

## THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM IN THE NOVACI LOCALITY, GORJ COUNTY AREA

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USAMVB "REGELE MIHAI I AL ROMÂNIEI" DIN TIMIȘOARA  
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**Abstract.** *At the foot of the Parâng mountains, at a 44 km distance from Târgu Jiu, there is the town of Novaci, watched over by the highest peak of the Parâng mountains, the Great Parâng (2519m). Its geographic position, and also its land fund structure, facilitates a combined agriculture, i.e. working the land and breeding animals. Also, the fact that it is crossed by the beautiful Transalpina highway creates development opportunities for agritourism. Animal breeding, especially sheep and cattle, was and still is the main activity of the inhabitants of this area. The pastures at the foot of the mountain, as well as the alpine ones, and those from the wood borders, are a great advantage, a fact that led to the orientation towards apiculture. Just like any other agriculture field, the lack of an open market for animal products leads to the discouragement of animal breeders, but their association may be a development and a tradition keeping privilege, namely the tradition of shepherding. One may easily notice that the agricultural system in the Novaci locality area is an exclusively zootechnical one.*

**Key words:** *agriculture, system, land fund, farm, Novaci*

### INTRODUCTION

At the foot of the Parâng Mountains, in old times, a human settlement was established favoured by nature from a geographical as well as from historical point of view. The mountain has always offered men water, pastures, wood and game, and the mountain foot area the land which insured their every day food. The town of Novaci, Gorj county, is situated at a 44 km distance of Târgu Jiu, the county residence, being watched over by the highest peak of the Parâng massive, namely Parângul Mare with 2519m. The Novaci relief represents a complex combination of diverse forms, which encompasses mountains, sub-Carpathian and piedmont hills, depressions and the Gilort Everglade. The mountainous relief in the northern part of the town, with heights of over 2000 m reached by the peaks Păpușa, Urdele and Mohorul, covered with forests and alpine pastures, confer a specific beauty to these places, also influencing the Novaci people specific occupation, namely of good sheep breeders and wood craftsmen. The Novaci town is crossed, from north to south, by the Gilort river. The hydrograph river basin is developed up to 25% in the mountain sector, 38% in the sub-Carpathian sector and the rest of 37% in the piedmont sector. The Novaci characteristic climate is extremely complex, taking into account the area's relief, so that the average annual temperature registers ample variations resulting from the altitude differences. The main natural resources of the town of Novaci are forests and agricultural land. Forests insure the wood, forest fruit and the hunting fund, and the agricultural land, fruit tree orchards and vineyards, broad pastures and hay land for animals.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

For the elaboration of the current paper, we used data obtained through our own observations, data from the Romanian Statistic Directory, from M.A.D.R. and I.N.S.S.E, data supplied by the Animal Breeder Association but also by the Novaci town mayor hall. The study consisted in observing the modification undergone in time by the land fund, the zootechnical sector and the agricultural system from the Novaci perimeter.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The Novaci locality land fund is dominated by pastures and hay land which occupy an over 5767 ha surface and reached an over 7222 ha surface during the last two years. Table 1. presents the land fund situation during the period 2008 -2014.

Table 1.

The Novaci town agricultural land situation

Usage	Surface (ha)		
	2008	2011	2014
Tillable land	602	408	321
Pastures	3463	3950	4000
Hay land	2304	3070	3222
Vineyards	142	36	45
Orchards	97	108	123
<b>Agricultural total</b>	<b>6608</b>	<b>7622</b>	<b>7631</b>

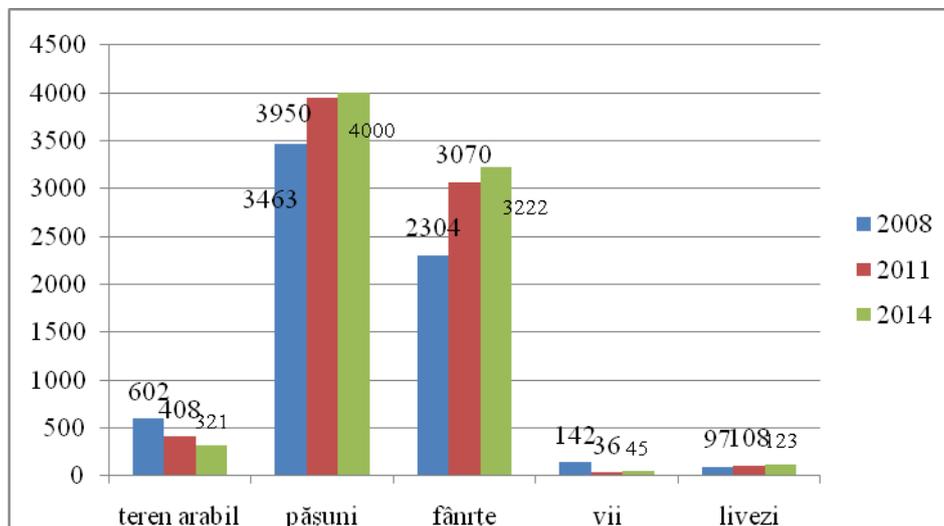


Fig.1. The Novaci town agricultural land situation

### Crop structure

The cultivated surface is decreasing and is predominated by the corn crop, followed by wheat, oats and potato, as one can observe in table 2.

Table 2.

