

SUMMARY

BILLIONS FOR THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY

HOW THE GOVERNMENT CHANNELS PUBLIC MONEY INTO A DESTRUCTIVE SECTOR

The first part of this study shows that the livestock industry in Germany is supported by public money to a large extent. More than 13.2 billion euros are directly or indirectly invested in the livestock industry each year. In addition, there are many other subsidies which cannot be estimated due to insufficient data. Accordingly, it can be assumed that the actual sum is significantly higher.

In the evaluation, the fatal effects of the animal industry on climate, environment, animals, humans and health are summarized and current subsidy policy is criticized on this basis. The alliance „Gemeinsam gegen die Tierindustrie“ (Together against Animal Industry) therefore demands a comprehensive transformation of agriculture and nutrition, and the consequent reduction or redirection of subsidies for the animal farming industry.

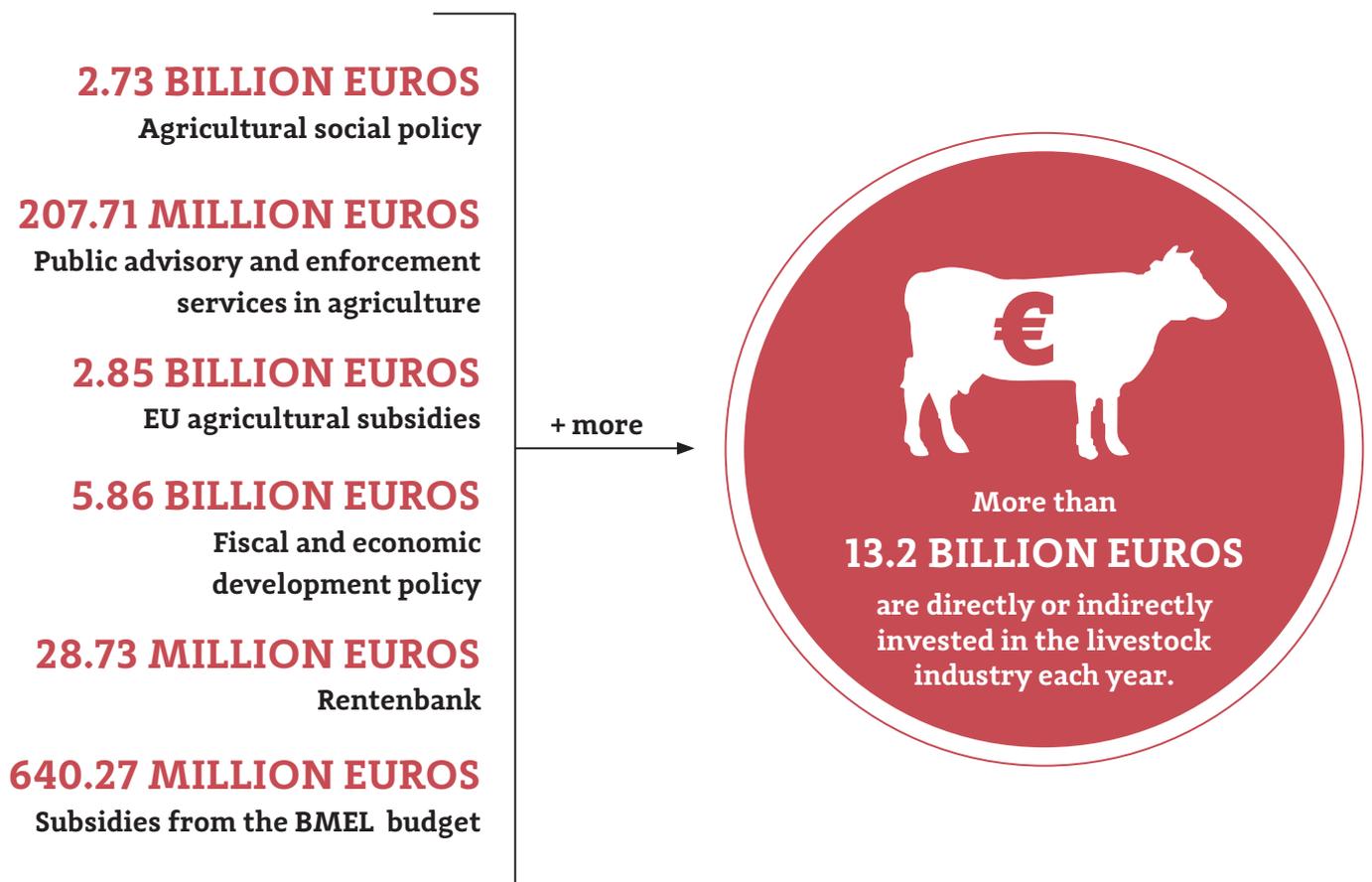
AIMS, METHODS AND RESULTS OF THIS STUDY:

The objective of the **data analysis (Chapter I)** is to summarize, and whenever possible, quantify all public subsidies for the livestock industry. In this context, „livestock industry“ is understood as the totality of all sectors related to animal husbandry for the production of meat, milk, and eggs, the processing and distribution of animal products, and the production of animal feed.

