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Agricultural and food economics research group – presentation at LTV workshop

Helena Hansson, professor of agricultural and food economics

The role of personal values and personality traits in environmental concern of non-industrial private forest owners in Sweden

Mohammed B. Degner¹, Helena Hansson², Marjanke A. Hoogstra-Klein³, Anders Roos⁴

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2022.102707>

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Highlights

- Environmental objectives have become priority objectives for forest management in many countries.
- Promoting environmental-friendly forest management requires knowledge of its antecedents.
- Non-industrial private forest (NIPF) owners own half of the forest land in Sweden.
- We assess environmental concern of NIPF owners and its relation with their personality.
- Personal values and personality traits predict environmental concern.

Questioning the dichotomy: A Latent profile analysis of ecological management practices in Swedish agriculture

Lisa Höglind¹, Helena Hansson², Gordana Manevska-Tasevska³

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2021.113770>

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Highlights

- We constructed a typology of the current uptake of ecological farm management practices in Sweden.
- Four different farm profiles with varying degrees of uptake of ecological practices were generated.
- The Swedish organic certification scheme does not have an impact on a farmer's profile membership.
- Regional differences and farming income influence farmer's profile membership.

Articles

A combination of differentiation and consolidation theory and risk-benefit analysis to examine decisions on mastitis prevention

Nina Lind¹, Helena Hansson², Ulf Emanuelson³ & Carl Johan Lagerkvist⁴

Pages 194-209 | Received 18 Nov 2016, Accepted 26 Sep 2018, Published online: 19 Jan 2019

Download citation <https://doi.org/10.1080/13669877.2018.1547783> Check for updates

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Abstract

Mastitis infections cause severe pain in dairy cows and are the most costly illness to farmers. This study combined differentiation and consolidation (Diff-Con) theory with risk-benefit analysis to explore how risky decisions are perceived and justified after a decision has been taken. More specifically, using survey data from 428 Swedish dairy farmers, their decisions about adopting preventive measures to control mastitis (mastitis control options, MCO) in dairy herds were examined. The analyses included group comparisons with non-parametric rank tests and use of both ordinary least squared regression and seemingly unrelated

Related research

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Peter H. Feindt et al.

Rationalising inefficiency in dairy production: evidence from an over-time approach

Birhanu Addisu Adamie¹, Helena Hansson²

European Review of Agricultural Economics, Volume 49, Issue 2, March 2022, Pages 433–471, <https://doi.org/10.1093/erae/jbaa034>

Published: 15 January 2021 Article history

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Abstract

We argue that inefficiency can be part of a strategic self-repositioning adjustment process beyond the general interpretation of poor performance. Based on the rational inefficiency hypothesis, we examine the simultaneous dynamics of efficiency and animal welfare improving investments over time in dairy farms. Using rotating panel data from Swedish dairy farms and implementing multidirectional efficiency analysis and Markov transitional dynamic analysis, the paper provides evidence that for some farms inefficiency is temporary and part of rational decision along their trajectory towards multi-efficiency (high efficiency-high animal welfare). The findings show the importance of time dynamics in efficiency achievements with implications to cross-sectional view.

Use and non-use values to explain farmers' motivation for the provision of animal welfare

Enoch Owusu-Sekyere¹, Helena Hansson², Evgenij Telezhenko³

European Review of Agricultural Economics, Volume 49, Issue 2, March 2022, Pages 499–525, <https://doi.org/10.1093/erae/jbab012>

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Abstract

This paper examines how differences in motivation in terms of use and non-use values affect the choice of animal welfare improvement practices. The application is focused on Swedish dairy farmers' preferences for different flooring systems' attributes. Using multiple indicators and multiple causes and hybrid latent class models, the findings demonstrate that dairy farmers who favour flooring solutions that enhance farm animal welfare are motivated by a complex set of both use values relating to internal and external pressures and non-use values linked to animal freedom, ethical codes of farmers and building business-to-customer relationships. The findings imply that measures to stimulate more uptake of animal welfare improvement practices can be better targeted by using insights into motivational constructs of farmers and by adopting policy communication that captures the whole breadth of use and non-use motivational constructs held by farmers.

