



Danish Agriculture & Food Council

The Danish Agriculture & Food Council represents the farming and food industry of Denmark including businesses, trade and farmers' associations.

Agriculture and food are Denmark's largest industry and innovation grouping, employing some 170,000 people and exporting agricultural products, food and equipment to an annual value of approx. € 20 billion.

The Danish Agriculture & Food Council is the result of a merger of five organisations: Danish Agriculture, the Danish Bacon and Meat Council, the Danish Agricultural Council, the Danish Dairy Board and Danish Pig Production.

The Danish Agriculture & Food Council

- Promotes the political influence of the agricultural sector
- Offers a comprehensive range of cost-effective services for its members
- Implements research and development programmes within food safety and veterinary issues, animal health and productivity, animal welfare, environment and energy.

The Danish Agriculture & Food Council handles the professional interests of its members, including:

- Overall industrial policy and regulatory framework
- Research and innovation policy
- Trade and market policy and the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- Animal welfare
- Food safety
- Environmental and energy policies

The Danish Agriculture & Food Council owns SEGES, which is the research and innovation centre for the Danish Agricultural Advisory Service.

Learn more:

www.agricultureandfood.dk



Nutrients naturally present in milk and dairy

Milk and dairy foods are composed of macronutrients (proteins, lipids and carbohydrates), all of which contribute to their nutritional and biological value. They also contain a wide range of micronutrients including vitamins and minerals which perform important functions in the body. More specifically, milk contains protein, calcium, vitamin B12, riboflavin (vitamin B2), phosphorus and potassium in amounts that qualify for the nutrition claim of being a 'source of ' these particular nutrients. In some, but not all, European countries, milk can also be claimed as a source of iodine. The variation in iodine content is primarily due to differences in cows' diets between countries. Milk also contributes, although to a lesser extent, to the intake of many other nutrients including vitamin A, pantothenic acid (vitamin B5), niacin, folate, vitamin B6, magnesium, selenium and zinc. Products made from milk such as yoghurt, fermented milks and cheese also contain a wide range of the nutrients naturally present in milk.

Functions of nutrients

The nutrients naturally present in milk perform a number of important functions in the body. These range from the well-known favorable effects of calcium on bones and teeth through to the role of B vitamins in psychological function and in reducing tiredness and fatigue. The nutrients in milk also play a part in nerve and muscle function, energy release, vision, blood clotting and red blood cell formation, digestive enzymes, iron metabolism, blood pressure, skin health, the immune system and in growth.

<http://www.milknutritiousbynature.eu/index.php?id=12>



Animal Welfare

The achievement of high welfare standards is paramount throughout the whole production chain, on the farm, during transport and finally at the abattoir.

Danish producers export meat and meat products to 140 countries around the world and observing high standards remains crucial to maintaining their market position. The achievement of high welfare standards is paramount throughout the whole production chain, on the farm, during transport and finally at the abattoir.

Danish welfare legislation and standards

Although Danish animal welfare legislation is linked to EU Directives, in many areas it exceeds these requirements. Some examples include the mandatory provision of showering systems for most categories of pigs and requirements for fixed or drained flooring rather than the more traditional type of fully slatted floor. In addition, there are specific requirements for hospital pens and vehicles for transporting pigs.

Animal welfare standards are based on a mix of statutory requirements and a number of independently monitored industry assurance schemes, which underpin high standards of animal husbandry in Denmark. New regulations and legislation are implemented rapidly at farm level due to the close partnership between public authorities and the industry, as well as an efficient information and advisory system.

Transport

In Denmark, there are strict statutory requirements for the transport of animals, designed to ensure their comfort and protect them from injury and unnecessary suffering. Denmark has an exemplary record in continually improving transport standards, which have led to a position where pig mortality rates during transport are among the lowest in the world. Transport distances are also very short in Denmark. In fact, the journey time is less than three hours for 95% of all animals transported to Danish abattoirs.

There have been major improvements in the handling of animals during transportation from the farm to the abattoir, including improved loading facilities, ventilation on the lorries and use of non-slip flooring when transporting pigs or cattle. Veterinarians at the abattoir check that each transport vehicle is properly equipped.

<http://www.agricultureandfood.dk/danish-agriculture-and-food/animal-welfare>



Danish Dairy Industry

Exports of dairy products account for more than 20 percent of all Danish agricultural exports.

The Danish dairy industry consists of the international dairy group Arla Foods and 30 smaller dairy companies, together processing 4.7 billion kg milk from a total of 61 production plants in Denmark.

