

NordMeat - Sustainable Meat Production in the Nordic Region

NordMeat in brief. Nordic countries have distinct food traditions, and their animal and meat production systems have developed in response to specific climatic, demographic, and cultural conditions. The NordMeat NKJ network was established to advance research on sustainable meat production and consumption by building a viable platform to exchange knowledge across academia and industry in this region.

The need for NordMeat is rooted in recent history. A previous Nordic network dissolved more than a decade ago. Meanwhile, meat-related research has faced declining funding and personnel, resulting in a brain drain that threatens innovation capacity in the Nordic food sector. NordMeat addresses these challenges and has a timely focus on changes in meat production and consumption required for more sustainable food systems. Through expert and PhD workshops, the network has explored key challenges and limitations whole-animal utilization through a combination of technical and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methods.



'LCA of Meat' and 'Use of the whole animal' workshops

A workshop on LCA of meat systems was held in Aarhus in September 2024, and another on full utilization of the whole animal in Norway in September 2025. The workshops introduced the partners' ongoing work on LCA of meat and side stream utilization, respectively, through series of invited oral presentations, and discussions identifying the present knowledge gaps in the field.

Online seminar "LCA of Meat"

An online seminar was hosted by the network partners with the aim of reaching a broader audience. Find the recorded WEBINAR here <https://food.au.dk/nordmeat>

Topics included:

- LCA of Meat – what are the components?
- Soil carbon and its inclusion in LCA
- Trajectories towards sustainable and healthy food systems

PhD course

A PhD course on Sustainable meat production from the Nordic perspective was hosted in Skara, Sweden in March 2026.

The course brought together four participants from two countries, that exchanged ideas and knowledge, foster science-based debates, and supporting effective human capacity building within the field.

Together with the participants, an opinion paper on *Sustainable meat production in the Nordic region* was drafted, realising that the keyword of the community is **Networking**

Future ambitions. The NordMeat network will serve as a long-term Nordic hub for responsible meat production, bringing together science and industry, to accelerate the transition towards sustainable meat systems. We are currently planning the follow-up activities under a new project called NordMeat 2.0.

Connect with us – food.au.dk/nordmeat

