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PRESS RELEASE

Swedish farmers feed organic grains to keep a cow's stomach in good shape

Swedish dairy sector has been struggling much in the recent years due to low world market prices. The amount of dairy farms went below 4.000 in the spring by the end of 2016. The current amount of milking cows are 320.000 pieces making an average heard size about 85 cows. In the last 12 month period the milk price has increased by 33 % for regular milk and by 8% for organic production. In Sweden, despite the negative dairy trends, a lot of progressive and innovative dairy farmers are rapidly increasing the heard sizes and optimizes there business to strengthen the competitiveness. A lot of progression has been made to find a better spot on the market. That's why Swedish farmers stay connected with project EuroDairy.

Vasen Cheese

One of the Swedish pilot farms in project EuroDairy, Vasen Lantbruk, in the south east of Sweden is exceptionally active in developing the farm and his farmers' products. Over the last 20 years they have grown from 30 to 540 milking cows and that makes them to one of the largest farms in the region. In Sweden the way of selling milk for a long time has been to let the coop collect it and get payed according to the listed price. In 2010 this pilot farm has got the chance to come closer to the end customer by introducing their own brand of cheese, Vasen Cheese. This was done in partnership with agri coop Skånemejerier, now owned by Lactalis.

Organic grains

These pilot farm is always eager to test new ideas and find inspiration across Europe, since one year the sawdust is changed to manure fibre bedding and this year yield of grain will be treated with Urea and Makamon instead of conserve it with acids. By this treatment the grain can be feed in a higher ratio, still keeping the stomach of the cow in good shape.

About EuroDairy

EuroDairy is an international network to increase the economic, social and environmental sustainability of dairy farming in Europe, at a time of unprecedented challenge for the sector. Funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme, EuroDairy will foster the development and dissemination of practice-based innovation in dairy farming, targeting key sustainability issues following the abolition of milk quotas: socio economic resilience, resource efficiency, animal care, and the integration of milk production with biodiversity objectives. EuroDairy spans 14 countries, from Ireland to Poland, and from Sweden to Italy, encompassing 40% of dairy farmers, 45% of cows and 60% of European milk output. The project adopts the interactive model of the European Innovation Partnership, putting farmers at the centre of practice-based innovation, adapting and developing new and existing scientific knowledge to produce implementable solutions, which can then be shared across the network.