Cooperatively owned by Danish and Swedish milk producers, Arla Foods is Europe's largest dairy group. The Arla group processes more than 90 percent of the Danish and two thirds of the Swedish milk pool. It also runs dairy operations in a number of other countries, with Arla UK plc as its biggest business.

The remaining 30 Danish dairies are evenly distributed between cooperatively and privately owned companies. The small dairies typically specialise in various product areas within cheese, butter and liquid milk production. A large part of their production is exported by specialised exporters.

Exports of dairy products, in particular cheese, preserved milk products and butter, account for more than 20 percent of all Danish agricultural exports. The largest market for Danish dairy products is the other EU countries.

The value of all Danish dairy exports totals EUR 1.8 billion annually. The domestic market is, to a large extent, a market for domestic dairy production, although imported cheese and yoghurt now account for approx. 25 percent and 20 percent, respectively, of total domestic consumption. The market share of foreign milk remains moderate.

Like the processing sector, the Danish milk producers have seen tremendous structural change, with production now taking place on a small number of large farms. In 2010, approx. 4,100 dairy farmers each had an average of 127 cows and a milk quota of 1,142 tonnes. This places the Danish dairy farmers among the largest and most modern in Europe. More than half the cows live in new loose-housing systems.

<http://www.agricultureandfood.dk/danish-agriculture-and-food/danish-dairy-industry>



Danish Pig Meat Industry

Denmark is among the world's largest pig meat exporters.

For more than 100 years, the production of pigs and pig meat has been a major source of income for Denmark. Approx. 90 percent of the production is exported and is thereby essential to the Danish economy and the balance of trade. The Danish pig industry is among the world leaders in areas such as breeding, quality, food safety, animal welfare and traceability. This is the reason why Denmark is among the world's largest pig meat exporters.

Danish pig meat producers observe high standards of animal welfare, and pig farmers constantly strive to improve the welfare of live pigs. Danish pig production is characterised by high food safety standards and good animal health. Environmentally sustainable production methods are key to Danish pig production.

Around 5,000 pig farms in Denmark produce approx. 28 million pigs annually. Most pigs are slaughtered at the co-operative abattoirs Danish Crown and Tican. In addition, a substantial number of live piglets are exported, mainly to Germany.

Exports of pig meat account for almost half of all agricultural exports and for more than 5 percent of Denmark's total exports. More than 70 percent of Danish pig meat production is exported to other EU countries, and the remaining part is exported to countries outside the EU.

Danish pig meat is exported to more than 140 countries, and the largest markets in terms of volume are Germany, UK, Poland, China, Japan, Italy, Russia and Sweden.

<http://www.agricultureandfood.dk/danish-agriculture-and-food/danish-pig-meat-industry>



Danish Seed Sector

Denmark is a leading producer of grass, clover and horticultural seeds.

There are approximately 5,000 seed growers in Denmark and they produce around 40 % of total EU production of grass seeds, and horticultural seeds, such as spinach, chrysanthemum, cabbage, herbs and flowers, also make up a substantial part of Danish seed production.

Danish seed production dates back several generations, and, over the years, growers and seed companies have gained detailed knowledge and considerable expertise in seed production. Also, the Danish climate favours the production of seeds.

Grass and clover seeds are used for the following three purposes:

- Clover grass or pure grass blends for animal feed, in particular cattle (grazing or silage) or horses, sheep etc.
- Professional use of lawn seed grasses for golf courses, sports facilities and grass verges
- Private home lawns

The widespread use of grass and clover requires constant development of new varieties with improved properties, such as better tolerance to sun, drought, shade, moist soil and resistance to diseases. Among the characteristics of livestock feed grass are high feed quality, improved digestibility and good growth. The important properties of lawn grasses are appearance, wear resistance, shoot density and colour.

Danish exports

Denmark is a leading producer of grass, clover and horticultural seeds. More than 90% of the total production of grass, clover and horticultural seeds is exported to more than 100 countries. Exports represent an annual value of € 275 million.

<http://www.agricultureandfood.dk/danish-agriculture-and-food/danish-seed-sector>



The Environment

Food production interacts with the environment but much can be done to ensure that this is as positive an interaction as possible, thus minimising its impact.

Danish farmers seek to combine care for the environment and consideration for their neighbours with the management of efficient, modern husbandry production systems.

The industry acknowledges the impact of modern farms on the environment and then acts to minimise this impact at all levels, be it local, national or global.

