

## STUDY REGARDING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FROM CARAS-SEVERIN COUNTY

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### ABSTRACT

The present paper wishes to present objectively, through the medium of analyze, the situation of agricultural production from Caras-Severin County. Like all over the country, in Caras-Severin County it practices a subsistence agriculture, underperforming, for self-consumption. The lack of association and weak technological equipment, the large number of elderly farmers, does not allow the practice of an efficient and competitive agriculture. Even if Caras-Severin County is the third as largest on the country, in terms of agricultural area, this being only 396.915 ha, occupies only 13th place thanks to the relief mostly mountainous. From the data presented in this article it can be seen that the agricultural production of Caras-Severin County has registered an upward trend in the 2010-2013 period, after which its level decreased in the year 2014 due to the decrease of agricultural production animal and vegetable, but it can notice an increase of agricultural services in this year.

**Keywords:** agriculture, agricultural production, animal production, crop production, agricultural services

### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture represents from ancient times a fundamental field of activity and continue to remain even today, while being an important supplier of raw material for industry and an outlet market for its production.

Therefore, the primary function of agriculture has been always to supply the population with food needed for nutrition, knowing that no branch of the economy could not and will not be able to fulfill a function as important for human existence in the future.

Agriculture, ensuring directly or indirectly to human the necessary food for nutrition, represents the crucial condition to achieving extended reproduction, of labor, the condition of the existence and development of human society.

The negative effects of agricultural reform have had a temporary negative impact on the level of crop and livestock production, but also negative effects on the upstream and downstream industries of agriculture.

### MATERIAL AND METHOD

In this paper we have presented through analysis and comparison, the situation of agricultural production from Caras-Severin County. The issues involved in this scientific paper work are: land fund, crop production and animal production, the dynamic of average productions and livestock from Caras-Severin. The necessary data of the present study resulted from consultation with a vast statistical material of specialty.

## RESULTS

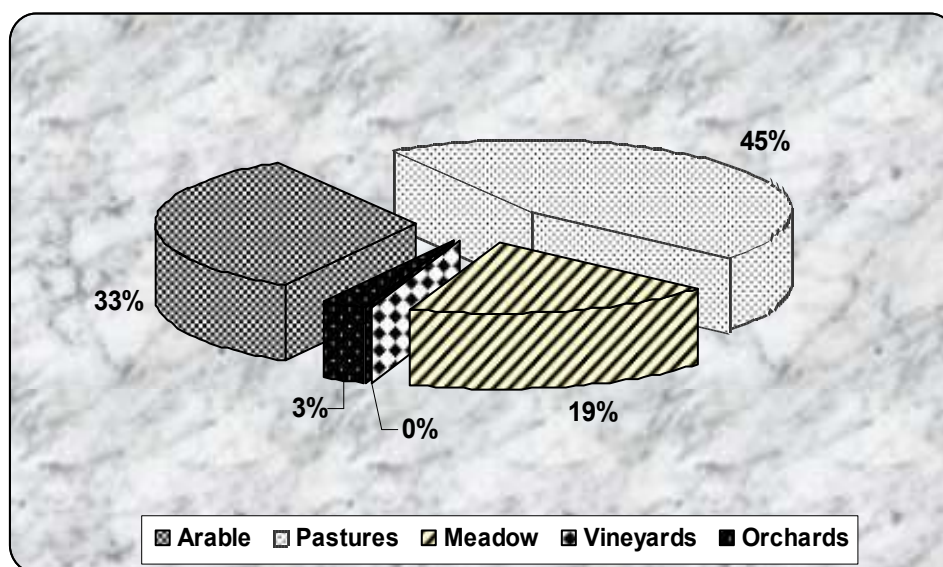
Located in the south west of Romania, Caras-Severin County in terms of size is the third from the country with an area of 8,520 square kilometers, which represents 3.6% from the country's surface. Mountains occupy on the county's territory 65.4%, the hills have a small expansion, occupying 10.8%, 16.5% lowlands and plains are on last place, accounting 7.3% from the surface.

From Table 1 we can see the fund land structure on categories of use, where the largest share is held by pastures (45%) due to predominantly mountainous relief, followed by arable land with a percentage of 33%, meadow 19%, the share lowest being held by vineyards and orchards.

**Table 1. The land fund by category of use at December 31 (hectares)**

Caras-Severin County	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total area	851976	851976	851976	851976	851976	851976	851976
Agricultural area	399694	398083	396999	396928	396917	396915	396915
from which, by category of use :							
Arable	127233	127313	129661	129646	129633	129628	129628
Pastures	182861	183466	179414	179358	179349	179349	179349
Meadow	75976	74796	76393	76393	76393	76392	76392
Vineyards	1222	766	772	772	772	772	772
Orchards	12402	11742	10759	10759	10770	10774	10774

Source: Statistical Summary of Caras-Severin County – 2015



**Figure 1. Agricultural area by way of use in the year 2014**

Next we will analyze the evolution of agricultural production from Caras-Severin, County, where crop production predominates, followed by animal one and a very small share hold the agricultural services, as can be seen from the table below.

