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Take advantage of the opportunity for a good network

Inspiration, an international insight and not least a network across national borders are just a few of the words that describe the advantages of membership of the association European Pig Producers.



Every year, members of the European Pig Producers gather for a congress, which is held alternately in the various countries. Here, in addition to a number of professional presentations and focus areas, there is also the opportunity to go on company visits and company visits to accompanying companies. Private photo

By Camilla Børnløkke

! Save

Danish pig producers are regarded worldwide as some of the most innovative and leading in the industry. It is therefore surprising to the association European Pig Producers - EPP that there are not more Danish pig producers who join the association and take advantage of the opportunity for an inspiring network and deeper insight into the production of colleagues in other countries.

According to member and pig producer Torben Lundsgaard, Langeland, it is an association that counts more than 600 pig producers and other stakeholders in the industry from 22 countries.

- We meet every year for a congress, which is held alternately in the various countries. Here, in addition to a number of professional presentations and focus areas, there is also the opportunity to go on company visits and company visits to accompanying companies. It is thus an event where there are every opportunity to hear about the conditions under which the European colleagues work.

The Netherlands, Germany and Belgium account for the largest part of members, but the colloquial language in the association is English.

- The time for social relations is highly valued in connection with the annual congress. Both on excursions and in the evenings, there is plenty of time to create networks and meet people with great commitment, explains Torben Lundsgaard, who can name up to several examples of Danish members who have greatly benefited from the European network in terms of business.

Network

Rune Nielsen, Støvring, has been a member of EPP for over 10 years now. He is a former pig producer, but continues to be a member of the association, where the broad network has been a great help since he took new paths with another company five years ago.

- It is a good opportunity to get close to people in a forum where you are not a servile salesman, explains Rune Nielsen, owner of RN Solutions, which, among other things, sells LED lighting for pig pens.

In addition to the congress once a year, the members also meet in connection with other events and fairs around the world. For example, there is a tradition for the association to meet the evening before EuroTier in Hanover. In addition, many keep in touch via email, visit each other in connection with holidays or in other contexts.

- It really is a super good network. You get to talk to both small and large innovative pig producers, who all have in common that there are some who want to, says Rune Nielsen, who points out that membership requires that you like to talk, have fun themselves and create new relationships.

Anniversary

Despite a relatively low number of Danish members in the EPP, the club was actually founded on Danish soil on 1 January 1990, and the 30th anniversary can thus be celebrated in the Netherlands next year.

- It is an association that is mainly for farmers, but how many companies also want membership. Here, however, several countries have imposed a restriction, so that no more than a third of the country's members must be companies, explains chairman of the Danish club, pig producer Henrik Refslund Hansen, Bredebro, who emphasizes that the association places great emphasis on company members not directly sells and utilizes the network in relation to sales.

Personally, the membership has given him aha experiences, festive and professional experiences.

- We meet people and mingle across national borders and are actually a counterpart to the European Dairy Farmers, which recently held a congress in Denmark, explains Henrik Refslund Hansen.

He also points out that the foreign members do not understand Denmark's minimal representation of pig producers, but considers that this may be due to the fact that in Denmark we have a slightly different setup of events and associations in the industry.

- Perhaps the producers in Denmark are a bit overwhelmed by the many offers for meetings, courses and experience groups. It's just a bit of a shame, because many miss out on what's happening in the rest of Europe, and the producers who have only been to the congress once, they're wildly excited, the chairman points out.

Framework conditions

According to Henrik Refslund Hansen, EPP among other things gives pig producers the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into many of the things that we talk about in Denmark in everyday life, including framework conditions.

At the same time, the chairman has particularly noticed the subject-related cultural differences. For example, the difference in the introductory questions among colleagues.

- In the other countries, the first question is typically "What genetics do you have?". Where in Denmark it has so far been the question of how many pigs you have per annual

The network in EPP offers ample opportunity to get answers to questions on everything from the composition of holdings, earning potential according to listing, labour, environmental issues and animal welfare.

Brief about European Pig Producers

- EPP is a European network for pig producers and people with an interest in pig production, where the purpose is to exchange experiences and knowledge about pig production between the individual members and shed light on the conditions and development of pig production in the participating countries.
- EPP does not have any independent industrial policy ambitions. But would like to equip its members to participate in the national professional forums with the knowledge that it gives to be well-orientated about the conditions in the other European countries. Through insight into each other's working conditions and framework conditions, EPP seeks to create a collegial network between pig producers in Europe.
- The EPP is organized into national member groups with a joint secretariat at the Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft i Frankfurt am Main. The joint secretariat coordinates the cooperation between the national clubs and is also a support function when the national clubs organize the annual international congress.
- President since 2018: Gert van Beek from the Netherlands.
- Chairman of the Danish club, EPP Danish Branch, is Henrik Refslund Hansen.
- The annual quota is DKK 1,500 for actual members and DKK 2,000 for collaborating members. The quota goes to the secretariats in Frankfurt and to the Danish secretariat, as well as to travel expenses in connection with committee meetings.

Source: www.pigproducer.net