

Innovation Centre
for Organic Farming

Organic milk production in Denmark

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Promilleafgiftsfonden for landbrug



Foto: Karen Munk Nielsen

Organic milk production

In 2025 organic milk production in Denmark was 582 (2024: 635) million kg, corresponding to 10.1% of total milk production.

280 (2024: 320) organic dairy farms at per January 1st, 2026.

Premium for organic milk per 1st July 2026 (Arla) was 0.59 EUR/kg milk (4,38 kr.). Premium for conventional milk was 0.42 EUR/kg milk (3,14 kr.).

Premium difference: 0.17 EUR (1,24 kr.) Per May 2025 organic compared to conventional milk was about EUR 0.08 per kg milk.

Market share in 2025 in retail for organic drinking milk was 36% in volume.

Arla Foods is the biggest organic dairy in the world

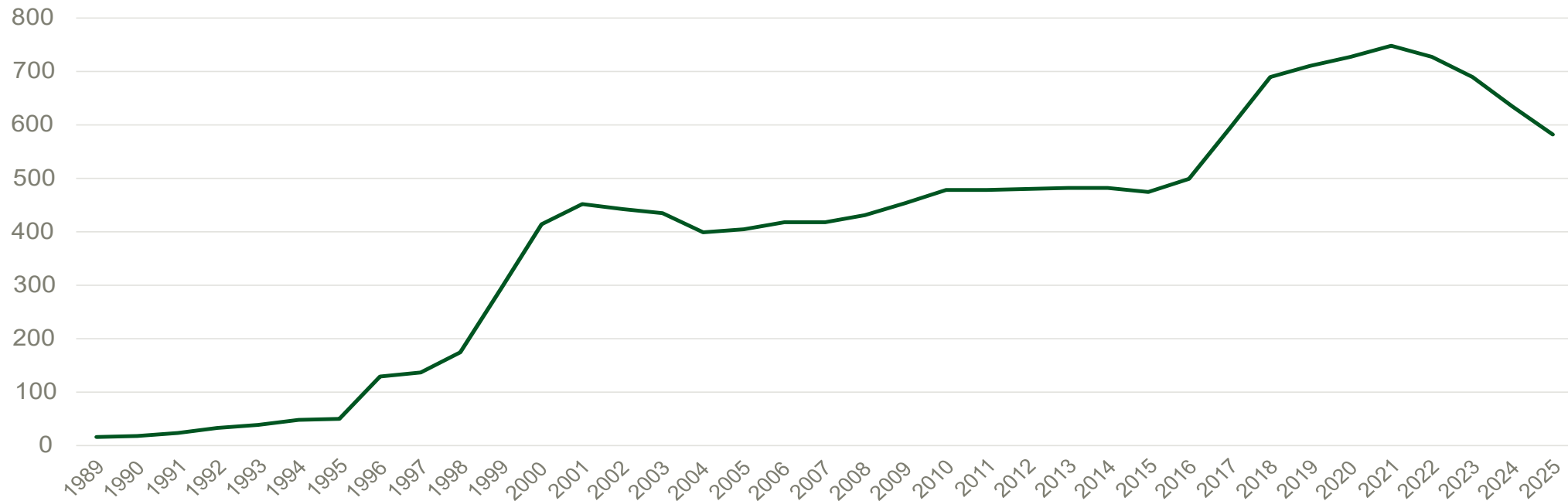


Foto: Birgit Ingvorsen

Organic milk production in Denmark



Million kg



Source: Statistics Denmark



Production of organic drinking milk

1.000 tonnes	2015	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Whole milk (3.5%)	14.9	24.5	25.8	24.8	26.3	29.1
Letmælk (1.5%)	28.1	43.5	45.3	46.7	47.2	51.2
Skummetmælk (0.3%)	100.9	85.3	75.5	75.1	71.0	71.3
Drinking milk, total	143.9	153.3	146.8	146.6	144.5	151.6

