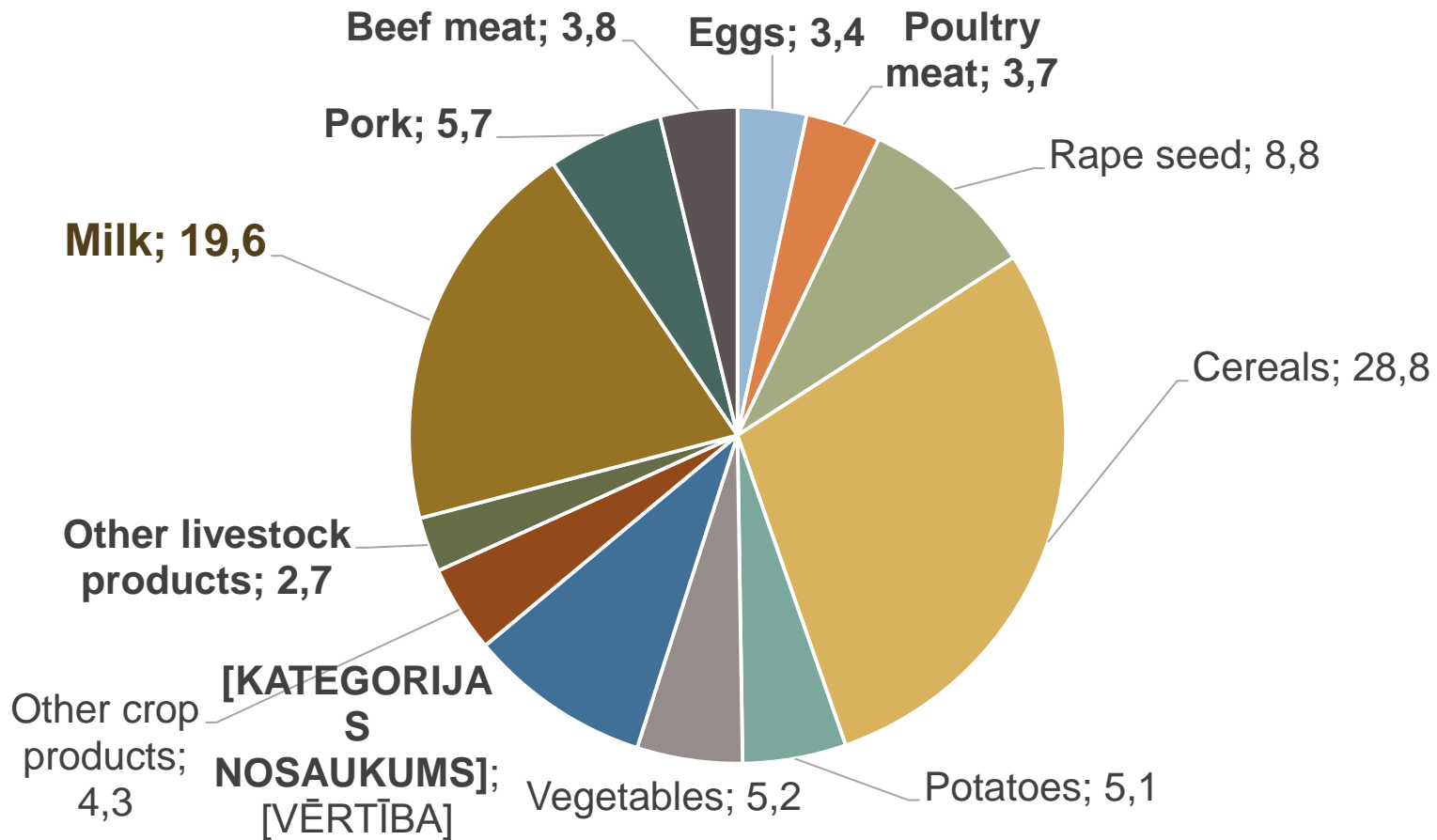


Structure of Agricultural land

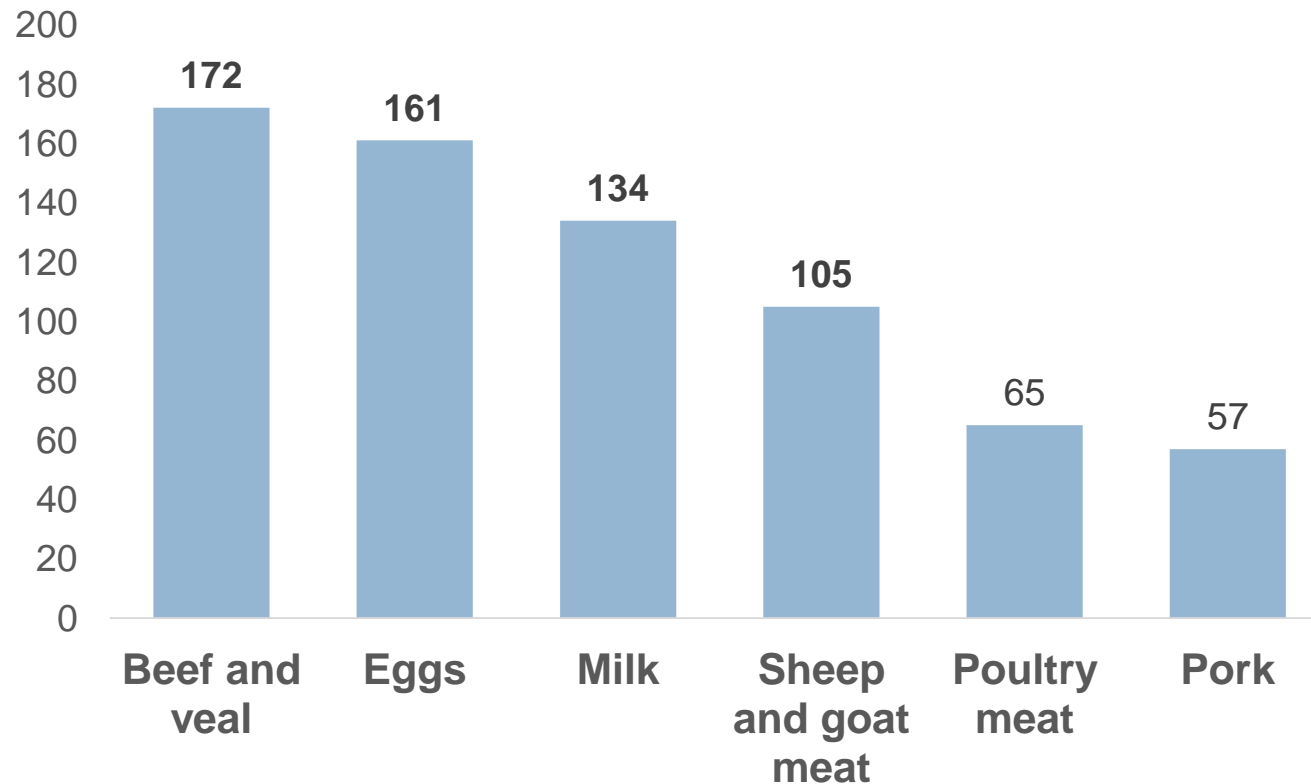
Total area 1933.8 thsd.ha



Structure of Agricultural output in 2016 (base prices)



