



2021



Basic information

about the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund



Warsaw 2022



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Basic information

about the Agricultural Social
Insurance Fund

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KASA ROLNICZEGO
UBEZPIECZENIA SPOŁECZNEGO

INTRODUCTION

The agricultural population conducting individual agricultural activities in Poland, despite its significant share in the total population of the country, until the mid-1970s was not equated with other socio-professional groups in terms of the rights to social security and universal health care services.

A breakthrough in the development of farmers' social insurance took place after the adoption of the Act of 20 December 1990, which entered into force on 1 January 1991. The above Act introduced modern solutions that brought the social insurance system for farmers closer to similar insurance systems in many European countries, such as Austria, France or Germany.

Service of social insurance for farmers was entrusted to a separate institution established by law – the **Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (KRUS)**, which took over tasks in this field from 2 500 offices, municipalities and

54 branches of the Social Insurance Institution.

As part of the coordination of social security systems, the Fund performs the tasks of competent institutions and acts as a liaison institution, closely cooperating with public administration authorities in Poland and with institutions of other EU/EFTA Member States and countries with which Poland has concluded bilateral agreements on social security.

Currently, the Fund is one of the national institutions of government administration, servicing the social security system for farmers and their families and performing other commissioned tasks financed from the state budget for the agricultural population – in the field of social policy, health protection and in other areas.



TASKS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIAL INSURANCE FUND

The tasks of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund are carried out on the basis of the provisions of the Act of 20 December 1990 on social insurance for farmers (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 266, as amended).

■ **Service of the insured and beneficiaries** in matters relating to the coverage of farmers' social insurance, the calculation and collection of insurance contributions, and the granting and payment of benefits.

■ **Activities for the prevention of accidents at work in agriculture and occupational diseases** by:

- analyzing the causes of these accidents and diseases;
- conducting free and voluntary training courses for the insured in the field of health and life protection on a farm, disseminating knowledge about the risks of accidents at work in agriculture and agricultural occupational diseases, as well as drafting procedures in the event of an accident during agricultural work;

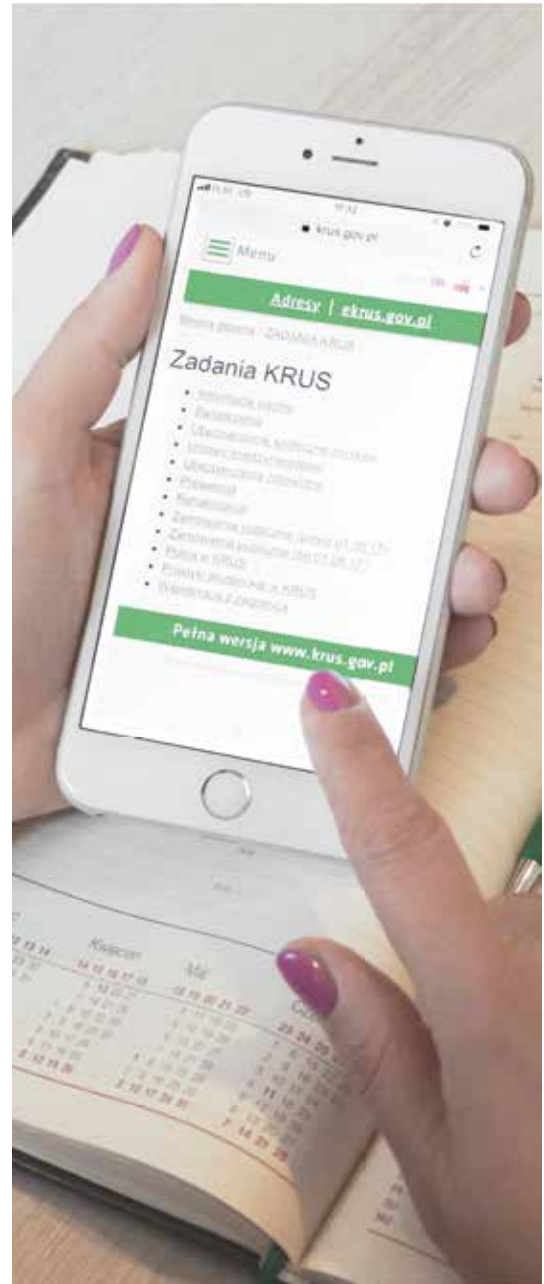
- ensuring the proper production and distribution of safe products used in agriculture, as well as protective equipment and clothing for farmers;
- defining a principles of health and life protection on a farm – setting recommendations regarding farm equipment, the safety of the workers and their related agricultural activity, which have been established in order to prevent accidents at work and agricultural occupational diseases.

■ **Helping insured persons and persons entitled to insurance benefits** who show complete incapacity for work on a farm, but with hope of recovery as a result of treatment and rehabilitation, or those who may have a total inability to work on a farm.

■ On the basis of separate regulations, the Fund also **performs the tasks commissioned in the field of health insurance** – on the basis of the Act of 27 August 2004 on health care services financed from public funds (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 1285,

as amended) – i.e. keeping settlements for health insurance contributions of retirees and pensioners, farmers and household members and their helpers, keeping records of contributions on the accounts of the insured and providing information about the insured and health insurance contributions paid for them, as well as providing information on the family members of those eligible for health insurance.

- **Collecting income tax advances on retirement and disability pensions** paid after the end of the tax year, calculating income tax or preparing information on income obtained from retirement or disability pensions.
- **Performing tasks related to the implementation of the provisions of Community Regulations regarding the coordination of social security systems** for EU/EEA countries and Switzerland, as well as those arising from bilateral social security agreements concluded with Australia, Canada, the Republic of South Korea, the Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Mongolia, the Republic of Turkey, the State of Israel and the United States of America, as well as under the agreement with the government of Quebec.
- **Supporting the Agricultural Social Insurance Council.**
- In implenting statutory tasks, the Fund **cooperates with the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS).**





FARMERS' SOCIAL INSURANCE AND RULES REGARDING PAYMENT OF INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Social insurance for farmers, in accordance with the principles set out in the Act of 20 December 1990 on social insurance for farmers, applies – under the principles set out in the Act – to farmers and household members working with them and farmer's helpers who:

- 1) **hold a Polish citizenship** or
- 2) **are entitled to work in the territory of the Republic of Poland** pursuant to art. 87 of the Act of 20 April 2004 on employment promotion and labor market institutions, **or are exempted from the obligation to have a work permit on the basis of special provisions.**

The Farmers' Social Insurance Act distinguishes:

- 1) two **types of insurance**:
 - old-age and disability pension insurance,
 - accident, sickness and maternity insurance,
- 2) two **forms of insurance coverage**:
 - mandatory,
 - voluntary.

Both types of insurance are obligatory and cover:

- **the farmer**, i.e. an adult natural person living and conducting agricultural activity in the territory of the Republic of Poland in person and self-employed, conducting agricultural activity on a farm he/she owns, with an area of over 1 ha of conversion agricultural land (including within the group of agricultural producers) or a special division of agricultural production, the size and type of which are specified in the Annex to the Act on social insurance for farmers, as well as the person who allocated the land of his/her farm for afforestation;
- **the farmer's spouse**, if he/she works on an agricultural holding or in a household directly related to this agricultural holding;
- **a household member**, i.e. a person close to a farmer who is at least 16 years old, stays with the farmer in a common household or lives within his/her farm or in close proximity, permanently works on this farm and does not have an employment contract of any kind with the farmer;

if they are not subject to other social insurance and have no determined entitlement to an old-age or disability pension or the right to social insurance benefits. The above condition indicates that when determining the coverage of social insurance, any other insurance under the general insurance system has priority over agricultural insurance.

The exception to this rule applies to farmers and household members subject to full social insurance for farmers under the Act (mandatorily), who:

- 1) additionally undertake non-agricultural business activities or cooperate in conducting them. These persons, in order to remain in the social insurance of farmers, should be subject to this insurance to full extent by virtue of the Act, continuously for at least 3 years before the date of commencing non-agricultural business activity or cooperation in conducting this activity. At the same time, these people should meet the following conditions:
 - within 14 days of its commencement, submit to the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund a statement on continuing social insurance for farmers. A properly completed application for entry into the Central Registration and Information on Business (CEIDG-1) is also a declaration of willingness to continue social insurance for farmers,
 - continue agricultural activity or permanently work on a farm, covering an area of over 1 conversion ha of arable land or in a special division of agricultural production,
 - are not an employee and are not part of any labour-based relationship,
 - do not have a determined entitlement to an old-age or disability pension or to social insurance benefits.

In addition, these persons, by May 31 of each tax year, have a statutory obligation to submit a certificate or

statement to the Fund of the non-exceeding amount of income tax due for the previous tax year on revenues from non-agricultural economic activity. The “annual limit” of this tax in force for the past year is announced by the minister competent for rural development in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland “Monitor Polski”. The above rules also apply to persons resuming non-agricultural economic activity which has been periodically suspended, as well as persons, who have changed the type or subject of their business activity.

- 2) perform agency agreements, mandate contracts or other contracts for services to which the provisions of the mandate apply in accordance with the Civil Code, or have been appointed to the supervisory board despite being covered by other social insurance. These persons are still subject to social insurance for farmers, if the income obtained from the performance of the above-mentioned contracts or from performing a function in the supervisory board on a monthly basis does not exceed the minimum remuneration for work in a given period, determined on the basis of separate provisions.

Persons who meet the conditions for simultaneous coverage of farmers’ social insurance and old-age and disability pension insurance with the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS) under the above-mentioned agreements or performing functions in the supervisory boards may withdraw from social insurance for farmers after submitting a statement in this matter, not earlier than from the day on which such a statement was submitted to the Fund.

The old-age and disability pension insurance is only mandatory for:

- persons receiving a structural pension co-financed from the funds of the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

or from the funds of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development until the entitlement to an old-age pension from agricultural social insurance;

- the spouse of the person referred to above, if the structural pension co-financed from the resources of the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund or from the resources of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development is paid with an increase for that spouse.

The farmer's helpers, i.e. adults who provide assistance to the farmer for a fee when harvesting hops, fruit, vegetables, tobacco, herbs and herbal plants under a harvest help agreement are covered by **mandatory accident, sickness and maternity insurance to a limited extent**.

Such insurance just gives the right to a one-off compensation for permanent or long-term damage to health or for death as a result of an accident at work or agricultural occupational disease.

