

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Agricultural and Forestry Register

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Executive Summary

The task of the Agriculture and Forestry Register (AFR) is the systematic and timely recording of information on all economically active agricultural and forestry holdings located in Austria and their operators. An agricultural and forestry holding is defined as a technical/economic entity with a unified management that produces agricultural and forestry products or maintains land no longer used for production in good agricultural and environmental condition in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009 of the Council. A holding may, however, also produce other non-agricultural products and services.

The sole criterion for inclusion in the AFR is the criterion of "agricultural and/or forestry activity", irrespective of the size of holding. In contrast to the Statistical Business Register (URS), there are therefore no threshold limits for inclusion/non-inclusion in the register.

In addition to the master data relating to individual entities (e.g. the Agriculture and Forestry Holding Information System (LFBIS) number, address and name), the AFR also contains holding-specific data (e.g. information on land management and livestock farming).

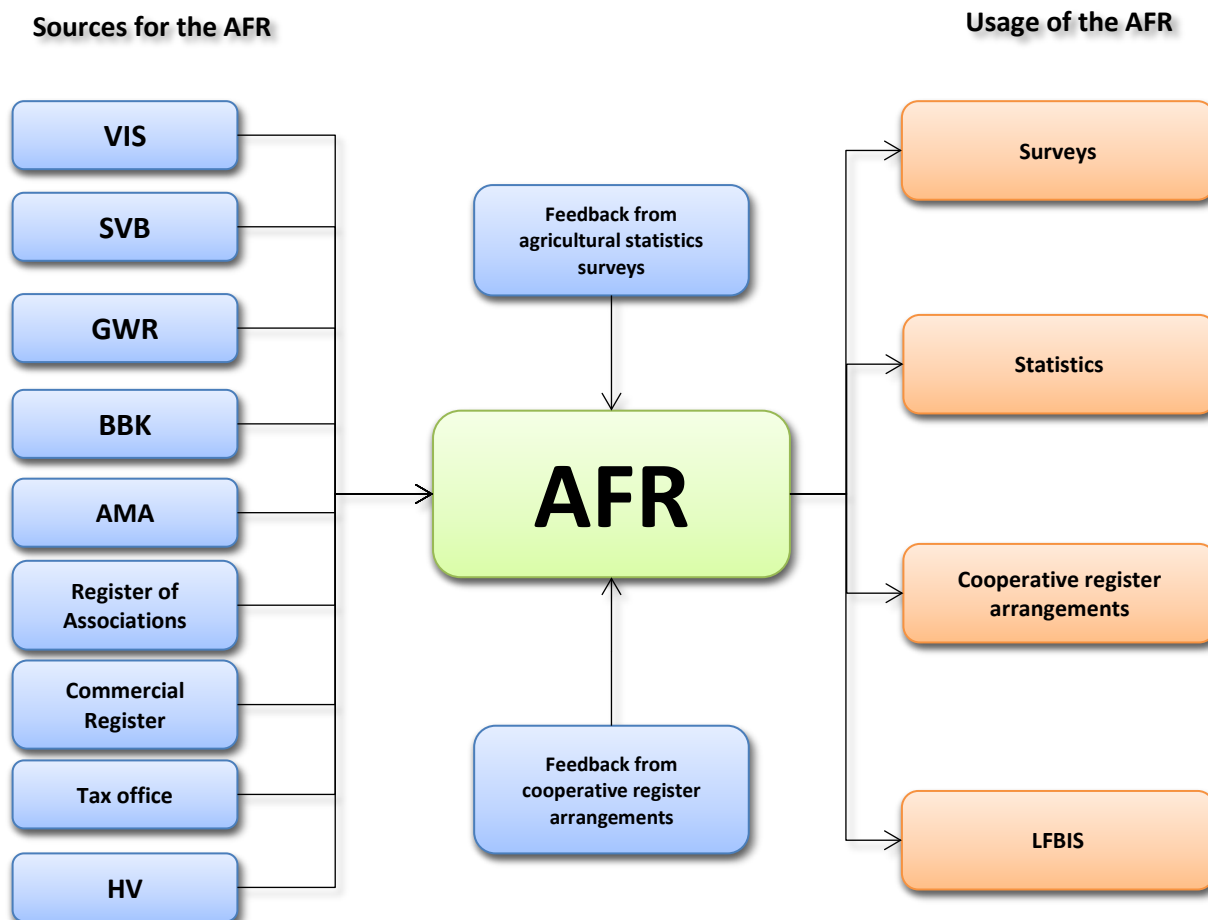
The primary purpose of the AFR is to administer all agricultural and forestry entities in an up-to-date manner, such that a total population can be provided for relevant agricultural statistics surveys that is as up-to-date as possible. It therefore serves as a selection framework for sampling procedures.