According to data published by the National Institute of Statistics, the structure of agriculture production value in the year 2014 has registered a significant decrease compared to the year 2013.

**Table 2. Agricultural production of goods and agricultural services  
(thousands RON current prices)**

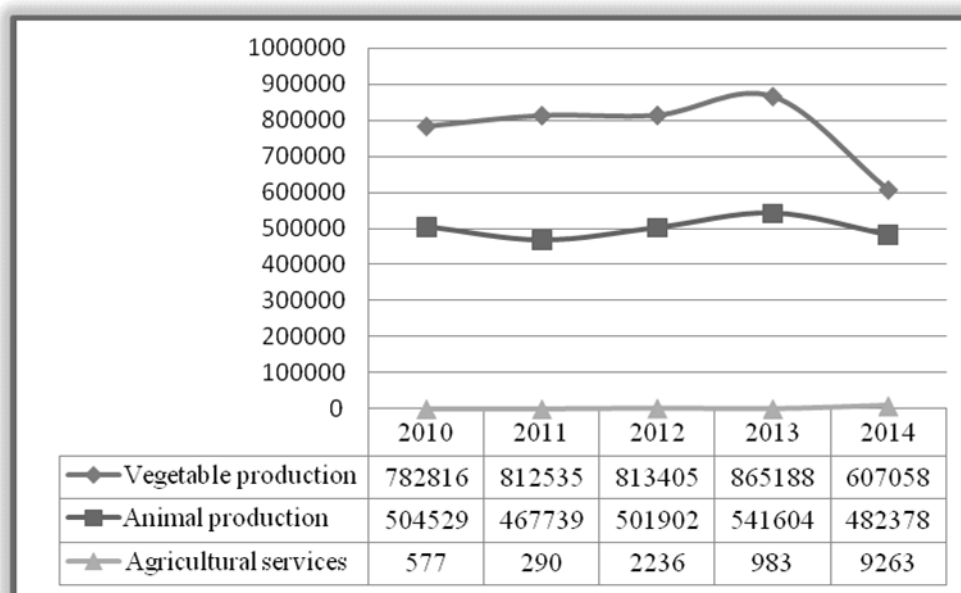
Caras-Severin, County	Total	Vegetable	Animal	Agricultural services
2001	560139	336135	222172	1832
2005	985274	621434	360478	3362
2010	1287922	782816	504529	577
2011	1280564	812535	467739	290
2012	1317543	813405	501902	2236
2013	1407775	865188	541604	983
2014	1098699	607058	482378	9263

Source: Statistical Summary of Caras-Severin County – 2015

Compared with the year 2013, agricultural services have increased significantly in the year 2014, also it can be seen major declines in the 2014 at crop and animal production compared to the previous year.

In a healthy agrarian economy the share of vegetable production should be at the same level with the share of animal production.

Arable land, in the year 2015, was cultivated with cereals for grains on 42,227 hectares, from which 13,143 hectares to wheat and rye, and corn for grain, on 26,231 hectares.



**Figure 2. Evolution of agricultural production in 2010-2014 period**

In the year 2015, at cereals was obtained a total production of 111,795 tons, much lower production compared to the year 2000 when total production was 160,228 tons. Compared to the year 2000, a significant increase can be observed at sunflowers, in the year 2015, where total production was 9,385 tons. At barley total production, in the year 2015 was 1,892 tons, down from total production from the year 2000, when it was 10,269 tons.

Autumn potatoes and field vegetables prevail in the population's household sector, where, in majority, are cultivated for their own consumption, but there are certain quantities routed for capitalization on the market. Cereal for grains, namely wheat and corn, represent the largest share of crops, both in population's households and agricultural trading companies.

**Table 3. Agricultural vegetable production, at the main crops (tones)**

Caras-Severin County	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Grains	160228	220554	152623	182569	148209	155616	159170	111795
From witch:								
Wheat and rye	60971	61417	38110	33938	33184	37906	46043	36729
Barley	10269	11914	4267	2276	1414	1663	2795	1892
Corn	76684	139006	104509	139087	107718	111076	104738	68062
Sunflower	2171	4129	6863	2242	11857	11517	8559	9385
Potatoes	79549	139165	105207	91055	57530	65580	61683	47170
Vegetables	86980	48917	37825	35423	23996	29234	28945	17770
Grapes	2864	957	1202	2401	4436	4922	4222	4213
Fruits	46968	60383	31917	42977	34420	38331	35055	32450

Source: Statistical Summary of Caras-Severin County – 2015

Next, we will analyze the dynamics of average production per hectare, during 2000-2015 period, at the main crops.