In their immediate surroundings, farmers strive to reduce emissions of ammonia and odour by using the most advanced technology available and by following strict Danish regulations governing this area. Permits are required from the authorities before new animal production units can be built or existing units expanded. In future, these will be situated away from environmentally vulnerable areas and operated with due consideration to possible odour impacts on neighbours.

Crop producers in Denmark have progressively substituted significant amounts of artificial fertilizer by increasing their utilisation of slurry from pig, cattle and poultry farms on arable land. Through this more natural recycling of nutrients, the loss of nitrogen from Danish crop farming to the aquatic environment since 1985 has fallen by 56 percent. Likewise, phosphorous losses have been reduced by 98 percent since 1985.

Denmark has been a frontrunner in the implementation of environmental legislation for many years. The authorities have strived to implement all EU Directives in Danish legislation and in many areas Denmark's national legislation exceeds the requirements of EU Directives. For example, Danish crop producers may only spread a maximum of 140 kg of nitrogen in the form of pig slurry per hectare of land, compared to 170 kg in other European countries. In contrast to EU standards, Danish farmers are also controlled by fixed limits for odour nuisance affecting neighbours and nearby residential areas.

The Danish authorities employ one of the world's strictest agricultural control systems. In the environmental area, unannounced inspections are carried out to check land use, feed mixtures, fertilizer accounts, distance to watercourses, management of slurry and chemicals, as well as health and safety conditions.

<http://www.agricultureandfood.dk/danish-agriculture-and-food/environment>



Food Safety

High standards of safety in the production of Danish food.

High standards of safety in the production of Danish food give both customers and consumers confidence that every possible effort has been made to deliver safe and nutritious food. Ensuring food safety is a complex issue as it involves all stages of a fully comprehensive production chain.

Danish food safety legislation often exceeds that of other EU Member States – with full support of the industry. However, fulfilling legal requirements is only part of a wider remit to deliver the safest food to demanding customers worldwide. Even the most rigorous legislation cannot embrace all the complexities of food safety. The delivery of high standards of food safety requires the industry itself to take the initiative in embracing a wholly responsible attitude.

Food safety – how we achieve it

At farm level, many strategies have been implemented to maintain healthy herds. Such programmes reduce the presence of zoonoses as well as imposing strict bio security measures to prevent any spread of animal disease. Many Danish producers have a formal Health Advisory Agreement with their local veterinarian. A strategy is also in place to eliminate any unnecessary use of veterinary medicines. A high level of animal health therefore coexists with one of the lowest usages of medication among major livestock producing countries. The use of pesticides on all crops, including those grown for feed, is also strictly controlled by legislation. Extensive surveillance programmes confirm that residues in Danish meat are virtually non-existent.

All abattoirs have implemented self-audit programmes, supervised by the authorities and based on detailed risk assessment procedures linked to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP). Through industry-led initiatives, such as the Global Red Meat Standard (GRMS), Danish abattoirs have set even higher standards than those required by legislation. Extensive training programmes for managers and employees as well as independent control measures ensure that these higher standards are properly implemented.

For some years there has been growing public concern about the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Although a separate issue is the use of antibiotics in the human population, the Danish agricultural industry acknowledges its responsibility to minimise the use of antibiotics in the rearing of its livestock. In addition to the initiatives taken to reduce use of veterinary medicines, the industry also stopped the use of all antibiotic growth promoters in 2000, six years ahead of the ban implemented across all EU Member States.

<http://www.agricultureandfood.dk/danish-agriculture-and-food/food-safety>



Ingredients & Biotech

Danish Agriculture & Food Council supports and develops the strong global position of the Danish ingredients and biotech sectors.

Our profound knowledge and consultancy services are at the disposal of your company. We work at ensuring the best possible framework for the sectors and give companies the possibility of finding inspiration and sharing experience with other companies as well as public and private institutions with an interest in biotechnology and ingredients.

Our customers are companies and associations representing the entire value chain – biotech companies, producers of raw materials intended for ingredients, ingredients producers and companies using biotechnology and ingredients for e.g. feed, food and beverages.

Our employees are specialists within the agriculture and food business and offer services covering Denmark and the global market. At the same time we offer competences built on a combination of political and technical knowledge about the entire value chain.

Biotechnology and Ingredients in Denmark

Danish biotechnology and ingredients companies deliver products and solutions which contribute to solving global challenges such as the population growth, pressure on resources, climate impact and lifestyle diseases.