10,1% of total milk production

Conversion to organic husbandry as a climate tool

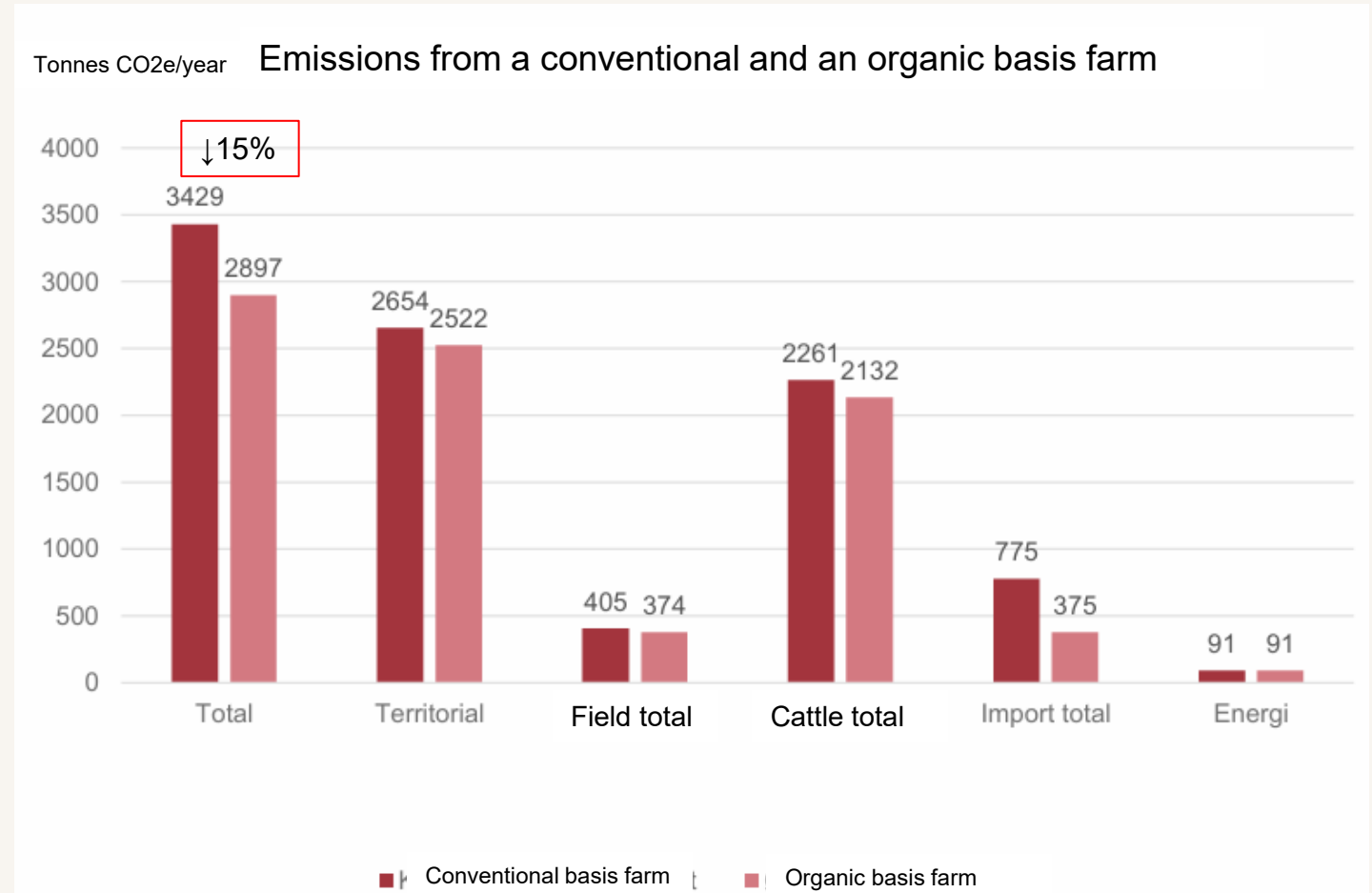


Figure 4: Climate impact as total emission, territorial emission, and distributed on field, cattle, import and energy for conventional and organic basis farm in tonnes CO₂e/year.

Conversion to organic husbandry as a climate tool

Input to the future climate tax system.

Calculated scenarios showing the climate impact of conversion from conventional to organic husbandry (focusing on emissions with tax liability).

Based on current norms, historical data, scenarios.

Conclusions

1. Organic production systems are well-positioned for a future climate tax.
2. An updated and organic adapted base of data is required to ensure rightful evidence and calculation for the future climate tax.

Impacts affecting on-farm climate impact:

1. Stocking rate
 - Decreasing stocking rate with 50% can reduce climate emissions up to 70% (scenario 2) and result in a tax advantage for smaller farms.
2. Grazing
 - Increasing grazing reduces emissions from stable and storage and increase field emissions (scenario 3).
 - Including only stable and storage emissions result in an economic advantage for farms having a high proportion of grazing.
3. Feed intensity
 - High feed intensity aiming for high milk yield increase emissions from digestion and manure/faeces (scenario 4).
 - Lower milk yield and roughage-based feeding may hence result in lower tax level. However, depending on whether tax is related to production or absolute emission.
4. Feed import
 - Actual climate impact varies depending on the origin of feedstuffs. High feed import (low self-sufficiency) increase climate impact (scenario 5).
 - Climate tax only focusing on internal emissions will not detect the difference between high and low self-sufficiency hence favouring farms having a high import proportion.

Methane emission from grazing dairy cows (MetGraz)

Aims of Metgraz

1. Quantify enteric methane production at cow and farm level (g/d, g/kg dry matter intake, and g/kg milk yield)
2. Explore the underlying mechanisms for the potential methane reduction during grazing: Grass composition, rumen fermentation, microbial synthesis, passage rate digestibility, feeding behaviour
3. Update existing climate farm tools together with Arla and Danish Crown

Results are expected in 2027, however preliminary results seem promising!

Grazing trial at Aarhus University

Treatments :

1. Indoor silage: spring growth (first cut) grass-clover silage
2. Parttime grazing: grazing during daytime (8 h/d) on perennial ryegrass and white clover pasture with indoor feeding of grass-clover silage during nighttime
3. Fulltime grazing: grazing day and night
 - 2 weeks adaptation (treatment parttime grazing)
 - 9 weeks experiment (May 6th to July 7th 2024)
 - 45 lactating Holstein dairy cows (15 cows/treatment)
 - 12 rumen cannulated cows (6 cows for indoor silage, 6 cows for fulltime grazing)
 - Concentrates: up to 5.1 kg DM/cow/day



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