

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF FARMERS' SOCIAL SECURITY

Resulting from the industrialization process in the 19th century, social security for the employed had already been introduced more than 100 years ago. From 1960 onwards, a growing interest in working in commerce and industry led to a sustained **rural exodus**. The number of farms passed from one generation to the next plummeted steadily and, thus, the supply provided by the extended rural family was no longer guaranteed. As a consequence of the changes in the economic field, a social network was established taking the shape of a genuine social security scheme for farmers' families. The scheme was initiated in 1958 with the introduction of the Agricultural Supplementary Pension Insurance, existing side by side with the accident insurance scheme for farmers already established in 1929. Then, being granted a supplementary pension did not mean drawing full-fledged retirement benefits, which has been in existence for farmers only since 1971. In the following, we would like to provide you with the milestones in the development of farmers' social insurance in Austria:

1929: Agricultural Workers' Insurance Act

1956: General Social Security Law

1958: Agricultural Supplementary Pensions Insurance Act

1966: Farmers' Health Insurance Act

- 1971: Farmers' Retirement Insurance Act
- 1974: Foundation of the Farmers' Social Security Institution
- 1979: Farmers' Social Security Act
- 1982: Maternity allowance for women farmers
- 1990: Part-time allowance for women farmers
- 1992: Retirement insurance for women farmers
- 1993: Introduction of the federal care benefit as well as of the crediting of child-raising years as insurance time for retirement insurance
- 1996: Retirement reform
- 1998: Health vouchers for farmers
- 1999: Integration of farmers' accident insurance into Farmers' Social Security Act (BSVG)
- 2000: Retirement reform
- 2001: Structural reform of the SVB
- 2002: Child-care allowance
- 2003: Retirement reform

- 2005: Harmonization of retirement systems, e-card
- 2008: Flexibilization of the child-care allowance; retirement provision for the self-employed; introduction of a prescription charge cap
- 2009: Improvement of the insurance law situation for people providing care to family members
- 2010: Persons of the same gender may enter into registered partnerships to enjoy almost the same status as husband and wife, i.e. they also gain rights in terms of social insurance.
- 2011: Continued decrease in notional farmer's life interest (2012: 18% of the indicative rate), thus improvement for retired farmers with small pensions.

Introduction of a hardship provision for insured persons suffering from a severe illness, in order to enable them to obtain an occupational disability pension prior to the age of **work protection** (age 57).

- 2012: Measures in the area of contributions as part of the Federation's stability package
- 2013: Stepwise increase of the **work protection age** (2013: age 58 until 2017: 60) for granting an occupational disability pension with the objective of increasing retirement age in the middle term.

Increase of maternity allowance for farmers.

Introduction of a new model providing for a lump-sum aid for farm relief services in addition to farm social allowances.

2014: Issuing of Retiree's ID cards starting in January 2014

Improvement in dental care through extended coverage of costs by SVB

New orientation of social assistance: direct allocation and invoicing of benefits via SVB as well as Maschinenring Österreich (Austrian Farm Machinery Cooperative) on the basis of a new federal treaty

2015: Expansion of group persons entitled to self-insurance as a part of the accident insurance scheme, e.g. including life partners

Free dental braces for kids and teenagers up to the age of 18 years in the case of severe tooth displacement.

2016: Increase of care benefit