The article deals with the analysis of the various definitions of the concept “capital”, which is caused by the necessity of its detailed investigation of the framework of categories. The author defines the essence of the capital as an economic category, which is the fundamental basis for the creation and development of an agricultural enterprise. The article proves the economic importance and the role of capital as a basis for the formation of the financial activities of agricultural enterprises, as well as providing the appropriate level of engagement and use of financial resources of an enterprise. Moreover the author singles out the basic internal and external factors which affect the process of formation and use of equity and debt capital of agricultural enterprises. The author analyses the dynamics of the capital structure of Ukrainian agricultural enterprises for the period 2009-2013 and offers the ways to improve the capital structure of agricultural enterprises.

**Keywords:** capital; capitalization; financial resources; financial activities; agricultural enterprises.