Self-sufficiency in agriculture products, % in 2016

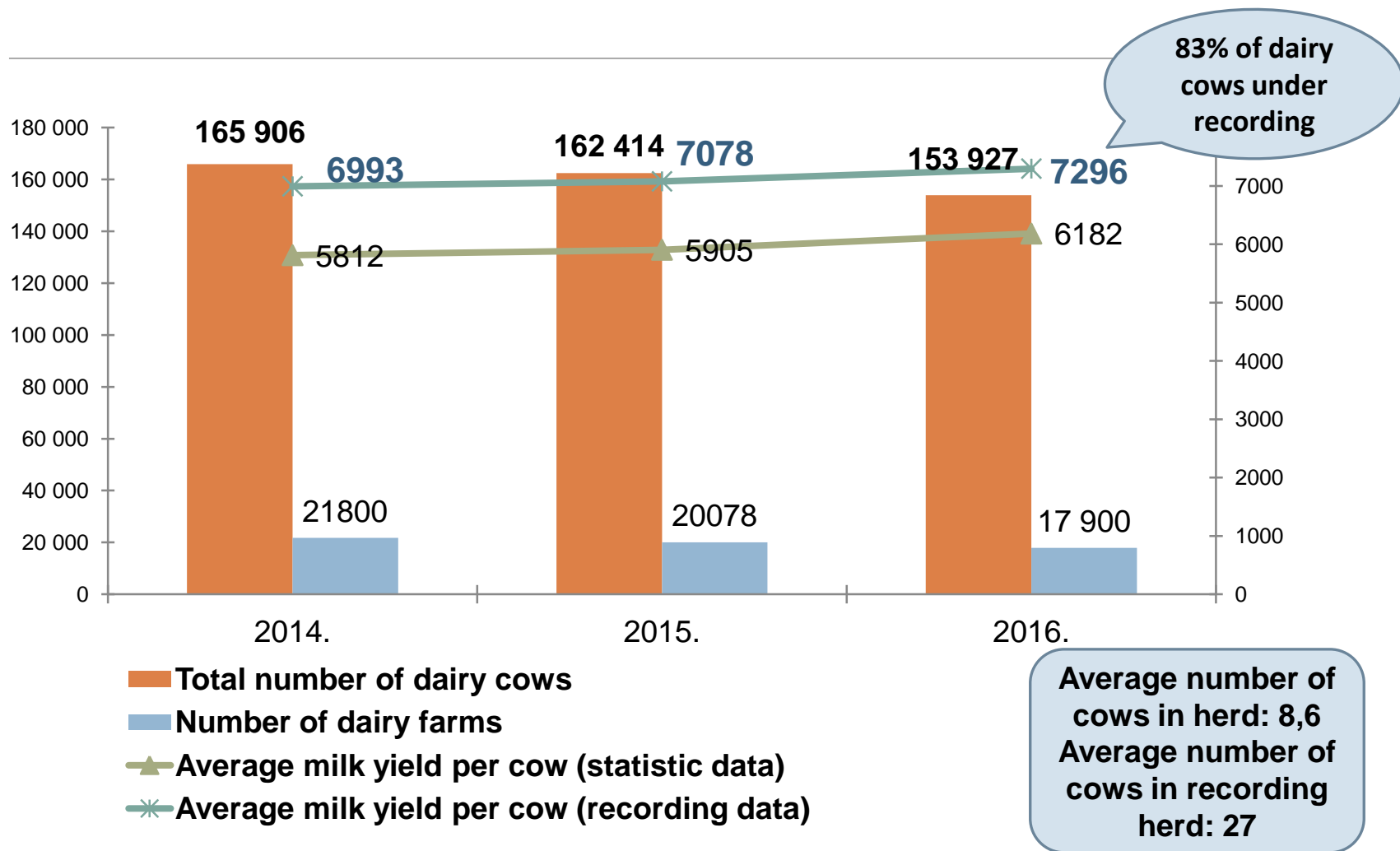


Livestock sectors of Latvia



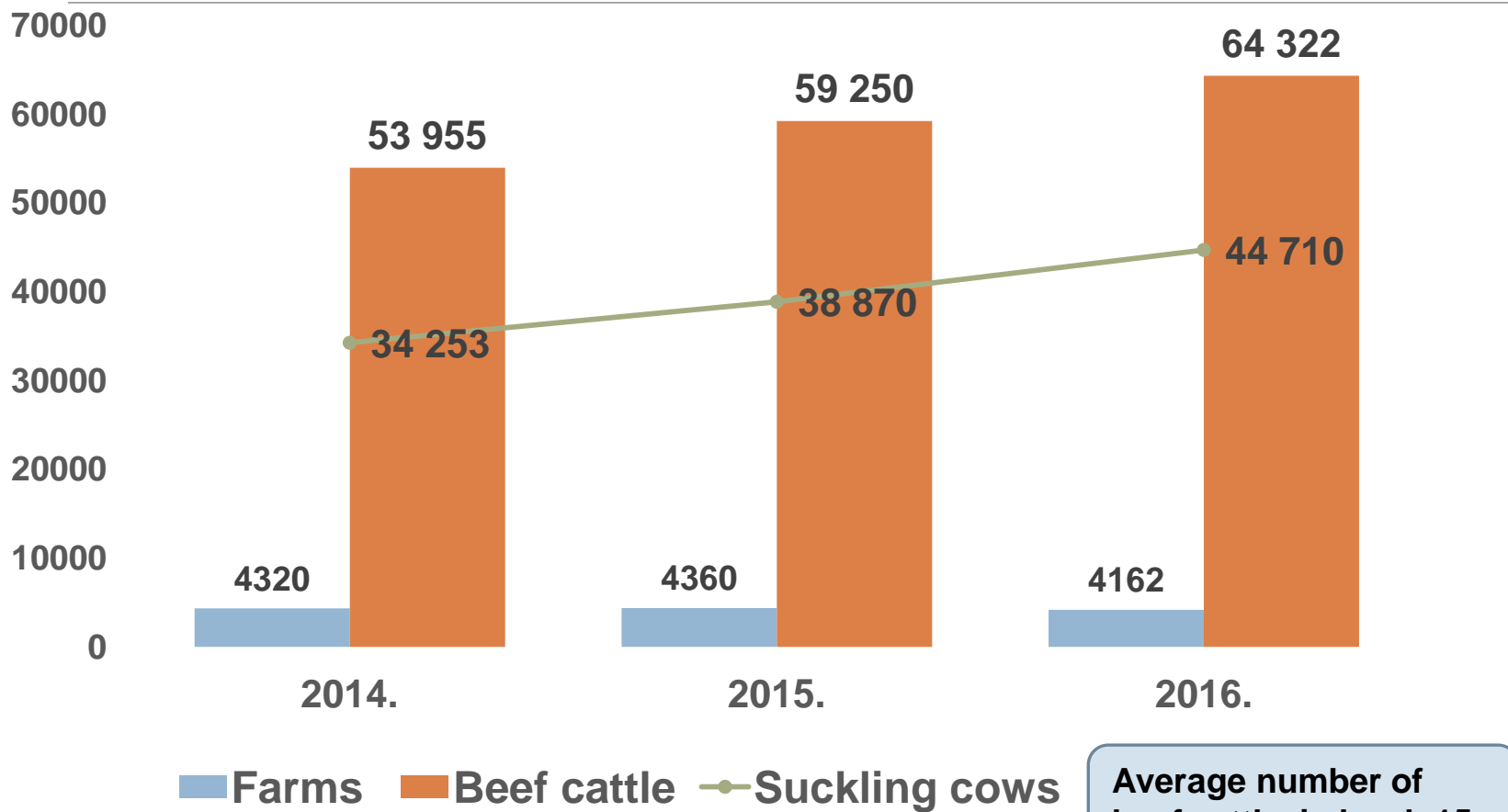
Dairy sector

