

Innovation Centre
for Organic Farming

Management of organic sows including Danish set of rules for free-ranged and organic sows compared to EU legislation

Heidi Mai-Lis Andersen

PPILOW WORKSHOP on free-range keeping of sows, Brønderslev 2024



STØTTET AF

Promilleafgiftsfonden for landbrug

Short about the us

- A centre for developing organic farming in Denmark
- Created as a fusion of the agricultural specialists from Organic Denmark and the Danish Agriculture & Food Council
- Established 1st October 2021 as a nonprofit research organization



Organic sows in Denmark: Rules and management



Foto: Linda Duvé

Rules for Danish organic pigs



EU rules and Danish interpretations

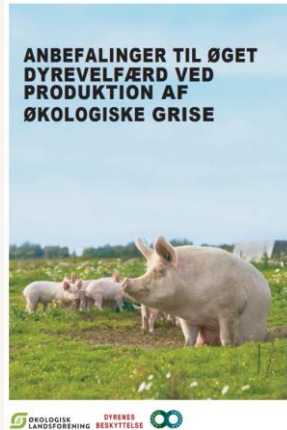
[Rapport \(lbst.dk\)](http://lbst.dk)



The Danish Environmental Protection Agency

[Indretning og drift af udendørs sohold \(husdyrvejledning.dk\)](http://husdyrvejledning.dk)

Supplementary rules for organic pigs



The industry recommendations for increased animal welfare in the production of organic pigs

[brancheanbefalinger-til-oeget-dyrevelfaerd-ved-produktion-af-oekologiske-grise-januar-2023.pdf](#)



Animal Protection

[Mærkekrav svin D23-552475.pdf](#)
(dyrenesbeskyttelse.dk)



Danish Veterinary and Food Administration

[Vejledning til Foedevarestyrelsens kontrol med hjerte besaetninger - svinebesaetninger.pdf](#)
(bedre-dyrevelfaerd.dk)

Housing

EU-regulation:

- Boars and breeding pigs can be housed indoors in the winter, if they have permanent access to an outdoor run
- It is the Danish Agency for Agriculture's assessment that all breeding pigs and piglets must have access to grazing areas when weather conditions and the condition of the soil permit



Housing, farrowing

The Industry rec., Animal Protection, Heart brand:

- All sows must farrow outdoors

The Industry rec., Animal Protection

- The minimum area is 300 m² per sow

Animal Protection, Heart brand

- Straw must be added for nest building

Animal Protection :

- Sows and gilts must be moved to the farrowing area no later than 5 days before expected farrowing
- The bedded lying area should be minimum 3,8 m² per sow



Piglets, access to feed:

EU-regulation:

- No specific rules

Animal Protection:

- Piglets on the farrowing field must have access to suitable supplementary feed from the age of 21 days, and this can be through access to the sow's feed

The Industry rec.:

- Piglets must have access to suitable supplementary feed in the farrowing field from the age of 4 weeks



Weaning age

EU-regulation:

- The weaning age is minimum 40 days

The Industry rec.:

- The average weaning age is minimum of 7 weeks

Animal Protection:

- Organic pig: The average weaning age is minimum 49 days, and minimum 40 days old
- (non organic average weaning age is minimum 35 days)



Thermoregulation

EU - regulation:

- Ensure that all pigs have the opportunity to seek shelter and shade in the farrowing hut, huts, tents or shelter shed. This can also be under trees or live fences, etc.

The Industry rec. + Animal Protection:

Farrowing paddocks during summer:

- The shade can be offered by live vegetation or other things. *Huts where a high air flow can be created by offering an extra opening of at least the same size as the animals' entrance into the hut can meet the requirement*



Thermoregulation

EU-regulation:

- In the summer period all pigs must have access to thermoregulation as shower or a mud wallow

Animal Protection:

- All pigs over 20 kg must have access to a mud wallow or shower when the average daily temperature exceeds 15°C



Area / environment

DK – regulation

Tabel 1

Weaning		Litter/ year sow	DE/årsso inkl. patte- grise	Max.*Year sows per ha, number.	Andel af sofoder i farefold, pct.	Min total area m2 / year sow	Of which in the farrowing field
Weeks	Weight						
4	7,2	2,3	0,2273	12,32	34	812	276
5	9	2,2	0,2361	11,86	39	843	329
6	12	2,1	0,2497	11,21	44	892	392
7	15	2,0	0,2620	10,69	48	936	449
8	18	1,9	0,2729	10,26	51	975	497

*Level in max. 12 months, after which there must be at least 12 months cultivation of crops with a significant nitrogen requirement

Love og vedtægter

Love og vedtægter vedr. miljø

Vejledning vedrørende indretning og drift af udendørs sohold

Arkiv nr. 95.03-02

Udgivet Januar 1993

Revideret Dec. 2014

Side 1 af 6



Indretning og drift af udendørs sohold

Formål

Formålet med byggebladet er at sikre, at udendørs sohold kan praktiseres med en acceptabel miljøpåvirkning.

