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The agricultural census: a database to analyze the horse industry actors? Example of France

Veslot J., Perret E., Scozzari E., D. Vollet, Bigot G.



EUROPEAN CONTEXT

- The **agricultural census (AC)** is an exhaustive survey, imposed by the European commission to each member country.

Census data are collected to characterize : farms and agricultural productions, and to follow their evolutions.

- But, the **horse sector rarely analyzed.**

Some explanations :

- a partial insertion in the agricultural sector,
 - a relatively small livestock in regards to other herbivorous,
 - an atomization of structures with horses,
 - the diversity of productions for racing, riding, driving ...
- **So, current issues are :**
 - is the horse industry in the agricultural sector?
 - Is there a need to collect data on equine livestock in future AC?

FRENCH CONTEXT

1- Difficulties to know precisely the equine livestock :

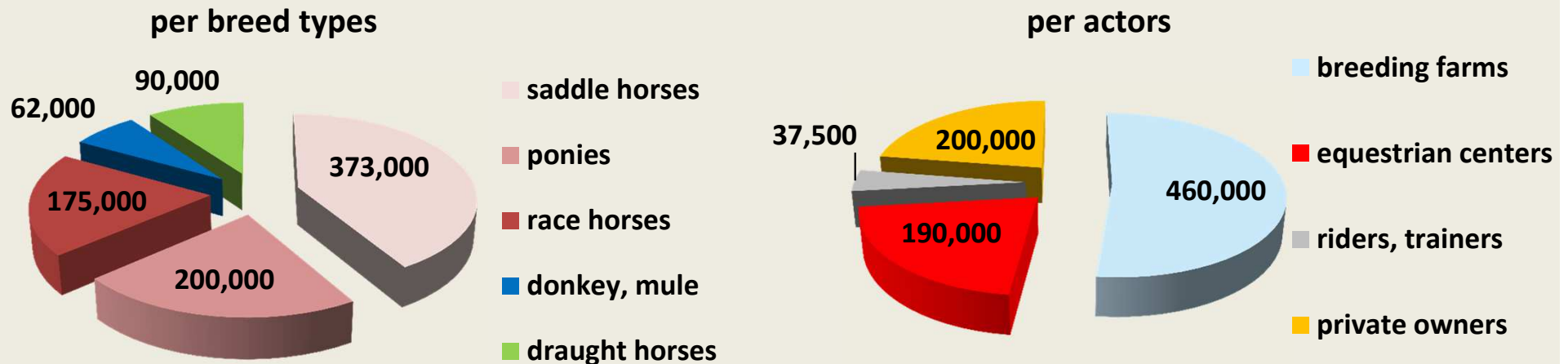
- Total number of horses and its evolution,
- Number of horses used for leisure.

To overcome these difficulties :

an important synthesis of different sources: national databases and surveys

book : « *panorama économique de la filière équine* », REFerences, **2011**.

The French equine livestock = **900,000 heads**



this work difficult to renew regularly
and available in French

1- Difficulties to follow the evolution of the horse industry.

+ 2 points about the horse position in regards to the agricultural sector:

2- Since 2005, the agricultural status accessible for each actor of the horse industry whatever the activity : breeding, riding or racing, ...

3- 1/2 of the equine livestock in farms

(Analysis on herbivorous in the agricultural census 2010; Perrot et al, 2013)

= 3 reasons

to analyze the horse sector in the last AC

AVAILABLE DATA IN THE FRENCH AC

- Individual data on farms :

- **Structural features:**

- agricultural area, land use and livestock, buildings, equipment, workforce,
 - **For equine productions:** 5 types of animals :

breed types	w : warmblood horses (ponies, saddle and race h)		h : Heavy (Draught) horses		d : donkeys
horse types	wb : broodmares	wo : other horses	hb : broodmares	ho : other horses	d : all types

1- ELABORATION OF A FARM TYPOLOGY

- Based on the 5 types of animals in each farm,

9 groups of farms according to 3 criteria:

1- **breed type** : warmblood horses, heavy horses, donkeys

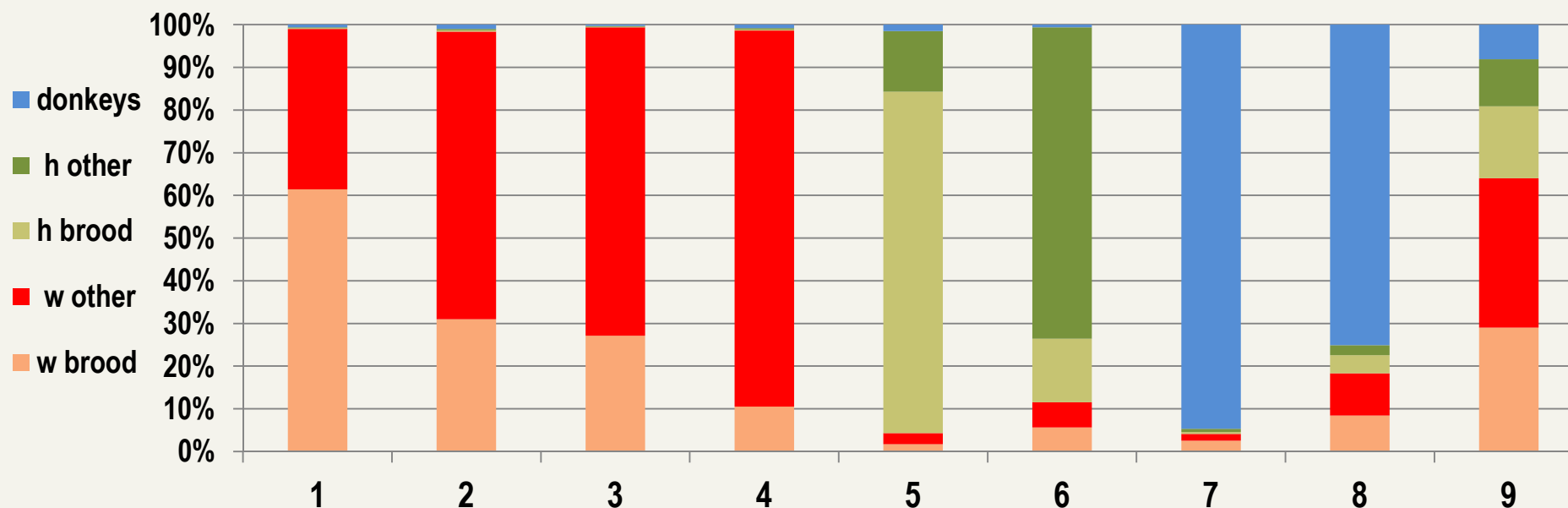
2- Relative importance of the **major horse type** :

B = O : **BO** ; B > O : **B** ; O > B : **O** and **O+** : O >> B ; **O++** : O >>> B

3- **herd size** per farm:

Small: < 5, **Medium**: 5 - 10, **Large**: 10 - 25, **Very Large**: > 25

1- GROUPS STAND OUT FROM 54 643 FARMS WITH EQUIDAE



Breed type	ponies, saddle and race horses				heavy horses		donkeys		all breeds
Major horse type	B	O	O+	O++	B	O+			
Herd size	B L	O M	O+ VL	O++ L	B M	O+ L	L	M	S
number of farms	1,240	6,675	335	973	892	270	62	3,110	41,086
Share on all farms	17%				2%		6%		75%
Share on total herd	59%				6%		6%		29%

2- FOCUS ON FARMS SPECIALIZED WITH EQUIDAE

- Equine activities often associated with other agricultural productions.

main productions	beef cattle	dairy cattle	mixed productions	crops
part of farms with equidae	11%	8%	11%	8%

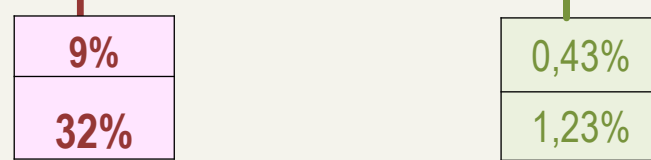


- **Specialized farms** selected on 2 criteria:
 - No other animal production
 - No crops production (grassland area = total agricultural area)

2- FOCUS ON FARMS SPECIALIZED WITH EQUINES

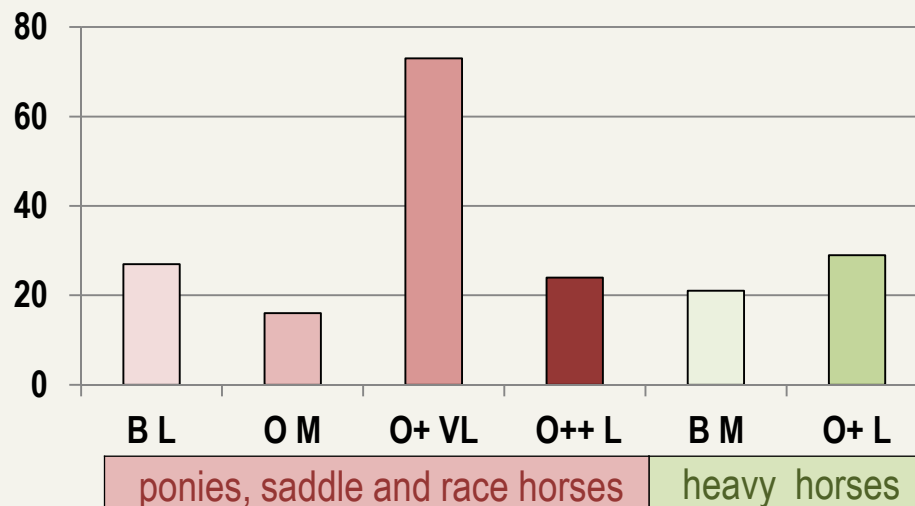
Farm groups	ponies, saddle and race horses				heavy horses		donkeys		all breeds
	BL	OM	O+ VL	O++ L	BM	O+ L	L	M	S
Selection rate	52%	51%	50%	62%	19%	24%	42%	15%	16%