Number of farms and cows, milk yield



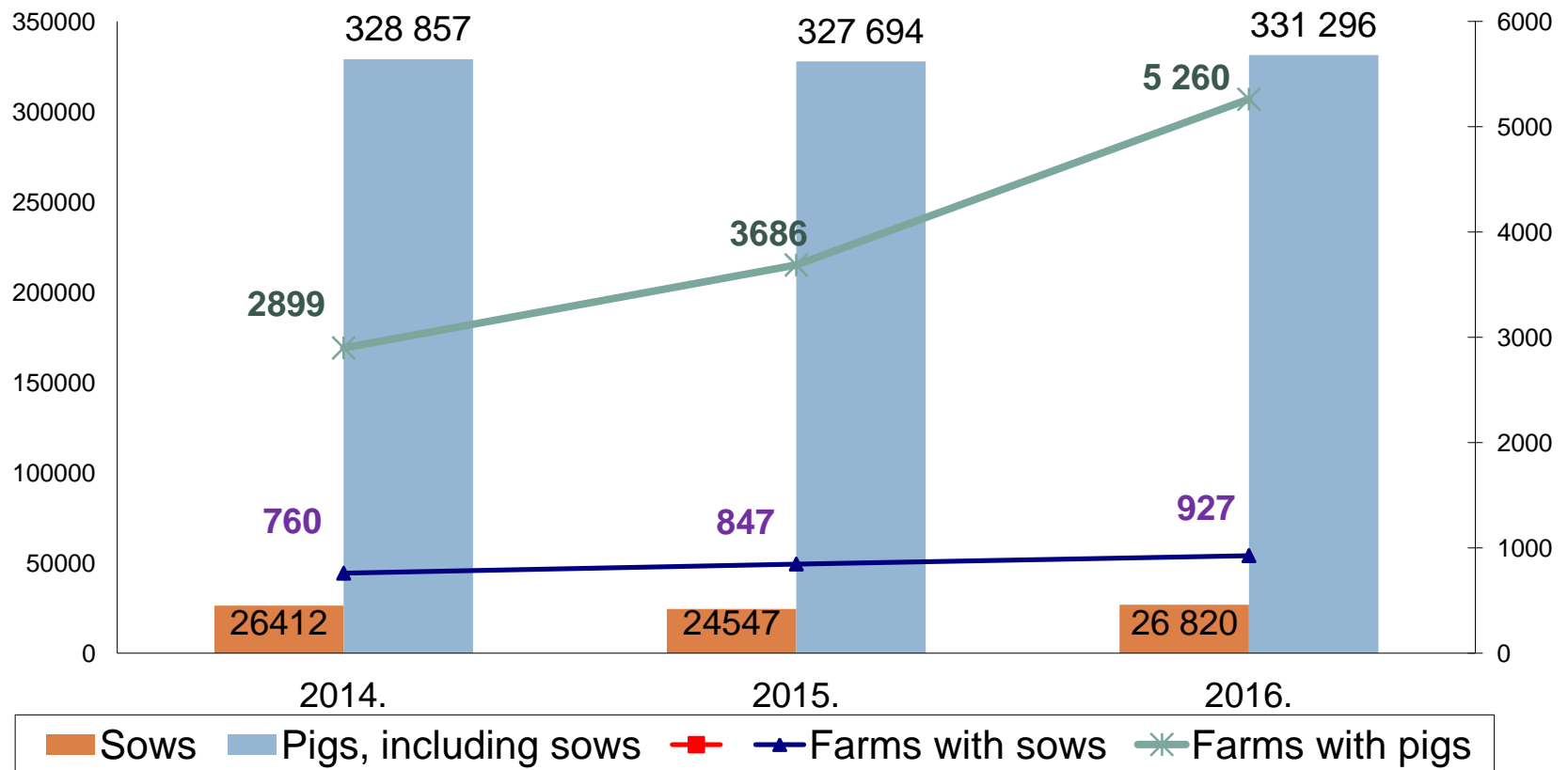
Beef sector

Number of beef farms, beef animals and suckling cows



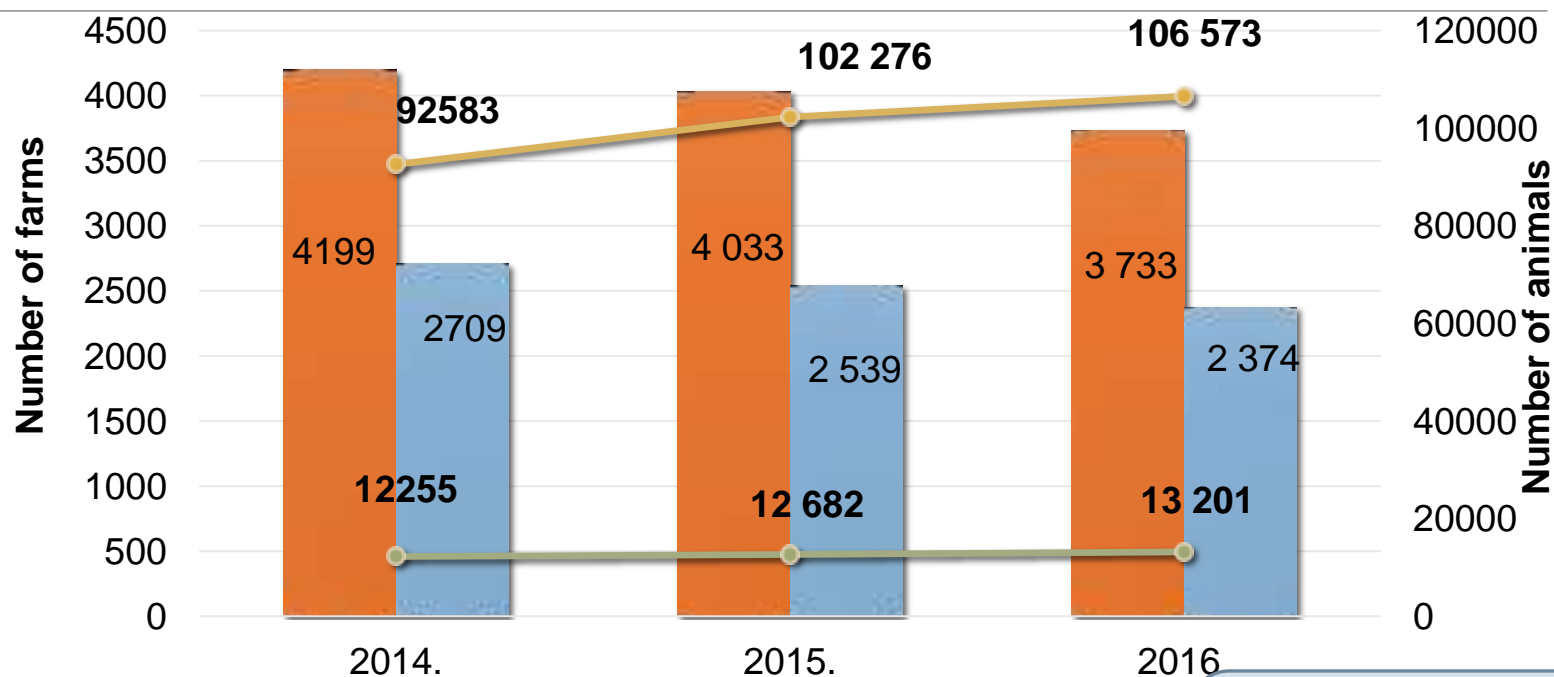