Voluntarily, both types of insurance cover persons who:

- do not meet the conditions for being subject to mandatory insurance, and for which agricultural activity is a permanent source of income, including in particular farmers conducting agricultural activity on a farm with an area not exceeding 1 conversion ha and their spouses and household members working on that farm;
- as a farmer, transferred the land of their farm for afforestation, after submitting an appropriate application to the KRUS organizational unit.

Voluntary accident, sickness and maternity insurance covers to a limited extent persons conducting agricultural activity and who are subject to other so-

cial insurance or who have a determined entitlement to an old-age or disability pension (excluding retirees and pensioners who have a declared inability to live independently). Such insurance gives the right only to a one-off compensation for permanent or long-term damage to health or death as a result of an accident at work or agricultural occupational disease.

Voluntary old-age and disability pension insurance only covers persons who:

- were subject to social insurance for farmers as a farmer and ceased farming activities without being entitled to an old-age or disability pension if they were subject to old-age and disability insurance for a period of at least 12 years and 6 months;
- receive farmer's pension for incapacity for work as a temporary pension;
- ran a farm or worked there and because of that they were subject to social insurance for farmers, and then ceased to convey agricultural activity or work on a farm in connection with the right to nursing allowance or special care allowance or allowance for a guardian until reaching the 25-year period of old age and disability insurance. These people can decide if they want to be insured in KRUS or ZUS. If they choose old-age and disability pension insurance in KRUS, these persons should, within 30 days counting from the day of issue of the decision granting the relevant allowance or benefit, submit an application for coverage to the current organizational unit of KRUS;
- receive a supplemental parental benefit, referred to in the Act of 31 January 2019 on parental supplementary until reaching the 25-year period of old-age and disability insurance.

Coverage by voluntary insurance takes place after submitting an appropriate application to the KRUS organizational unit and not earlier than from the date of submitting this application.

Insurance contributions for all persons insured on a farm are paid by the farmer, with the exception of:

- contributions for persons subject to old-age and disability insurance upon request due to the receipt of a nursing allowance, special care allowance or allowance for a guardian, which is paid by an authority paying this benefit or allowance;
- contributions for old-age and disability pension insurance for a farmer or a household member and a family member of a farmer or household member subject to insurance, while caring for a child, financed from the state budget.

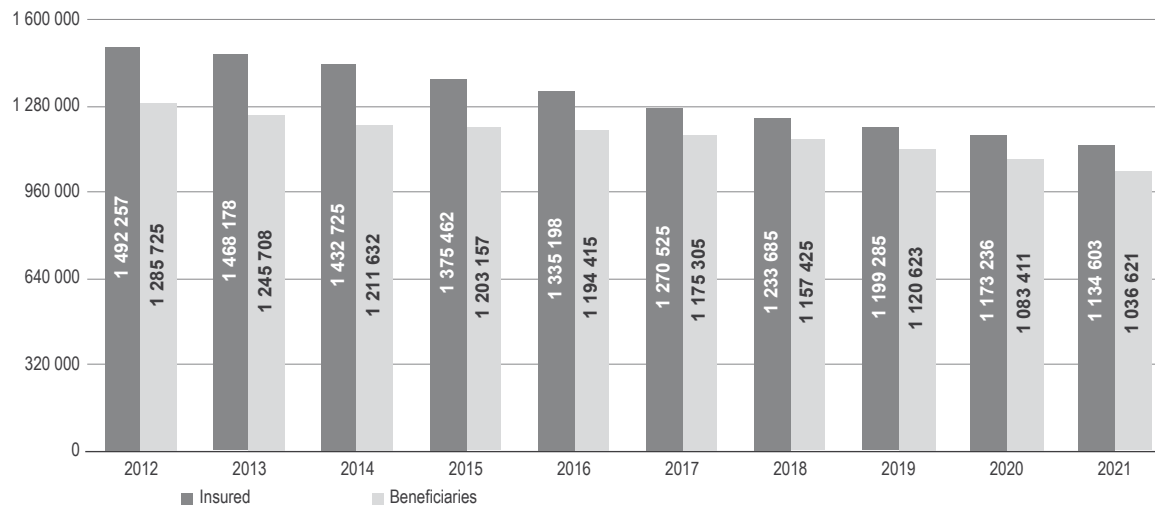
The amount of the contribution for accident, sickness and maternity insurance is determined by the Farmers' Social Insurance Council. The President of the Fund announces the amount of the fee in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski".

The accident, sickness and maternity insurance premium is calculated in an equal amount for each insured person, excluding persons covered by accident, sickness and maternity insurance upon request to a limited extent, for which 1/3 of the basic premium is charged.

The contribution for accident, health and maternity insurance for the farmer's helper is due in full every month.

The basic monthly contribution for old-age and disability pension insurance amounts to 10% of the basic pension in the last month of the previous quarter. However, if an agricultural holding covers an area of agricultural land of over 50 conversion hectares, the farmer pays an additional monthly retirement and disability pension insurance contribution of:

Graph No. 1. Persons subject to social insurance for farmers as at the end of a given year and the average monthly number of beneficiaries in 2012–2021



Source: Statistical data of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.

- 12% of the basic old-age pension – if the farm covers an area of arable land of up to 100 conversion ha;
- 24% of the basic old-age pension – if the farm covers an area of arable land of over 100 conversion ha up to 150 conversion ha;
- 36% of the basic old-age pension – if the farm covers an area of arable land of above 150 conversion ha up to 300 conversion ha;
- 48% of the basic old-age pension – if the farm covers an area of arable land of over 300 conversion hectares.

In each area group of a farm, only the basic contribution is paid for the household members.

A farmer is obliged to pay the basic monthly contribution for retirement and disability pension insurance in a double amount for persons working on a farm and at the same time conducting non-agricultural business activity or cooperating in conducting such activity.

The contribution assessment is monthly, and the payment deadline is quarterly and falls on the last day of the first month of a given quarter, with the exception of contributions for a helper, whose payment deadline for a given month expires on the 15th day of the following month. However, if the insurance period is shorter than a month, the amount of the premium is calculated in proportion to the number of days of coverage.

The right to finance contributions for old-age and disability pension insurance from the state budget in connection with personally taking care of a child is granted to:

- a farmer;
 - a household member;
 - a farmer's family member or a household member;
- from the date of submitting the application in this

matter to the organizational unit of KRUS and after fulfilling the following conditions:

- not being subject to any other social insurance, e.g. due to employment under an employment contract or mandate contract;
- not having a determined pension entitlement or entitlement to social security benefits;
- ceasing to conduct or suspending non-agricultural economic activity in the case of persons who conduct it, or ceasing cooperation in conducting such activity by persons who cooperate in conducting it;
- not using the same entitlements of KRUS or ZUS by the other parent (e.g. financing of contributions from the state budget in connection with personal childcare or receiving maternity benefit or taking parental leave).

This right is granted for a period of:

- up to 3 years old, but no longer than until the child reached the age 5;
- up to 6 years, but no longer than until the child turns 18, in the case of caring for a disabled child who has a disability or a degree of disability certificate.

Table 1. Number of contribution payers (as of 31 December 2021)

Total number of payers*	Including payers paying contributions (active payers)
864 187	839 040

* Number of persons paying contributions for at least one insured person on a farm/ special division of agricultural production or on whose account pension insurance contribution for at least one person is financed from the state budget subsidy for personal care for children and by entities – commune heads, mayors, city presidents who pay contributions to old-age and disability pension insurance for people who care for disabled people and the number of people or entities that are not currently active payers, but have debt due to unpaid insurance contributions.

Source: Statistical data of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.



HEALTH INSURANCE AND RULES REGARDING PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Pursuant to the provisions of the Act of 27 August 2004 on health care services financed from public funds (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 1285, as amended), the **health insurance obligation applies to:**

- **persons who meet the conditions to be covered by farmers' social insurance** i.e.: farmers, spouses or household members within the meaning of the Act on farmers' social insurance;
- **farmer's helpers** within the meaning of the Act on farmers' social insurance;
- **farmers and their household members**, who are not subject to social insurance for farmers under the Social Insurance for Farmers Act, no subject to health insurance for other purposes;
- **family members** of the above-mentioned farmers and household members who are not subject to health insurance for any other reason and have been registered for health insurance at KRUS;
- **old-age and disability pensioners, persons receiving parental supplementary benefit and their family members** who are not subject to health in-

– **insurance for any other reason and have been registered for insurance;**

- **persons who have applied for an agricultural old-age/disability pension** and are not subject to health insurance for any other reason, as well as their family members.

Contributions regarding health insurance of farmers covered by this insurance, who run agricultural activity on agricultural land of the area below 6 conversion hectares, and for their household members, are financed by the state budget. On the other hand, farmers running farms with an area of 6 and more conversion hectares pay the health insurance premium for themselves, **their spouses and household members** subject to this insurance individually in the amount of PLN 1 per month from each full conversion hectare of arable land. The contribution is also paid individually by farmers running agricultural activity within the framework of special divisions within the meaning of the provisions of the Act on so-

cial insurance for farmers (regardless of whether this activity is carried out only in a separate special divisions, or additionally on arable land). A farmer running a special division of agricultural production pays health insurance contributions on the declared basis of the contribution amount corresponding to:

- the income determined for taxation of personal income tax, in an amount not lower than the amount corresponding to the amount of the minimum wage or
- minimum wage in the case of conducting business activity that is not subject to taxation with personal income tax.

The health insurance premium for the household members is paid depending on the scope of the farmer's agricultural activity:

- in the case of special divisions, including a farm with an agricultural area of 6 and more conversion hectares, the farmer pays a health insurance contribution from agricultural land (PLN 1 per 1 conversion ha);
- in the case of self-contained special divisions, the farmer pays a health insurance contribution of 9% of the the assessment base, which is the amount of 33.4% of the average monthly salary in the enterprise sector in the fourth quarter of the previous year, including profit payments;
- in the case of special divisions including a farm with an arable area of less than 6 conversion hectares, the health insurance premium is paid from the state budget.

The health insurance contribution for farmer's helpers is 9% of the assessment base, which is 33.4% of the average monthly salary in the enterprise sector in the fourth quarter of the previous year, including profit payments.