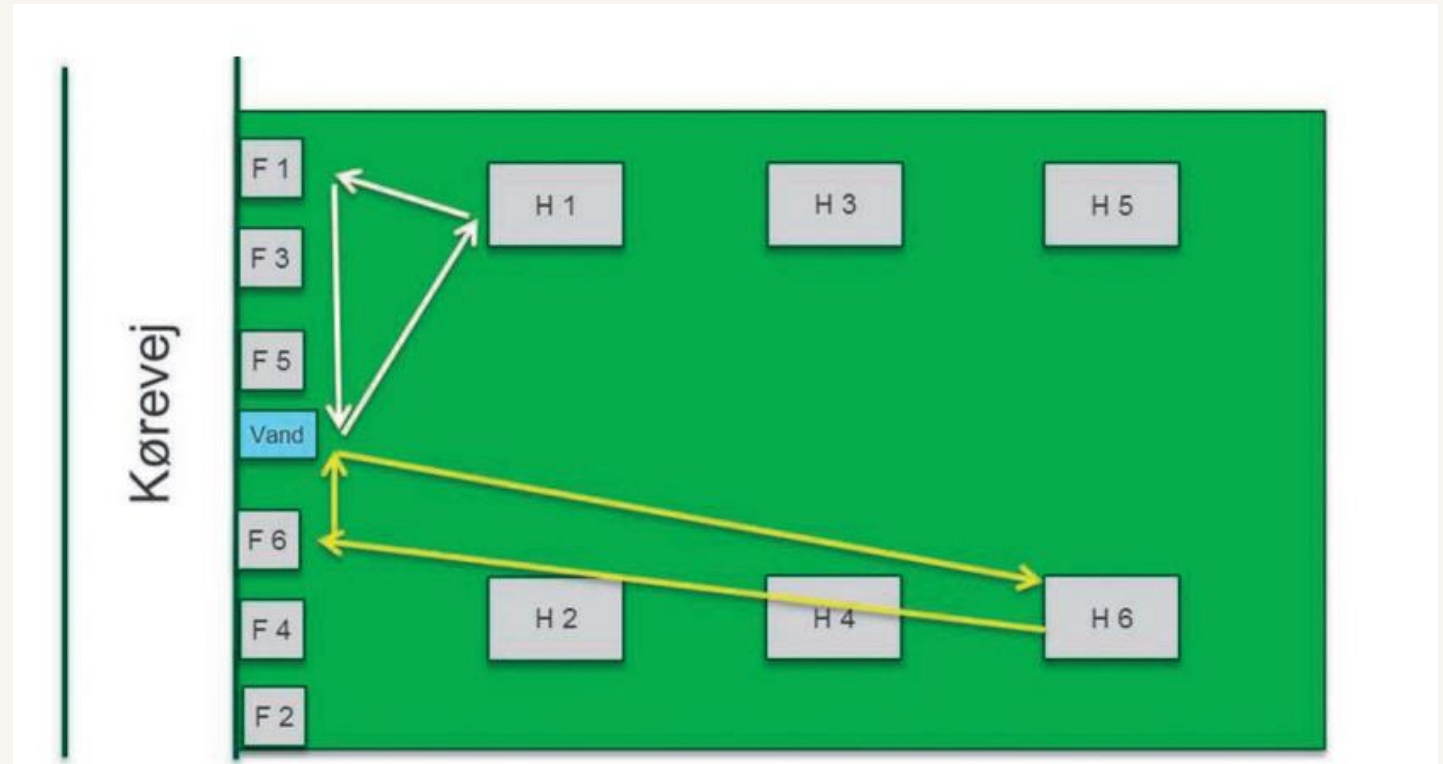
Udendørs sohold adskiller sig fra traditionelt indendørs sohold ved, at dyrene fodres på marken, og gødning og urin afsættes på arealet over hele året. Dermed fraviges de generelle krav om opsamling af gødning og urin i Bekendtgørelse om erhvervsmæssigt dyrehold, husdyrgødning, ensilage mv. Dette byggeblad beskriver reglerne for dyretæthed, placering af hytter, sølehuller og foderpladser samt sædskifte og dyrkningspraksis i markdriften. Byggebladet beskriver også en række anbefalinger til brug for opfyldelse af krav i Byggebladet.

Area / environment

DK-regulation:

Location of feedthrough and huts

- Feeding places and huts must be moved at least once every second months / after each weaning



<https://icoel.dk> > husdyr > faremarksmanualen

Examples of other rules

Bedding materiale:

EU-regulation

- You can use both organic and non-organic bedding material as straw, sand or sawdust

The Industry rec.

- If you use straw as bedding material minimum 50% should be organic

Transport:

The Industry rec., Animal Protection, Heart brand:

- The transport time must not exceed 8 hours

The Industry rec., Animal Protection

- Piglets may not be transported more than 4 hours from seller to buyer



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**Thank you for your
attention**

WWW.ICOEL.DK



Foto: Heidi Mai-Lis Andersen