

Session 2

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Opportunities and threats of mega pig and poultry farms

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Mega farms: definition

- **Mega farm buildings:**
high number of animals of one species on one site (owned by one or more persons) (> 300 Nge)
- Definition based on Dutch scale unit (Nge)
- Intensive animal production: poultry and pigs

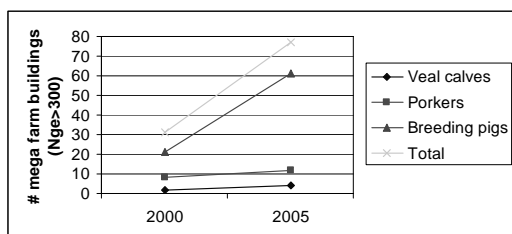
Mega farms: definition

Number of animals in mega farm buildings

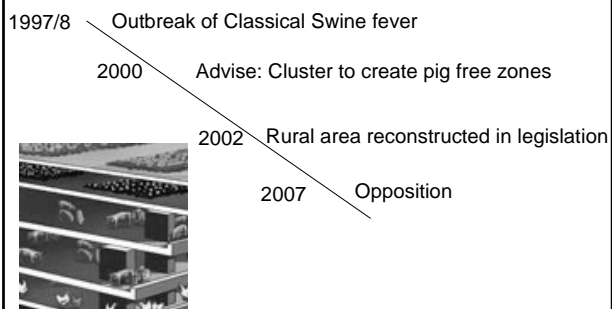
	Veal calves*	Porkers*	Breeding pigs*	Broilers*	Laying hens*
Mega farm building	2.5	7.5	1.2	220	120

* 10³; based on Nge from 2005

Development of Mega farm buildings



Developments that influenced Mega farms

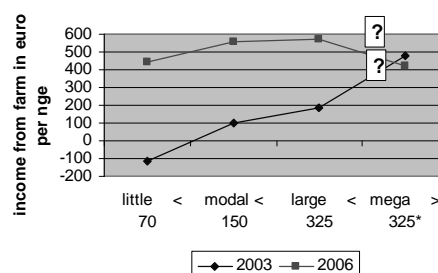


SWOT: Economic issues

Issue	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat
Income	X ?			
Labor	X			
Public costs				X

Economic issue: income

? Increase in income with increase in size



SWOT: environmental issues

Issue	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat
Ammonia	X	X		?
Dust		X		X
Smell	X		X	
Location		X		
Infrastruct.		X	X	X
Transport		X	X	

Environmental issue: ammonia emission

S Air washer (pigs)

S Law: > 10.000 kg NH₃ reduce 85%

? Pollution swapping: washing air costs a lot of energy: SO₂ and CO₂ increases

W In poultry more difficult due to dust

SWOT: environmental issues

Issue	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat
Ammonia	X	X		?
Dust		X		X
Smell	X			
Location		X		
Infrastruct.		X	X	X
Transport		X	X	

Environmental issue: dust in the air

W # animals ↑ linear ↑ of dust concentration

■ Dust removing in building: 50% decrease

■ Dust removing outside building: 70-90% decrease

T Improve welfare: increase in dust



Dust release from agriculture (2000): 10Kton

SWOT: social issues				
Issue	Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat
Perception		X		X
Welfare	X?			
Labor	X	X		
Landscape				X
Animal health			X?	X
Public health	X	X		X

Opposition against mega farms increases

Kippen in megastal weer de dupe van Groesbeekse wetgeving (29 april 2008)

Megastal bedreiging voor volksgezondheid

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Citizens' image is negative:

- Fear for (unknown) consequences
- Not involved in farming nor related to farmers
- Mega farm associated with meat factory

Het Rijksinstituut voor Volksbouw van bedrijven met me...

Volkskrant 'de knoof'. De megastallen var...

Megastal bedreiging

Gepubliceerd: 12 februari 2008
Door een...

de Volkskrant

VRM wil geen megastal in landschap

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Opposing trends

Economic issues: ↑ size of farms

Ecological issues: 0 size of farms

Social issues: ↓ size of farms

- How should government react?
- Strong economic movements follow global economy
- Make risks and threats known
- Fill knowledge gaps
- Influence with opportunities

Gaps in knowledge

- Economically optimal farm size
- Integral environmental assessment
- Assessment of animal welfare risks
- Citizens perception

Opportunities

- Design landscape solutions and plan location
- Increased transport and infrastructure

Thank you for your attention

Questions?