Pig sector

Number of pigs and farms



Sheep and goat sectors

Number of goat and sheep farms and animals

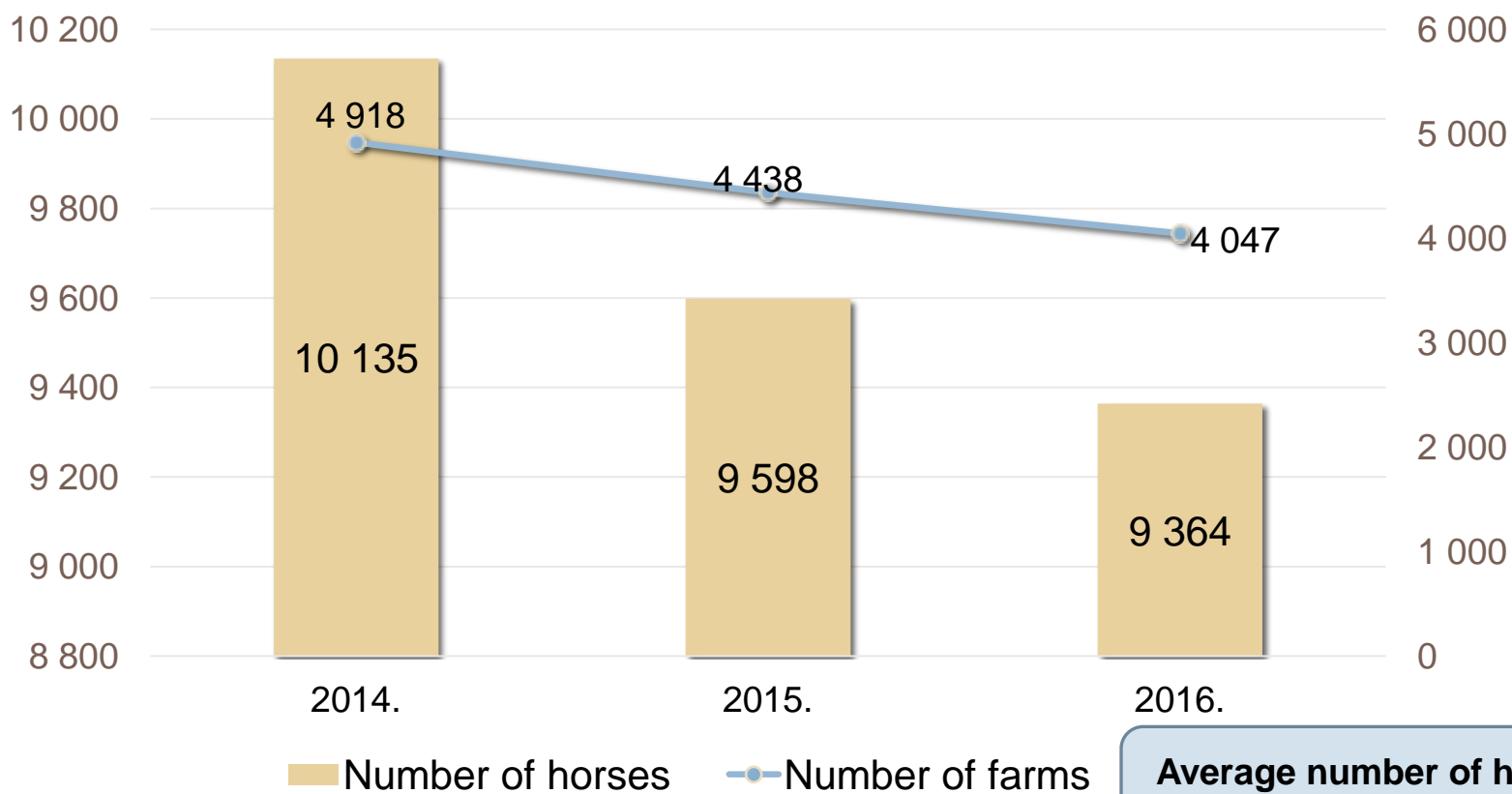


■ Farms with sheep