**Table 4. Average production per hectare, at the main crops (kg/ha)**

Caras-Severin County	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Wheat and rye	2978	-	2721	3107	2743	2976	3310	2795
Barley	2861	2728	2767	2690	2594	2781	2789	2889
Corn	1814	3659	3417	4235	2989	3630	3854	2595
Sunflower	915	1278	1347	1662	1654	1712	1470	1294
Potatoes	14737	19137	15345	14065	9262	11305	12307	9618
Tomatoes	13382	18189	10682	11446	7612	8096	7705	8031
Dehydrated onion	11260	11573	9552	9725	7888	8792	12181	10000
Cabbage	18776	22162	12972	14774	13466	13377	16084	15067
Lucerne	24993	25231	21192	22453	19039	19957	21589	18436
Clover	24613	20898	19977	18964	15524	17669	16851	16606

Source: Statistical Summary of Caras-Severin County – 2015

From Table 4 above we can see that, in Caras-Severin County the average productions in the year 2015 are much lower than those from the year 2000, except corn and sunflower that have recorded increases compared to the year 2000. At wheat and rye the average production in the year 2015 was 2,795 kg/ha, down compared to the year 2000 when the average production was 2,978 kg/ha.

In Table 5, we present the evolution of livestock during the 2000-2015 period, in the Caras-Severin County.

**Table 5. Livestock (heads)**

Caras-Severin	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cattle	56718	50401	32806	32118	37105	35312	35886	36793
From witch: cows, buffaloes and heifers	33659	35558	20006	22856	24448	24577	24438	24310
Swine	41943	81575	62326	57964	60373	53691	57077	46223
From witch: covered sows	3612	4636	4294	2911	3469	3094	3065	3757
Sheep	251967	200787	210982	213411	238240	299010	292064	324630
From which: ewes and ewe	173654	172606	180677	183723	204247	251722	218300	220473
Goats	12767	14721	14728	17289	16343	21792	22647	24110
Horses	17914	14248	8762	8383	9626	8607	8762	6597
Birds	1175153	1600050	1463014	1311496	1502154	1431346	1336281	1441994
Bee	25672	37666	62043	55898	55984	57837	57611	56707
Rabbits	-	9285	6726	7112	10285	10503	10019	7019

Source: Statistical Summary of Caras-Severin County – 2015

In the analyzed period, we can see that in Caras-Severin County the number of cattle in the year 2015 is down compared to the year 2000, but up compared to the year 2014. Today, in the Caras-Severin County, the number of sheep has increased from 251,967 heads in the year 2000 to 324,630 head in the year 2015.

Herds of goats are increasing in 2015 compared with previous years, and a significant decrease can be observed at the pig herds compared to the previous year.

Next, we will analyze the total livestock production for all animals existing in the County (*Table 6*).

**Table 6. Agricultural animal production**

<b>Caras-Severin County</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Meat - total (tones live weight)	21109	25311	23061	20351	19827	20208	21460	25162
Beef meat (tones live weight)	2858	6001	3127	3829	3146	3505	3073	3247
Pork meat (tones live weight)	9859	7403	8940	7925	8377	7930	8831	9273
Sheep and goats meat (tones live weight)	3238	3852	2849	2684	2666	2593	2639	2801
Poultry meat (tones live weight)	5090	8035	8125	5896	5618	6168	6909	9835
Milk - total (thousand hectoliters)	943	1188	927	1052	979	944	878	854
Cow and buffalo milk (thousand hl)	823	1031	750	856	770	739	695	673
Wool total (tones)	439	370	448	443	469	516	544	548
Eggs - total (million pieces)	109	175	112	131	132	132	139	150
Honey extracted (tones)	576	1003	849	1367	1029	1629	1014	1362

Source: <http://www.carasseverin.insse.ro/main.php?id=432>

Analyzing animal production, we can see that the largest share represents poultry and pork meat followed by the cattle meat.

At the product extracted honey, the production increase from 576 tones in the year 2000 to 1,362 tones in the year 2015.

The total animal agricultural production is increasing in recent years, but it is obtained almost entirely in the private sector.

## CONCLUSIONS

In the year 2014 crop and animal production has registered major decreases compared to the year 2013, instead agricultural services increased significantly.

Livestock production represents in the year 2015, at the level of the Caras-Severin County 44%, crop production recorded a higher percentage of 55%, the difference up to 100% being represented by agricultural services.

Because of the predominantly mountainous relief, the largest share from the agricultural area of the County is owned by pastures (45%), followed by arable land with a percentage of 33%, meadows 19% and the lowest percent is held by vineyards and orchards.

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