

HOW OLD ARE OUR FARMERS IN EUROPE?

The agricultural sector in the EU-28 is characterised by an ageing farming population.

Farmer structure surveys were carried out in 2010 and in 2013.

	2010	2013
< 35 years	7.5%	6%
> 55 years	53%	55.8 %

Sources: EC (2015), Eurostat (2015)

In the EU-28 agricultural sector in 2010 and in 2013, there were relatively few young farm managers. In 2010 only 7.5% of farm managers were younger than 35 years and this number decreased between 2010 and 2013 to 6%.

Europe needs its farmers and also that it needs to ensure that there are always young farmers to step into the shoes of those that retire.

Young farmers are the key

- to ensure sufficient and continuous supply of food for EU citizens,
- to increase the competitiveness of the agricultural production,
- for the future of the rural areas.

The latest Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform contains young farmer measures. These measures ensure that more young farmers enter to the industry.

More information on CAP funding is available on the following links:

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-funding/young-farmers_en



References:

- European Commission (2015): CAP funding. Young farmers.
URL: https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-funding/young-farmers_en
- Eurostat (2015): Farm structure survey 2013 - main results.
URL: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Farm_structure_survey_2013_-_main_results

