

Lessons learnt from (dairy) farming in the Netherlands



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Only 60 years ago...



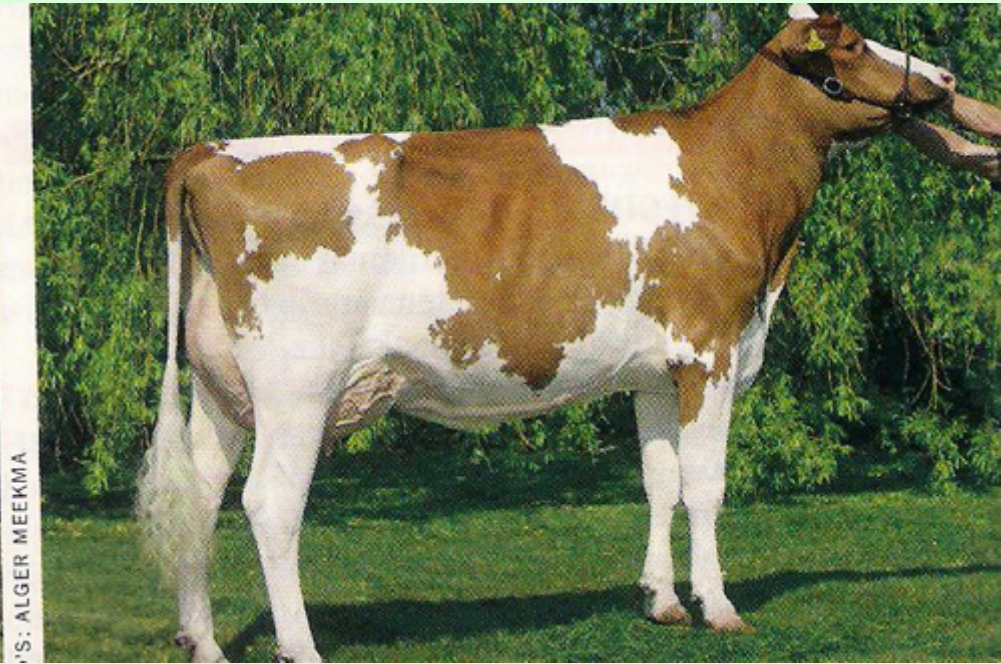
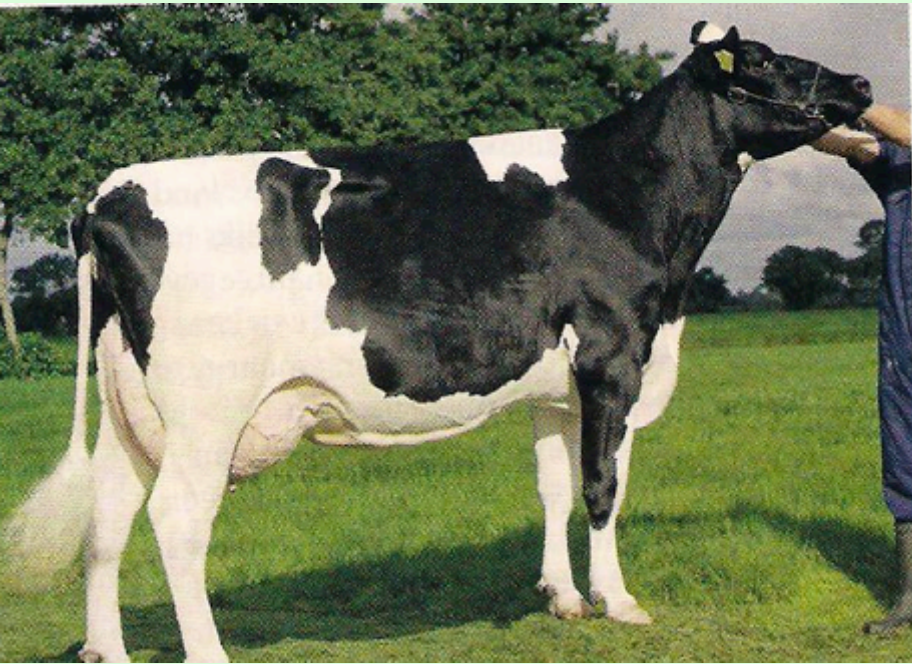
Since 1960's: scale enlargement and intensification



Conducive policies in agriculture 1950-1960's

- Market protection - fixed prices
- Easy access to credit for farmers
- Support to education-extension-research
- Rigorous disease control programs
- Subsidies for chemicals

