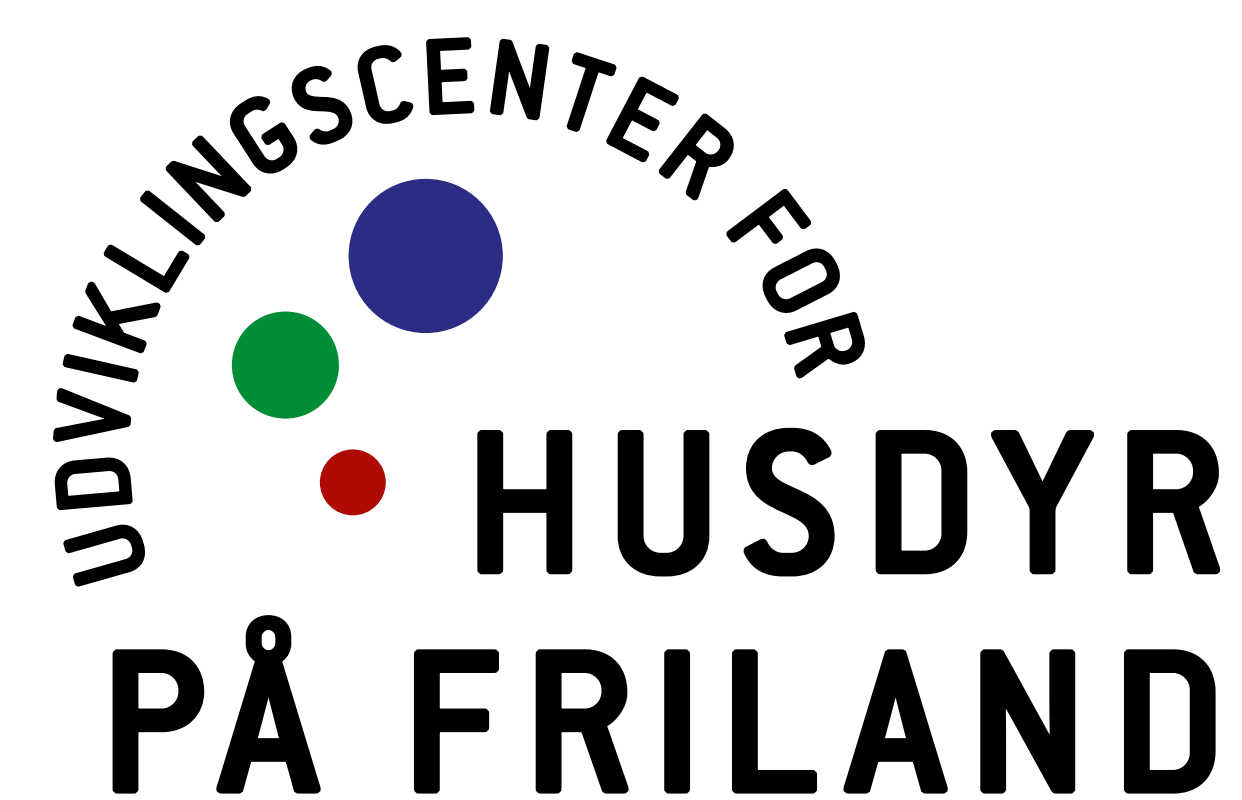


FOCUS ON PIG WELFARE IN OUTDOOR PRODUCTION SYSTEMS



OUTDOOR PIG PRODUCTION IN DENMARK

- Pregnant sows are often outdoors on pasture all year – or in deep litter systems with outdoor access
- Lactating sows and their suckling piglets are on pasture all year
- Weaned and growing pigs are commonly housed indoors with access to a concrete outdoor yard
- Organic and conventional outdoor production concepts, each currently producing approximately 100.000 slaughter pigs annually
- Recommended by the Danish Animal Welfare Society

WHAT IS THE Center of Development for Outdoor Livestock Production (UHF)?

- Independent development unit
- Established jointly by the Danish Animal Welfare Society and Friland A/S. The Danish Animal Welfare Society is the oldest and largest animal welfare organization in Denmark with approximately 70.000 members. Friland A/S is a Danish food company specialized in international marketing and selling of organic and free-range meat. Friland A/S is world leading in export of organic meat
- Staff of 4 – with an education in animal science, veterinary science and pig farming technology, respectively, and with expertise in organic agriculture, pig welfare and pig husbandry – as well as project management
- Project collaboration with farmers, advisors and researchers from universities and the industry, as well as organizations such as Organic Denmark and Danish Agriculture & Food Council

MISSION:

- Increase the number of pigs being reared in outdoor production systems with a high level of animal welfare

MEANS:

- Project focus: Improving animal welfare, environment and production efficiency on-farm
 - Development of outdoor production standards
 - Development of improved outdoor facilities and production conditions
 - Development of improved husbandry methods
- Public and private funding – as well as economic support from Friland A/S and the Danish Animal Welfare Society

PROJECTS CONCERNING THE WELFARE OF GROWING PIGS

- Development and testing of a concept for outdoor rearing of weaned pigs – focusing on animal welfare, environmental impact as well as farmer working conditions and economy
- Production of entire male pigs with low prevalence of boar taint – several projects concerning e.g. test of various feeds/forage, pig hygiene, indoor/outdoor housing, and grouping strategies. Focus on boar taint and animal welfare
- Tail biting in outdoor pig production – prevalence, risk factors, and herd specific preventive measures
- Improved housing systems for outdoor growing pigs with focus on animal welfare and environment/hygiene – enrichment of the concrete outdoor yard: pig rooting behavior and thermal comfort

PROJECTS CONCERNING THE WELFARE OF SOWS AND SUCKLING PIGLETS

- Demonstration of robust sow breeds for outdoor production – piglet survival and maternal abilities
- Development and testing of novel designs of single-sow and multiple-sow huts for lactating sows and piglets – several projects focusing on piglet survival, sow and piglet behavior, and farmer working conditions
- Enrichment of the farrowing paddocks with access to willow trees – assessment of animal behavior and welfare



CONCLUSION: UHF IS WORKING FOR TWO EQUAL GOALS:

1. More outdoor pigs, in production systems that are economically as well as environmentally sustainable
2. Improving pig welfare in outdoor production systems

UHF welcomes national and international collaboration with farmers, advisors, industry, government and researchers in development projects with these aims.