 ■ Farms with goats
● Number of sheep
 ● Number of goats

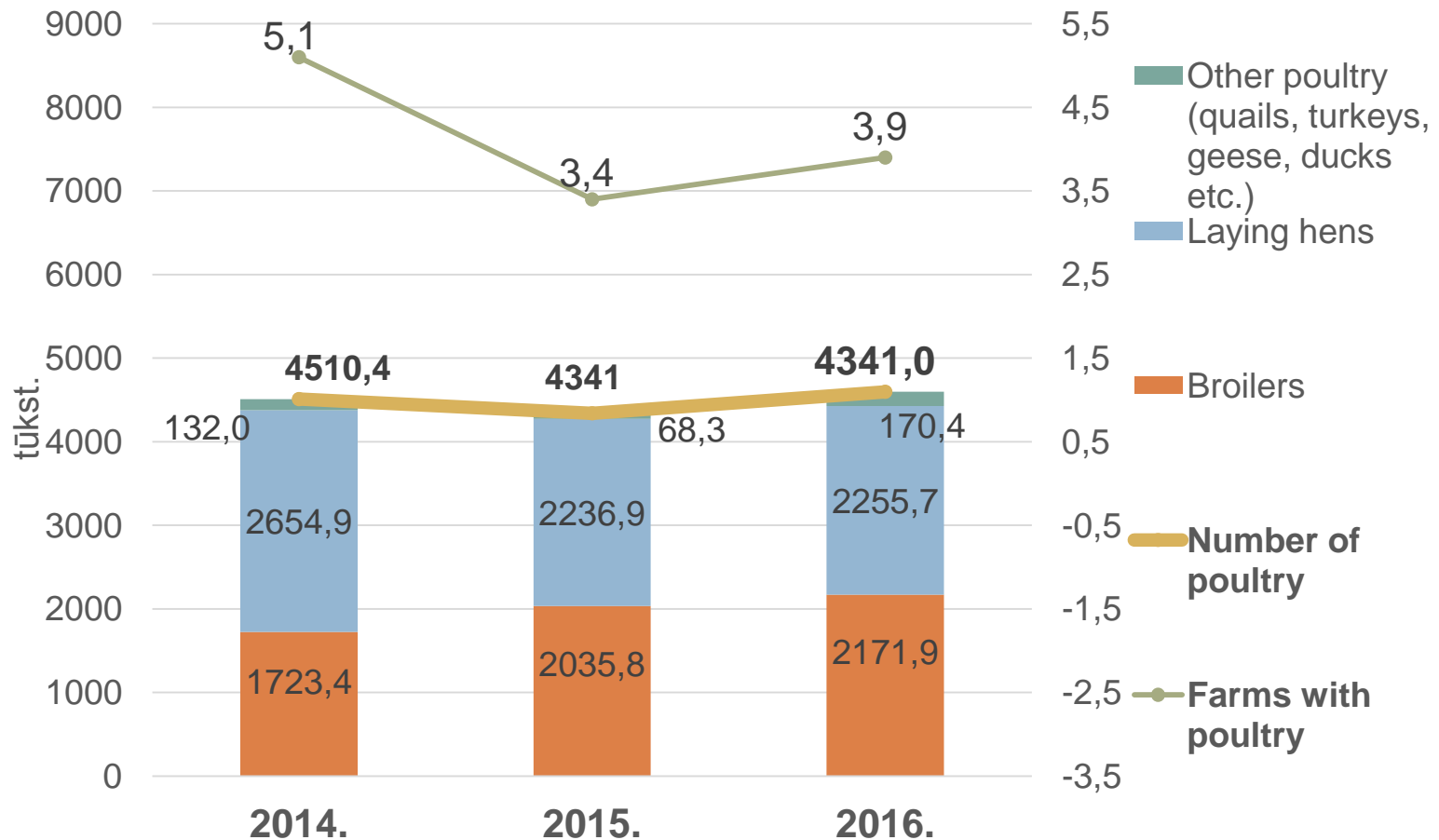
Average number of sheep in herd: 29
Average number of goats in herd: 6

