



- *News from research on cow calf contact systems in -*
GrazyDaiSy and Cow'n'Calf
December 2019

Excursion in Denmark and Germany with focus on cow-calf contact systems

On the 25.-26. September 2019, a group of interested farmers, advisors, researchers and others (among others one consumer ☺) – went for a discussion and study trip, organised by Organic Denmark and with a strong focus on cow and calf contact systems. It was a good tour which gave us the opportunity to see some of the Danish front-runners in the field. The major learning was 'there is not one-size-fits-all systems', but it has to be fitted into every individual farm context and be organised in a way which fits to the farm. Impressions from the tour are so far only presented in Danish:

<https://nyheder.okologi.dk/mark-og-stald/frontlobere-inspirerer-til-anderledes-ko-kalveliv> .

More and more reading material to find on 'Organic eprints' about cow-calf-systems – among others from GrazyDaiSy

We submitted our midterm report in GrazyDaiSy in November, and tried to make sure that our publications are

accessible <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/GrazyDaiSy.html>. GrazyDaiSy has a broader range of focus areas, of which cow calf contact systems is one of them, so you will find publications about grazing and medicine reduction, when you search for GrazyDaiSy on organic eprints.

Session about cow calf contact systems at the Danish Organic Conference, 21st November 2019.

At the Danish organic conference 2019, we had a session with four presentations from our projects GrazyDaiSy and KALVvedKO (Cow'n'Calf). Senior researcher from AU, Margit Bak Jensen, gave an overview over advantages and disadvantages about early and late separation of cow and calf. The farmer couple at Ellinglund Organic, Anne and Gert Glob Lassen told about their experiences with cows and calves together in practice, and Iben Alber Christiansen from Organic Denmark presented different housing systems for cows and calves. I gave a presentation about the different perspectives of calves, cows, farmers and systems which influences the choices made in the housing, grazing and management systems in cow-calf systems (from the report presented below).

A report based on interviews with farmers and other actors in the Netherlands, France, Norway and Denmark now on Organic eprints

A report based on interviews in four countries is now available on Organic eprints:

<https://orgprints.org/36915/> . A small summary is given here: <https://projects.au.dk/cow-and-calf-contact/news/show/artikel/how-do-dairy-farmers-perceive-and-experience-dam-rearing-systems/>

The report gives some of the background material in this study, which will be published in 'Journal of Sustainable and Organic Agricultural Systems'.

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