

Organic livestock farming in Republic of Croatia- state and perspective development

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INTRODUCTION

- The Republic of Croatia has recorded significant increase in organic agriculture with the same trend in organic livestock farming.
- Favorable climatic conditions, the possibility of producing cheap and good quality food, large quantities of floorcloth, smaller financial investments and the possession of certified organic land areas are very good prerequisites for the spread of organic livestock farming in the Republic of Croatia (Antunović, 2011).
- In the common market of the European Union, the advantages of the Republic of Croatia are, among other things, reflected in the possibility of developing organic agriculture, including organic livestock farming, and through the integration with tourism, as well as the protection of native plant and animal genetic resources and the conservation of biodiversity.
- According to the data of the Croatian Chamber of Economy, cited in the Ministry of Agriculture's Annual Report on the State of Agriculture in year 2018, it was pointed out that the annual value of the Croatian market of organic products is around 100 million EUR, which is certainly not negligible, while the share of consumption of organic products in total consumption is 2.2%.
- The aim of this paper is to present the state and perspectives of the development of organic livestock farming in the Republic of Croatia, by analyzing the period of the recent five years.

State and perspectives of development of organic livestock farming in the Republic of Croatia

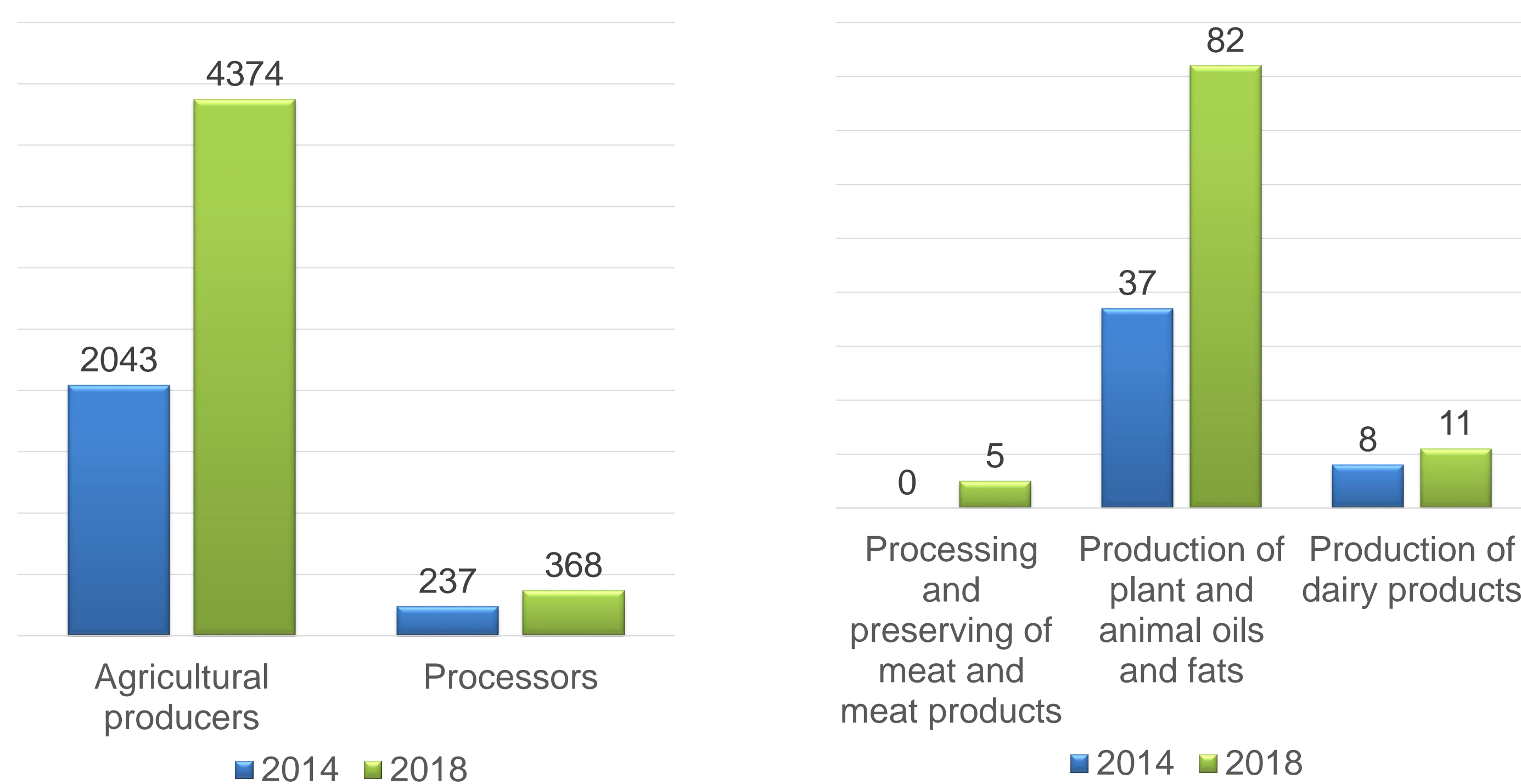


Fig 1. Number of organic agricultural entities in Croatia in the last five years (Croatian Bureau of Statistics, 2019).