Artificial insemination & breeding policies



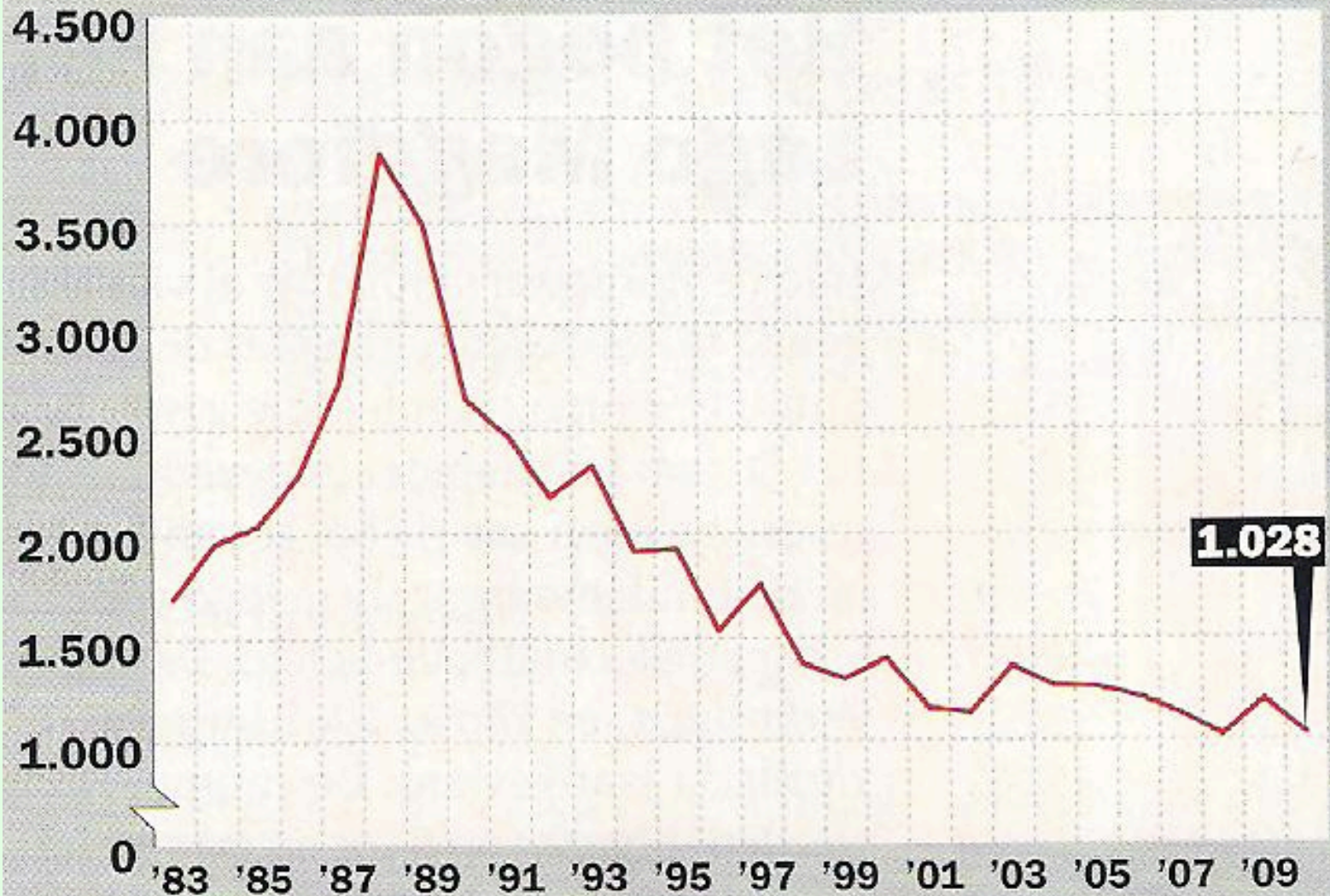
PS: ALGER MEEKMA

Gaining land by making more 'polders' & enlarging existing plots for mechanization



EU subsidies to NL

GLB income Netherlands – rural development excluded – x € million.
(nominal amounts, not corrected for inflation) Source: LEI



Resulting in:

impressive increase in milk and labour productivity

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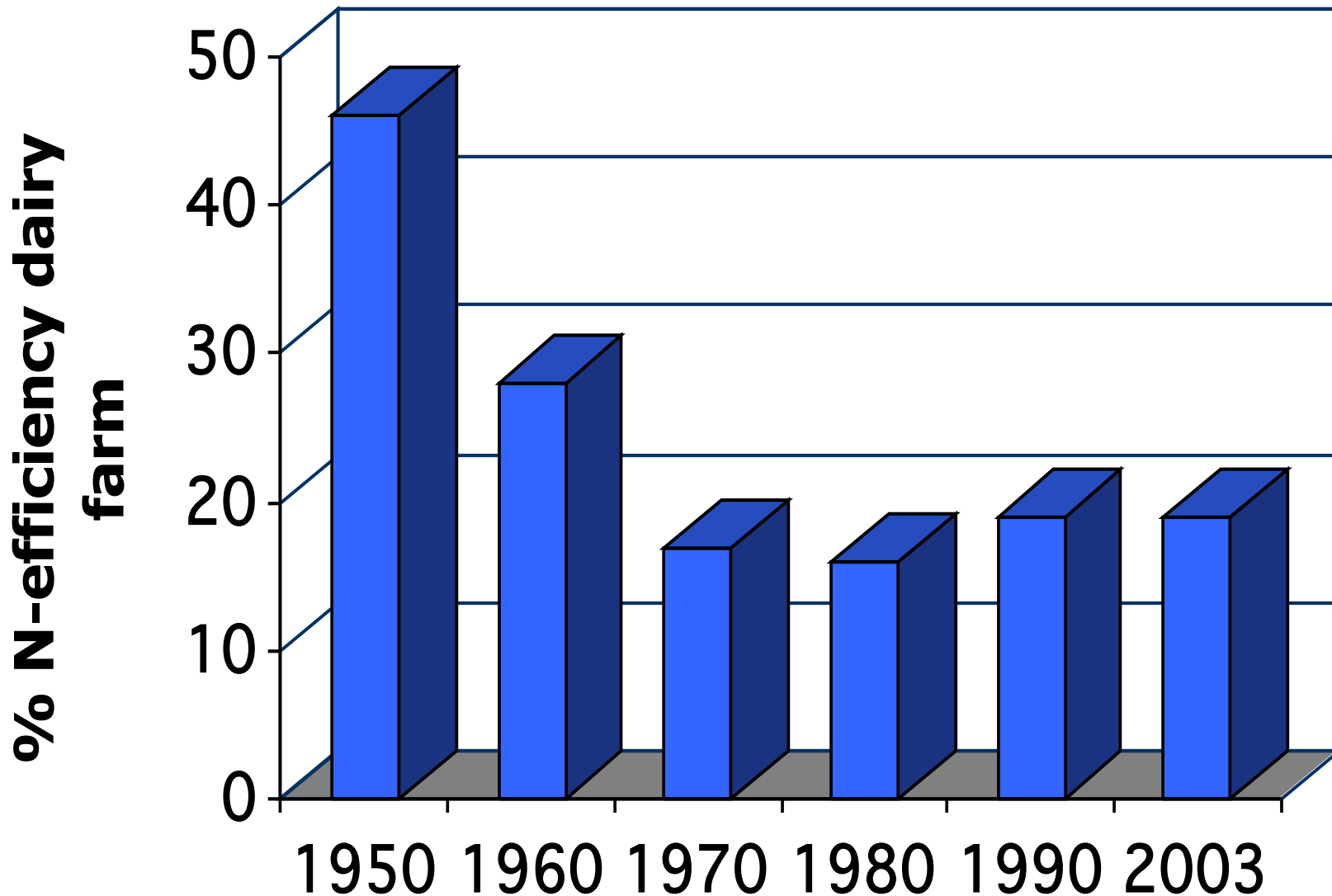
loss of nearly 90% of family dairy farms

| | 1960 | 1975 | 1985 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2007 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Dairy farms (x1000) | 180 | 91.5 | 58 | 37.5 | 29.5 | 23.5 | 21.3 |
| Total milkproduction (x1000) | 6.721 | 10.286 | 12.525 | 11.280 | 11.155 | 10.827 | 11.134 |
| Dairy cows (x1000) | 1.628 | 2.218 | 2.367 | 1.708 | 1.504 | 1.433 | 1.413 |
| # of dairy cows per farm | 9 | 24 | 41 | 45.5 | 51 | 61 | 66 |
| Milkproduction/farm (x1000) | 37 | 112.5 | 216 | 301 | 379 | 460 | 522 |
| Milkproduction (kg/cow/year) | 4.200 | 4.650 | 5.300 | 6.610 | 7.420 | 7.550 | 7.880 |
| Milkproduction (kg/ha/year) | 5.500 | 8.864 | 12.512 | 12.018 | 12.340 | 12.560 | 12.980 |
| Labor productivity (kg milk/hour) | 8 | 37 | 72 | 89 | 108 | 128 | 141 |

As well as: reduced manure quality
and soil fertility



In turn resulting in: reduced farm efficiency....





EU farm policy still harms poor countries – it's high time for change



Overall picture Dutch dairy:

- Social problems – over 90% has stopped since 1960's
- Low income due to low profit rate per kg of milk and high debts
- Income prospects difficult – also due to abolishing milk quota in 2015
- Young people moving out of farming
- Criticism of general public – especially on animal wellbeing and climate change

Way out #1
Stop farming



Way out #2

Start farming abroad

