## ABSTRACT

The livestock sector has changed in the last decades due to different factors. On the one hand, there was an increase in the demand for food as a consequence of the growth in population. This increase in the demand also generated changes in the European agricultural policy in order to adapt the production systems to the existing situation. As consequence of these changes there was an excess of agricultural products. Furthermore the livestock activities were more dependant on subsidies and therefore on agricultural policy.

On the other hand today's Public Administration is more aware of the environmental issues and the effects that livestock activities can produce in the environment. New regulations and norms have been established to prevent and to control livestock pollution as livestock farming is considered to be one of the greatest pollutants.

As consequence of these factors the livestock sector must adapt to the new environmental, sectorial and social requirements. In this context it becomes important to understand how the livestock is distributed in the Valencia region and also the issues associated with livestock farms.

Using Geographical Information Systems and Multi-criteria Analysis techniques, the more problematic livestock areas have been studied by analysing the sectorial, environmental and social criteria associated to those areas. For the sectorial criteria the distance between the farms and the closest populated area, the distance between farms with the same species and between farms with different species and the land classification at the farm location have been studied. For the environmental criteria the risk of contamination of the groundwater due to accidental discharge of livestock waste has been analysed. For the social criteria the possibility of the livestock farms disturbing the closest population due to the odour has been evaluated.

The more problematic livestock areas have been identified and their main issues have been analysed in detail. This study provides a very valuable tool to be used by the Administration when making decisions to elaborate and develop corrective actions.