

EU CAP Network  
Thematic Group - Sustainable Livestock

# EXTENSIVE MOUNTAIN FARMING

IN ROMANIA

Presented by:

**Cătălina Rogozan**

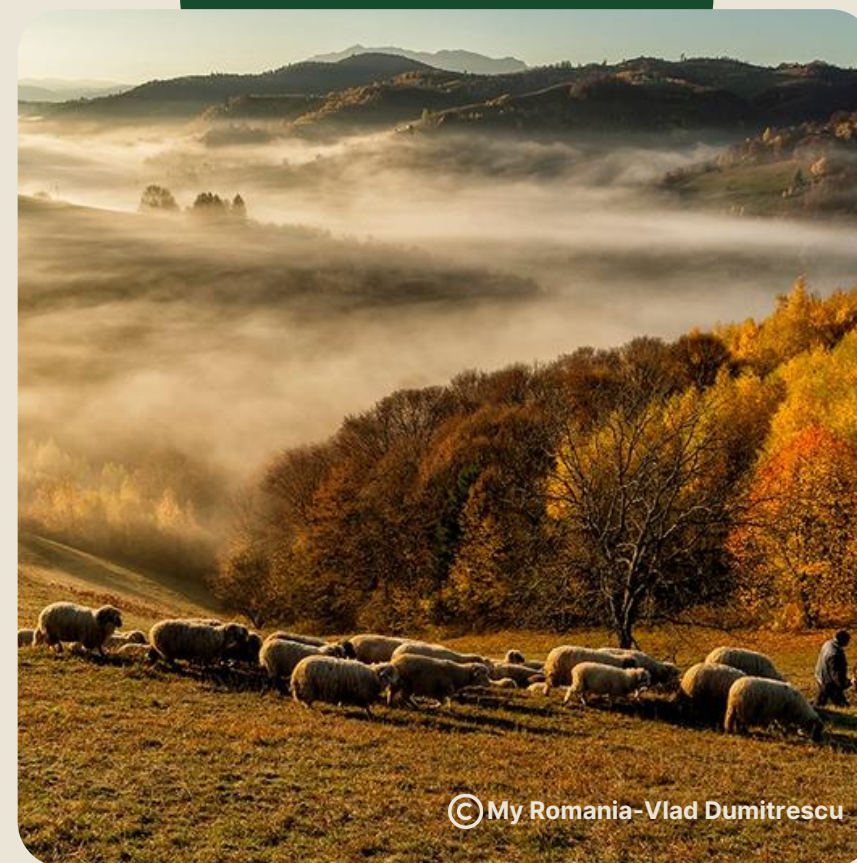
Researcher at

**HIGHCLERE  
CONSULTING**



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# LIVESTOCK SECTOR IN ROMANIA

