

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE
UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

**The impact assessment of Council Directive
91/629/EEC Article 4 and 91/630/EEC Article 4
(Animal Welfare Rearing and Keeping
Requirements)**

April 18, 2002
Summary of the final report

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THE PURPOSE of the study was to undertake the analysis of the impact of implementing Council Directives 91/629/EEC and 91/630/EEC on animal welfare standards.

In the study the following tasks were undertaken:

- Analysis of Lithuanian Legal Acts transposing these Directives and their correspondency.
- Analysis of Pig and Calf Keeping Rules, how they are carried-out, supervised and sanctions taken upon the violation of them.
- Evaluation of how animal keepers are abiding these rules and the problems experienced regarding this.
- Calculation of reconstruction costs at pig and calf farms.
- Identification of feeding, watering and manure removal modernisation levels.
- Assessment of social consequences and effects on consumers in farming development and trade if farms which do not comply with EU norms are closed down.
- Organised interviews with interested institutions, experts, social organisations.
- Evaluation of a need for new Legal Acts.

Analysis and calculation of economic and social impacts was based on the following assumptions and conditions:

- Animal welfare evaluation in farms were performed during 2001-2002.
 - Farm reconstruction costs were calculated using 2002 building material and equipment costs.
 - Social impact was calculated departing from the current LR Law on Employment.
- ❖ Implementation of Directives 91/630/EEC and 91/629/EEC will have a positive effect: animals will be kept according to animal welfare requirements, their health status will improve, quality and safety of animal origin products will improve. This will have an influence on equal conditions for competition in the local and foreign markets, export impediments will be removed. Implementation of EC requirements will require a better understanding of animal welfare and its advantages.
- ❖ According to the Council Directive 91/629/EEC and the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Care, Keeping and Use of Animals, the State Veterinary Service prepared and approved by the Order No 4-60 of 31 December 1998, the Regulation on the Keeping of Calves. According to the Council Directive 91/630/EEC and the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Care, Keeping and Use of Animals, the State Veterinary Service prepared and approved by the Order No 4-359 of 31 December 1998 the Regulation on the Keeping of Pigs. The new edition of these Regulations was approved by the Order No 387 On the New Edition of Regulations on the Keeping of Calves and the Keeping of Pigs, adopted on 22 December 2000 by the State Food and Veterinary Service (“Official Gazette”, No 110-3562, 2000). These Rules are aimed at farms that maintain more than 5 pigs or 4 sows with piglets and farms that maintain more than 5 calves. Directives 91/629/EEC and 91/630/EEC requirements are fully transposed into LR National Rules. The Rule on Keeping of Pigs needs to be updated according to the new Council Directives 2001/88/EC and 2001/93/EC.

❖ EU norms are enforced by the Lithuanian State Food and Veterinary Service (LSFVS) via Government Decision 1999, No.325. The current 51 LSFVS Animal Welfare Veterinary Inspectores are fully competent to evaluate how the requirements of animal welfare are met by farms. In addition they perform the function of education of the general public. At this time it is felt that administrative structures do not need to be changed as there is no duplication of functions with other state institutions.

❖ Keepers of animals found to be in non-compliance can be penalised by using administrative and monetary fines, ban on the sale of animal or animal products and in exceptional cases, seizure, confiscation and emergency slaughter of animals are imposed. On 1 January 2002, the State Food and Veterinary Service completed a representative survey of 1990 and 2002 farms. A preliminary conclusion from this survey is that, on average, about 15% of the farms do not meet the EU standards.

❖ Most farms are found to be in compliance with minimal animal welfare standards, morbidity and mortality levels are insignificant (an indicator of good welfare). Approximately 10% have implemented advanced animal keeping technology.

❖ Expert analysis has shown that most non-compliance at pig and calf farms are due to the lack of costly investments: isolation quarters, ventilation, feeding and watering systems, lighting and pens. Most farms need to change the roofs of their barns.

