

Agricultural training in Denmark 2013



Travel to Farm

Danish Young Farmers' Clubs
Danish Agriculture and Food Council



Dear foreign trainees to Denmark

From 2007, a cooperation is introduced, where agricultural organizations in Denmark work closer together in order to make the best possible training stays for young farmers from other countries, who want to make a shorter or longer stay on a Danish farm through Travel to Farm

The partners are:

Danish Agriculture and Food Council
LandboUngdom
Travel to Farm

Apart from the contact to Travel to Farm, which will continue unchanged, the individual foreign trainee in Denmark will have a contact person at the regional office of the Young Farmer's Clubs, who he shall meet and can contact in case of any questions or problems.

Our intention is still to make quality stays for young farmers from the whole world, assuring good host farms, transparent conditions and easy access to information or help, if needed.

We wish you heartily welcome in Denmark!

Agricultural Training
in Denmark
2013

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What is Travel to Farm?

Travel to Farm was founded in 1912 under the name Landøkonomisk RejseBureau. The name was changed to Travel to Farm on the 1st of January 2006.

Travel to Farm arranges practical training stays within agriculture for young foreign farmers in Denmark and for young Danish farmers in other countries. We have approximately 40 different co-operation partners in more than 30 different countries located in all parts of the world.

In 2012 Travel to Farm placed 99 young farmers in Denmark and has sent 88 young Danes abroad.

Travel to Farm has its office in the secretariat of Danish Agriculture and Food Council (Farmers organization) in Copenhagen.

Our member organizations are:

Danish Agriculture and Food Council
The Danish Young Farmer's Clubs
Danish Agricultural Colleges
The Danish Association of Agronomists



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General information - 2013

Qualifications

Modern farming needs competent and skilled help. In order to join our programme you must

- be 19-29 years old
- speak good English and/or German
- be a student or post graduate from an agricultural college, agricultural technical school or agricultural university
- Proved experience of full-time practical farm work in the requested type of farm (min. 6 months)
- preferably have a driving licence for car as well as for tractor
- be prepared to stay for 9-12 months (stays shorter than 4 months are not accepted)
- be unmarried

Our programme is a “learning by doing” programme which will be very useful for young people who expect to become independent farmers themselves.

Types of placement

- Husbandry animals: Dairy cattle, sows and slaughter hogs.
- Field crops (12 months experience and tractor drivers' licence required). Few placements (0-5).
- Vegetable production. Limited number of placements (10-15/year in all).

- Mink and horses. Very few placements (0-5 per year).

Training period in Denmark



The best time of the year to start your training period in Denmark is springtime, March or April. A training period of 9-12 months will enable you to follow all types of work during the seasons. Denmark is nice and green in the summer, with beautiful light nights in the months of May, June and July.



Some trainees may want to come during winter, i.e. November-February. This is only possible if you want to work with animal husbandry, dairy cows or pig production. You should be aware that the number of placements is limited in this period. The contract is made for 8 months, since the salary changes to second year payment. If you wish to prolong, and you have made an agreement with you host, Travel to Farm will send you a new contract and extend you insurance.

Family life

Most farms in Denmark (more than 80 per cent) do not have employees. Only 1,100 farms have more than two workers, approximately 10,000 farms employ just one or two persons.

A little less than half of the trainees will have all meals with their host family and live as a member of the family. Students who want to stay with the family should mention this specifically in their application. Full Brood cannot be guaranteed

Your host farmer

All our host farms are approved to have trainees by the regional young farmer's club, who has been at the farm and

checked that work and living conditions are okay. In case there are problems at the training site, it will be a representative from the local young farmers club, who will come on a visit.

Your host farmer will inform the local police, tax authorities, etc. of your stay. Once you are in Denmark, you can always ask your host farmer for advice. He will receive an instruction letter from Travel to Farm before your arrival.

If you do the best you can, show interest in agriculture and ask questions, your stay in Denmark is likely to become a success!

Local contact in Regional Young Farmer's Club:

From October 2007, all trainees will have a local contact at the regional Young Farmer's Club's office. After a period of 2-3 months in Denmark, you will be invited for a meeting with other trainees at the local YFC, and meet the advisors in the region. The E-mail of the Local contact will be written on the placement sheet which you receive before arrival to Denmark. Your host farmer can also help you to get into contact with the local farm youth adviser.

Note: If you have any problems that you cannot sort out with your host family, you should contact the Regional Young Farmer's Clubs office or Travel to Farm.

You are not allowed to leave the farm without a specific agreement with your host farmer as well as Travel to Farm.

Conditions:

Working hours:

General working hours for trainees placed by Travel to Farm is 37 hours per week.

During peak seasons such as sowing and harvest there will usually be extra work. As a rule you will get extra time off in compensation for any hours exceeding 37 hours a week. The host farmer can choose to pay you extra for overtime work instead of giving you extra time off.

