

Programme for thematic session F: Brief outlooks - Young researchers on Future Agriculture and the New Ruralities

In this session young researchers from SLU give brief presentations of their research, focusing on New Ruralities. We are happy to give ten young researchers the opportunity to briefly present their research. These are:

1. Anders Kagervall – hunting and fishing tourism

Anders has just defended a dissertation with the title "*On the Conditions for Developing Hunting and Fishing Tourism In Sweden*". Nature tourism is often seen as a way to develop rural areas and create employment. The study was part of a project with the aim to look at different to develop family forest farm. The studies included are quantitative social science studies examining attitudes and norms toward hunting and fishing.

2. Huayi Lin – stakeholder interests in the wolf population in Sweden

Huayi is a PhD program in biometry and one of the projects included is called *Balancing stakeholder interests for a sustainable wolf population management in Sweden*. This case will study the situation for wolf management in Sweden regarding stakeholders with different interests in the scenario. As the most conflicts on determining wolf population in Sweden are between the farmers, hunters and environmentalists in the rural areas where wolf lives and hunting happens, a research on rural land use, wild life management and stakeholder involvement will be the focus.

3. Elias Andersson – gender (in)equality in Swedish family farming

Elias is about to defend his thesis *Doing gender (in) equality in family farming*. The project aims to contribute to the understanding of how gender inequalities are reproduced and materialized within the context of family farming. A number of factors have been studied, such as access to land (material relations), family farm typology, division of labour, temporalities and safety and work environment in the Swedish context. The project is rooted in the intersections between gender studies, sociology, geography, economy and work science.

1. Andrea Pettitt - changing gender relations in Botswana through EU meat import

Andrea's PhD study focuses on the link between Botswana's meat export to the EU and how women's changing participation in cattle production. Cattle in Botswana have traditionally been perceived as male capital. The ethnographic data suggests that women are increasingly actively involved as cattle owners and managers. This opens a site for re-imagining the relation between agricultural change and the meaning of gendered cattle connections for women's empowerment in society.

2. Theodoros Ntallaris – improvement of fertility in cows

Theodoros PhD project is a multidisciplinary study for a robust and sustainable improvement of fertility in cows. It is an EU project, involving 8 different countries. One of the aims is to investigate the influence of feed intensity level and breed on the interval from calving to initiation of luteal activity in Holstein and Swedish Red dairy breed. In general the project compares the effects of different sustainable feeding

management systems on reproductive performance and indicators of fertility and nutritional status in lactating dairy cows (Holstein and Swedish red).

3. Maria Celina Abraham - Reproductive biotechnologies in Alpacas in Sweden

Maria Celina's PhD project aims to develop assisted reproductive technologies to improve the Swedish alpacas industry. Alpacas are considered the most environmentally gentle ruminant livestock. They cause less erosive effect on the soil and their lower incisors enable them to eat small plants, without tearing out or loosening the forage plants. Genetic improvement in alpacas is slow due to their peculiar reproductive physiology, which limits extrapolation of reproductive technologies.

4. Ashkan Pakseresht - risk responsibility perceptions on agri-biotechnology in multi-functional food production

Ashkan's PhD study is on perceptions of who is responsible for risks related to the use of biotechnology in innovative crops development and for risks related to the use of genomics in animal breeding in food production. The knowledge about consumer decision making regarding GM food is limited and it is especially so when it comes to risk perception in responsibility judgment attributed to stakeholders. How do consumers attribute risk responsibility related to agricultural biotechnology to stakeholders?

5. Jonas Josefsson - ecological and economic effects of agri-environmental measures

Jonas' PhD project is both about ecological and economic effects of agri-environmental measures and the farmers' implementation of conservation measures. In a first project positive effects of buffer strips on skylarks and their food sources were found. A second project explores the effects of farm level crop diversification on farmland bird diversity. Farmers' attitudes towards nature conservation and factors affecting participation in conservation work is also part of the study.

6. Mohammed Masud Parvage - phosphorus and nitrogen leaching losses from horse paddocks

Swedish horse farms now occupy almost 10 % of arable with 360, 000 horses whereas about 1 million horses in Great Britain utilizing 5% of total arable land of the country. High horse density and fodder imports to paddocks are common. High soil P and N concentrations can lead to high leaching losses and thereby act as 'hotspots' responsible for significant N and P loads to nearby water bodies. Yet, horse farms have not been included in Swedish national nutrient reduction plans so far. Masoud's PhD project focuses N and P leaching losses from this particular system.

7. Örjan Berglund – Greenhouse gas emissions from cultivated peat soils in Sweden

Peat soils/organic soils cover about 7-10% of the agricultural area in Sweden. The GHG emission from these soils to the atmosphere is very large. After his PhD in 2011, Örjan now works in a large EU-project comparing yield and CO₂ emission of different crops grown on peat soil. For many farmers with peat soils it will be a challenge to avoid GHG emissions as much as possible, but still be able to get a good crop. Maybe the future for these soils are to produce green mass for local biogas reactors, or fuel for combustion in the local community.