

Cattle Crossroads

Researching Danish livestock production for the future

This project explores ways to envision and generate a new research basis for a future green livestock production in Denmark. Merging anthropology with veterinary and animal science, the aim is to identify and proactively repurpose the theoretical and practical knowledge that conditions Danish cattle production.



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Project period: 2021 – 2024

2021

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - THEMATIC RESEARCH

GREEN TRANSITION

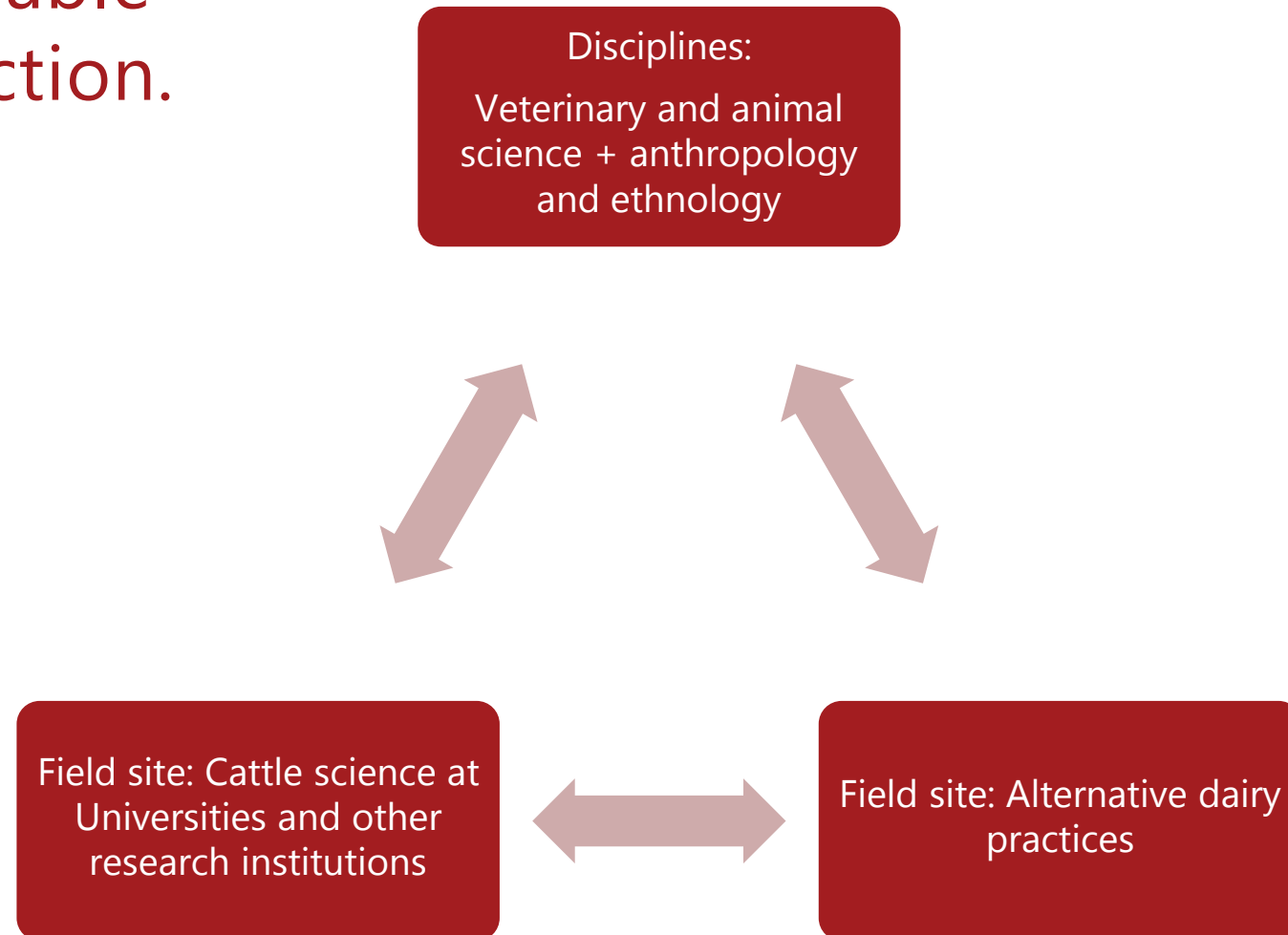


**DANMARKS FRIE
FORSKNINGSFOND**
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
FUND DENMARK

Green transition in Danish dairy farming – A set of alternative points of departure

- A merging of very different disciplines that are usually not mixed (veterinary and animal science + anthropology and ethnology).
- Collaborating with a handful of *dairy farms* that practice alternative production systems (Fieldwork on farms: what do the farmers see as barriers and possibilities for their specific systems?)
- Investigating *research* into sustainable cattle production (Fieldwork among scientists: how does cattle science address sustainability?)
- The ways that scientific and practical knowledge about sustainability and dairy cattle *work*.
- Working with sustainability as an absolute rather than relative/competitive quality.

Integrated approach: Combining the disciplines and sharing field sites enable us identify barriers and opportunities for a more sustainable cattle production.



Why "Crossroads"? A focus on choices, priorities, paradoxes

- A different aim than identifying technological solutions that "fix" problems, e.g. GHG emissions.
- Instead: We focus on how the climate impact of dairy cattle gets talked about, handled, researched, taught, ignored, funded, calculated in science and on the farms.
- We analyze how theoretical and practical *choices* are made regarding cattle and sustainability. Exploring and foregrounding the *crossroads* that professionals involved in green transition face.
- Concretely, we focus on e.g. grass-feeding, farming infrastructure, regulations, support schemes, consultancy, financial structures, educational goals, research funding => **what choices are entailed in all these features that underpin cattle production in Denmark?**