

ROMANIA - A STORY LAND

Situated in the South-East of Europe, Romania is one of the biggest countries in the European Union (EU), whose member became in 2007. With a total surface of 23, 8 million hectares, Romania has the fourth largest agricultural capacity in the EU and is one of the most important agricultural countries. According to the General Census 2010 - 2011, Romania has 13,3 million agricultural hectares and 8,3 million hectares of it is used a arable land.

With this size of arable surface, Romania has a very fertile land and farmers that love their land and crops. Because of

harvesting of wheat. One of these traditions is related to the wheat wreath. To celebrate and to honor the good harvest of the



year, farmers keep the most beautiful last wheat ears and young girls living in the village make a wreath. The wheat wreath is worn on her head by a young girl and brought to the house of the most important householder of the village. The young lady wearing the wreath is accompanied by a suite of musicians and girls' choir singing "Wreath songs".

On the way to the most important householder in the village, the suite stops after leaving the field, at the border of the village, then in the center of the village and, in the end, at the host's house. During the road, the wreath is watered so the next year's rain helps grow-

Category	Surface (thousands of hectares)				Total production (thousands tons)			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cereals - entire crops	5129,2	5210,7	5282,4	5029,0	7814,8	16826,4	14873	16664,5
Wheat + Rye	1987,1	2123,3	2164,3	2165,6	3065,0	7212,4	5235,5	5808,5
Barley	363,8	394,0	517,5	517,8	531,4	1209,4	1182,1	1314,1
Oat	208,7	200,4	202,7	189,4	251,6	382,0	295,8	324,5
Maize	2524,7	2441,5	2338,8	2088,6	3853,9	7849,1	7973,3	9008,2
Rice	8,4	9,9	13,3	12,3	27,9	48,9	72,4	61,9
Sunflower	835,9	813,9	766,1	793,7	546,9	1170,0	1098,0	1267,4
Rape (for oil)	364,9	365	419,9	537,3	361,5	673,0	569,6	943,0
Soybean	133,2	49,9	48,8	63,9	136,1	90,6	84,3	149,9
Sugar Beet	28,7	20,4	21,3	22	748,8	706,7	816,8	837,9
Potatoes	268,1	255,3	255,2	241,3	3712,4	3649,0	4004,0	3283,9
Vines (grapes)	187,6	187,9	184,4	177	873,2	996	990,2	740,1

Category	2007	2008	2009	2010
Wine production - thousands of hectoliters	5015	5288,8	5369,2	4957,4

this large fertility and good harvests the Romanian farmers get every year, in the rural area there are a lot of traditions and legends that illustrate the special relationship between the farmer and its land.

Romania is an important cereal production country, and the most fertile regions are in the South area (Romanian Plain) and in the West area (Banat Plain). Because of the special relation born hundred of years ago between the farmer and its land, in these areas there are many traditions related to the



ing new rich crops. After arriving and the most important farmer's house, he welcomes the suite with drinks and food and the party continues with "wheat wreath's songs". The wreath symbolizes the wheat spirit and the farmers thank him for the rich crops of the year and for those that will grow during the next year.

Besides these traditions, in the rural area there are a lot of legends regarding the most important plants cultivated on Romanian plains. One of the legends concerns sunflowers. According to the legend told in Romania, hundred on years ago, there was an important king that had a beautiful daughter. The king wanted to marry his daughter to a rich and valiant prince, but the daughter didn't want to marry the prince. She wanted to marry the beautiful and powerful sun. The king didn't want the princess to marry the sun because he knew that whoever looked directly at the sun, would transform into a flower. So he kept his daughter locked in the castle, but

show how important is agriculture for the Romanian people. It also shows how the fertile and rich land influenced Romanian people over the years. And this strong bond is created because of the rich harvest obtained from this fertile land. In table I you can see what are the results obtained during the last years for the most important plants in Romania.

Besides the vegetable sector, in Romania is very well developed the animal husbandry sector. One of the most important regions in this field of activity is the historical Transylvania.

When someone comes to Romania, one of the places that worth a visit is Transylvania. The Romanian people are proud of the beautiful cities of Sibiu, Brasov, Cluj Napoca, Alba Iulia and Târgu Mures. And of course, when you visit Transylvania, you must not miss Sighisoara (photo), the only inhabited medieval fortress in Europe. In Transylvania you have a date with history at every step. A tourist in Transylvania must see the Bran



Category	Unit of Measurement	2010	2011
I. ANIMALS			
CATLES	thousands	2514	2274
SHEEPS	thousands	12516	12675
PIGS	thousands	5191	5115
POULTRY	thousands	92714	88089
Of which:			
FARMED FOR EGGS	thousands	38380	39033
II. PRODUCTION			
Beef meat	thousands tons	160,5	162,8
Sheep meat	thousands tons	94,6	105,7
Pork meat	thousands tons	235,2	244,8
Chicken meat	thousands tons	262,8	250,8
Cow milk	thousands of hectolitres	26392,8	24961,9
Sheep milk	thousands of hectolitres	4120,7	3734,1
Wool	thousands tons	19793	23006
Eggs	thousands pieces	3648,6	3300,2

Table II

she escaped and went to the sun to marry him. The sun fell in love with the princess and married her, but when she looked at him, immediately transformed into a yellow flower. And since then, the sunflower looks every day on the sky at her beautiful husband since he rises until he sets. All these traditions and legends

Castle, the old squares of Sibiu and Brasov, the Hunyadi Castle in Hunedoara, the Dacian Fortresses in the Orastie Mountains, the Merry Cemetery of Sapanta in Maramures. Known as one of the most beautiful regions in the world, with many historical monuments, castles, myths and legends, the Transylvanian

plateau is perfectly suited for animal husbandry. As written before, animal husbandry is as important in Romania as is the vegetable sector. In table II, there is the number of animals and the total production of meat, milk, wool and eggs during the first seven months of the last two years (2010 and 2011).