Trainees work alongside the host farmer and possible Danish workers. No student should work longer hours than the farmer himself. Trainees who want to work with cattle or pigs must be prepared to work on Saturdays and Sundays. All trainees must be prepared to work on Saturdays and possibly Sundays during peak seasons.



Free time

As a general rule, trainees will have at least one day off per weekend. On farms with livestock, however, where trainees usually work every second weekend and have two days off every other week.

Holidays

Trainees will get 2½ days holidays per month, or 15 days during a 6 months period. The holidays must be held during the training period. Host farmer and trainee should agree on a

suitable time. When counting holidays one week holiday is equal to 6 holidays as Saturday counts a working day.

The trainee has additionally 6 days off, of which one is 24 December. The additional holidays can, if not held, be paid out with DKK 477,00 per day.

Wages and tax

The monthly salary before taxes is DKK 8.090,16 plus meals. At some farms you will cook some or all of your own meals. You will get additional money to buy your food.

The host farm shall provide a room for the trainee, including heat, electricity, water, bed sheets and towels. The price for this room is fixed to DKK 1.500/month, which is deducted from your salary.

Tax deduction is approximately 48 per cent; the exact percentage varies slightly from municipality to municipality. Taxes are also deducted from the value of free meals, which is estimated to DKK 2,250 in 2013.

If you can prove that you have a permanent residence in your home country and at the same time have a temporary job in Denmark, the tax rules state that you do not have to pay tax of the value of food.

Payment for extra work hours during peak seasons is DKK 96,74,- per hour, for the first two hours per day, before tax. If you have more than two overtime hours in one day, the payment will be DKK 116,3 per hour. Remember that the host

farmer can choose to give you free time (1:1) instead of over-time payment.

Holiday allowance is 13,5 %, which will be paid 1st of May the following year or when leaving Denmark permanently.

Please bear in mind that the purpose of staying as a trainee in a foreign country is not to earn money, but to learn and to see life and customs in another country. You can often earn more money in your home country than you will be able to earn the first 6 months in a foreign country.

Contract and probation period

A contract will be made on your training stay. The first three months are a probation period. During this period the farmer as well as the trainee can decide to cancel with two weeks notice. After the probation period there is one months notice.

If the farmer claims lack of practical experience or language knowledge and the complaints are found reasonable by Travel to Farm or our representative, the training stay will be cancelled, and the trainee will be sent home. In case of other problems we shall usually try to find a new placement.

If the host farmer and the trainee agree, the contract can be prolonged up to maximum 18 months.

Work permit

Trainees from the Nordic countries: You do not need a work permit.

Trainees from EU member states and Switzerland:



You must have a residence permit in order to be registered with the local Danish municipality. The Application is handed out at the administration in Denmark. Your host family will help you to do so immediately after you have arrived in Denmark.

Trainees from all other countries: You must have a work permit. Our co-operation partner in your country will help you to obtain the permit. This normally lasts up to 12 weeks.

Important: Please note that you must get the work permit stamped in your passport by the Danish Embassy or consulate in your home country. Thus, you are not allowed to travel to Denmark and start your training period until you have obtained the work permit.

The permit is given for a specific employer, so you are not allowed to work anywhere else on this permit. If a change of host farm is necessary you will have to apply for a new permit, which might take another 8-12 weeks. You are not allowed to work at the new place before you have the new permit.

Health and accident Insurance:

General rules: Please ask the Travel to Farm office or the Regional Young Farmer's Clubs in case you have questions regarding insurance and public health care system.



Accidents:

The host farmers will insure the trainees the whole period against **accidents during work hours.**

Health insurance:

The trainee is covered by the Danish public health insurance from the day of arrival (when you have been at the municipality and registered) meaning that visit to doctors and hospitalization is free.

Medicine is paid partly by trainee. Dental care is also only covered partly by the public health system.

Additional insurance:

In addition to the public health insurance the trainee will have to pay for an insurance through Travel to Farm covering repatriation (home transportation in case of severe illness or death), visit by a family member in case of hospitalization as well as accidents during his/her free time. The price is DKK 84,- per month for European trainees, and DKK 103,- per month for overseas trainees, which must be paid for the whole period together with the administration fee.

Trainees should not draw any insurance in their home country, as they in any case will have the insurances provided by Travel to Farm!

Registration at the Municipality in Denmark:

When you arrive to your host farm in Denmark, the farmer will take you to the local authorities to get you registered. At this visit you must show your work permit and any papers relevant

for your tax payment, like proof that you are a student or have a permanent address in your home country.

Administration fee

In order to cover the costs of our administrative work we charge an administration fee from all incoming trainees.

