

I. — ECONOMICS

European animal feed: a growing dependence of the world market

D. DARIDAN, Y. DRONNE

I.T.P., Service Économie, 34 bd de la Gare, 31079 Toulouse Cedex
I.N.R.A., 3, rue du Caducée, B.P. 333, 94153 Rungis Cedex

A simultaneous increase of European livestock and import rates has led to higher mixed feed consumption in Europe. This evolution has been more important in France than in the Netherlands, where industrialization of animal feed developed already 20 years ago. In France, it is necessary to point out the particular situation of Brittany.

Among the raw materials used, we can notice the development of corn. However, insufficient E.E.C. self-supply makes it necessary to buy about 50 p. 100 of the quantities needed outside the E.E.C. Only France is able to export. The U.S.A. are the first E.E.C. suppliers.

Very particular attention must be paid to cereal substitution products, the use of which has been rapidly increasing during the last years. The main users are the Netherlands and Belgium, the countries where animal feeding is most concentrated. They had to enter the world market because of the very low self-supply rate for fodder grains. Among the substitution products, only manioc is an entirely satisfying substitute for cereals. The use of other substitution products means a soybean meal economy.

Soybean meal is the most common protein product. Its use has been increasing since about ten years. However, it seems that the E.E.C. partners mostly try to diversify protein sources. Future supply for France necessarily involves the development of protein seeds.

The U.S.A. are the first soybean suppliers, but they are now competing with Brazil.

European dependence on the world market for raw materials places animal productions under direct influence of climatic, financial and political factors sometimes leading to important variations. The consequences are all the more important as the US position on the world market is preponderant. It will be particularly difficult to switch from soybean meal, the more so as cereals are very expensive inside the Common Market compared to the price of protein products.

French foreign trade in pork

C. BRETTE⁽¹⁾, D. DARIDAN⁽²⁾, A. VIGNE⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ *Institut National Agronomique, Centre d'Étude et de Recherche
sur l'Économie et l'Organisation des productions animales,
16, rue Claude-Bernard, 75231 Paris Cedex 05*

⁽²⁾ *I.T.P., Service Économie, 34, bd de la Gare, 31079 Toulouse Cedex*

French structural shortage of pork has slightly increased during the last years.

Quantitatively, Belgium and the Netherlands remain the favourite suppliers for France, in spite of a tendency to diversify the origin of French imports since new countries have been admitted in the E.E.C.

Qualitatively an important increase in ham imports can be noted during the last ten years. It has probably been encouraged by an increasing, per capita, of ham consumption and also by progressive specialization of the slaughtering, carcass cutting and meat processing sectors and may mean that French pork consumption is beginning to change.

French foreign trade in pork also shows conjunctural variations mainly due to seasonal production fluctuations.

The competitive power of the countries supplying France has been studied by comparing the different prices, where the advantage for the French market of Belgian and Dutch carcass exporters appeared.

Analysis of the E.E.C. foreign trade in pork

J. VANDERHAEGEN, A. VIGNE

I.T.P., Service Économie, 34, bd de la Gare, 31079 Toulouse Cedex

Pork trade within the E.E.C. has materially increased between 1968 and 1977 on the one hand because of the accomplishment of the Common Market which abolished impediments to free trade and on the other hand because more or less important changes in production and consumption in the different countries.

Self-supply in E.E.C. with 6 countries, then E.E.C. with 9, slightly fluctuated around index of 100 for the last ten years. This fact however conceals important differences between the pork importing countries (FRG, France, Italy, U.K.), the structural deficit of which increased—except for the U.K. at the expense of a consumption decrease — and the exporting countries (Netherlands, Belgium) which have strengthened their position or maintained a considerable, even though diminished, surplus — as Ireland and Denmark.

E.E.C. import from other countries have followed fluctuations of the production : the maximum being reached in 1975, slack season in the E.E.C. production (self-supply: 99 p. 100). Since 1973, imports mainly come from Central Europe and Russia — with a preference for G.D.R. — because of their commercial relations with F.R.G.

E.E.C. export to other countries remain low for the products in the present survey (only 5 p. 100 of trade quantities inside E.E.C.). Denmark alone stands for 50 p. 100 of export.

Trade structures between different countries has also changed. Each exporting country has a privileged customer, more so in Denmark than in Holland or in Belgium, according to the specificity of the exported goods — here bacon.

Among importing countries, F.R.G., Italy and the United Kingdom have more specific supplier (Netherlands for F.R.G. and Italy and Denmark for the United Kingdom). France shares its import between Belgium and Holland. The F.G.R. Italy, United Kingdom and France import between 10 and 15 p. 100 of their supply from other countries.

Monetary fluctuations and pig production

A. VIGNE, J. VANDERHAEGEN

I.T.P., Service Économie, 34, bd de la Gare, 31079 Toulouse Cedex

Since a few years, monetary fluctuations have been a very important factor in competition between E.E.C. pork producers.

The « monetary-agricultural policy » adopted to avoid distortions between the different countries proved to be a handicap for countries having depreciated currency and an advantage for countries with a high currency. Distortions due to the use of « green » exchange rates and to M.C.M. concern pork prices as well as production costs.