General information

Norway is Europe's northmost country with more than a quarter of her total area north of the Arctic Circle. In the major agricultural areas the length of the summer (temperature above 10°C) is no more than 90-120 days.

For topographical reasons farmland is scattered and split up in relatively small plots. Relatively large and continuous areas of farmland are found only in some few areas. Norway's total agricultural area makes up only 3 per cent of the country's total area. The agriculture is characterized by relatively small farms.

Because of climatic conditions grass is the most important crop. Two thirds of the total area of farmland are used for grass, and one third for grain, mainly feed grain.

The degree of self-sufficiency in foods, calculated in terms of energy, is about 50 per cent. Of this fish represents about 7 per cent. When this figure is corrected for the import of feed concentrate, the degree of self-sufficiency is 5 per cent less.

In many areas, agriculture together with forestry and fishing are major sources of employment for the local population. In such areas, the main objective of national policies is to stimulate economic development through expansion of existing industries and creation of new jobs. Agricultural policy plays an important rôle in this respect. If such areas shall not become too scarcely populated, measures must be taken to maintain a higher number of people in agriculture than would have otherwise been the case.
The income objective in agriculture is that the income per man-year on a rationally operated holding shall be at a level corresponding to the average income per man-year in industry. Efficiency norms have been laid down to calculate the income per man-year in agriculture. This norm is differentiated according to regional criteria and size of the farms.

In assessing the size of agricultural production in Norway two main factors are of importance, first the degree of self-sufficiency and secondly the agricultural contribution to the stabilization of settlement in remote areas.

Norwegian agriculture is primarily a producer of livestock products. For such products the aim is to meet domestic requirements, mainly through production based on home-grown fodder.

Production shall be adjusted closely to the actual demand, so that the surplus production is reduced to a minimum. To a great extent the surplus production is disposed of on the home market. Cheese is the only agricultural product exported on a more permanent basis. A large part of this export is related to the seasonal fluctuation in milk production, which necessitates a somewhat larger total milk production - to meet the requirements for liquid milk - than would be the case if the production had been constant throughout the year.

The level of farm product prices, the support to be accorded to agriculture and the actual regulations affecting the marketing of farm products are determined in negotiations between the Government and the farmers' organizations (the Agricultural Agreement).

There are only guaranteed prices for grain and wool, for other products the prices established in the Agreement are target prices. The farmers' co-operatives - which have national associations for the different branches - are responsible for regulating the markets and consequently for securing the target prices for the products. The necessary funds for these market regulations are provided in accordance with the Agreement.

Besides the prices there are a great number of programmes and measures in the agricultural policy. Part of these are comprehensive programmes but there are also special programmes for the promotion of agriculture in remote areas and on small farms.

As the disposal of surpluses normally is a costly undertaking in agriculture, a condition set for reaching the income goal is that the production is adapted to the market. In the policy to adapt the production, a wide range of measures are used.
The price relations between the various products are of great importance in our policy. Most important is the relation between prices for grain and milk. Grain prices have been fixed at a relatively high level in order to stimulate specialization in grain production in areas where extensive grain production is possible. This policy has made it possible to increase the more labour-intensive milk production in remote areas.

With the aim to stimulate domestic fodder production and to adjust as far as possible the output of livestock products to demand, prices of concentrates are regulated by a levy system.

If the income in agriculture had been obtained through prices only, the adaptation of the production to the market would have been difficult. A rather substantial part of the income in agriculture in Norway is, however, secured through other measures. Most of such measures are differentiated according to the size of the production on the farm or to natural conditions.

A. Production

Collection, processing and distribution of milk and dairy products are entirely dealt with by dairy co-operatives. All the dairy co-operatives are organized in the Federation of Norwegian Dairies.

Receipts from the sales of dairy products, as well as funds received from the Government under various programmes are paid to the Federation of Norwegian Dairies, and are distributed through this Federation and the local dairy co-operatives to the dairy farmers based upon the amount of milk delivered to the dairy. The Federation of Norwegian Dairies is the organization through which the policy of the Marketing Act of 1930, designed to produce equalization of producer prices irrespective of the end-use of the product, is implemented. The Federation is also responsible for the sale and distribution of dairy products and allocates quotas to individual dairies for the production of cheese, milk powder and the allied products for which it guarantees outlets. Furthermore, the Federation is responsible for stabilizing the market through storage, by compulsory returns to producers at reduced prices, sales on the internal market at reduced prices, sales promotion or by export.

In the Agricultural Agreement the maximum wholesale prices are fixed for wholemilk, skimmed milk and cream for human consumption. The maximum prices of other dairy products are determined in accordance with these prices.

The target price for milk to producers in the Agricultural Agreement is calculated on the basis of a fixed total milk production and ultimate utilization of the milk. If, for example the ultimate utilization of the milk is different from the calculation, because of increased production, the real milk price to the producers will be less than the calculated target price. A better adjustment of the production will therefore give a higher producer price.
Prices and support programmes

In the Agricultural Agreement that came into force on 1 July 1983 the basic support per litre of milk has been reduced from 18 øre to 13 øre.