Table 1. Most Commonly Found Violations at Calf and Pig Farms

| Calf farms | Pig Farms |
|---|--|
| 1.Inadequate Lighting | 1.Improper Isolation Quarters for Unhealthy Calves |
| 2.Improper Isolation Quarters for Unhealthy Calves | 2.Improper Feeding / Watering systems |
| 3.Improper Pens | 3. Inadequate Lighting |
| 4.Inadequate Lighting for Calf Inspection | 4. Inadequate Ventilation |
| 5.Improper Feeding / Watering systems | 5. Improper Pens |
| 6.Inadequate Ventilation | 6.Inadequate Lighting for Calf Inspection |
| 7.Hazardous Materials Found in Construction Materials | 7. Hazardous Materials Found in Construction Materials |
| 8.Insufficient Hygiene of Farms, Feed Troughs and Equipment | 8.Stocking Density Violations (Overcrowding) |

❖ Most violations are found at small farms keeping 6-50 pigs or calves. According to inspection results, selected farms need capital improvements or reconstruction which are shown in Table 2 and 3. Farms that were not in serious non-compliance or that need or could make minor improvements bringing them into compliance are not included in the tables.

Table 2. Pig Farms Necessitating Reconstruction in LR

| Farm Size (No of animals) | 6-10 | 11-50 | 51-200 | 201-500 | 500-1000 | 1000-5000 | 5000-10000 and more | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Farms Requiring Reconstruction | 3323 | 1851 | 90 | 32 | 25 | 28 | 11 | 5360 |
| % Requiring Reconstruction | 13,6 | 7,6 | 0,37 | 0,13 | 0,10 | 0,11 | 0,05 | 22 |

Table 3. Calf Farms Requiring Reconstruction

| Farm Size (No of Animals) | 6-10 | 11-50 | 51-100 | 100 and more | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Farms Requiring Reconstruction | 644 | 325 | 32 | 46 | 1047 |
| % Requiring Reconstruction | 11 | 5,05 | 0,6 | 0,8 | 18 |

❖ According to the Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics statistics, the reconstruction costs for one pig holding area is 100-200 LTL, for a calf holding the numbers are 200-500 LTL. Reconstruction costs for all pig farms would be 32.4 million LTL, and for calf farms - 7,3 million LTL (Table 4).

Table 4. National Farm Reconstruction Costs

| Equipment | Pig Farms (LTL) | Calf Farms (LTL) | Total LTL |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Feed and Watering Systems | 8361600 | 1832250 | 10193850 |
| Ventilation | 6110400 | 952770 | 7063170 |
| Isolation Quarters | 2144000 | 109935 | 2253935 |
| Pens | 2251200 | 659610 | 2910810 |
| Manure/Urine Removal Systems | 4824000 | 1099350 | 5923350 |
| *Lighting | 72360 | 586320 | 658680 |
| Electric Circuits and Equipment, Windows and Other Constructions | 8683200 | 2088765 | 10771965 |
| Total LTL | 32446760 | 7329000 | 39775760 |

❖ Additional funds are necessary for farm modernisation ensuring satisfactory animal welfare standards. Graphs 1 and 2 show that the majority of labour in our farms is performed manually.

Figure 1.

Calf Watering

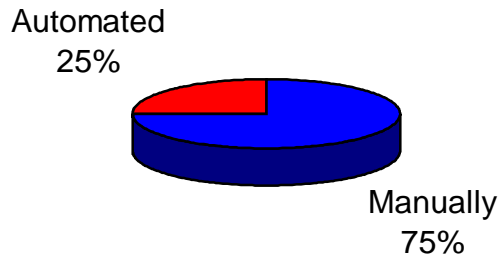
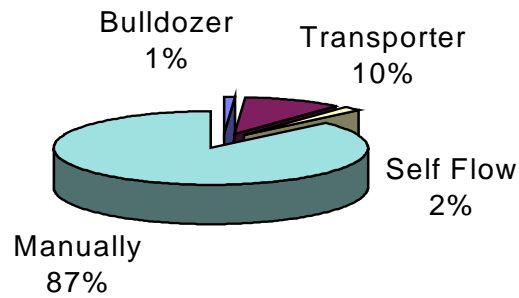


Figure 2.

