

EPK



EESTI PÕLLUMEESTE KESKLIIT  
*Central Union of Estonian Farmers*

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# **„Sustainable rural communities stem from the knowledge and responsibility of the farmers“**

Ann Riisenberg

Central Union of Estonian Farmers

member of board



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# Central Union of Estonian Farmers

- non-profit farmer's umbrella organisation which organises professional farmers in Estonia,
- direct members - county organisations,
- 700 farmers belong to our organisation - 70% of Estonian agricultural output,
- large agricultural producers who employ labour force and small family farmers.



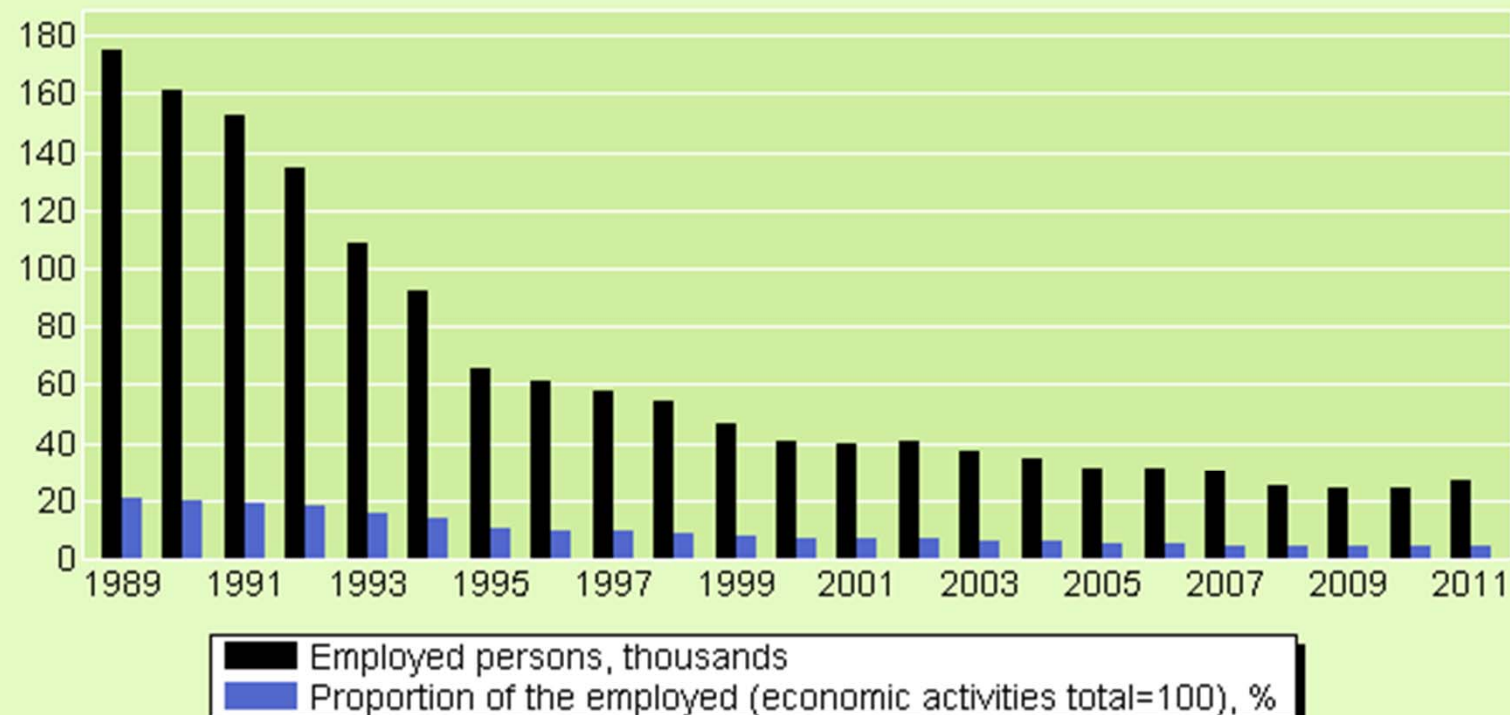
## Farmers in Estonia

In Estonia

- 19 700 agricultural holdings, at least 1 ha areable land (average size 47,6 ha, compared to 2003 - 21,6 ha), agricultural census (2010).
- 16 291 farmers got SAPS aid (average size 54,3 ha, average payment 91,1 €/ha, total SAPS area 884 612 ha) (2011).
- 6000 from 19 700 are professional producers, (income is 100% from agricultural activity), FADN data (2010).

