

Background

The Danish outdoor sow herds are efficient systems with low antibiotic usages, but high risk of nutrient losses from the pastures challenge the production. A part of the solution is to implement trees in the paddocks, but inventive thinking regarding the paddock design and management is needed to increase the economic and environmental benefits of the trees.

Purpose

OUTFIT will contribute to the development of economically sustainable paddock designs that ensure low nutrient losses while improving animal welfare, biodiversity and carbon sequestration. The project develops, demonstrates and investigates new paddock designs with diverse trees in new designs. At the same time, OUTFIT addresses one of the biggest barriers to the implementation of trees in paddocks by having a strong focus on increasing the value of the “seized” wood area.

The project is interdisciplinary with a strong focus on organic practice, and is expected to inspire and support more producers to establish trees in paddocks for the benefit of animals, the environment, climate and biodiversity.



OUTFIT
Trees in new paddock designs for outdoor sow herds benefits the environment, economy and animal welfare

The project step by step

OUTFIT wants to:

- investigate how paddocks with trees can be designed to meet organic pig producers' diverse objectives and production conditions - using four case studies
- investigate how nutrient losses from the paddock areas can be reduced by establishing trees in new concepts and designs
- investigate the extent to which it is possible to “capture” soil nitrogen in nutrient hotspots in the paddocks using wood chips
- explore the possibilities of harvesting and ensiling green tree biomass in practice, and determine the nutritional value of the silage for pregnant sows
- clarify how the paddock designs can be improved in relation to economics, biodiversity and the climate footprint

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Read more about the project

<https://icrofs.dk/en/research/danish-research/organic-rdd-6/translate-to-english-outfit>

Project period

2021-2024

Project manager

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Pigs eat poplar silage produced in the project

Project partners

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- **Danish Technological Institute:** Søren Ugilt Larsen
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