The health insurance premium is monthly and indivisible. It is only paid for one title, for example:

- farmers and household members running non-agricultural economic activity and at the same time are subject to farmers' social insurance and health insurance as a result of conducting agricultural activity and for this reason pay a premium for this insurance;
- farmers running agricultural activity as part of special divisions of agricultural production and at the same time conducting agricultural activity on land, pay only their health insurance premiums for running special divisions, while for household members on farms with an area of 6 and more conversion hectares only from the land.

In the case of farmers or household members who are fully covered by farmers' social insurance under the Act and at the same time have been covered by other social insurance for performing the mandate contract or appointment to the supervisory board or being appointed to perform a function under an act of appointment, receiving remuneration for this, the health contribution is paid for each title due, except for contributions financed from the budget countries. Therefore, in this case the contribution is not paid by KRUS.

In the case of **retirees and pensioners and persons receiving the parental benefits supplement**, the health insurance contributions from the benefits paid are 9% of the contribution base, except that 7.75% is covered by the income tax advance and the remaining 1.25% from the net amount of the old-age/disability pension.



TYPES OF BENEFITS

As part of farmers' social insurance, cash benefits from old-age and disability pension insurance and accident, sickness and maternity insurance are distinguished.

CASH BENEFITS FROM RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY INSURANCE

- 1) farmer's old-age pension;
- 2) farmer's disability pension due to incapacity for work;
- 3) farmer's training pension;
- 4) family pension;
- 5) allowances to old-age/disability pensions:
 - nursing;
 - for forced labor;
 - for an orphan (only to survivors' pensions);
 - for turning 100 years old;
 - for an injured veteran;
 - cash for a war disabled person;

- a veteran or for underground education;
- compensation;
- cash benefit for alternative non-combatant service soldiers forced into employment in coal mines, quarries, uranium ore mines and construction battalions;
- cash benefit for persons deported to perform forced labor and imprisoned in labor camps by the German Third Reich and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;
- electricity allowance;
- 6) maternity allowance;
- 7) funeral allowance.

Farmer's old-age pension is granted to the insured person (farmer, household member) who meets all of the following conditions:

- has reached retirement age of 60 for a woman and 65 for a man,
- has been subject to old-age and disability insurance for at least 25 years.

The farmer's disability pension due to incapacity for work is due to the insured (farmer, household member) who meets all of the following conditions:

- is permanently or temporarily unable to work on an agricultural holding,
- total incapacity to work on a farm occurred during the period of being subject to old-age and disability insurance or no later than within 18 months from the end of these periods,
- was subject to old-age and disability insurance for the required period ranging from 1 to 5 years, depending on the age at which total incapacity for work occurred.

A survivor's pension is granted to eligible family members of the deceased pensioner and of the insured who, at the time of death, met the conditions for receiving an old-age or disability pension. Family members entitled to a survivor's pension are primarily children up to the age of 16, and if they exceed this age – until the completion of school education, but no longer than until the age of 25, as well as children of all ages, if at the time of education they have become completely incapable of work. In addition, if the child is over 25 years of age in the last year of study, the entitlement to a survivor's pension is extended until the end of that year of study. Grandchildren and siblings taken for the time of upbringing are treated as children. The right to a survivor's pension may also be exercised by the spouse of the deceased (widow, widower) and parents, if they meet the conditions for this benefit. All eligible family members are entitled to one shared survivor's pension, which may be divided into equal parts.

The nursing allowance is payable to a person entitled to an old-age or disability pension if the person has been declared totally incapable of work and of independent existence or has reached the age of 75.

The allowance for an orphan is granted to a person entitled to the pension of a survivor, whose both parents are dead.

Other allowances to old-age and disability pensions, cash benefits, electricity allowance are granted to veterans' activities and for persons injured during war operations and post-war repression.

Maternity allowance is payable to the insured mother or father of the child. This benefit is granted for the birth of a child, as well as for the adoption or upbringing of a child up to the age of 7, and in the case of a child who has a certificate postponing one compulsory education, up to the age of 10.

A funeral allowance is payable to a person who paid the costs of a funeral after the death of the insured, not excluding a person subject only to accident, sickness and maternity insurance, entitled to an old-age or disability pension, a family member of the insured person or a pensioner, as well as a person who on the day of death did not have a fixed pension entitlement, but met the conditions for granting and collecting it.

CASH BENEFITS FROM ACCIDENT, SICKNESS AND MATERNITY INSURANCE

- 1) one-off compensation for permanent or long-term damage to health or death as a result of an accident at work on a farm or agricultural occupational disease;
- 2) sickness allowance.

One-off compensation is granted to the insured (farmer, householder, farmer's helper) who suffered permanent or long-term health impairment as a result of an accident during work on a farm or an agri-

cultural occupational disease, and to the family members of the insured who died as a result of an accident during work on a farm or an agricultural occupational disease.

Sickness allowance is granted to the insured (farmer, household member) who, due to illness, is unable to work continuously for at least 30 days, but not longer than 180 days. If, after the end of the 180-day benefit period, the insured is still unable to work, and as a result of further treatment and rehabilitation there is a possibility of recovery, the allowance period is extended for the time necessary for recovery, but not longer than for the next 360 days.

Table 2. Expenses for sickness allowances and one-off accident compensation in 2021 (in PLN)

Sickness Allowances				One-off accident compensation	
Number of days amount		Payout amount		Number of benefits	Payout
Total	of which sickness benefits paid due to COVID-19	Total	of which sickness benefits paid due to COVID-19	9 889	58 821 184.00
21 674 882	195 872	218 475 037.30	2 890	168.00	

Source: Statistical data of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.

OTHER BENEFITS

Supplementary parental benefit is granted to:

a mother who meets all of the following conditions:

- 1) gave birth to and raised, or raised at least four children,
- 2) has reached the age of 60,
- 3) has no income to provide the necessary means of subsistence;

a father who meets all of the following conditions:

- 1) raised at least four children in the case of:
 - the death of the mother of the children,
 - abandonment of children by the mother,
 - long-term cessation of parenting by the mother,
- 2) has reached the age of 65,
- 3) has no income to provide the necessary means of subsistence.

This benefit is not granted to a person entitled to an old-age or disability pension in the amount of at least the lowest old-age pension.

A supplementary benefit for persons incapable of living independently is granted to a pensioner who:

- 1) is incapable of independent existence and this incapacity has been confirmed by a decision about such incapacity,
- 2) is not entitled to cash benefits financed from public funds, the total of which, together with benefits paid by foreign institutions competent for retirement and disability pensions (excluding allowances and benefits paid with retirement and disability pensions), amounts to at least PLN 1 700 gross per month until 28 February 2021, from 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022, it was at least PLN 1 772.08 gross per month, and from 1 March 2022 at least PLN 1 896.13 gross per month.

This benefit is due in the amount not higher than PLN 500 per month.

Both the parental supplementary benefit and the benefit for persons incapable of living independently are granted provided that the person resides in the territory of the Republic of Poland while receiving the benefit.

Compensation benefits for anti-communist opposition activists and persons repressed for political reasons are granted to a person who has been granted the status of an anti-communist opposition activist or repressed person for political reasons by the Head of the Office for Veterans and Repressed Persons, and who from 15 October 2020 to 28 February 2021 was receiving an old-age or disability pension in the amount lower than PLN 2 400 per month, from 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022 in the amount lower than PLN 2 501.76 per month and from 1 March 2022 in the amount lower than PLN 2 676.88 per month. This benefit is due in the amount equal to the difference between the above-mentioned amount and the old-age or disability pension.

Benefits granted (to the insured farmers, household members) **in connection with the COVID-19 epidemic:**

- 1) increased sickness benefit – until 31 December 2021, in the amount of PLN 15, and until 1 January 2022, in the amount of PLN 30 for each day of temporary incapacity for work lasting continuously for no longer than 14 days, if this incapacity is caused by an infectious infections respiratory disease or disease indicated by in the medical certificate as U07.1 COVID-19;
- 2) allowance for quarantine and epidemiological supervision or hospitalization in connection with COVID-19 – tenable to 50% minimum wage for work of PLN 1 300 until 31 December 2020, from

1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 – PLN 1 400 and from 1 January 2022 – PLN 1 505 and is not subject to tax after income donation from natural persons;

- 3) care allowance – is granted on the basis of the necessity to provide personal care for children up to the age of 8 (or 16, 18 or 24, respectively – in the case of children with a certificate of disability or the need for special education) in connection with the closure or temporary limitation of the functioning of a nursery, children's club, preschool, elementary school or other facility attended by the child, or the inability of a nanny or day caregiver to provide care due to COVID-19. The benefit for 1 day – until 28 February 2021 – amounts to PLN 32.41; from 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022 – PLN 33.79, and until 1 March 2022 – PLN 36.15.

Table 3. Expenses on care allowances and quarantine benefits in 2021 (in PLN)

Care allowances		Quarantine benefits	
Number of benefits	Payment amount	Number of benefits	Payment amount
80 743	68 361 026.48	58 456	80 370 775.22

Source: Statistical data of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.



REHABILITATION FOR FARMERS

The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund, in accordance with the statutory obligation, **undertakes actions to assist the insured and persons entitled to insurance benefits, having a complete incapacity for work on a farm, but with possibility of recovery as a result of treatment and rehabilitation, or in the risk of total incapacity to work in an agricultural holding**, including issuing a referral for therapeutic rehabilitation to rehabilitation centers.

Rehabilitation is a health benefit serving to maintain or restore working capacity on a farm, provided by KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Centers.

The basis for a referral to medical rehabilitation is **a final decision of a doctor or medical commission of the Fund**, issued in a procedure to determine the right to benefit from social insurance for farmers, including indications for therapeutic rehabilitation. Application for a rehabilitation referral can also be made based on the request issued by the doctor treating the patient. The costs associated with therapeutic reha-

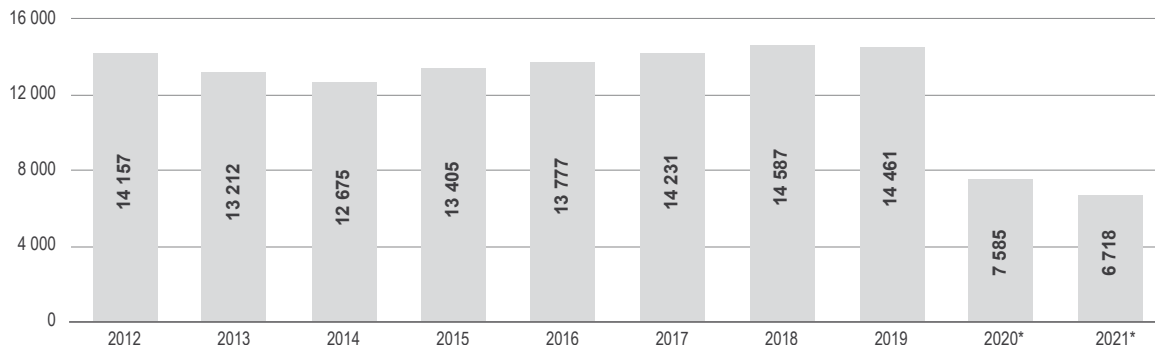
bilitation are fully covered by the Fund. Every year, approx. 14 thousand authorized persons make use of rehabilitation.