Horse breeding sector

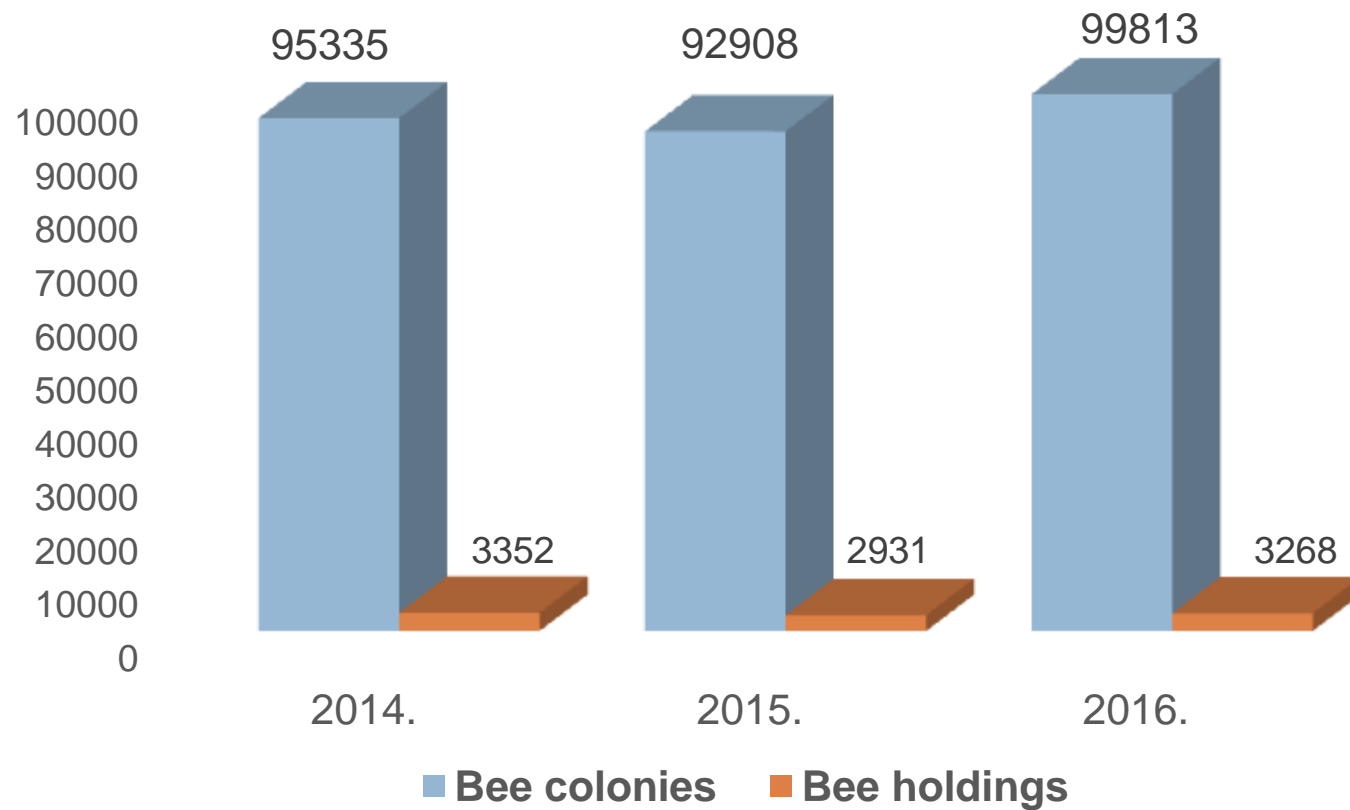
Number of horse farms and horses



Poultry (thousands)