9.1 million agricultural holdings in EU in 2020

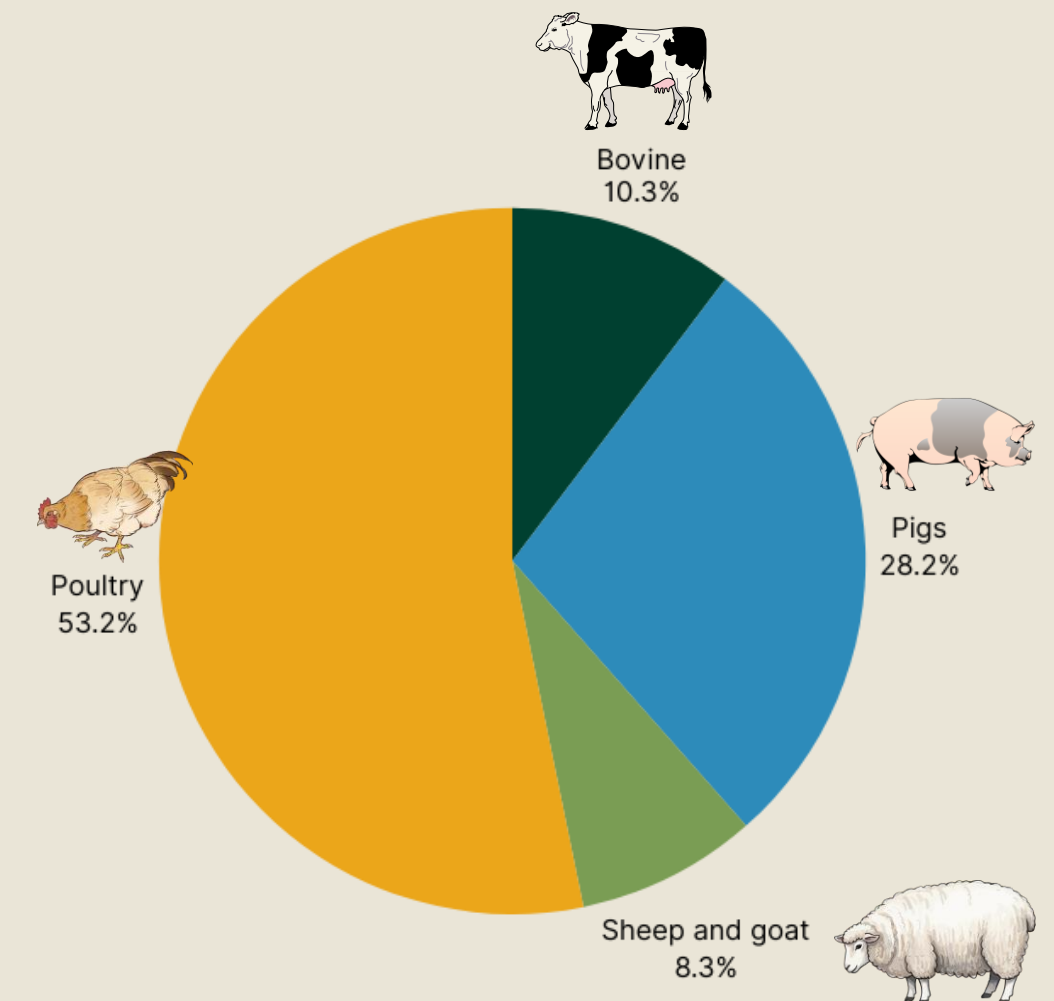


1/3 located in Romania



Livestock	Average size of	
	livestock commercial companies	Average farm size
Bovine	211	3
Dairy cattle	98	2
Pigs	7,878	3
Sheep	943	44
Goats	182	11
Poultry	96,009	32

Meat production in Romania, in 2024



# EXTENSIVE MOUNTAIN FARMING

Mountain farming in Romania is characterized by low-intensity approaches and small sized agricultural holdings. Animal husbandry has a multifunctional role that extends beyond food production to include the active maintenance and preservation of the mountain landscape. These traditional and low-intensity farming practices are essential for sustaining ecosystem services and high levels of biodiversity.

The mountain counties hold a significant share of the national livestock population, including **48% of bovines** and **36.6% of sheep and goats**. While bovine and pig numbers have contracted in the last decades, but less severely in the mountains than in the lowlands, the small ruminant and beekeeping sectors have seen expansion. Furthermore, mountain counties account for more than half of Romania's cattle milk.



# CHALLENGES



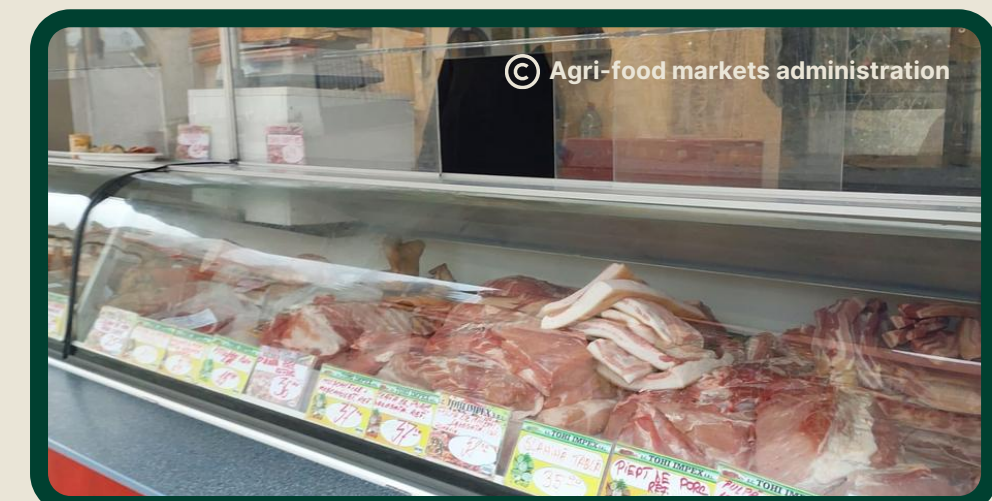
## Physical constraints

Difficult pedoclimatic conditions, including steep slopes, low soil fertility, and short growth seasons, increase production costs and diminish technical efficiency. Moreover, the remote locations and poor road infrastructure add significant costs to transport, limiting access to large urban markets.



## Land tenure and registration

Less than one-quarter of the mountain area is recorded in the land registry. Because land ownership is not clearly documented, it is difficult for younger farmers to take over land, and it also limits their access to bank loans.



## Market access

On the market, small, uncompetitive farms with aging owners coexist with large commercial farms. Small livestock farmers often cannot provide the quantity and regular supply required by supermarkets, which are the main place where consumers buy food.



# 1. PRODUCT DIFFERENTIATION AND ADDING VALUE

Economic viability can be strengthened by differentiating one's products. By adding value to the livestock production and differentiating it, the smallholder producer is able to access new markets, such as niche urban markets or agritourism operators, while asking for a higher price.

Moreover, the producers can choose to add value to their production by participating in different quality schemes, such as organic label and the Mountain Product quality term. These schemes certify the authenticity and higher quality of the products, enabling the smallholders' producers to ask for higher prices.





# 2.COMING TOGETHER IN COOPERATIVES/PRODUCERS GROUPS

Because smaller livestock farms do not allow for economies of scale, cooperatives and producer groups are essential. Collective action allows for the shared costs of production, better negotiating power with retailers, and the establishment of local processing and collection centres. However, Romanian farmers have unpleasant memories of cooperatives, which are associated with the communism regime. We see that nowadays it is very hard to bring people together in cooperatives, producers' groups or associations. However, slowly, the situation is changing.



# INTEGRATION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



Public procurement supplies food to public canteens in places such as schools, hospitals, and prisons, and it includes the EU School Scheme. It has strong potential to support local food production.

Braşov was the first municipality in Romania to decentralize the EU School scheme at county level and, together with WWF, shifted the public procurement criteria from the lowest price offer to the offer with the best value for money (best quality–price ratio). More specifically, they focused on:



- Products having quality schemes (organic, Mountain Product, PDO, PGI, etc.);
- Products coming from local producers/cooperative/farmers associations;
- Products from short supply chains (directly from the producers).

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**Extensive mountain farming**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

Presented by:  
**Cătălina Rogozan**  
**catalina@highclere-**  
**consulting.com**

Date:  
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