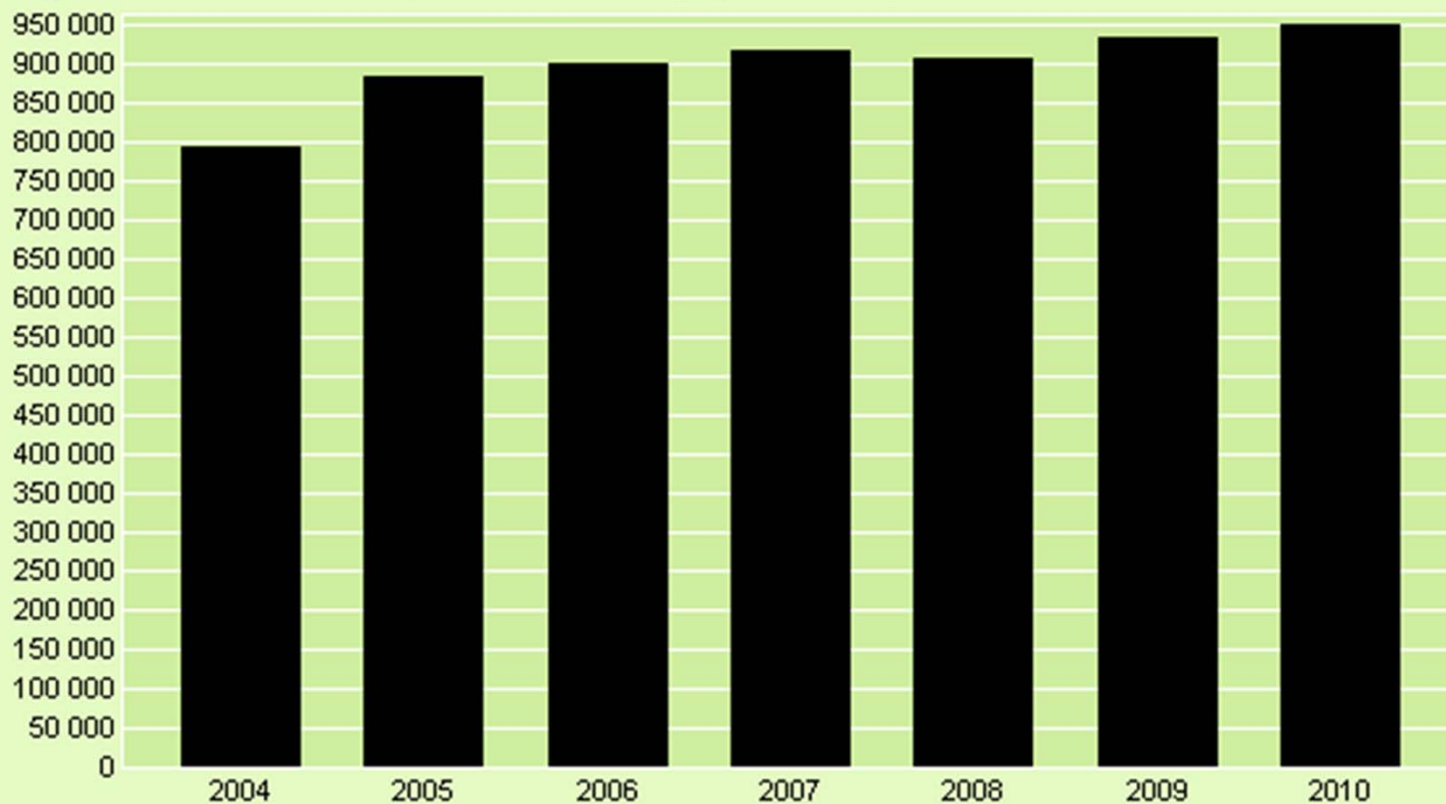


**ML0200: EMPLOYED PERSONS**  
**by Indicator and Year.**  
**Agriculture, forestry and fishing. (Value)**





**AG028: UTILISED AGRICULTURAL LAND**  
**by Year.**  
**Agricultural land total, Whole country. (hectares)**



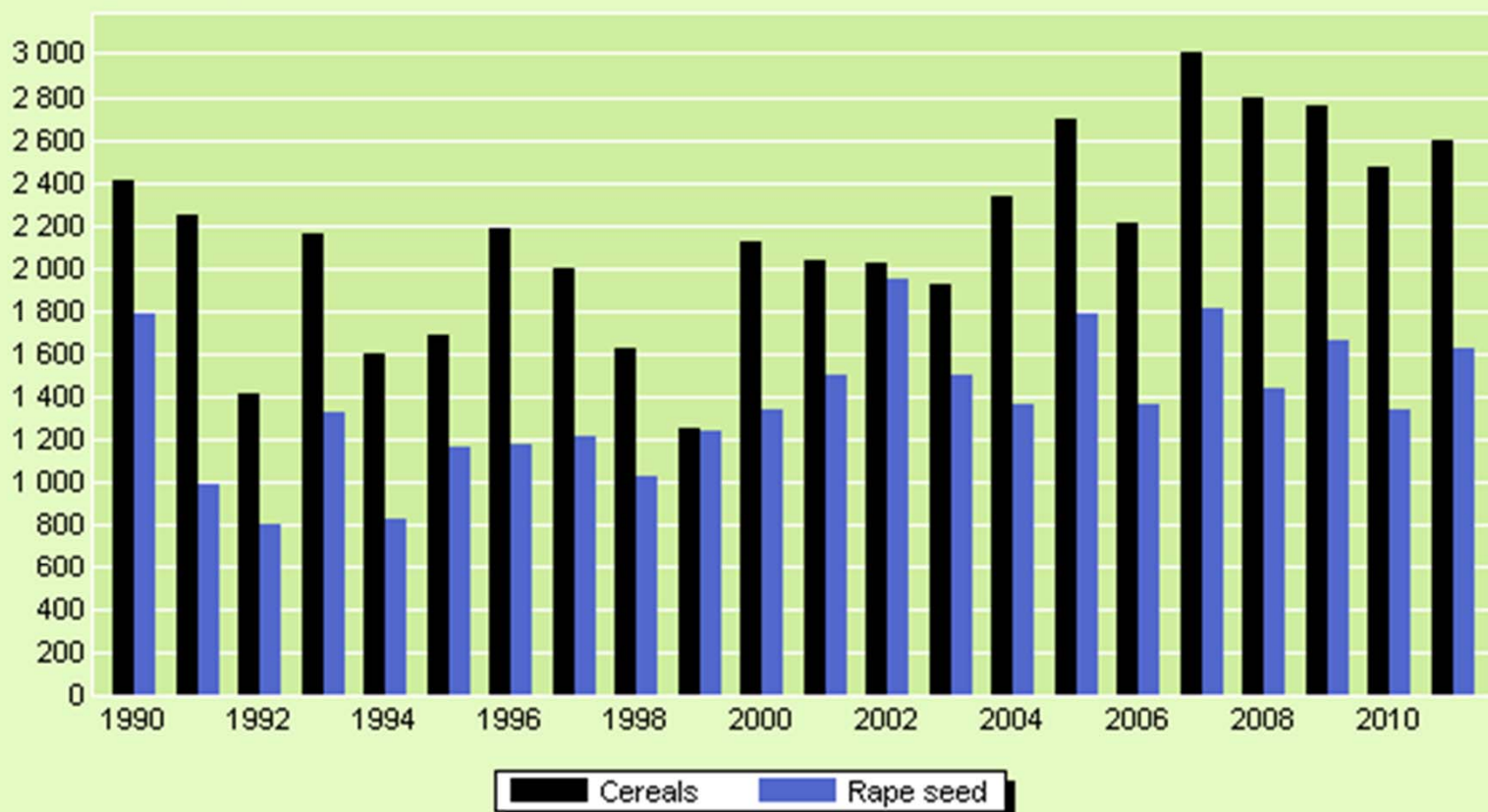


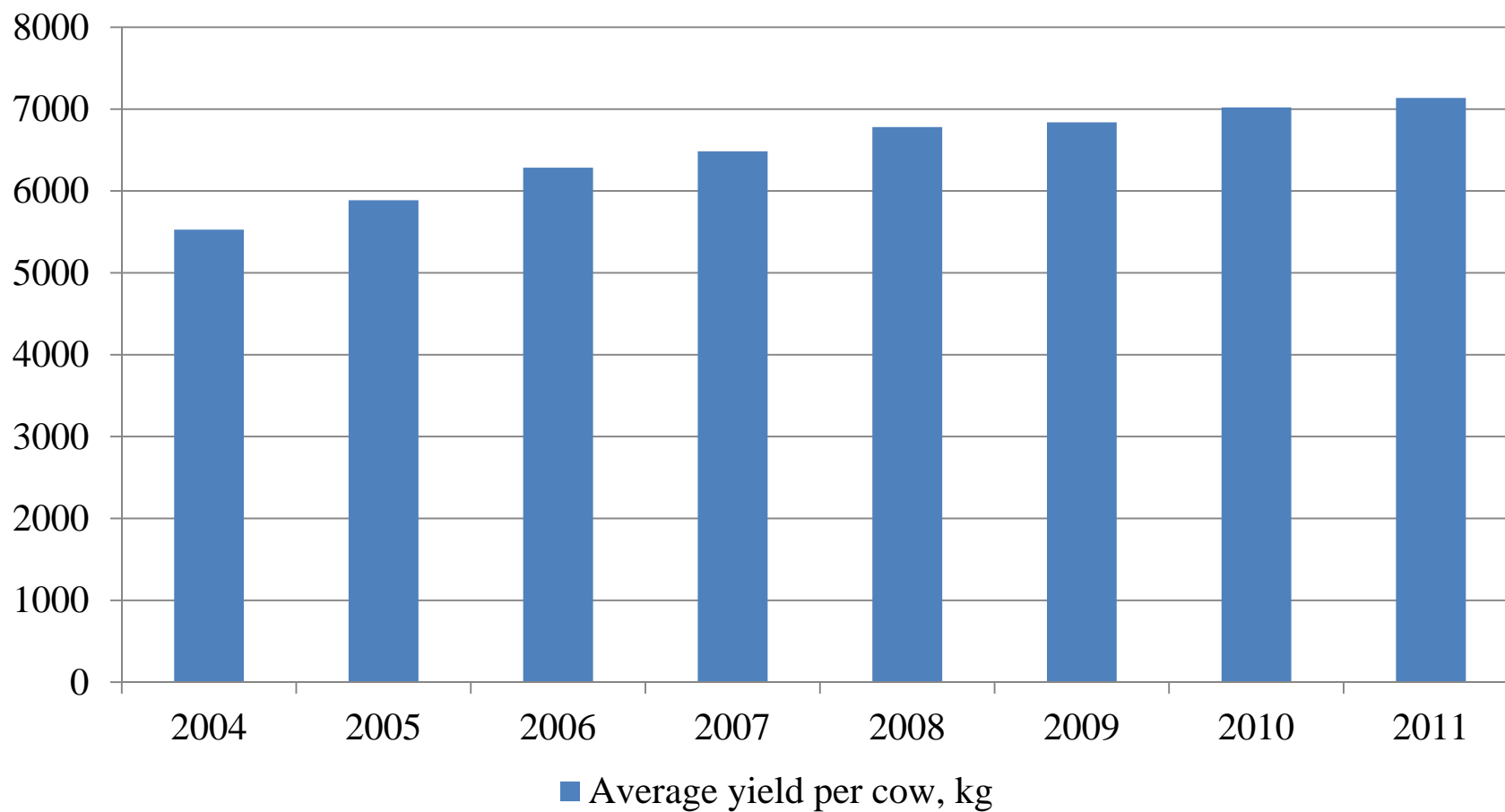
## Released labour force from agriculture

- genesis of the diverse business,
- re-training of labour,
- more substantive sector-in-retraining,
- increasing the competitiveness of real people



**AG041: AVERAGE YIELDS OF FIELD CROPS**  
by Field crop and Year.  
(kilograms per hectare)



**Average yield per cow, kg**





# Challenges

- generation problem;
- decrease in the number of agricultural holdings;
- competitiveness, productivity;
- diverse business and re-training of labour.

## Solutions (1)

- lifelong learning, future farmers get modern education, as this will increase their competitiveness;
- emergence of medium-sized farmers;
- modernization and green technologies;
- transfer of science and innovation in farming;



## Solutions (2)

- promote cooperation along the food chain;
- nationally increase cooperation investments measures;
- intensify advisory system;
- substantive sector-in-retraining to increase competitiveness of the real people starting a business or its future development.



## **Sustainable agriculture**

A sustainable agriculture must meet the needs of the current generation while leaving equal or better opportunities for those of future generations.

It will take knowledge, "mind work," not physical or economic muscle, for farmers of the future to find a niche where they carry out farming by means that are ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible.



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**THANK YOU!**