

Added value in Swedish livestock production

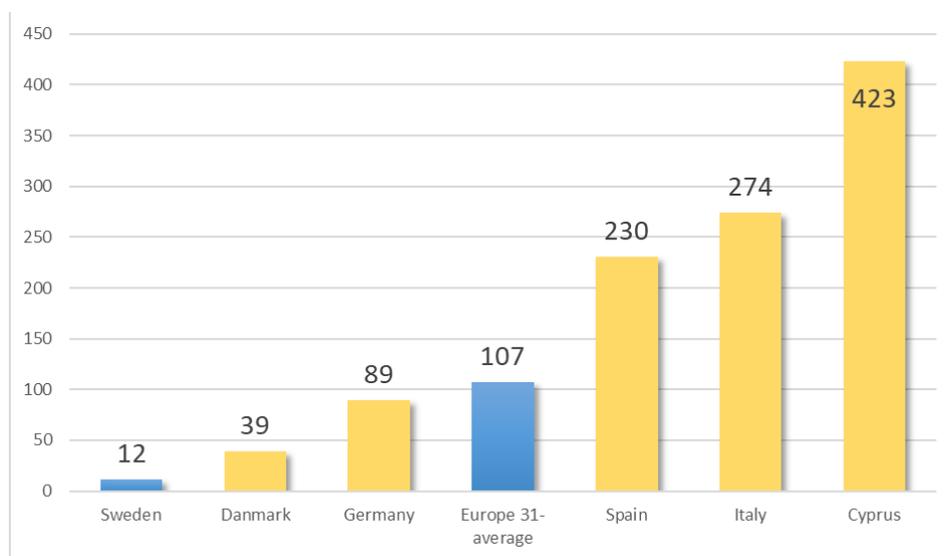
Swedish meat and milk production has an added value in comparison to other countries. At the same time, there is an increased demand for sustainably produced agricultural products among consumers and restaurants. Above all, Swedish livestock production focuses on good animal health care and prevention of animal diseases, which stands out from other countries. In addition, greenhouse gas emissions in Swedish meat and milk production are relatively low and the production contributes to biological diversity and preservation of cultural heritage assets. What exactly gives added value to Swedish meat and milk production compared to other countries?

Added value in Swedish livestock production

- Sweden can boast with the lowest antibiotic use in livestock production of all EU countries. There is no need to treat healthy animals with antibiotics. This reduces the risk of spreading resistant bacteria, and thus ensures that antibiotics are used effectively even in the future.
- There is a very low presence of bacteria, such as salmonella, in Swedish livestock production. Thus, consumers who choose to buy Swedish meat run a lower risk of getting sick in foodborne bacteria.
- Swedish animal welfare is good, and the animals are kept in an environment that improves the possibilities for them to behave naturally. The tails of the pigs are not docked (clipped off), and it is forbidden to trim the beaks of hens and chickens.
- Swedish cattle, sheep and lambs are allowed to graze outdoors and are let out to pasture in the summer. Through grazing, these animals also contribute to the preservation of natural pasture that have high biodiversity.
- Swedish animals are stunned or anaesthetized prior to surgical procedures and slaughter, and the transport to the slaughterhouse may not exceed eight hours.



- The Swedish animal welfare regulations impose relatively strict limits on levels of moisture, carbon dioxide, manure gases and noise. All Swedish animal barns must have windows, to allow daylight into the building.
- The keeping of animals in smaller units makes it possible to identify sick animals and to give them individual medical treatment.
- Due to efficient animal rearing and feed production, the carbon footprint from Swedish meat and milk production is lower than in many other countries.



The use of antibiotics in mg/PCU in Sweden and selected EU-countries in 2017. PCU (population correction unit) means the total weight in kg of live animals in a country. European Medicines Agency, 2019.

Sources:

The European Medicines Agency, 2019: Sales of veterinary antimicrobial agents in 31 European countries in 2017.

The Swedish Animal Welfare Act (SFS 1988:534); the Swedish Animal Welfare Ordinance (SFS 1988:539)

The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations.

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