For the year 2013 the fees are as follows:

Stays up to 6 months: DKK 2,000

Stays more than 6 months: DKK 3,000

You will also have to pay your own travel costs from Copenhagen to your host farm.

The total amount will be deducted from your first two month's salary in Denmark according to decision of Travel to Farm.

In addition to the administration fee, you will have to pay yourself the additional insurance described above. (DKK 84/month or DDK 103/month)

Drivers licence:

Generally, we request the trainees to have a driver's licence. A car driver's licence (category B) allows you to drive a tractor in the public road in Denmark.

Trainees from the Nordic countries and EU member states:

Nordic or EU Driver's licence is valid unlimited.

Trainees all other countries: All trainees must bring an **international driver's licence** written in Latin letters, valid for the entire training period.

If a trainee does not hold an international driving licence on the date of arrival to Denmark, he must cover the costs of changing his national licence to a Danish one himself **or** getting an officially stamped translation. These costs can amount to more than DKK 1,000.

Note: Trainees from some countries in South America, Asia and Africa will be asked to take a driving test in order to obtain Danish driving licence. There will be a fee for this.

Further advice on your stay in Denmark:

The staff in Travel to Farm will do their best to assure you the best possible training conditions during your stay in Denmark. But please remember that your benefit of the stay first of all **depends on yourself!** A positive attitude to the work, to your host family and to the Danish people you meet is your most important contribution to the programme.

During your stay you will see that many things  are done differently from the way they are done in  your home country. It is therefore important to remember that you have gone abroad to experience a new life style. You are a new member of the host family and should therefore try to fit into their lifestyle as good as possible instead of trying to change it.

The Danish host families generally like it, when trainees, show interest in agriculture and in the Danish society in general. Therefore, ask questions if you want to know more.

Many trainees may get a culture shock when they come to a new country to live. After having built up high expectations you are suddenly facing reality.

It is not unusual to go through a period when you feel down and a little depressed. This period is likely to come after 2-8 weeks in your new country, but it could come anytime. If you feel depressed or homesick it will often help you to talk to your host family about it and/or to another trainee, maybe from your own country, which is placed on a farm not too far from you.

A period like this will usually pass in a few weeks. If it goes on for long, however, you should write or phone us at Travel to Farm.

We send a "Points to discuss"- sheet to your host family, before your arrival. The subjects listed on the sheet should be discussed with your host family within the first week after your arrival in Denmark. This will help answering many of your questions on practical matters and hopefully help to avoid misunderstandings between you and your host family. It contains points about meal times, laundry, smoking, working hours, mailing system etc.

Study tour



Each year Travel to Farm arranges a 3-4 days study tour to Copenhagen and the island of Sjælland. The study tour usually takes place in June. The programme will be sent out to all trainees in Denmark 4-6 weeks before the tour starts.

The study tour includes both technical visits and tourist sights in Copenhagen and on the island of Sjælland. Thus, you may get the opportunity to see other farms than your host farm or visit a slaughterhouse. You will also visit the Axelborg Building in Copenhagen, where agricultural organisations have their head office. This is also where Travel to Farm is situated.

The programme also includes visits to The Viking Ship Museum in the city of Roskilde, the Carlsberg Brewery and The Tivoli Gardens, the famous amusement park in the heart of Copenhagen.



We recommend that you participate in this exciting tour, which also gives you a unique opportunity of meeting trainees from many other countries.

Please note that information in this booklet may be subject to changes.

Facts about Denmark

Area: 43,000 km² (16,640 sq.mi.)

Population: 5.5 million. Average density about 119 per km².

Largest cities:

Copenhagen metropolitan area, 1,2 million inhabitants.

Aarhus, 238,000

Odense, 158,000

Aalborg, 122,000

Royal family:

Queen Margrethe II, born April 16, 1940

Prince Consort: Prince Henrik, born June 11, 1934

Crown Prince Frederik, born May 26, 1968

Crown Princess Mary, born 5 February 1972

Prince Christian, born 15 October 2005

Princess Isabella, born 21 April 2007

Prince Vincent and Princess Josephine (twins!), born 8 January 2011

Prince Joachim, born June 7, 1969

Parliament:

“Folketinget”, the Danish Parliament, is situated on Christiansborg Castle in Copenhagen. It has one chamber with 179 members, including two from the Faeroe Islands and two from Greenland.

During recent years, 8 parties have been represented in “Folketinget”. The largest parties are the Social Democrats, the Liberals, The Danish Folk Party, the Conservatives and the Socialist Party.

Climate:

Denmark has a fairly mild, temperate climate. Average temperature the whole year is 7.9 degrees Celsius. Coldest month with 0.0 degrees Celsius (January and February) and warmest month with 15.7 degrees Celsius (August). Average rainfall the whole year is 712 mm.

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Your own notes

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