

# Agriculture in Germany

In 1950, there were two million farms across the whole of Germany. One farmer provided food for approximately 10 people. In 2021, the number of farms had dropped to some 250,000. Today, one farm provides food for about 160 people (source: BLE, Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food). The European Union's Common Agricultural Policy, globalisation and an increase in global trade, as well as changes in dietary habits have brought about a radical shift in the demands on domestic agriculture.

## Various reasons for regional differences

Due to different climatic and geological conditions and historical developments, agriculture in Germany comes in a variety of shapes and sizes. This comes with specific challenges. Agriculture in the Mittelgebirge region or here, in the Alpine foothills, is completely different from agriculture along the coasts of the North Sea and the Baltic.

German pig farming is mainly concentrated in the federal states of Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia in the north-west of the country. The Landkreis-level administrative districts with the largest dairy herds are found around Cuxhaven at the North Sea, in Ravensburg in Baden-Württemberg and in Rosenheim, Upper Bavaria. Grassland predominates these areas, and arable farming is only possible to a limited extent.

## Historic developments also have an impact

In the eastern federal states, farms generally have larger surface areas. They often have a cooperative structure and the jobs they create play an important role in rural areas. The Madgeburg Börde area boasts Germany's best soils, which serve as the benchmark for assessing the quality of all other soil types.

Concept and realisation:



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