## FranceAgriMer : Facts sheets

Sector

## > Breeding

## Beef

2018,february



## key statistics:



France is Europe's top beef producer Italy buys more than 85% of French exports of lean beef More than one third of meat consumed in France is a beef product

### INDUSTRY STRUCTURE

- The French beef industry is made up of around 163,000 farms with 19 million heads of cattle. Production includes in particular grassers', lean free range cattle, and to a lesser extent fattened cattle, known as large adult bovines, of which cows account for 50%. These two activities are spread across relatively distinct geographical areas.
- Farms with suckler cows tend to be smaller: 79% have between 5 and 50 places.
- Large adult bovines reach the market through a variety of sector players: cooperatives, traders, and the remainder (on a smaller scale) through livestock markets.
- Abattoir and butchery is dominated by a European player which processes 50% of slaughtered volumes in France.
   Males and females aged 12 months and over

#### **PRODUCTION**

- France is the top European producer of beef, ahead of Germany, the UK, and Italy, with 1.3 million tonnes CWE<sup>2</sup> (of which around 66% from sucklers and 34% from diary in 2014).
- 5 French regions alone account for 75% of the total count of suckler cows (meat breeds): Nouvelle Aquitaine, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Occitanie, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and Pays de la Loire.
- French beef production is mainly destined for the domestic market and, expressed in heads of cattle, can be broken down as follows: 46% cows, 31% young bovine<sup>3</sup>; 17% heifers<sup>4</sup>; 6% bullocks.<sup>5</sup> 2. Carcass weight equivalent tonnes: the standard unit used to measure the quantity of meat
- 2. Carcass weight equivalent tonnes: the standard unit used to measure the quantity of meat produced, traded (live or as meat), and consumed; 3. Males aged between 8 and 24 months 4. Females aged over 12 months who have never given birth to a calf; 5. Castrated males aged over 12 months

# 

Young bovine Bullocks

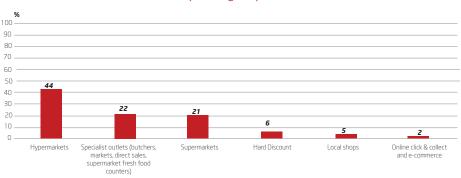
French adult bovine production

Source : FranceAgriMer from Euros

#### CONSUMMER HABITS

- Beef (including veal) accounts for 17.1% of total consumption of meat, poultry, and cooked pork products in France.
- In 2017, on average, each person in France consumed 22.8 kg CWE of beef (including veal). The French are also the biggest beefeaters in the European Union, closely followed by the Danes and the Irish, but far ahead of the Italians.
- Mince consumption is up in France.

## Where French households buy beef (including veal) in 2016



## > Breeding / Beef sector

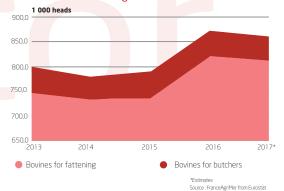


#### **TRADE**

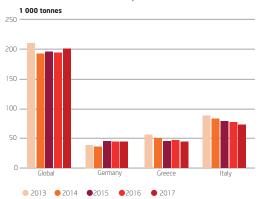
- Trade in livestock and meat takes place mainly within the European market (intra-EU market).
- France's top customers for livestock are Italy and Spain, and to a lesser extent countries around the Mediterranean. For meats, its main customers are Italy, Greece, and Germany.
- For livestock, France exports a total of 860,000 large bovines (weighing more than 300kg), mostly destined for fattening (95%). These are mainly males aged 8-12 months (grassers), exported to Italy (84% of total exports of bovines weighing over 300kg). French breeders are therefore highly dependent on the situation in Italy.
- Meat exports focus mainly on fresh (65%) and frozen (30%)
- France mainly imports fresh meat\* (65% of total imported meat) and frozen meat\* (30% by volume), or 318,000 tonnes CWE, mainly from Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, and Poland.

  \*Including veal

## French exports of live bovines weighing 300kg + 2013-2017

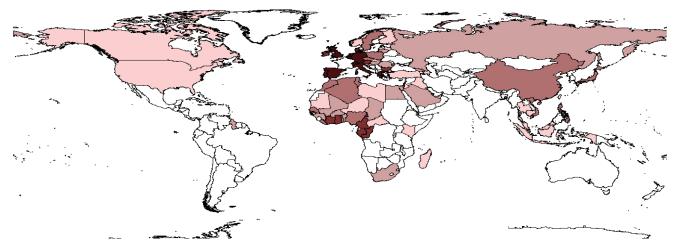


#### French fresh meat exports 2013-2017



\*Estimates Source : FranceAgriMer from Furnst

### MAP OF MAIN EXPORT MARKETS



## French beef exports in 2016 Volumes in tonnes CWE

> 2000

de 500 à 2 000

de 100 à 500

de 25 à 100

< 25



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