At present, the Fund sends farmers for rehabilitation to **six KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Centers**, where people with diseases of the motor system (CRR KRUS in Iwonicz-Zdrój, Horyniec-Zdrój, Szklarska Poręba, Jedlec, Kołobrzeg and Świnoujście) or the cardiovascular system (CRR KRUS in Kołobrzeg) are rehabilitated. Moreover, the Fund launched a new profile of rehabilitation for people with medical history of COVID-19 in CRR KRUS in Jedlec and Szklarska Poręba.

KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Centers are health care institutions that provide a high level of health services and have a modern treatment base.

The therapeutic rehabilitation program and its scope is determined individually for each patient in accordance with the doctor's instructions. A stay at a re-

Graph No. 2. Farmers who underwent therapeutic rehabilitation at KRUS in 2012–2021



* Due to the prevailing epidemiological situation in the country, a smaller number of farmers benefited from medical rehabilitation. During this period, the activity of the Centers was suspended twice, and after its resumption, rehabilitation was carried out in a sanitary regime.

Source: Statistical data of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.

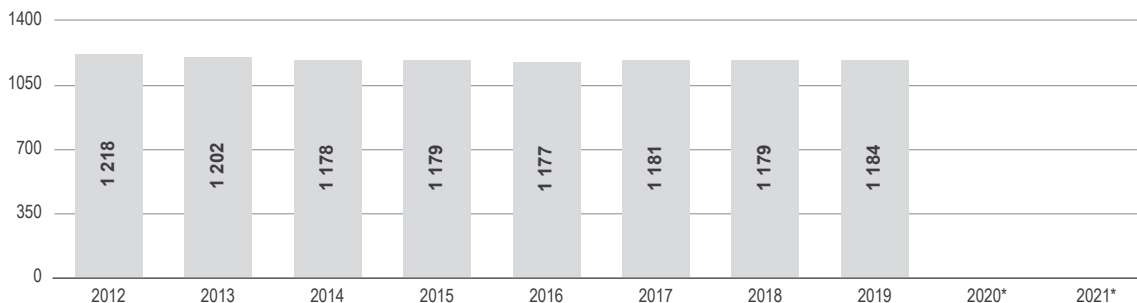
habilitation centre lasts 21 days, and in particularly justified medical cases it is possible to extend it for another 21 days. Rehabilitation stays are organized throughout the year.

habilitation carried out by the Fund. People who are not covered by farmers’ social insurance may benefit from a stay at the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund centers for a fee.

Since 1992, over 364 000 authorized people and their family members have benefited from therapeutic re-

habilitation stays for farmers’ children in the field

Graph No. 3. Children who underwent therapeutic rehabilitation at KRUS in 2012–2021



* Due to the prevailing epidemiological situation in the country, organization of rehabilitation holidays for children of farmers insured in KRUS was abandoned

Source: Statistical data of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.

of defects and diseases of the musculoskeletal system and respiratory system diseases. Children from 7 to 15 years of age have the right to take advantage of the stay if at least one of their parents (legal guardians) is subject to social insurance for farmers. The duration of the stay at the rehabilitation centre is 21 days.

KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Centers provide 24-hour medical care. The therapeutic rehabilitation program and its scope is determined individually for each child. The care for children is provided by qualified pedagogical staff who, in their free time from rehabilitation, also organize health classes for its participants.

In the years 1993–2019, over 34 thousand kids participated in rehabilitation stays.

KRUS FARMERS' REHABILITATION CENTER IN HORYNIEC-ZDRÓJ

Horyniec-Zdrój is a health resort, located in the north-eastern part of the Subcarpathian Voivodship (260 m a.s.l.), surrounded by picturesque hills and extensive forests of the Southern Roztocze region, near the border with Ukraine.

It is a place valued and visited by numerous patients in order to improve health, rest and for recreation with the possibility of practicing various forms of tourism. This center has a mild, low-stimulus microclimate with continental features and the unpolluted, untouched nature of the Southern Roztocze Landscape Park.

The health resort has one of the largest reserves of therapeutic mud in Poland with excellent healing properties. The sources of weakly mineralized sulphide and hydrogen sulphide waters present in the village create wide possibilities of treatment and rehabilitation.

The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Center is a modern rehabilitation complex with a swimming pool. The facility has 274 beds with full hygiene and sanitary facilities, equipped with TV sets, telephone and wireless Internet access.

The facility has an indoor swimming pool The Wodny Świat (eng. Water World) with a full-size swimming pool, a rehabilitation and recreation pool with hydroattractions, a tubular slide, salt cave and Finnish sauna. The center has its own park.

The indicators for therapeutic rehabilitation at the Centre are musculoskeletal system disorders in the scope of orthopedics, rheumatology and neurology.

The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Centre in Horyniec-Zdrój provides patients with round-the-clock medical care, physiotherapeutic procedures in the scope of hydrotherapy, massage (classical, mechanical), balneotherapy, ultrasound, inhalation, kinesitherapy, laser therapy, phototherapy, thermotherapy, electrotherapy, magnetotherapy.

The Center also provides rehabilitation services under an agreement with the National Health Fund and for commercial patients.

KRUS FARMERS' REHABILITATION CENTER IN IWONICZ-ZDRÓJ

Iwonicz-Zdrój is a health resort located in the Subcarpathian Voivodship in the south-eastern part of Poland. It is one of the oldest Polish health resorts surrounded by a beautiful fir and beech forest and attractive walking and excursion areas. Iwonicz's natural resources are its numerous intakes of spa waters (sodium chloride-bicarbonate, bromide, iodine, ferruginous, boron), peloid and iodide salt.

The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Centre in Iwonicz-Zdrój specializes in the rehabilitation of musculoskeletal disorders, in the scope of orthopedics, rheumatology, neurology and in the treatment of respiratory diseases.

The center is a six-storey building with 180 beds.

The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Centre in Iwonicz-Zdrój offers patients 24-hour medical and nursing care, as well as treatments in kinesiotherapy, massage (automatic, aquavibron, pneumatic BOA limbs, therapeutic, manual, lymphatic, zonal membrane massage), hydrotherapy and physical therapy.



KRUS FARMERS' REHABILITATION CENTER IN JEDLEC

The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Center in Jedlec is a center located in the Greater Poland Voivodship, surrounded by picturesque, clean forests.

The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Center in Jedlec provides specialized services in the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders, rheumatic diseases, posture defects, nervous system and other concomitant diseases.

Patients who need post-accident rehabilitation and after inpatient treatment are also rehabilitated here. The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Centre in Jedlec, apart from therapeutic rehabilitation of KRUS patients, also provides rehabilitation services under the contract with the National Health Fund.

The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Center, located in a modern, spacious sanatorium building, offers 212 beds in rooms with full hygiene and sanitary facilities, equipped with a TV, radio, telephone and wireless Internet access.

The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Center in Jedlec provides patients with round-the-clock medical and nursing care, as well as treatments in the field of: physical therapy, electrotherapy, magnetotherapy, negative pressure massage, light therapy, laser therapy (irradiation – sollux lamps and hydrosun – with a water filter), thermotherapy – general cryotherapy (cryochamber), local cryotherapy, balneotherapy, therapeutic massage (manual and mechanical), hydrotherapy.



KRUS NIWA FARMERS' REHABILITATION CENTER IN KOŁOBRZEG

Kołobrzeg is the largest and most beautiful Polish health resort which is charming and has a rich history. The main function of the town that is a popular tourist destination and a health resort, is conditioned by the excellent location at the mouth of the Parsęta River in the vicinity of forests, therapeutic mud, and swamp ecosystem that provides shelter to many rare species of animals and plants. Numerous monuments encourage people to visit Kołobrzeg.

The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Center NIWA is located among greenery, approx. 300 m from the sandy beach within the seaside park. It is a perfect place for people who value relaxation and peace. The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Center NIWA offers 318 beds in comfortable and functionally equipped rooms.

The center conducts year-round therapeutic, rehabilitation and leisure activities in the scope of musculoskeletal, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Concomitant diseases treated at the Center are diabetes and thyroid disease. 24-hour medical care is provided. NIWA is adapted to receive guests with reduced mobility. Guests have at their disposal: a spacious cafe, patio, billiards, swimming pool with Jacuzzi, sauna, solarium, hair salon, gym, rehabilitation rooms, in the

lobby by the reception there is an internet point and wireless internet.

The facility is located 200 m from the railway and bus station (crossing the footbridge) and 500 m from the town centre. The Center hosts KRUS rehabilitation stays, rehabilitation stays co-financed by PFRON (State Fund for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled), commercial stays, leisure and health stays. Stationary rehabilitation under statutory insurance in Germany is also carried out.



KRUS FARMERS' REHABILITATION CENTER GRANIT IN SZKLARSKA PORĘBA

The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Center GRANIT in Szklarska Poręba is an architecturally interesting facility located at the foot of the Karkonosze Mountains.

The main activity of the KRUS Rehabilitation Center GRANIT for Farmers in Szklarska Poręba is a therapeutic rehabilitation of people with musculoskeletal disorders.

The center provides patients with round-the-clock medical care, as well as electrotherapy, phototherapy, heat therapy, hydrotherapy, balneotherapy, partial massages, kinesitherapy (including: Tergumed, Biodex System 4 PRO – equipment for isokinetic assessment and training, individual gymnastics, group gymnastics), gymnastics in the pool, trampoline exercises, Nordic Walking).

The hotel has 211 beds in double and triple rooms. Each room has an alarm signal and a separate exit to the terrace with a view of the beautiful panorama of the mountains. The recreational part of the KRUS Rehabilitation Center for Farmers GRANIT in Szklarska

Poręba consists of a swimming pool, sauna and audiovisual room.