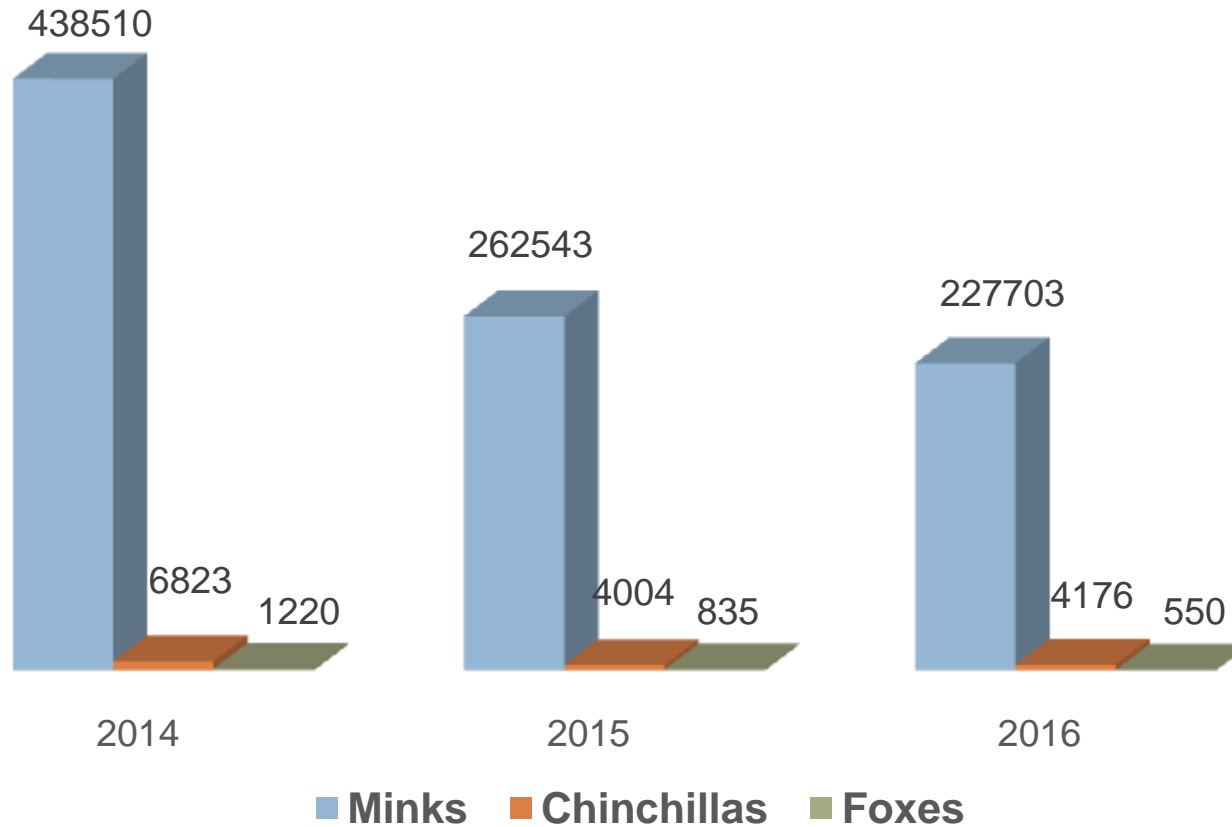


Beekeeping

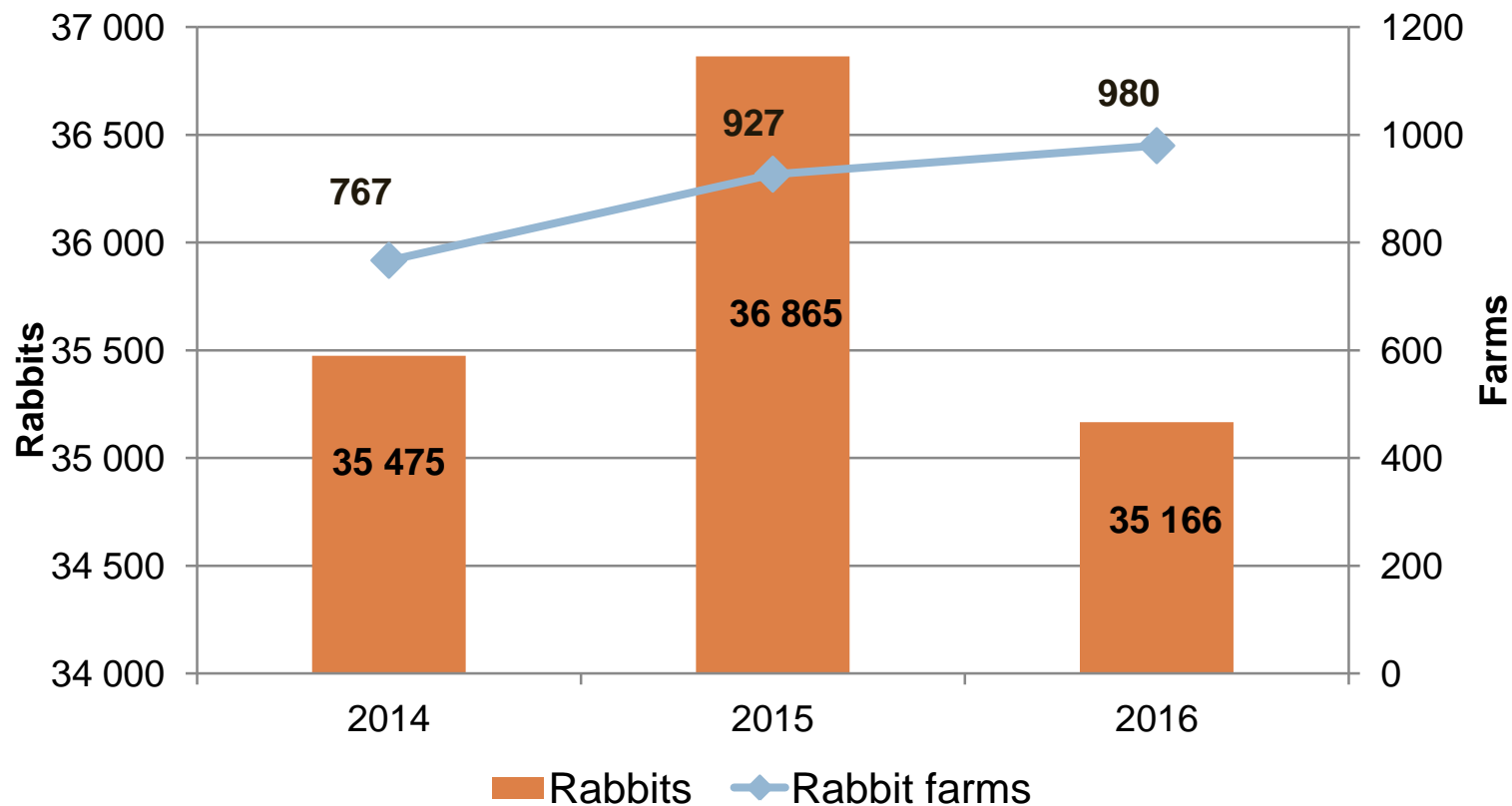


Average number of bee colonies in holding = 31

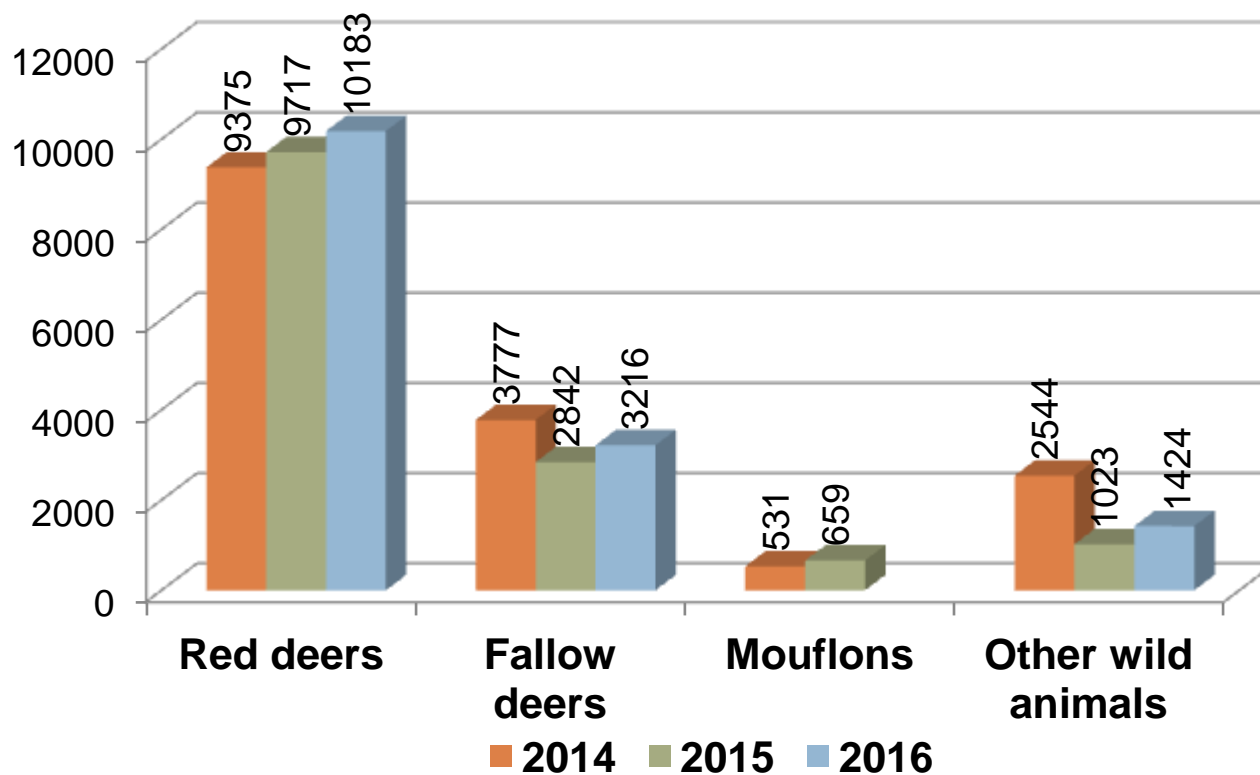
Fur-bearing animals



Rabbit breeding



Untraditional animals



Native breeds

- Dairy cattle:
 - Latvian Brown cow (152),
 - Latvian Blue cow (312)
- Horses:
 - Latvian horse breed draught type (215)
 - Latgale Trotter (~20)
 - Latvian Arden (~20)
- Pigs:
 - Latvian White pig (50)
- Goats:
 - Latvian Native goat (24)
- Sheep:
 - Latvian Dark-headed sheep (549)
- Also:
 - Latvian local bee population (60 colonies)
 - Latvian Hound

Conservation measures of native breeds

√ **In – situ conservation**

- Farm animal breeders
- Nucleus Latvian Brown cow herd (at Latvia University of Agriculture training and research farm «Vecauce»)
- Project for the breeding of new bulls of the Latvian Brown and Latvian Blue cow breeds, since 2016

√ **Ex – situ conservation**

- Semen storage
 - 3 AI stations store semen
 - decisions on number of semen doses needed for storage are made in collaboration with breeding organizations

√ **Specialized Laboratory for storage of DNA and biological material** (from 2007)

- Laboratory functions within the Latvia University of Agriculture
- More than 1000 DNA samples from 6 local breeds are stored in laboratory

Challenges in livestock sector I

√ The new **EU Animal Breeding Regulation (2016/2012)**

- New Animal breeding law

- New regulations:

- procedure for recognition of breeding organisations and approval of breeding programmes;

- procedure for maintaining of herd-books;

- recording rules;

- rules for issuing zootechnical certificates;