In addition, information is transferred to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) on the basis of the LFBIS Act¹. According to the LFBIS Act (Agriculture and Forestry Holding Information System Act), Statistics Austria is tasked with the "processing and transfer of the master data of the LFBIS". This means that Statistics Austria is responsible for providing to the BMLFUW the master electronic data specified in the LFBIS Act (LFBIS number, name and address of the holding) for each agricultural and forestry holding. The active holding entities included in the AFR are updated daily based on information from various agricultural statistics primary surveys, but principally through comparison with various administrative data. The AFR is therefore not a "static picture", but a living system subject to constant change.

In order to be able to use administrative data, it is important to employ a common unique identifier. In the area of agriculture and forestry this is the LFBIS number that is "unique" for each agricultural and forestry holding and is assigned by Statistics Austria. This LFBIS number, which is also used in funding applications, enables the compilation and optimal utilisation of administrative data from a wide range of sources (see Figure 1).

¹ See Federal Law Gazette No. 448/1980, Federal Law Gazette No. 644/1983, Federal Law Gazette No. 412/1984

Figure 1 AFR sources and intended uses



The "classic" agricultural and forestry holding as an "entity" is still traditionally the dominant type in Austria. However, because of amalgamations of holdings etc., it has become necessary to include these new structures in the AFR, too. Four "levels" have therefore been defined²: the agricultural and forestry holding as the lowest level, the Legal Entity (has legal and economic responsibility for the holding/holdings), the Agricultural Enterprise and the "Enterprise" (not identical with the term "enterprise" as used in the Statistical Business Register).

Since terms are traditionally used in the area of agriculture and forestry that may not be consistent with the designations in the Statistical Business Register, there are methodical and conceptual differences between the management/maintenance of the AFR and of the Statistical Business Register.

The entities are classified in accordance with ÖNACE 2008, with only those that fall within the scope of agriculture, forestry and fishing (ÖNACE Section A) being taken into consideration. Although entities from other economic sectors are recorded (e.g. wine merchants and shippers for the VIS), they are not classified in the AFR. The classification is based on standard output. Standard output is the average monetary value (in euros) of gross agricultural output at farm gate prices and describes the total marketed items of the overall agricultural and forestry holding. In the farm structure surveys, standard output is used amongst other things to classify agricultural and forestry holdings according to their type of farming.

The AFR is a non-public register.

The quality of the AFR is constantly being improved. For instance, a new version of the application is currently being developed in order to meet new requirements more effectively and also to be able to process the large amount and wide range of information even more quickly and efficiently.

² These four levels are designated in the following in this document as an (AFR) entity.

Agriculture and Forestry Register – Main Features	
Subject matter	Recording of all agricultural and forestry entities in Austria
Population	Around 229 000 active Legal Entities with around 245 000 active holdings are currently administered
Type of statistics	Statistical register
Data sources/Survey techniques	Agricultural statistics surveys (full and sample surveys) Agrarmarkt Austria, Veterinary Information System (VIS), Wine Database (BMLFUW), Social Insurance Institute for Farmers (SVB), information from district chambers of agriculture, Buildings and Dwellings Register (GWR), tax office data, Commercial Register, Main Association of Austrian Social Security Organisations.
Reference period or due day	Day-to-day
Periodicity	The ongoing maintenance of the AFR is performed based on the information contained in agricultural statistics surveys and available administrative data.
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	-
Main legal acts	Austrian Federal Statistics Act 2000 as last amended LFBIS Act / regulations (Federal Law Gazette No. 448/1980 , Federal Law Gazette No. 644/1983 , Federal Law Gazette No. 412/1984)
Most detailed regional breakdown	Municipalities; statistical grids also for analyses
Availability of results	ongoing
Other	Since terms are traditionally used in the area of agriculture and forestry that may not be consistent with the designations in the Statistical Business Register (URS), there are methodical and conceptual differences between the management/maintenance of the AFR and the Statistical Business Register.