share on all farms
share on total herd



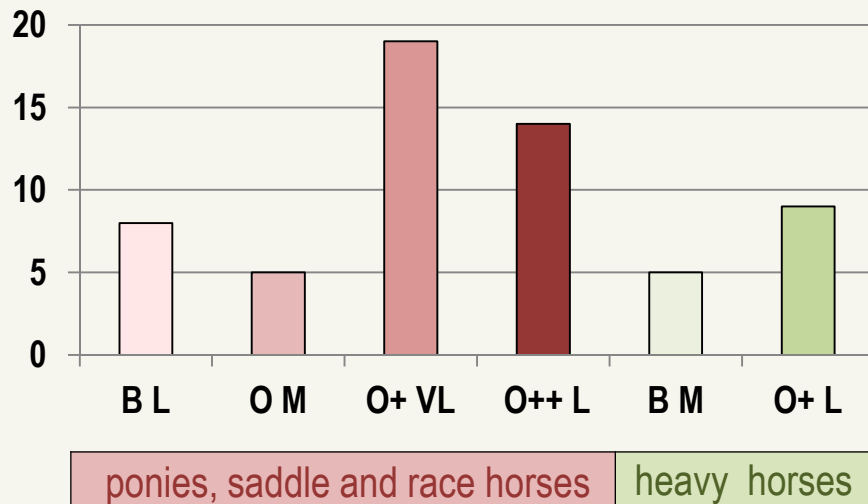
2- AVERAGE FEATURES ON SPECIALIZED FARMS

agricultural area (ha)

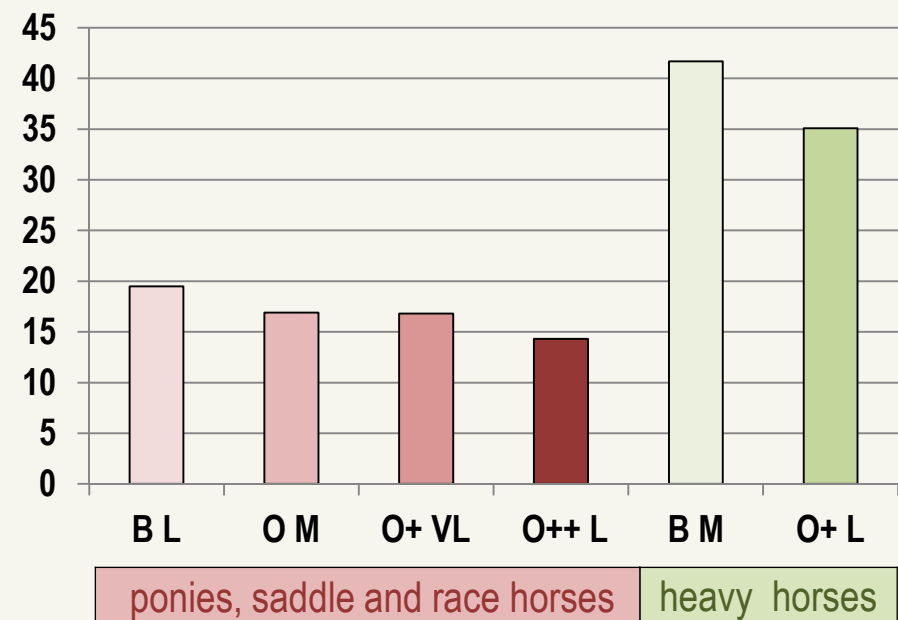


2- AVERAGE FEATURES ON EQUINE SPECIALIZED FARMS

number of horses / agricultural area (ha)



Equine Livestock Unit / Workforce Unit



CONCLUSION

IN FRANCE,

- Data from AC 2010 seem consistent with the results of specific investigations on the horse industry at the same period.
- AC Data supplement references on the horse industry with agricultural criteria, (in particular, when equidae are few and associated with other productions).

Therefore, it seems important :

- to maintain data collection on equidae in next AC.
- to identify separately: saddle horses, ponies, and racehorses to be able to follow the main productions.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ? **That is the question !**

THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR ATTENTION

