



Foreign Agricultural Service

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Netherlands

Agricultural Situation

Economic Fact Sheet on Dutch Agriculture

1999

Approved by:

Phil Letarte

U.S. Embassy

Drafted by:

Tatiana van der Harst

Report Highlights:

Although in farmers make up only 1.9 percent of the Dutch population, the Netherlands is the 3rd largest agricultural exporter in the world.

Includes PSD changes: No

Includes Trade Matrix: No

Unscheduled Report

The Hague [NL1], NL

Economic Fact Sheet Dutch Agriculture



Office of Agricultural Affairs

U.S. Embassy
Lange Voorhout 102, 2514 EJ The Hague, the Netherlands

Tel. +31(70) 310.92.99 (NL) Fax +31(70) 365.76.81
E-mail: usagri@csi.com

Agricultural Production

- X Agricultural production in the Netherlands is one of the most intensive in the world, with 108 million chickens, 4.3 million head of cattle and 15.5 million pigs. Farmers make up 1.9 percent of the Dutch population. Seventy percent of the country's land surface is devoted to agriculture.
- X Dairy yields are among the highest in the world, averaging 7,000 kg. per cow per annum. The Netherlands is the world's 10th largest dairy producer, accounting for 2.3% of world production and it is the EU's 4th largest producer after Germany, France and the United Kingdom. The Netherlands is the EU's 4th largest producer of pigs, behind Germany, Spain and France.

Agricultural Trade

- X The Netherlands is the 6th largest export market for U.S. Agricultural products. U.S. farm exports were about \$1.7 billion in 1998. Major U.S. exports include soybeans, corn gluten feed, nuts, planting seeds and processed fruits and vegetables, in order of importance.
- X The Netherlands is the 3rd largest agricultural exporter in the world. Major Dutch agexports, in order of importance, are ornamental products and plants, meat (beef and veal, pork, poultry), dairy products and vegetables. Major Dutch Ag. exports to the United States are beverages (primarily beer), cut flowers, flower bulbs, and vegetables (primarily tomatoes and peppers). Dutch exports of agricultural products to the United States were a record \$1.343 billion in 1998

Food Processing and Retail Sectors

- X The Dutch food and beverage sector accounts for 27% of total industrial output, of which nearly 50% is exported. The food processing industry is led by Unilever, the third largest food company in the world. The food retailing sector is highly concentrated, led by Albert Heijn B.V. which has a 29 % market share in Holland and is the 9th largest retailer in the world. Ahold is a significant international force. In the U.S. it owns Giant, BI-LO, Stop & Shop and Tops and owns retail chains in the Czech Republic, Portugal, Poland and Asia. Next most important are Laurus N.V., with a 25% market share and

Superunie, a wholesale buyer for private supermarkets, with 18 percent. In the Netherlands, large supermarkets have 68 percent of the market, specialty stores have a 22 percent market share, and open air markets, department stores, gas station stores, etc., make up the balance.