KRUS FARMERS' REHABILITATION CENTER SASANKA IN ŚWINOUJŚCIE

Świnoujście is the only seaside resort in Poland located entirely on the islands, at the eastern end of the island of Uznam and on the western island of Wolin, on the banks of the Świna River. Both parts of the town are connected by ferry. The advantage of the town is the widest natural sand beach in Poland, coastal dunes and beautiful wild nature of the islands. There are very good conditions for swimming in the sea (thalassotherapy).

The KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Center is located in a quiet place of the attractive Świnoujście health resort, located 350 m from the sea.

The KRUS Rehabilitation Center SASANKA in Świnoujście provides patients with round-the-clock medical care, as well as balneotherapy, hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, phototherapy, kinesitherapy, therapeutic massage and other treatments (acoustic shock wave therapy, deep electromagnetic stimulation, gymnastics in the pool). Patients have 145 beds available in double and triple rooms and in "studio" rooms with full sanitary facilities, equipped with a TV, wireless internet, radio and telephone. The recreational part of the KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Center SASANKA in Świnoujście consists of: a swimming pool with a steam room, a billiard room, a cafe, a children's playground, and a barbecue area.



MEDICAL CERTIFICATION UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

The Fund performs tasks in the field of medical certification pursuant to Art. 46 of the Act of 20 December 1990 on the social insurance of farmers and the Regulation of the Minister of Social Policy of 31 December 2004 on medical certification at the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.

The certification in the bodies of the Fund is the instance proceedings. In the first instance, certifications are issued by the Fund's doctors, and in the second instance – by the medical commission of the Fund

The tasks of the Fund's **doctor/medical commission** include issuing decisions concerning:

- 1) permanent or temporary total incapacity to work on a farm;
- 2) permanent or long-term damage to health;
- 3) inability to live independently;
- 4) temporary incapacity to work for more than 180 days;

- 5) the desirability of retraining due to permanent, total inability to work on a farm;
- 6) indications for medical rehabilitation;
- 7) other circumstances determining the granting of social security benefits for farmers.

A final decision of the Fund's doctor or the medical commission of the Fund construes the basis for **issuing a decision** on:

- 1) the agricultural workers' pension for inability to work;
- 2) one-off compensation for an accident during work in the agricultural holding or agricultural occupational disease;
- 3) nursing allowance;
- 4) extended sickness benefit for temporary inability to work more than 180 days;
- 5) farmer's training pension;
- 6) therapeutic rehabilitation;
- 7) survivors' pension.

Table 4. Number of certifications in 2012–2021

Year	Number of certifications issued by KRUS doctors	Number of certifications issued by KRUS medical commission
2012	148 127	22 727
2013	146 905	21 491
2014	143 887	20 160
2015	139 186	19 533
2016	132 633	18 372
2017	127 246	16 901
2018	118 239	16 077
2019	162 990	16 490
2020	223 928	26 045
2021	144 855	20 192

Source: Statistical data of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.

Pursuant to the Regulation of the Minister of Social Policy of December 31, 2004 on medical certification at the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (KRUS), **direct and supervisory supervision** over the decision of the Fund and medical **commission is exercised by the President of KRUS.**

Direct supervision, authorized by the President of KRUS is exercised by the **Regional Doctor Inspector of Medical Certification.** Supervision over the authority of the KRUS President is exercised by the Chief Register Doctor of the Fund.





PREVENTION IN AGRICULTURE

The Act on social insurance for farmers obliges KRUS to **take action to prevent accidents at work and to prevent agricultural occupational diseases. The Fund's prevention activity consists of examining the causes and circumstances of accidents at work and disseminating knowledge of accident hazards in the agricultural work environment** and the principles of safe work in the **"Rules for the protection of health and life on a farm"** established by the President of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund. This document contains recommendations on handling farm equipment and safety rules for persons carrying out the work related to agricultural activity. The employees of the Fund try to convince the farmers to apply them voluntarily. The rules are disseminated to the insured farmers, in the published brochures and materials, as well as during training, talks, competitions, demonstrations of safe work, inspections of accident sites, via the media and during other preventive activities. The above document is available in three language versions: English, Russian and Ukrainian.

The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund **organizes voluntary, free training courses** for farmers, village administrators, members of the Country Women's Associations, farmers undergoing treatment at KRUS Farmers' Rehabilitation Centers, local governments, agricultural school students, junior high school students and children from rural areas. In the years 2011–2021 over 44.3 thousand training meetings were carried out which were attended by over 1.5 million people. In 2011, on the KRUS website www.krus.gov.pl the application entitled **"Calendar of Preventive Events"** was launched, which is used to disseminate information about preventive actions carried out by the Fund.

In order to promote the rules of safe work on a farm, the Fund issued a number of outreach materials, including: films, brochures, leaflets, posters, roll-ups and prevention calendars, and for children: jigsaw puzzles, a "memory" game, a family board game "Safe with Krusław" and an e-learning course called "It's safe in the countryside – we prevent falls". The mod-

ern and attractive form of the course introduces the youngest rural inhabitants to the current accident hazards on a farm, and teaches them how to behave correctly when being in the farmyard.

As part of **non-training activities**, various types of **olympiads, competitions and quizzes on OSH knowledge and competitions for the safest farm** are conducted. The National Competition “Safe Farm” has been organized since 2003, in which approximately 1 000 farms participate every year. Its purpose is to promote the rules of health and life protection on farms, as well as to promote good practices related to occupational health and safety in rural areas. Every year the President of the Republic of Poland holds the honorary patronage over the Competition. The implementation of the project is supported by local governments: volunteer fire brigades, police, local chambers of agriculture, agricultural advisory centers, farmers’ professional and social organizations, scientific and research institutes working to improve work safety on farms, producers of agricultural machinery and equipment, as well as a number of companies and institutions. The competition takes place in three stages and according to the criteria contained in the regulations. Regional and voivodship committees assess farms in terms of:

- organization of the farmyard;
- order within the yard, buildings and work stations;
- technical condition of livestock and farm buildings;
- technical condition of machines, devices and tools used in farms;
- livestock handling and living conditions;
- equipment with work clothes and personal protective equipment;
- methods of storing plant protection products and other hazardous substances;
- farm aesthetics;

- the application of organizational, technological and technical solutions affecting the safety of people working and staying on farms.

In 2011, the first edition of the National Art Competition for Children “Safely in the countryside” took place. The competition attracts approx. 35 000 children from approx. 2.5 thousand primary schools annually. The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development gives honorary patronage to this undertaking every year. The purpose of the competition is to promote positive behavior related to work and play of children on the farm among primary school pupils from rural areas, as well as to promote the **List of particularly dangerous activities related to running a farm, which must not be entrusted to children under 16 years of age**, indicating types of work, which, due to the risks involved in their performance, are extremely dangerous to the youngest.

The Fund, implementing the *Vision Zero Strategy in the agricultural sector in Poland*^{*}, organized in 2021 the third edition of the **National Competition for Youth “My Vision Zero”**, consisting in the production of a short preventive movie related to the subject of the competition. The competition aims to promote among young people, in particular students of secondary schools and university students with an agricultural profile, safe behavior related to working on a farm. The event is carried out under the honorary patronage of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

From 2020, two competitions are held: the **National Farm Safety Rhyme Contest for Children and the National Farm Safety Test Contest**.

The Fund also undertakes efforts to secure proper manufacturing and distribution of safe technical equipment for agriculture, as well as protective equip-

* More about the Zero Vision Strategy on page 38

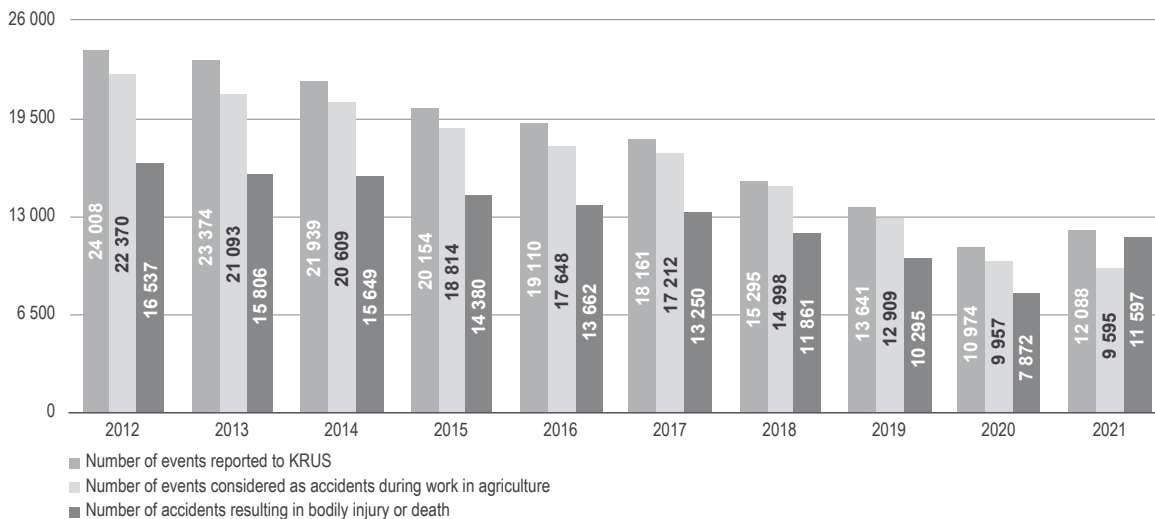
ment and clothing. Products with the above-average level of safety are awarded by the President of KRUS the “**Safety Mark of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund**”, and those which improve safety at work – the market distinction “**Product increasing work safety on a farm**”. By the end of 2021, 36 manufacturers of 241 products were entitled to use the KRUS Safety Mark, and 56 suppliers for 70 products were awarded at the fair. Since 2001, the producers of the above-mentioned products have been awarded the “DOBROŚLAW” statuette.

In addition, the Fund conducts **recourse and preventive proceedings** aimed at the return of paid benefits and changes in design solutions in relation to manufacturers whose products contribute to the occurrence of accidents at work. The quality of many types of machines, devices and other products was ques-

tioned, the faults of which were exclusive, major, or accompanying cause of accidents.

