

Landoekonomisk RejseBureau  
Copenhagen  
Denmark

”Typical” placements in Danish farms 2004

Dear partners,

Here follows, for your information, and as an orientation for your possible applicants, descriptions of some "Typical Danish Farms", which does not exist in reality, but I have looked at the average size of full time farms with dairy or pig production.

The typical Danish farm would be specialized in either dairy or pig production, or only have plant production of sales crops.

Dairy or pig farms would normally have an area big enough to ensure harmony between the number of animals and the size of the agricultural land.

So, pig and dairy farms would normally have a quite large area with plant production as well.

The average, full time pig farm would have 87 hectares, 124 sows and 662 slaughter hogs at the time, production of hogs would be three times higher per year.

They would have 2.5 workers in average, including the farmer and possible family members.

I find this size a little small, actually. Looking at our host farms with pigs, they would have from 150 to 1000 sows, and similar land size from maybe 75 to 3-400 hectares.

They would often have more than one employee, and the trainee's jobs could be specialized in pig production or a mix of stable and field work.

Often, pig farms are further specialized in either sow/piglets or slaughter hogs, so one farmer will produce piglets and sell to the neighbours. But you could also find larger pig farms with the whole production.

Few of our host farms are specialized breeding units, selling breeding animals to other farmers.

And finally, we see between our host farmers a few with outdoor pig production, which is becoming more and more common in Denmark.

The average, full time dairy farm would have 77 hectares, 63 cows plus youngstock, and have 2.2 employees, including farmer and family members.

As for the dairy farms, most of our host farms would often have from 100 to 150 cows. A few would be larger and few would be smaller, but none less than 50 cows.

All newly build stables would have loose-housing (laufenstall), and have more than 100 cows.

Among the dairy farms, we would find more organic farmers, maybe about 10 in all.

1/3 of our trainees would have some or all meals on their own.

We have a few host farms specialized in traditional arable production (grain, rape seed, peas, grass for seed), but only about five.

Add to this, we have 5-10 or maybe more farms specialized in vegetable and fruit production.

We also have 2-3 fur farms as host farmers, as well as few farms with horses and chickens. These placements could be asked for, but not guaranteed..

Yours sincerely,

Hans-Henrik Joergensen