How are ecological approaches justified in European rural development policy? Evidence from a content analysis of CAP and rural development discourses

Gaëlle Leduc¹, Gordana Manevska-Tasevska², Helena Hansson³, Marie Arndt⁴, Zoltán Bákus⁵, Michael Böhm⁶, Mihai Chibea⁷, Violeta Florian⁸, Lucian Luca⁹, Anna Martikainen¹⁰, Hai Vu Pham¹¹, Mariara Rusu¹²

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2021.06.009>

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Highlights

- All studied EU cases use multifunctionality discourse to foster ecological approaches.
- Ecological practices are rarely advocated for providing socio-economic benefits.
- Neomercantilist arguments are increasingly used to promote ecological approaches.
- Deductive content analysis is applied for temporal and geographical comparisons.



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Volume 198, August 2022, 107465



ANALYSIS

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Farm performance and input self-sufficiency increases with functional crop diversity on Swedish farms

Pia Nilsson¹, Riccardo Bommarco², Helena Hansson³, Brian Kuns⁴, Henning Schaak⁵

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2022.107465>

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Highlights

- Use a novel approach that combine information on crop grown on each field and year from the EU Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) with farm financial data.
- Develop novel crop diversity indices by decomposing the Shannon index measures of functional and related crop diversity.
- Assess how changes in functional crop diversity affects farm economic performance and resource self-sufficiency.
- Provide empirical evidence that increases in functional crop diversity is associated with a significant potential for growth in farm economic performance and resource use-efficiency on Swedish farms.
- Show that a measure of functionalcrop diversification provides an enhanced understanding of resource-use efficiencies on Swedish farms.

Examples, ongoing projects

- Mistra: Mistra Food Futures
- Formas: Growing species mixtures in Swedish agriculture: barriers and economic effects.
- Formas: Sustainimal
- Formas: Economic effects of adoption to agroecological farming practices in conventional and organic farming
- Formas: How do we achieve fossil-free agriculture in Sweden?
- Formas: EPIC
- Formas: Transforming the food value chain based on ecologically and economically sustainable crop production (TRANSECO)
- Formas: Dairy farming in extreme weather events: farm response and resilience
- Formas: Impacts of animal welfare legislation on the farm economy across EU countries
- Formas: Are old cows healthy and profitable? – Using cow longevity to enhance welfare and farm profit
- SLF. Strategies for healthy dairy cows in profitable farm businesses.
- SLF. Strategies for farm business development - drivers and financial effects



Group structure August 2022

- Eight PhD students
- One research assistant
- Two post-doctoral researchers + plus one who will start in September
- Five researchers (tills vidare-anställda)
- One senior lecturer
- One professor



The group – development over time

- Published papers: 9 in 2018, 34 in 2021
- PhD students: 1-2 in 2018, 8-9 in 2022
- Rate of external funding: 28% in 2018, 66% in 2021



What has been important to me when building the subject area and the group?

- The research group functions as a team where we take responsibility for each other and actively ask for help and support.
- Careful recruitment of staff members who would like to work in teams.
- Adapting the subject area focus: interdisciplinary collaborations have had a huge impact.
- Faculty and other university leadership - trust
- Established collaborations with other groups within and outside SLU.
- The possibilities to apply for, and attract, external funding. A considerable strategical focus on *how to* attract external funding.
- The possibility to share leadership with a senior lecturer (Pia Nilsson) who is partly funded by the faculty.
- Clear 'rules of the game' (within the group, regarding for instance which post-docs can continue as researchers).
- I have found a leadership style that is aligned with my personal inner values and personality.
- Continuous focus on quality
- On the private side: equality in my marriage





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