KRUS representatives take an active part in **agricultural fairs, exhibitions, seminars and scientific and training conferences as well as in other similar events**, during which they organize information and preventive stands, where competitions, exhibitions and demonstrations of safe work for farmers are organized. At selected international, national and regional events, stands are set up together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and institutions acting for the benefit of agriculture, incl. Agency for Restructuring and Modernization of Agriculture and the National Center for Agricultural Support.

Graph No. 4. Number of farmer accidents in 2012–2021



Source: Statistical data of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.



ORGANIZATION OF KRUS

■ STRUCTURE

The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (KRUS) is managed by the President, who is the central body of a government administration, subordinate to the minister competent for agriculture and rural development. The President of KRUS is appointed by the Prime Minister at the request of the minister competent for agriculture and rural development. The Prime Minister dismisses the President of KRUS.

There are following units within KRUS:

- 1) **headquarters**,
- 2) **regional branches**,
- 3) **local offices**.

In addition, the President of KRUS is the authority creating and supervising **therapeutic rehabilitation institutions**.

The statutory tasks of KRUS are carried out by: the **Headquarters, 16 Regional Branches of KRUS and 256 Local Offices of KRUS** subordinated to them.

The Headquarters is an organizational unit of the Fund used for coordination and substantive supervision over the work of other organizational units of the Fund. The President of KRUS supervises and controls the work of the managers of organizational units of the Fund with the help of the Headquarters. Regional Branches together with Local Offices form a network of KRUS units which provide services to the insured and benefit recipients. The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (KRUS) performs its statutory tasks in the field of medical rehabilitation and provision of health benefits to farmers eligible for benefits from the Fund with the help of six medical rehabilitation centers.

The KRUS Headquarters consists of the following organizational units:

- 1) Medical Certification Office,
- 2) Finance Office;
- 3) Organizational and Legal Office;
- 4) Human Resources Management Office;
- 5) Statistics Office;

- 6) Insurance Office;
- 7) Benefits Office;
- 8) Prevention Office;
- 9) Rehabilitation Office;
- 10) Administration and Investment Office;
- 11) Information Technology and Telecommunications Office;
- 12) Control Office;
- 13) Public Procurement Office;
- 14) Internal Audit Office;
- 15) Communication and International Cooperation Office;
- 16) Crisis Management, Defence Affairs and Information Security Office;
- 17) Farmers' Social Insurance Council Service Team;
- 18) President's Counsellors Team.

Sixteen KRUS Regional Branches carry out the Fund's basic tasks in the field of determining the social insurance obligation, calculation and collection of contributions, and determining the circumstances and causes of accidents at agricultural work, determining the right to cash benefits and their payment. As part of Regional Branches, there are smaller organizational units – **Local Offices**. Currently, there are 256 Local Offices, which together with 16 Regional Branches form a network of KRUS units that perform tasks in the field of servicing the insured and beneficiaries.

FARMERS' SOCIAL INSURANCE COUNCIL

The Farmers' Social Insurance Council (the Council of Farmers) represents the interests of all the insured and beneficiaries regarding insurance and activities of the Farmers' Social Insurance Fund. The Council of Farmers with 25 members is appointed by the minister competent for rural development for a 3-year term from among candidates proposed by socio-profes-

sional organizations of farmers and trade unions of individual farmers with a national scope of activity and the National Council of Agricultural Chambers.

The Council of Farmers has the right to control and evaluate the activities of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund. It may apply to state administration bodies, state institutions and local government units for taking specific initiatives or actions in matters related to insurance.

It sets the amount of the monthly premium for accident, sickness and maternity insurance for one or several quarters.

It gives opinions on the following projects:

- draft legal acts regulating insurance, in particular implementing acts to the main Act, legal acts having a direct impact on the functioning of the insurance;
- draft operational programmes and financial plans of the Fund;
- report on the activities of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund and the Farmers' Social Insurance Contribution Fund.

The basic substantive activity of the Council of Farmers is carried out by the Presidium and permanent Commissions of the Council of Farmers:

- Committee on the Organization and Financial Management of the Fund;
- Prevention and Rehabilitation Committee;
- Insurance Committee;
- Benefits Committee.

KRUS FINANCIAL ECONOMY

The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund **runs its own financial management**. The financial foundations of KRUS insurance and operations are the following **funds**:

- 1) Pension Fund,
- 2) Administrative Fund,
- 3) Prevention and Rehabilitation Fund,
- 4) Incentive Fund,
- 5) the Farmers' Social Insurance Contribution Fund, which is a legal person and is not subsidized from the state budget.

In addition, KRUS, on basis of separate regulations, performs additional task financed from:

- 1) Solidarity Fund,
- 2) COVID-19 Counteracting Fund.

Pension Fund

This fund is composed of:

- 1) contributions for old-age and disability pension insurance;
- 2) refunds from the Social Insurance Fund to cover specific expenses;
- 3) deduction from the Contribution Fund in the amount of 40% of the cost of maternity benefits;
- 4) a supplementary subsidy from the state budget;
- 5) a subsidy from the state budget for health insurance contributions, i.e.
 - a) farmers and household members working with them who are covered by social security;
 - b) persons receiving old-age and disability pension benefits in the contributory part;
 - c) farmers who are not subject to social insurance but are subject to health insurance;
- 6) a subsidy from the state budget intended for contributions to the old-age and disability pension insurance of persons referred to in Art. 16a-16c* Act of 20 December 1990 on farmers' social insurance.

* concerns a farmer or a household member who exercises:

- 1) childcare – the premium is financed for a period of 3 years, not longer than until the child is 5 years old;
- 2) caring for a disabled child – the contribution is financed for a period of 6 years, not longer than until the child reaches 18 years of age.

The above also applies to:

- 1) a farmer or a household member conducting non-agricultural economic activity and insured with KRUS, if he/she ceased or suspended it for the period of care;
- 2) a farmer or a household member or a family member who are not subject to the farmers' social insurance, but have applied for retirement and disability insurance during this period and are not subject to other social insurance.

The funds from this fund are intended to finance:

- 1) benefits from old-age and disability pension insurance;
- 2) pensions from other social insurance paid together with benefits from retirement and disability insurance with supplements;
- 3) reimbursement of certain costs to the Social Insurance Fund, if such a reimbursement is provided for by retirement provisions;
- 4) health insurance.

Administrative Fund

The Administrative Fund is intended to finance the costs of the insurance service (except for costs covered by the Contribution Fund or the Prevention and Rehabilitation Fund) and the costs of servicing tasks in the field of health insurance.

This fund is comprised of:

- 1) deductions from the Contribution Fund in the amount of up to 12% of the planned expenditure of the Contribution Fund,
- 2) deductions from the Pension Fund in the amount of up to 3.5% of the planned expenditure of the Pension Fund,
- 3) reimbursement by competent institutions of costs related to the implementation of health insurance and the implementation of other tasks entrusted to the President of KRUS on the basis of separate provisions,
- 4) interest obtained from the investment of free resources of the Administrative Fund.

Prevention and Rehabilitation Fund

Comprises deductions from the Contribution Fund in the amount of up to 6.5% of planned expenses, budget subsidy and interest obtained from investing free resources from the Prevention and Rehabilitation Fund. The Prevention and Rehabilitation Fund is earmarked for financing material costs, i.e.

- 1) activities carried out by the Fund for the prevention of accidents at agricultural work and occupational diseases;
- 2) assistance to the insured and persons entitled to insurance benefits, having total incapacity to work in an agricultural holding, but with the possibility of recovery as a result of treatment and rehabilitation, or with the risk of total incapacity to work in an agricultural holding;
- 3) agricultural training pension awarded for a period of 6 months to an insured person who meets the conditions for obtaining an agricultural pension for incapacity for work specified in art. 21 of the Act of 20 December 1990 on social insurance for farmers, in relation to which the advisability of re-training due to permanent total incapacity to work in an agricultural holding was issued.

Incentive Fund

The Incentive Fund may be created as a contribution to the Administrative Fund accrued from the Contribution Fund. The fund is managed by the President of KRUS, in consultation with the Chairman of the Farmers' Council, on the basis of the regulations adopted by the Farmers' Council.

Payments from this Fund are made outside the limits resulting from the provisions on the formation of remuneration in the state budgetary field. The fund's resources are paid out as prizes.

Contribution Fund

The Contribution Fund is created from contributions for accident, sickness and maternity insurance as well

as from other sources specified in the Statute of the Contribution Fund, ensuring full coverage of the Contribution Fund's expenses.

The funds from this fund are earmarked for financing:

- 1) benefits from accident, sickness and maternity insurance;
- 2) an allowance for the Administrative Fund in the amount of up to 9% of planned expenses of the Contribution Fund;
- 3) contribution to the Prevention and Rehabilitation Fund in the amount of up to 6.5% of planned expenses;
- 4) direct costs of functioning of the Council of Farmers;
- 5) costs of managing this fund and performing its obligations as a legal entity;
- 6) KRUS's activity regarding initiating and supporting the development of insurance for farmers and their families through mutual insurance societies;
- 7) deficits of the Administrative Fund and the Prevention and Rehabilitation Fund.

Solidarity Fund

The Solidarity Fund is a state earmarked fund administered by the minister competent for social security and operates under the Solidarity Fund Act of 23 October 2018. The purpose of the Fund is to provide social, professional, health and financial support to disabled people, as well as to provide financial support to pensioners. On the basis of contracts concluded between the Minister of Family, Labor and Social Policy and the President of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund of October 1, 2019, of January 2, 2020 and of March 25, 2020, the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund allocates funds from the Solidarity Fund for financing:

- 1) supplementary benefits for people incapable of independent existence along with the costs of their service, referred to in art. 11 sec. 1 of the Act of July 31, 2019 on supplementary benefit for people incapable of living independently;

- 2) social pensions and funeral grants along with the costs of their servicing, referred to in art. 14 sec. 1 of the Act of 27 June 2003 on the social pension;
- 3) additional annual cash benefit for old-age and disability pensioners (the so-called "thirteenth retirement pension") along with the costs of servicing them, referred to in Art. 14 of the Act of 9 January 2020 on additional annual cash benefit for old age and disability pensioners;
- 4) another additional annual cash benefit for old age and disability pensioners (the so-called "fourteenth pension") together with the costs of their servicing, pursuant to the Act of 21 January 2021 on the next additional annual cash benefit in 2021 for pensioners.