The quantity-limited price support has been increased by 15 øre to 138 øre per litre for quantities up to 20,000 litres annually. Deliveries beyond that limit and up to 30,000 litres annually are paid 63 øre per litre as previous year.

In the Agreement the maximum wholesale prices have been increased. Based on the increase in maximum wholesale prices and estimated increase in dairy costs, the price to producer is expected to increase by 8 øre per litre of milk. The average price to producer was 215 øre per litre in 1982.

Measures to stabilize production

A two-price arrangement based on quotas for the individual producer was introduced from 1 January this year. The quota is fixed on the basis of the producer's average delivery of milk during the three previous years. It has been decided that the two-price arrangement will continue in 1984 with an amendment concerning the fixing of the basis of the individual quota.

In addition to the criteria of average delivery of milk during previous years, the criteria of quantity of feeding stuffs produced on the farm will also be applied. For practical purposes this criteria will not come into use until fixing of the quotas for 1985.

The price of milk delivered beyond the quota which the individual producer has been allocated is 100 øre per litre for 1983.

A slaughtering premium of NOK 700 per baby-calf was introduced in 1982, when 30,000 calves were slaughtered according to this scheme. It has been decided that this scheme will continue in 1983/84 and it is expected that at least 30,000 baby-calves will be slaughtered.

The slaughtering premium per milk cow has been suspended. It is expected that the production of milk will not exceed the 1982-level or be somewhat lower.
B. Internal price and consumption

Prices of dairy products are under a system of price control. The wholesale prices fixed in the Agricultural Agreement are maximum prices.

Consumer subsidies are important factors in general economic policy and in influencing food consumption in the desired nutritional direction. In the economic policy context the aim of the consumer subsidies is to reduce the rise in prices. An important objective is to apply subsidies in such a way that they especially benefit families with children and families with low incomes.

The production of milk plays an important role in our food production. Milk production provides nutritionally rich and valuable food products, of which a relatively high consumption should be maintained according to the Norwegian nutrition and food policy. The consumption of skimmed milk should be considerably increased as compared with whole milk and the consumption of cream should be reduced. Because the total consumption of milk fat can not be reduced, the consumption of butter has to be increased at the expense of the consumption of margarine.

In the Norwegian nutrition and food policy it is estimated that there will be a slight increase in the total consumption of milk and milk products from 1974 to 1990. The development in the total consumption since 1974 has been very much in accordance with the estimates. Between the different milk products the development has, however, been somewhat different from the expectations. The increase in the consumption of cheese has been considerable, as the consumption of liquid milk products has decreased somewhat.

To regulate the market for liquid skimmed milk and powder, compulsory return deliveries to the milk producers are used. Export of skimmed milk powder will therefore not take place.

For butter, the market is to a great extent regulated by the internal prices, compulsory return to producers at reduced prices and by temporary sales.

C. Measures at the frontier

1. The customs tariffs are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Tariff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh milk (04.01)</td>
<td>0-0.48 Kr/kg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preserved milk (04.02)</td>
<td>0.48-1.20 Kr/kg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butter (04.03)</td>
<td>2.80 Kr/kg. (EFTA:0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheese (04.04)</td>
<td>1.20 Kr/kg. (bound in GATT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casein (35.01.100)</td>
<td>1.50 Kr/kg. (EFTA and EEC:0 and Spain 0.50 Kr/kg.)</td>
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2. Pursuant to the Act of 22 June 1934 concerning ban on imports, a Royal Decree of 2 June 1960 lays down provisions regarding import bans on, among others:

(a) Milk and cream (fresh, preserved or sweetened)
(b) Butter
(c) Cheese

As a principal rule it is presupposed that demand for the product concerned shall be fully covered at all times. As a result of insufficient supply of the product concerned from Norwegian sources, quantity restricted supplementary imports in fixed periods take place of the following products:

(a) Milk and cream (fresh, preserved or sweetened)
(b) Butter

At such import a compensatory amount at the frontier may be levied to equalize the price between the imported product and corresponding price on the same product of internal origin.

Special varieties of cheese may be imported under a liberal licensing system, up to a given quota.

3. By the price pooling system the Federation of Dairies has the possibility to export dairy products at a lower price than the one which can be obtained in the home market.

Export aid for butter and cheese equal to the difference between a minimum export f.o.b. price and the actual f.o.b. export price can be given. The minimum price for cheese is Kr 4.50 per kg and for butter Kr 7.50 per kg. Export aid for milk powder and concentrated milk is calculated on the basis of the above-mentioned minimum prices. The minimum export prices have not been changed since 1958.

E. **Bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral agreements**

Within the framework of GATT/MTN, the United States has granted Norway a cheese quota of 7,200 metric tons, 6,883 tons of which is Jarlsberg cheese.