



Source: VMM

Agriculture raises particulate matter

Particulate matter is created by every combustion and is consequently also an emission from greenhouse heating and agricultural engines. Livestock breeding is a source of particulate matter from feeding activities, excrement and straw bedding. In addition, particulate matter is created when working agricultural land. However, this source of particulate matter is probably less important from the point of view of health than the other sources.

Agriculture is the largest particulate matter producer in Flanders for total particulate matter (55 %) and the PM10 fraction (38 %). For PM2.5, agriculture has a share of 20 %.

Decreasing number of livestock and lower energy consumption ...

In 2007, agriculture produced a total of 17 772 tonnes of particulate matter, of which 60 % comes from tillage. Compared to 1995, the total particulate matter emissions dropped by 2 %. Decreasing components were the particulate matter emissions from livestock breeding and from energy consumption. Particulate matter emissions from tillage increased.

Compared to 1995, the total emissions of PM10 fell by 7 %. For PM2.5 the fall was 13 %. The decreasing number of livestock and the falling energy consumption in greenhouse horticulture explain the reduction in PM10 and PM2.5. The fall in PM10 is smaller due to it being countered by the increasing particulate matter emissions from tillage. In future, the use of air scrubbers and low-emission stables can increase the fall.

	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007
PM2.5 (tonnes)	2 657	2 568	2 340	2 307	2 301
PM10 (tonnes)	7 224	7 227	6 777	6 732	6 740
total particulate matter (tonnes)	18 098	18 380	17 715	17 698	17 772
share of tillage in total particulate matter	54 %	55 %	59 %	59 %	60 %