COVID-19 Counteracting Fund

The COVID-19 Countermeasure Fund is created at the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego in order to finance or cofinance the implementation of tasks related to counteracting COVID-19, referred to in the Act of March 2, 2020 on special solutions related to the prevention and combating of COVID-19, other infectious diseases and emergencies caused by them.

The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund carries out additional tasks resulting from government programs and legislative changes aimed at counteracting the negative effects of the epidemic caused by the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, KRUS receives funds from the COVID-19 Counteracting Fund, which are intended to finance:

- 1) care allowances for the insured farmer and household member;
- 2) benefits for compulsory quarantine, epidemiological supervision or hospitalization in connection with COVID-19; along with service costs.

Table 5. Benefits for individual farmers financed from the Contribution Fund in 2012–2021 (in PLN)

Year	The amount of benefits from accident, sickness and maternity insurance – total	Of this One-off accident compensation	Sickness allowances	Maternity allowances ¹⁾	Childbirth allowances ²⁾
2012	571 078 104.28	69 830 596.10	400 866 359.45	100 236 770.46	144 378.27
2013	582 234 054.92	74 453 421.00	409 951 509.57	97 754 861.00	74 263.35
2014	575 384 730.67	76 290 670.80	403 487 018.05	95 599 027.08	8 014.74
2015	565 887 854.06	71 813 440.83	392 640 516.40	101 424 016.06	9 880.77
2016	435 953 799.40	69 236 450.00	366 622 823.00	94 526.40	–
2017	407 732 846.52	66 406 978.00	341 305 260.00	20 608.52	–
2018	374 899 209.60	69 221 920.50	305 673 911.30	3 377.80	–
2019	334 204 960.50	63 429 653.50	270 775 307.00	–	–
2020	268 001 861.93	46 067 530.00	221 934 331.93 ³⁾	–	–
2021	277 296 221.30	50 821 184.00	218 475 037.30	–	–

1) Maternity allowances payable under the legislation in force prior to 1 January 2016. From 1 January 2016, maternity benefits are a benefit paid from the pension insurance scheme pursuant to Articles 35a and 35b of the Act of 20 December 1990 on social insurance for farmers.

2) As of 1 May 2014, the childbirth allowance was abolished and replaced by the maternity allowance. The following shall constitute the basis for the payment of the childbirth allowance in subsequent years: 10-year statute of limitations on a claim for that benefit.

3) Including sickness benefits paid in connection with COVID-19.

Source: Statistical data of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.

Table 6. Expenses for social insurance for farmers in 2012–2021 (in PLN thousands)

Year	Old-age or disability pensions and others ¹⁾	Sickness, maternity, childbirth and accident compensation
2012	14 773 973	571 078
2013	15 347 570	582 234
2014	14 685 504	575 385
2015	15 186 930	565 888
2016	15 408 096	435 954
2017	15 481 107	407 733
2018	15 656 946	374 899
2019	17 209 178	334 205
2020	16 668 187	268 002 ²⁾
2021	–	277 296

1) Data excluding pension and disability pension benefits for soldiers of alternative military service, cash benefits for persons deported to forced labor, disability benefits for injured war and military veterans and repressed people (these benefits are currently paid as commissioned tasks).

2) Including sickness benefits paid in connection with COVID-19.

Source: Statistical data of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.

eKRUS

The currently observed **dynamic development of the information society**, also on rural areas, as well as among farmers themselves, determines many activities aimed at the generally understood **improvement in the quality of life**, including enabling easy and quick access to e-services, both in the private and public sectors, ease of remote communication with public administration, improving the efficiency of managing information resources of the administration, providing access to new, innovative solutions, and, as a consequence, counteracting digital exclusion also for this social group made up of the insured in KRUS. A condition for the implementation of these tasks is **an efficiently managed, competent and reliable IT infrastructure** supporting the goals that KRUS realizes in relation to farmers and their family members.

The core of the continuously developed IT architecture is **KRUS Integrated IT System (ZSI)** along with the **eKRUS Farmers Portal**. Key domain systems supporting social and health insurance, as well as cases and proceedings related thereto, payment of benefits from accident, sickness and maternity insurance, conducting proceedings due to accidents and occupational diseases in agriculture, as well as referring farmers and family members to health rehabilitation are also integrated within the ZSI. Key systems have been centralised and integrated with each other over the past years, and in some cases this has involved changing both the architecture and technology of the system. Therefore, the IT resources, including systems and applications, guarantee that the support of users in performing the statutory tasks of KRUS, as well as the delivery of services for KRUS beneficiaries, will be performed using modern IT means.

From the perspective of a farmer – insured in KRUS – the constant development of the **eKRUS Farmers**

Portal is important, within the framework of which a new service was made available in 2018, i. e. **e-contribution**, enabling online payment of contribution liabilities. In 2019, eKRUS was expanded to include a fully **automated module for handling farmer's helpers**, which enables handling both the application for insurance of farmer's helpers and corrections of such applications as well as payment of premiums for insurance of helpers. In 2020, e-documents functionality was made available to download electronic certificates, signed with a qualified electronic seal of the office. In 2021, the list of available e-documents was expanded with new electronic certificates.

Starting from 1 July 2021, in the eDOCUMENTS section of the user account on the eKRUS portal, it is possible to generate the following electronic certificates (eCertificates):

- **certificates on the periods of being subject to USR (farmers' social insurance)**, which includes information about the paid social insurance contributions for farmers,
- **certificates of insurance coverage**, which includes information whether the payer's account shows / does not show any debt in KRUS,
- **certificates on the periods of being subject to and paying contributions to UZ (health insurance)**, which includes information on universal health insurance.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND MANAGEMENT CONTROL AT KRUS

At the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the management system and minimize risks and in order to obtain the satisfaction of interested parties, in accordance with the requirements of ISO 9001 and ISO/IEC 27001 standards, the Quality and Non-Life

Management System of Information Security was developed and implemented in 2005. On 1 December 2009, the Anti-Corruption Threat Prevention System was implemented and the Integrated Management System was created from three management systems implemented at KRUS. In 2019, the Anti-Corruption Threat Prevention System was replaced by the Anti-Corruption Management System, in accordance with the requirements of ISO 37001.

The Integrated Management System applies to all organizational units of the Fund and covers in particular the implementation of tasks imposed on KRUS by the Act on the social insurance of farmers.

The first implementation of the quality management system at the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund resulted in the unification and linking of management processes within certified units, which were defined and described in mutual interactions and taking into account the division of competencies for individual positions of the Fund.

The implementation of the Information Security Management System has enabled the Fund to take advantage of the best global standards related to information security, while allowing the confirmation of an appropriate level of data protection through independent certification.

The implementation of the Anti-Corruption Management System confirms the principles of integrity and reliability at the Fund. This was expressed by the adopted Anti-Corruption Policy of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund and its consistent compliance. This system eliminates or significantly reduces the possibility of corruption and confirms reliance in KRUS as a transparent and professionally managed organization.

The seventh Integrated Management System Certificate, awarded to the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund in 2020, confirming compliance with the requirements of ISO 9001 and ISO/IEC 27001 in the field of **servicing the insured and benefit recipients within the scope of tasks arising from the Act of 20 December 1990 on social insurance of farmers and organisations supporting farmers** by an independent certifying body, proves the transparency of operation of the institution of social insurance of farmers and its equivalent position among central offices of state administration, functioning both in Poland and in other countries and meeting the highest quality requirements.

The benefits obtained by KRUS related to the implementation of the Quality Management System are primarily the reduction of the organization's operating costs, including those related to employee training, exchange of internal information and clarification of decision-making processes.

The mentioned benefits were visible shortly after the implementation had been completed.

In the longer term, further benefits can be observed resulting from a change in the attitude of the people towards the office, which include enhancement of the quality of work of all organizational units of the Fund, increasing clients' trust in the office and its management, better and more efficient implementation of the office's statutory tasks, greater satisfaction of the insured and KRUS beneficiaries and the employees themselves.

The Information Security Management System at the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund designed and implemented to protect information, regardless of its form:

- describes the rules of conduct in specific areas of KRUS activity in a more structured way,
- allows to transfer the goals set by the management into the tasks for individual employees,
- the implemented mechanisms are to support the legal requirements, including the Personal Data Protection Act, and guarantee that all data processed and stored at KRUS are properly protected and secured.

Each employee should derive satisfaction from their work and be sure that they can check the correctness of their tasks or the accuracy of their decisions at any time. The basis here are the **instructions, safety rules, procedures, etc.** implemented in the Fund.

Other **benefits** of the information security system of KRUS, for example for its employees, include:

- reduction of operational risk,
- strengthening credibility,
- protection of processed data,
- reducing the risk of information loss,
- establishing uniform rules on information security,
- providing contingency plans in case of unforeseen events,
- registration and analysis of incidents affecting security,
- clearly assigned responsibilities and duties,
- awareness of the importance of processed information,
- awareness of the existence of threats in the area of information processing,
- protecting employees against unconscious behavior having a negative impact on the image of KRUS and the security of processed information.

The Anti-Corruption Action Management System implemented at the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund meets the adopted Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and

performs tasks resulting from the Government Program for Counteracting Corruption for 2018–2020.

When developing the documentation for this system, the Fund placed particular emphasis on the transparency of procedures and the elimination of excessive official discretion. This system is based on transparent, unambiguous procedures, with a clear definition of the scope of powers, responsibilities and the margin of discretion. It is also a confirmation of the Fund's will to act in accordance with the principles of integrity and reliability, which was expressed through the adoption of the **Anti-Corruption Policy of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund** and its consistent compliance.

Thanks to the Anti-Corruption Management System, KRUS employees have the opportunity to actively influence the manner of carrying out particular tasks within the scope of their duties. It is worth emphasizing that in the event of noticing the risk of a corruption event occurring in ongoing processes, each employee is required to provide such information to the appropriate person (direct supervisor or Coordinator for the Integrated Management System, KRUS President's Representative for the Integrated Management System) along with the proposed method of reducing this risk, in accordance with the "Procedure in the event of corruption incidents". Moreover, employees, through active participation in the implementation of the anti-corruption system, obtain confirmation that management of the Fund is willing to eliminate corruption threats and activities.