Danish biotechnology and ingredients companies focus intently on export markets. In 2013, companies within the feed and food sectors exported DKK 27 billion worth out of an annual turnover of DKK36 billion. This figure corresponds to approx. 5 % of the total Danish exports of goods and results in the sector having a 10 % market share worldwide.

This global view provides great business opportunities, but to an increasing extent also requires companies to operate on a larger and more complex market. Networks between new partnerships and new competitors will in future replace simple business models. Furthermore, companies will be challenged on their access to raw materials, new knowledge concerning customers' needs and development of competences.

<http://www.agricultureandfood.dk/danish-agriculture-and-food/ingredients-biotech>



Mink and Fur

Denmark is the world's largest producer of mink skins.

Denmark is the world's largest producer of mink skins. Danish mink skins are the most expensive on the world market, which is due to the fact that Danish mink farmers produce a superior fur quality in high demand by consumers.

Every year 2,000 Danish fur farmers produce approx. 14 million mink skins. In addition to mink, Denmark also produces a small number of fox, chinchilla and rabbit skins.

Kopenhagen Fur, the largest fur auction house in the world and global hub for the fur trade, sells the 14 million Danish mink skins and around 7 million mink skins from other countries annually. China is the largest market. Mink skins account for about one third of Danish exports to China.

Fur and mink skins are the third largest Danish agricultural export items of animal origin, representing an annual export value of approx. EUR 0,5 billion.

<http://www.agricultureandfood.dk/danish-agriculture-and-food/mink-and-fur>



New Nordic Cuisine

Quality, purity and ethics are key elements in the New Nordic Cuisine.

Food and gastronomy begins with the landscape. Out of Denmark's fertile soil and rough weather, Danes have developed a taste for simplicity, tempered by inspiration from the more refined cuisines of milder climates. Long winters and a taste for seafaring made way for various methods of preservation - salting, smoking or pickling - as well as a preference for the coarse black bread made of rye. Today, the open rye bread sandwich with fresh butter and pickled herring remains a cornerstone of the Danish lunch tradition.

Until recently, many local ingredients from the Nordic tradition of cooking were dismissed as being unworthy of the attention of leading chefs. This all changed, however, when a new generation of ambitious chefs reinvented the concept of Nordic terroir and embarked on a journey of rediscovery of herbs, berries, root vegetables etc. These products have come to symbolise the commitment to quality, purity and ethics which is the basis for the New Nordic Cuisine movement.

The insistence of the new breed of Danish gastronomes on using only the very best local raw materials has boosted high-end production in all categories: dairy, meat, fish, fruits and vegetables. Thus, complementing the mainstream products, New Nordic Cuisine has catalysed a renewed interest in local specialties such as lamb from the marshes or cod roe from the Baltic Sea.

The secret behind the successful transformation of a gastronomic trend into mainstream product development for global consumers may lie in the unique structure of Danish agriculture and food production. In major sectors, such as meat and dairy, more than 90 percent of the total production is from farmer-owned co-operatives. This traditional integration of the value chain from stable to table ensures consistent supply and quality, allowing food companies to devote full attention to meeting global consumer demands.

<http://www.agricultureandfood.dk/danish-agriculture-and-food/new-nordic-cuisine>



Organic Farming

Denmark has the highest market share of organic products in the world. And the market is growing, with dairy products, eggs, oatmeal, wheat flour and carrots as the most popular items on the shopping list of Danish organic consumers.

An increasing number of organic products are sold in Denmark. Proportionally, the organic market in Denmark is the biggest in the world, with organic food making up 8 percent of the total food market.

The Danes prefer organic dairy products, eggs, oatmeal, wheat flour and carrots. One in three litres of milk bought by Danish consumers is organic and every other litre of milk consumed by pupils in Danish schools carries the red organic label. The production of organic eggs accounts for 17 percent of total egg production. Also consumers' appetite for organic fruit and vegetables has grown; organic fruit and vegetables have increased their share of the total food consumption from 19 percent in 2006 to 23 percent in 2010. The market share of organic meat, however, remains relatively low.

Import and export

Consumer demand for a broad range of organic products has resulted in Danish imports of organic products exceeding exports. Organic exports consist of dairy products, pig meat, grain and animal feed. Germany is by far the largest export market, followed by Sweden, France and the UK. Danish imports consist of organic fruit and vegetables, grain and animal feed from other EU countries, in particular the Netherlands, Germany and Italy.

Approx. 7 percent of the Danish land area is used for organic farming and the Government's aim is to reach 15 percent organically farmed land area by 2020.

<http://www.agricultureandfood.dk/danish-agriculture-and-food/organic-farming>