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## Turkey

**Post:** Ankara

### Turkish Subsidy Program for Beef Breeding and Livestock Continues

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Livestock and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

The Turkish government's 2017 young farmers' program subsidies will be granted to the livestock sector including cattle, sheep and goat, poultry, beekeeping, and in addition to these, there are subsidies for plant production in the agriculture sector. There are strict rules for young farmers ages 18-40. The program's goal is to take thousands of farmers from big cities and encourage them to move to rural areas and give them the opportunity to deal with livestock and agriculture, as well as to increase Turkey's agricultural revenue. The project will be 483 million TL (\$132 million) and it is expected that 16,100 young farmers will benefit from this project in 2017. The plan is that 330 million TL (\$90 million) from this budget will be given to 11,000 young farmers to help them construct cattle and small ruminant farms. Within the project, 51,000 head of cattle and 100,000 small ruminants will be distributed to young farmers, provided by the government.

## **Turkey's Livestock Subsidy Program**

The subsidy program for young farmers will be continued in 2017 and will be extended for 2018 as well. Up to 30,000 TL (\$8,197) value will be granted to young farmers who qualify within the scope of rural development subsidies in 2017.

Regarding livestock subsidies, in 2016, Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock (MinFAL) gave the authorization to TIGEM to grant beef breeding and feeder cattle to young farmers, with a majority being Simmental. The over 50,000 distributed cattle were all imported from the authorized countries determined by MinFAL, majority from South American countries and some from Europe. For more information please see FAS GAIN Report dated 4/27/2016 No: TR6021 [here](#).

In 2017, TIGEM will again be authorized to distribute breeding and feeder cattle to young farmers, however MinFAL has recently announced that half of animals to be granted to young farmers will be provided from domestic market, as opposed to exclusively imported as they were last year. The United States is on the list of eligible countries for imports of beef breeding and fattening cattle.

Livestock items to be subsidized in 2017 are:

- Cattle, sheep and goat projects
- Beekeeping and apiculture production projects
- Poultry and silkworm breeding projects

### **Livestock projects to be subsidized are below:**

- Feeder cattle projects should be at least seven head of feeder male animals (beef/dual purpose breeds) at least eight months old and at least 220 kg.
- Beef breeding heifer project for should be at least four head of female animals at least nine months old.
- Small ruminant project should be at least 40 head of animals including 38 head of females and two males. Breeding associations and young farmers who are a member of those associations will be benefiting from subsidies. Breeds to be reared must be a dominant breed for that selected region.
- For beekeeping, the project should be hives with at least 30 bees and five lathes, also should be five hives without bees, beekeeping equipment (one centrifugal extractor, one glazing cleaning equipment, one heated honey resting tank, mask, smoker, hive tool, wing wall), 100 kg comb foundation and 400 lathes.
- Free range ducks, goose, turkey, and quail breeding projects should be at least 400 head. Free range laying hens projects, within the scope of the legislation regarding protection of laying hens, should be at least 500 head of birds.
- Silkworm projects should be carried out within 80 m<sup>2</sup> and should be 6 packages eggs, one thermometer and hygrometer, 3 floors roof, one leaf mincing knife, feeding plates, 200 plastic bunts, one aspirator and have a capacity allowing planting 250 young white mulberry trees.

Applications from young farmers for the 2017 program will be accepted from April 7 until May 5, 2017. However, young farmers whose applications were rejected in 2016 will not be allowed to apply for the

2017 program. Additionally, applications from those who are currently an employee, student, taxpayer and/or spouse of prior applicants whose applications were rejected will not be taken into consideration.

Candidate young farmers should be between 18-40 years old, literate, poor, unemployed, and have a residence/address in a rural area. Livestock is the most commonly subsidized item within this project. Farmers should not already have more than 15 cattle and 50 small ruminants at the time of application to the Turkish government to get subsidies if they want to benefit from the cattle and small ruminant breeding, farm construction and animal purchasing subsidies. Grants will be given for those who don't have any animals. Regarding beekeepers, they should not already have more than 50 hives.

The Ministry announced that the budget of this project will be 483 million TL (\$132 million as of April 17, 2017) and it is expected that 16,100 young farmers will benefit from this project in 2017. It is expected that 330 million TL (\$90 million) from this budget will be given to 11,000 young farmers to help them to construct cattle and small ruminants' facilities. Within the project, 51,000 head of cattle and 100,000 small ruminant will be distributed to young farmers. Animals will be provided by TIGEM, as in 2016.

### **2016 Project by the Numbers**

- 450,000 farmers applied to MinFAL. 450 million TL (\$123 million) was given to 15,000 farmers in 2016.
- 51,084 head of cattle were distributed to 8,514 young farmers, and 107,200 head of small ruminants were distributed to 2,680 farmers.
- 337 million TL (\$92 million) was given for cattle and sheep/goat projects.
- 68 million TL (\$18.5 million) was for beekeeping and poultry distributed for 2,264 young farmers.
- Outside of the livestock subsidies, 45 million TL (\$12.2 million) was for plant production projects.

Note: Turkish Lira to *Dollar exchange rate is shown as of 4/17/2017, and was 3.6 TL to \$1.00.*