We can consider the benefits of implementing the Anti-Corruption Management System from the point of view of:

1) **the Fund's management:**

- building the image of a transparent and professionally managed organization,

- obtaining information about new risks and specifying already identified risks associated with organization's activities – clarifying the risk map;
- ensuring transparent rules for cooperation with interested parties,
- limiting the risk of losing funds as a result of possible corruption activities;

2) **employees:**

- clearly defined terms of reference and responsibilities,
- protection against unconscious behaviors and their effects,
- improving the organization based on gained experience,
- defining procedures in the event of suspected corruption – the appropriate procedure in KRUS is the “Procedure in the event of corruption incidents”.

3) **environment:**

- strengthening opinions about KRUS as an organization that treats problems seriously, and does not underestimate or ignore them.

As of 1 January 2010, in accordance with the Act of 27 August 2009 on public finances, **management control** was implemented at the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund.

Management control consists of all actions taken to ensure the achievement of goals and tasks in a legal, effective, economical and timely manner. The implementation of management control enables the Fund to achieve the following **goals**:

- compliance of operations with regulations and procedures,
- effectiveness and efficiency of operation,
- reliability of reports,
- resource protection,
- compliance with and promotion of ethical principles,
- effectiveness and efficiency of information flow,
- risk management.

The Integrated Management System has systematized procedures and identified activities that are elements of management control, and then they have been critically assessed in terms of their effectiveness and legitimacy.

At the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund a **self-assessment process** is carried out, in accordance with 22 management control standards for the public finance sector incorporated in five groups:

- internal environment,
- risk objectives and management,
- control mechanisms,
- information and communication,
- monitoring and evaluation.

Every year, the President of KRUS, at the request of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, submits a **statement on the state of management control**, in which he/she confirms that the solutions implemented in the Fund are adhered to, effective and functioning as intended, and allow for ongoing diagnosis of possible irregularities in public finance management. The President of KRUS, by signing a statement on the state of management control for the entire unit, also confirms that all management solutions have been verified and the procedures applied are effective. In accordance with good practices, the statement ensures analyses of all cases of irregularities known to the management, explains their causes and makes appropriate decisions as to whether to prevent similar situations in the future and whether the decision to change the currently adopted procedures is justified.



A Partner of

VISION ZERO

Safety.Health.Wellbeing.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Since the beginning of its activity, the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund has cooperated with foreign insurance institutions and organizations in Europe and around the world.

International Social Security Association (ISSA)

Membership at ISSA entitles the Fund to participate in the work of the Association, in conferences, trainings, symposia and colloquiums on social insurance, prevention and rehabilitation. It is a unique opportunity to learn about global solutions and trends in this field.

KRUS actively participates in the work of the ISSA International Section for Prevention in Agriculture. This section was established in 1969 and fulfills tasks aimed at preventing accidents and occupational diseases for people employed in agriculture and forestry. As an expression of recognition for the Fund's activities within the ISSA and commitment to the devel-

opment of the ISSA International Section for Prevention in Agriculture, the most important functions in the Section's authorities were entrusted to the Fund and the General Secretariat of the Section was moved from Germany to Poland. The Fund has been running the Section Secretariat since 2007, and the President of KRUS acts as the Chairman of the Section Board and initiates activities promoting safe work and prevention in an agricultural holding.

In 2017, the Section launched the international campaign Vision Zero – a global prevention strategy understood as a long-term process of reaching the goal of zero accidents and injuries at work and eliminating occupational diseases. It is a new approach to the problem of prevention in the field of occupational safety, which combines three dimensions of human work: health, safety and well-being. The strategy is based on 7 Golden Rules, the application of which helps reduce the risk of adverse events:

1. Take the initiative – get involved
2. Identify the hazards – control the risks
3. Define goals – create a program
4. Ensure a healthy and safe work system – be well organized
5. Ensure a safe environment in an agricultural holding: machinery, tools and the workplace
6. Expand your knowledge of farm safety rules
7. Set a good example and motivate others

The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund joined the international campaign to promote Vision Zero in 2018 and thus became an official Partner of Vision Zero.

In May 2019 in Cordoba, the **39th International Colloquium** entitled “Vision Zero – Prevention Strategy in Agriculture”, was organized by the International Section of the ISSA on Prevention in Agriculture in cooperation with the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund. The main goal of the event was to promote Vision Zero as a global prevention strategy in the agricultural sector. At the conference inaugurating the Vision Zero Strategy in the agricultural sector in Poland, which took place on 13 June 2019 in Warsaw, the Fund presented a number of preventive actions aimed at further improving the occupational safety and health of farmers. In 2020, due to the pandemic, international meetings were held in the form of videoconferences. In 2021, the Fund coorganized international events, such as the symposium “SYM 16. Safety culture in farming – growing from generation to generation” during the XXII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work.

Figure 1. KRUS membership in international organizations



Source: KRUS study.

European Forum of the Insurance against Accidents at Work and Prevention of Occupational Diseases

The purpose of the Forum's activity is to exchange experience and information on effective protection against occupational risks in the workplace, gathered by member organizations and institutions.

European Network of Agricultural Social Protection Systems (ENASP)

KRUS is an active member in the ENASP Network, to which six European institutions providing social security system for farmers currently belong: Poland – KRUS, France – MSA, Austria – SVB, Germany – SVLFG, Greece – OPEKA and Finland – MELA. Representatives of other social security institutions also participate in the work of ENASP as observers. The priorities of the ENASP Network are:

- defending and strengthening the values and principles of social security for farmers based on the principle of solidarity and territorial cohesion,
- representing the social security interests of farmers in the institutions of the European Union,
- exchange of information and good practices among Network members in order to develop tools so that member organizations can better respond to common needs.

As part of its activities at ENASP, the Fund participated, among other things, in a pan-European study on poverty and exclusion of people from rural areas.

International Association of Rural Health and Medicine (IARM)

The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund played an important role in the development of the International Association of Rural Health and Medicine (formerly the International Association of Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health – IAAMRH).

From the beginning of its operation, KRUS supported the Association in its activities, actively participating in the work of subsequent Congresses of this Association.

The cooperation of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund with the Association began in the mid-1990s. In the years 2000–2002, the Association's Secretariat operated at KRUS. In 2000, members of the KRUS management were also part of the Management Board of the then IAAMRH and served as Chairman of one of the Associations's committees.

In the following years, the cooperation between the Fund and the Association was suspended. From 2016, KRUS is again a member of the IARM Association.

Bilateral cooperation

Meetings at the international arena were also conducive to the development of bilateral cooperation. The membership of the Fund in the ISSA and joining the work of the International ISSA Section for Prevention in Agriculture contributed to establishing bilateral cooperation and exchange of experience in the field of activities related to the social security system of farmers with many organizations, including with the German **Social Insurance Institution for Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture** (*Sozialversicherung für Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Gartenbau* – SVLFG) as well as the Austrian Social Insurance Institution for the Self-employed (*Sozialversicherungsanstalt der Selbständigen* – SVS).

One of the the Fund's most important foreign partners is the **Agricultural Mutual Social Assistance Fund** (*Mutualité Sociale Agricole* – MSA) from France. The French farmers' social security system was a reference when creating the concept of the farmers' social in-

surance system in Poland. Under the 1992 bilateral agreement, cooperation began on the basis of partnership between the then 49 Regional Branches of the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund and 54 MSA Departments. This cooperation consisted in exchanging groups of specialists from various fields of social security. The effect of the cooperation was, among other things, a pilot program “Five Towns Project” conducted in 2004 under the patronage of and with the financial support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in France, in cooperation with the French Embassy and the European Union Representation. This project helped find solutions enabling families from rural areas to get out of difficult economic conditions and to overcome social problems. The results of the work were published in the “Good Practices Guide” under the title “5 Towns Project”.

Important fields of KRUS activity include cooperation with the Lithuanian **State Board of the Social Security Fund SODRA**, with which the agreement was signed in 1993 and is renewed every year. Thanks to the cooperation, experts from SODRA and KRUS annually have the opportunity to become acquainted with the detailed solutions in the insurance systems of both countries and with the organization of work in institutions established for this purpose.

The Fund maintains numerous contacts **with many other social security institutions** in Europe, such as the MELA from Finland and the DGUV or Deutsche Renten-versicherung Bund from Germany. Bilateral security agreements have also been concluded with Australia, Canada, the Republic of South Korea, the Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Mongolia, the Republic of Turkey, the State of Israel and the United State of America, as well as an agreement with the government of Quebec.





PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund **disseminates information on a wide range of its activities**. It does so via the **website www.krus.gov.pl**, the **KRUS Public Information Bulletin**, the **eKRUS Farmers Portal**, the **Central Repository of Public Information**, **social media**, as well as **in cooperation with the media** dealing with agriculture and farmers' social insurance. As part of this cooperation, articles in journals, farmer's magazines, radio and TV broadcasts, and information on Internet portals are published. Materials regarding KRUS activities are also disseminated in newsletters of publishing houses and institutions cooperating with the Fund. Ongoing activity is also important, i.e. answering questions from journalists regarding all aspects of the Fund's functioning. Information activities are carried out both at the Headquarter's level and at the level of Regional Branches and KRUS Local Offices.

The journal “Ubezpieczenia w Rolnictwie – Materiały i Studia” (eng. Insurance in Agriculture. Materials and Studies)

The Agricultural Social Insurance Fund carries out continuous activities to improve the social protection of farmers, e.g. by seeking practical solutions in the field of social security for farmers in the European Union and the world. This applies to both various forms of property and personal insurance and legal organizational solutions and agricultural economics. The fund initiates scientific cooperation and exchange of international experience in this field, which it disseminates and documents in the **journal “Ubezpieczenia w Rolnictwie – Materiały i Studia”**, since 1999. Starting from 2020, the journal has been published as a biannual.

The materials from the field of social security are accepted into the following **sub-topics**:

- organization, economy and social issues;
- health care and rehabilitation;
- legislation and case law;
- insurance in the world;
- documentation and statistics.

A team of outstanding specialists and representatives of the academia from leading universities and institutions, both Polish and foreign ones, was found for the journal.

The journal has successfully passed the **evaluation process of the ICI Journals Master List** and is indexed in the international database of scientific journals Index Copernicus (obtained the ICV 2020 of 95.95).

The journal is published in the **“early bird”** mode under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license International (CC BY 4.0) and applies the double-blind review

principle. Its full electronic version is available on the website: www.krus.gov.pl/czasopismo, thanks to which it reaches a wide audience. The printed version (1200 copies) is distributed free of charge to public administration institutions, government institutions and research centers.

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Additional information on the Agricultural Social Insurance Fund is available on the website: www.krus.gov.pl.



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