

Sustainable growth in agriculture legislation -from a governmental point of view

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Ministry of Food, Agriculture
and Fisheries of Denmark



The Danish AgriFish Agency's strategies

The agency must unify interests on economic growth and environment protection.

The Mission of the AgriFish Agency:

We ensure the interaction between nature and business through regulation, grants, controls and dialogue.

The Vision:

Growth in the industry through sustainable development of natural resources.



There is a call for sustainable growth strategies in the agriculture

The challenge of agriculture today and in the future:

- providing more and better food to a world population growing in both numbers and wealth,
- an increasing demand for biomass for different purposes,
- request for conversion of farmland into nature.

Diverging interests increases the need for dialogue between stakeholders.



The situations/ reality of today for Danish agriculture

- A substantial and intensively driven agriculture production
- Environmental protection efforts from the 1980' until now made primarily as general regulations [The nitrogen quota system with fertilizer plans and accounts, buffer strips and catch crops].
- A wish to change the environmental protection efforts to be targeted.
 - Targeted regulation is based on how much each area can tolerate
 - Targeted regulation distinguish between solid and vulnerable areas





Two major challenges when using target regulation

1. Redistribution of money

Farmers on nitrogen robust soils get better possibilities for making a profit.

Farmers on nitrogen vulnerable soils loses some of there possibility for making profit.

This indicates a need for redistribution of resources.



2. Targeting efforts, demands a certain knowledge, regulation on output demands even more knowledge

- Output regulation demands very high degree of knowledge at farm level, which we don't have today.
- To obtain some of the advantages of an output regulation system, models to calculate an approximately output from a given input can be made. This requires:
 - Map over nitrate retention as a tool to generate a more targeted regulation.
 - Need of improved mapping of coastal waters which are receiving the leached nitrogen etc. in order to protect the most vulnerable waters from nitrogen leaching.





The future livestock production

- From regulation of production to regulation like in the industry
- Regulation on externalities – waste, smell, dust and gases

New regulation in both fields and livestock production should be a driver of new technologies/ vehicle for technology development

- “The first pig on the moon”