Culture	Novaci agricultural crops (ha)		
	Surface (ha)		
	2008	2011	2014
Corn	420	380	292
Wheat	24	8	5
Oats	36	3	9
Potato	25	3,5	3
Fodder	97	13,5	12

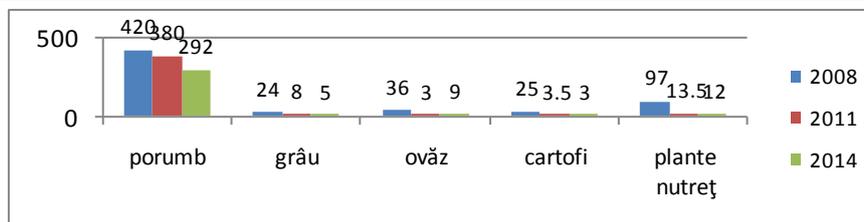


Fig.2. Agricultural crop structure

### Technologic park

Since agricultural crops are not the strength of the locality, they did not determine a technological means equipment size and variation. So that the equipment is thus represented, without great changes over the years: tractors 28 pieces; cultivators 6 pieces; ploughs 12 pieces; seeders 3 pieces; mowing machines 20 pieces.

### Zootechnical sector

As one could notice from the agricultural land and the crop structure situation, the orientation of the zootechnical sector is towards herbivore animals and evolves according to table 3.

Table 3.

Specis	Animal categories in Novaci		
	Heads-family number		
	2008	2011	2014
Ovine	18654	18425	19328
Bovine	2638	2264	2465
Equine	120	139	108
Porcine	5426	1578	2460
Poultry	15000	18500	16800
Bees	1125	1576	2150

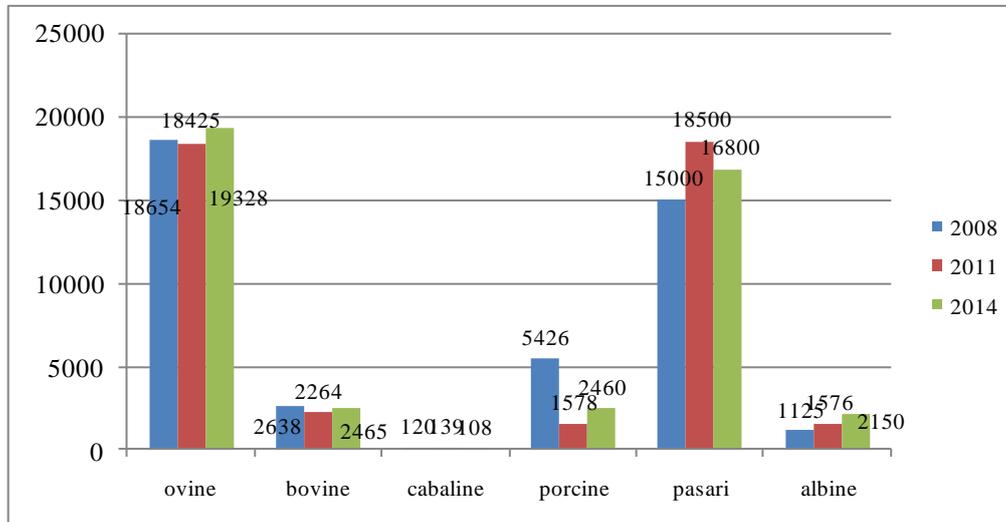


Fig.3. Animal categories in Novaci

Animal breeding, especial ovine, is the main occupation of the inhabitants, but they also breed poultry, milk cows, and there is a slight orientation towards apiculture.

#### **Agricultural societies**

On the Novaci town range, one cannot speak of agricultural societies, but rather of self-employed persons and individual exploitations. We can mention the most important ovine breeders and broad pasture land owners:

- ✓ Văduva Sorin with over 530 ha land and a live stock of over 4000 sheep;
- ✓ Vaideanu Ion, Vaideanu Gheorghe and Vaideanu Dinel with over 2800 sheep;
- ✓ Ciorogaru Dumitru and Ciorogaru Gheorghe with approximately 1500 heads;
- ✓ Vărzaru Dan with 1000 sheep.

Aside from the ones enumerated above, there are other animal breeders associated in various organizations so as to facilitate the marketing of their products, especially lamb for Arab countries. There are not only individual ovine breeding exploitations in Novaci. Small milk cow farms are starting to develop. Here we can mention those of Vaideanu N., Popescu N. and Băieșu Valentin. In Novaci there is also a milk processing and cheese product producing factory, SC Sekam Prod SRL founded in 1994.

Another agriculture branch which has begun to develop in Novaci is apiculture and here we can mention the following apiculturists: Cherciu I. with 300 bee families, Ușurelu Gabi with 200 bee families and Dafinescu Dorin with 100 bee families.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

- ✓ The town Novaci is situated at the foot of the Parâng Mountains and is crossed from north to south by the Gilort river.

- ✓ Novaci is connected to the King's Road, as the Transapline is called, a fact that leads the inhabitants towards agritourism.
- ✓ The locality beneficiates from broad pastures and hay land rich in quality grass which create an optimal environment for breeding animals.
- ✓ Shepherding on these realms was elevated from tradition to main agricultural occupation.
- ✓ The agricultural system of the Novaci locality area is an exclusively zootechnical one, with weak vegetal influences oriented towards apiculture.
- ✓ The animal breeder association is and remains the only support in marketing products on internal as well as external markets.

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