- rules for acceptance of sires, semen and embryos for breeding;

- Discussions with animal breeding organisations to explain the new procedures and to implement them

√ Creation of **gene bank**, participation in EUGENA

Challenges in livestock sector II

To ensure that organisations comply with requirements of the Animal breeding regulation

Cattle breeding organisations: 4

Sheep breeding organisation: 1

Pig breeding organisations: 2

Goat breeding organisation: 1

Horse breeding organisations: 2

Organisations for other animals: 5

Challenges in livestock sector III

To ensure that breeding programmes comply with requirements of the Animal breeding regulation

Cattle (5):

- 2 dairy cattle programmes (Red breeds, Holstein breed)
- 2 breed preservation programmes (Latvian Brown and Latvian Blue cow)
- 1 beef cattle programme for main breeds

Pigs (2):

- 1 programme for main breeds
- 1 breed preservation programme (Latvian White pig)

Sheep (5):

- 1 programme for local breed, including preservation measures (Latvian Darkheaded sheep)
- 4 programmes for other breeds

Goats (2):

- 1 programme for main dairy goat breeds (including preservation measures for Latvian Native goat breed)
- 1 programme for meat goats (Boer breed)

Horses (4):

- 1 programme for Latvian horse breed (including preservation measures for driving type horses)
- 1 breed preservation programme (Latvian Arden)
- 1 programme for trotter breeds
- 1 breed creation programme (Latvian Sport pony)

Other animals (5) 1 programme for local bees, 1 programme for rabbits, 1 programme for fur animals, 2 programmes for deers

Thank you for attention!