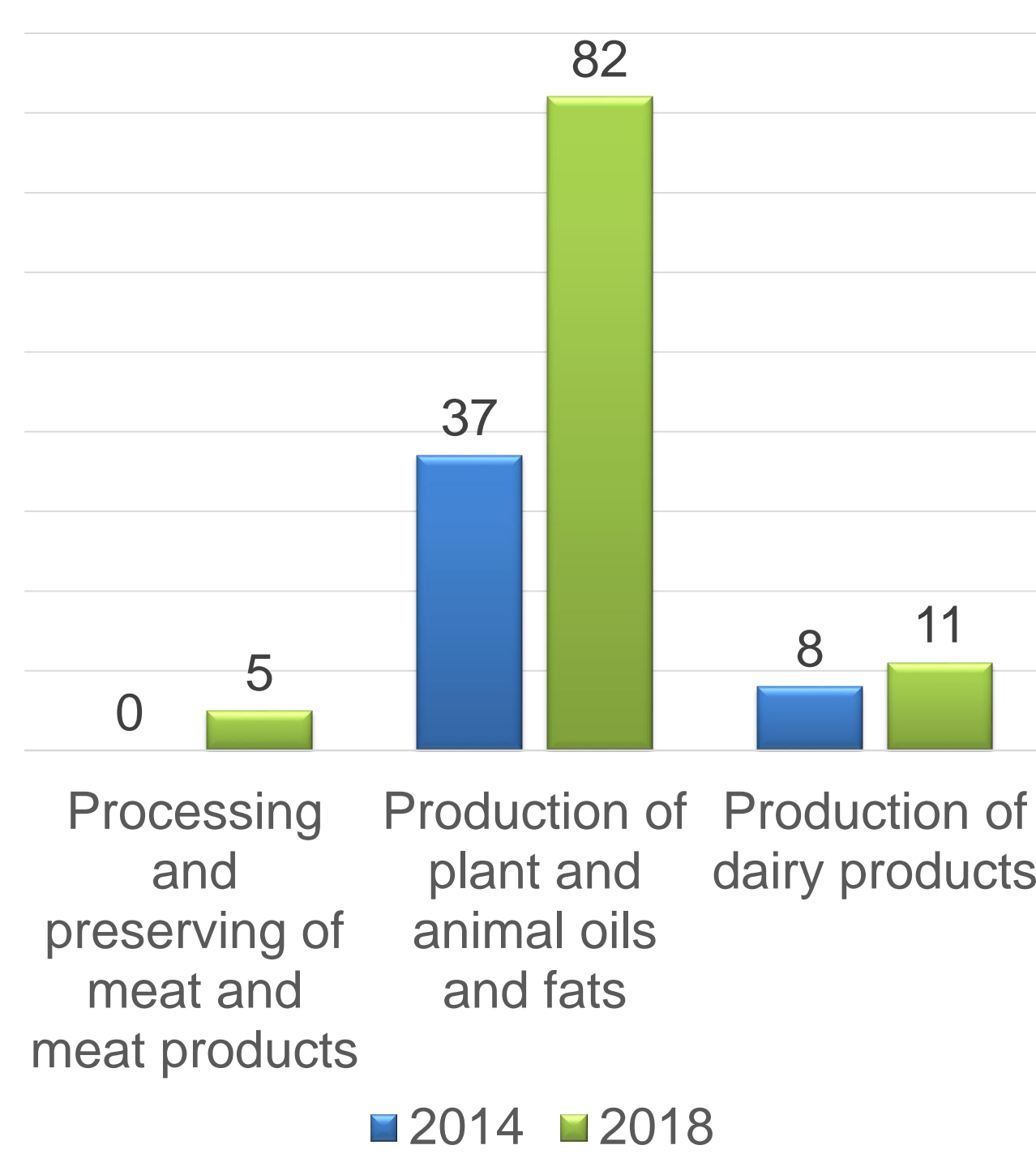


Fig 2. Number of processors of organic livestock products (Croatian Bureau of Statistics, 2019).

Table 1. The area of utilized agricultural land and area under organic production in the last five years in Croatia (Croatian Bureau of Statistics, 2019).

Year	Agricultural land used, ha	Areas under organic production, ha	Share of areas under organic production in total utilized agricultural area, %
2014	1 508 885	50 054	3.32
2015	1 537 629	75 883	4.94
2016	1 546 019	93 814	6.07
2017	1 496 663	96 6185	6.46
2018	1 485 645	103 166	6.94
Difference (2014-2018), %	- 1.54	+ 51.48	

Table 2. Total area of organic crops from arable land most commonly used in livestock feeding and their organic production in the recent five years in Croatia (Croatian Bureau of Statistics, 2019).

Crop	Surface, ha					Trend, %
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Arable land and gardens	27 459	34 281	44 147	44 083	50 281	+83.11
Wheat and spelt	3 654	4 680	6 011	4 785	6 376	+74.49
Barley	1 081	783	1 487	1 351	1 358	+7.10
Oat	1 235	905	1 557	0 418	1 108	-10.28
Corn, dry grain	1 768	2 174	2 185	2 506	3 102	+75.80
Rapeseed	1 293	1 034	2 421	3 699	4 079	+215.47
Sunflower	1 520	1 335	1 438	2 175	2 112	+38.95
Soybean	1 339	2 607	2 563	2 826	2 286	+70.72
Green forage from arable land and gardens	10 023	12 221	16 860	16 248	20 002	+99.56

Table 3. Number of heads of livestock in organic farming by species in the recent five years in Croatia (Croatian Bureau of Statistics, 2019).

Species	Year					Trend, %
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Cattle	7 308	7 002	14 442	17 226	19 613	+ 168.38
