



# Agricultural Journals

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# **Agric. Econ. — Czech**

**V. Majerová, L.  
Kocmánková**

**The contemporary  
stage of the Czech  
countryside: European  
integration  
expectations**

Agric. Econ. — Czech, 48 (2002): 251-  
258

The contemporary Czech countryside underwent an important change during the last ten years. The political, economic and social system of agriculture and rura

areas went through a basic transition. We can say that the transformation of agriculture after 1989 is one of the principal milestones of rural development as for example the agrarian crisis in the end of the 19th century, the land reform in 1919 and the collectivisation in 1949. The processes of restitution and privatisation changed the ownership structure of land and property. The share of rural population employed in agriculture decreased. Unemployment grew, offer of work opportunities and possibilities decreased in turn. Social, civic and religious life regenerated. There are many new organizations and institutions, open borders cause positive as well as negative events. The Czech countryside comes near to European rural areas in many aspects. However, there is a considerable differentiation of approach to one's own future. Some social groups of rural population were strongly affected by the transformation, especially people with low qualification, poor health, socially handicapped, less adaptable, and incapable of retraining. On the other hand, for other social groups opened so interesting options of employment or

enterprises which were not even thinkable  
of before 1989. The standard of living, life  
style and attitudes of rural inhabitants