Excrement Elimination



Studies have shown that pig farms can allocate approximately 20% of necessary funding and calf farms – 24.5 %.

Table 5. Self-allocation of funds (%) towards pig and calf farm reconstruction

| Pig Farm Size | Self-Allocated Funds (%) | Calf Farm Size | Self-Allocated Funds (%) |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 6-10 | 10 | 6-10 | 22 |
| 11-50 | 22 | 11-50 | 31 |
| 51-100 | 31 | 51-100 | 11 |
| 101-200 | 22 | 101-200 | 24 |
| 201-500 | 22 | 201-500 | 33 |
| 501-1000 | 16 | > 500 | 26 |
| 1001-3000 | 23 | x | x |
| 3001-5000 | 10 | x | x |
| 5001-10000 | 22 | x | x |
| > 10000 | 20 | x | x |
| Average % | 19,8 | | 24,5 |

- ❖ It seems that pig farms can perform reconstruction during a 5-year span and calf farms can complete the same in 4 years.
- ❖ If keepers of animals cannot meet the requirements of legal acts, then the main result in terms of social impact will be short-term unemployment (Table 5). Our calculations show that the average pig farm has 6.6 employees, whereas calf farms – 3.3.

Table 6. Social Consequences in Pig and Calf Farms

| Consequences | Pig Farms | Calf Farms | Total |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Persons unemployed | 37520 | 3141 | 40661 |
| Severance pay (LTL) | 90048000 | 7538400 | 97586400 |

- ❖ Legal rules are not always proportional to the desired goals, however at this time they do not markedly create restrictions in trade. In respect to the economic development difference between the EU and Lithuania, these norms violate principles of proportion.
- ❖ Foreign investment would greatly improve the development of farming and conditions for livestock. Foreign investment in Lithuania's agriculture would provide marked and improved conditions to conform with EU standards as this would solve the current capital shortages in Lithuania.
- ❖ Animal keepers must take into account the Requirements as they prepare their business plans including the means for investments for implementing minimum animal welfare standards. They can apply for various SAPARD grants, which are designed to improve the following: stimulating reorientation of production, implementing EU hygiene requirements, animal welfare and environmental conservation or national support programs which directly or indirectly affect improvement of animal welfare standards. The LR Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Consultancies and Chamber of Agriculture offer consultation regarding this issue. Grant information and necessary documents are advertised on the internet.
- ❖ The LR Ministry of Agriculture and the Chamber of Agriculture should place more attention to educating livestock farmers, providing recommendations and orienting the farmers towards EU policies and strategies thereby improving their accessibility to EU grant programs.
- ❖ EU Directives reglamenting the implementation of pig and calf keeping and their welfare are substantially well formulated and introduced. The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania has yet to ratify the European Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes as well as other animal welfare oriented Conventions.
- ❖ The establishment of the TAIEX-suggested Animal Welfare Council, which general function would be to join and coordinate animal welfare related activities between government institutions, farmers, processors, public and social organisations. It has been suggested that this Council would be established at the LSFVS of 15 members. It can be a non-governmental organisation, though the national budget should finance a portion of it's expenses. EU and Candidate Country experience should be used in founding such an organisation,

Table 7. Funds Necessary to Establish & Maintain Animal Welfare Council

| Items | Funds Necessary (LTL) |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 5 employees | |
| Salaries | 120 000 per annum |
| Social Insurance | 372 000 per annum |
| Computers | 15 000 |
| Vehicle | 30 000 |
| Video, Photo | 10 000. |

❖ In our opinion, we feel that farmers maintaining animals in outdated barns should be granted leniency (transition) periods until they complete reconstruction. All rebuilt or new holdings shall fully comply with animal keeping rules. Such order can be assured by the competent authority – the LSFVS.

❖ In performing the Economic and Social Impact Study, some national costs were not calculated as our country's farms vary greatly by size, animal rearing technologies, barn construction time, compliance with new requirements. Statistical data is lacking, especially regarding pig farming.