Pigs	961	1 114	1 083	1 468	1 887	+ 96.36
Sheep	21 690	23 774	50 135	54 583	62 315	+ 187.30
Goats	1 552	2 163	3 080	3 381	4 199	+ 170.55
Poultry	2 540	2 093	3 388	2 174	1 870	- 26.38
Equidae	291	265	1 753	1 929	2 388	+ 720.60
Bee colonies	3 649	3 418	2 065	1 721	2 022	- 44.59

Table 4. Organic animal products in the recent five years in Croatia (Croatian Bureau of Statistics, 2019).

Product, t	Year					Trend, %
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Meat*, total	109	1 200	1 689	1 627	2 185	+ 1 904.6
Beef	75	811	1 110	1 133	1 456	+ 1 841.0
Pork	10	60	91	57	141	+ 1 310.0
Sheep meat	22	316	474	424	571	+ 2 495.5
Goat meat	2	13	14	13	17	+ 750.0
Milk, total	1 782	6 000	5 163	5 783	3 094	+ 73.63
Cows' milk	1 700	5 947	5 023	5 671	2 846	+ 67.41
Sheep milk	51	-	38	28	73	+ 43.14
Goat milk	31	40	102	84	175	+ 464.52
Cheese	4	13	8	7	43	+ 975.0
Table eggs, peaces	65 000	117 775	246 890	206 000	183 000	+ 181.54
Honey	60	48	47	29	31	- 48.33

CONCLUSIONS

- An analysis of organic livestock farming in the recent five years in the Republic of Croatia shows the expansion of this production, some difficulties, and significant advantages that contribute to its overall positive image.
- This has also contributed to the growing interest of this production, which is indicated by significant increase of analyzed indicators, not only by farmers but also by consumers of organic animal products, as well as by those users whose perception of environmental protection and biodiversity are especially emphasized.

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