We have included direct subsidies, tax breaks, government services such as advisory services, government social benefits, and others. Not all of these subsidies are included in the Federal government’s subsidy report; overall, there is a lack of transparency, as much relevant data is not available, even when requested from institutions.

Statistics relating to support provided to the livestock industry are generally hidden within those for the entire agricultural sector, and without further information from the government it is impossible to quantify the support given to the livestock industry.

For the purposes of interpreting available data, we have developed two distribution keys: **the economic distribution key** used in this study is



based on the proportion of farms where over two-thirds of the output is related to animal husbandry, as well as on the proportion of animal products and feed in the sales revenue and production value of the agriculture sector as a whole.

The area-based distribution key is based on the proportion of land used by the livestock industry in Germany.

The study estimates annual funding for the following areas:

- **Agricultural social policy:** This includes several measures aimed at improving the social security and income of farmers. Using the economic distribution key, this equates to support for the livestock sector of **2.73 billion euros** per year.
- **EU agricultural subsidies:** The area-based direct payments (first pillar) are calculated using the area-based distribution key, resulting in subsidies of **2.85 billion euros** for the livestock industry, in particular for the production of animal feed. The so-called second pillar is co-financed by the federal, state and local governments and more than half of it is counted as an agricultural subsidy; **878 million euros** are attributed to the livestock sector using the economic distribution key.

- **Public advisory and enforcement services in agriculture:** Many federal states finance „Landwirtschaftskammern“ (“Chambers of Agriculture”) and regional institutes which advise farmers. After applying the economic distribution key, this results in a total of 207.71 million euros that benefit the livestock sector.
- Rentenbank: Through subsidies on loans, the entire agricultural and food industry benefits from favorable interest rates. **28.73 million euros** are allocated to the livestock industry using the economic distribution key.
- **Fiscal and economic development policy:** The livestock sector benefits from reduced VAT (turnover tax) on animal products as well as proportionately from the tax concession on agricultural diesel, the exemption of agricultural vehicles from motor vehicle tax and savings on the EEG (Renewable Energy Sources Act) levy - in total **5.86 billion euros**.
- **Subsidies from the BMEL** (Federal Ministry for Nutrition and Agriculture) **budget:** Several current programs of the agricultural sector are financed by the BMEL, including manure technology, animal shed construction, the “Tierwohllabel” (Animal Welfare labeling) and the Federal livestock program. The BMEL also pays for research that primarily serves the interests of the livestock industry. In total this amounts to **640.27 million euros**.

The total sum of quantified subsidies thus adds up to at least EUR 13.2 billion.

We were unable to quantify many other subsidies with the available data. These include (and are described in the study):

- **The reduced „Mehrwertssteuer“ (VAT)** applies not only to animal-based foods, but also to feed and live animals. This also benefits companies in the livestock industry.
- **Animal breeding** benefits from non-profit / charity regulations as well as direct subsidies from federal state budgets.
- Subsidies from the federal states to the „Tierseuchenkassen“ (animal health insurance funds)
- State funds for agricultural marketing
- **Support loans:** Every year, the “Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank” grants support loans worth billions, which are characterized by particularly low interest rates.
- **Research for the benefit of the livestock industry:** funding of numerous institutes and research projects into the optimization of animal husbandry, feed and breeding.
- **Public veterinary services:** Immense sums of money are spent on meat inspections and animal welfare monitoring at local district level and elsewhere. This would be drastically reduced or become unnecessary if livestock numbers were reduced.

Chapter II evaluates current subsidy policies and presents an overview of the negative impacts of animal agriculture. The livestock industry contributes significantly to the anthropogenic climate crisis, damages the environment and endangers public health. It exposes animals to massive suffering and is linked to human exploitation and global injustice.

This chapter also critically discusses the findings of the Borchert Commission, which recommends that further billions are invested in animal industries but does not sufficiently address the aforementioned problems.

Chapter III summarizes the demands of the alliance “Gemeinsam gegen die Tierindustrie”. Accordingly, an exit from the animal industry can no longer be postponed. Public money that currently funds this industry must instead be used to finance an ecologically and solidarity-oriented agricultural transition.

The demands are:

1. **A drastic reduction of animal livestock** with concrete milestones for implementation, viz. the reduction of current livestock levels by at least 80 percent by 2030.
2. **Decent alternative employment prospects for animal industry workers:** sustainable concepts for animal industry regions and exit programs.
3. **Funding for ecologically and solidarity-oriented farming projects:** reallocation of funds from the animal industry to regional and fair food suppliers.
4. **Funding of climate protection and biodiversity:** restoring ecosystems on vacated land and creation of carbon sinks.
5. **Nutritional transition:** drastically reduce animal product consumption.
6. **Sustainable research and education:** reallocate funding and reform educational pathways.

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