European Network for Rural Development

Setting up a new pig stable at Stenbrogård

EAFRD-funded projects

DENMARK

Farm's performance, restructuring & modernisation

Location
Jordrup

Programming period
2014 – 2020

Priority
P2 – Competitiveness

Measure
M04 – Investments in physical assets

Funding (EUR)
Total budget 2 566 161
RDP contribution 513 232
Private 2 052 929

Project duration
2016 – 2018

Project promoter
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Website
n/a

Expanding the production capacity of a pig farm in Denmark, while improving animal welfare and reducing NH_3 emissions.

Summary

Stenbrogård is a conventional Danish producer of pigs for slaughter. Before the start of the project, the farm produced a total of 3 000 piglets weighing between seven and 30 kg and managed a total of 195 ha of land. The total number of Livestock Units (LU) on the farm was 582.


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The project supported establishing a new stable for pigs for slaughter with a capacity of 5 167 boxes. It also involved the construction of a new manure tank to fulfil the cross-compliance requirements for manure storage and be able to use the manure as a fertiliser on the fields.

Results

A new stable for pigs for slaughter production was established with a total capacity of 5 167 boxes. After the investment, the total capacity of the farm has increased to 8 167 boxes.

Thanks to the newly established system, it is estimated that NH_3 emissions have decreased to 7 063 kg. This is well below the recommended emission level of 7 746 kg calculated from the list of Best Available Technologies (BAT).

The beneficiary subsequently invested in another project with his own money (around EUR 100 000) of an air to air heat exchanger which is used to heat the floor in the stables. This also contributes to higher energy efficiency and reduced NH_3 emissions.

Lessons & Recommendations

- The project investments generate higher costs per kg of pig meat produced compared with a conventional production system but, according to the beneficiary this investment was necessary. He believes it is important for his animals, as well as for his clients, that environmental and animal welfare challenges are addressed.

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Context

Stenbrogård is a conventional Danish producer of pigs for slaughter. Before the start of the project, the farm produced a total of 3 000 piglets weighing between seven and 30 kg and managed a total of 195 ha of land. The total number of Livestock Units (LU) on the farm was 582.

Objectives

The main objective of this investment project was to improve the production capacity of the farm and in this way increase its competitiveness in the market.

Activities

The project supported establishing a new stable for pigs for slaughter with a capacity of 5 167 boxes. It also involved the construction of a new manure tank to fulfil the cross-compliance requirements for manure storage and be able to use the manure as fertiliser in the fields.

Main results

A new stable for pigs for slaughter production was established with a total capacity of 5 167 boxes. Following the investment, the total capacity of the farm has increased to 8 167 boxes. The expanded pig production capacity required an increase in size of the farm (either owned or leased) and thus the total farm size increased to 293 ha.

The unit price per box installed was EUR 467. The average cost per box is 50% higher than the average standard costs for similar pig boxes in Denmark, which is around EUR 336. The reason is that the farmer selected the best materials for their construction and considered the aesthetics of the facility in his choice of design and materials.

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Key lessons

The project investments generate higher costs per kg of pig meat produced compared to conventional production but, according to the beneficiary, this is necessary. He believes it is important for his animals, as well as for his clients, that environmental and animal welfare challenges are addressed.

The beneficiary had a particularly good experience with the administration during the application and payment of the grant from the managing authority.

He is also in favour of the idea that behind the investment support measure in Denmark individual projects must bring financial benefits for the farmer but also environmental and animal welfare benefits. In this case, the animal welfare and environmental benefits are linked to the reduced emissions of NH3 thanks to the highly effective ventilation system.

The beneficiary is also satisfied with the fact that the project (and the measure) contribute to the development of the whole value chain, generating income and jobs, not only on the farm, but also in the processing and the other links in the food chain.

Additional sources of information

n/a

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