

Farmer logics

- motivations and driving forces
influencing a sustainable and resilient
Swedish dairy production

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INTRODUCTION

ONGOING STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN SWEDISH PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Milk production in Sweden

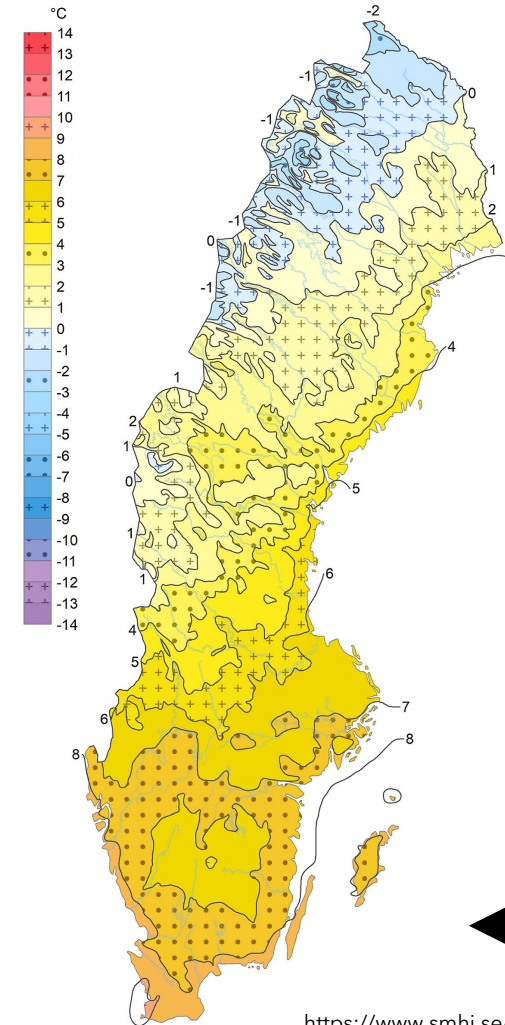


- Mainly cattle, some goat > buffalo and sheep
 - ~ 2700 dairy cattle farms
 - ~ 296 000 dairy cows
- Milk collected at farms and refined elsewhere
- Dairy cattle a substantial part of meat production
- Production and processing of milk and meat by private actors (family business or corporate company)

Vast country and varying conditions

- landscape and topography
- climate zones
- growing season
- urbanisation
- infrastructure
- access to support / service:
 - dairy plant
 - abattoir
 - veterinarian

1600 km

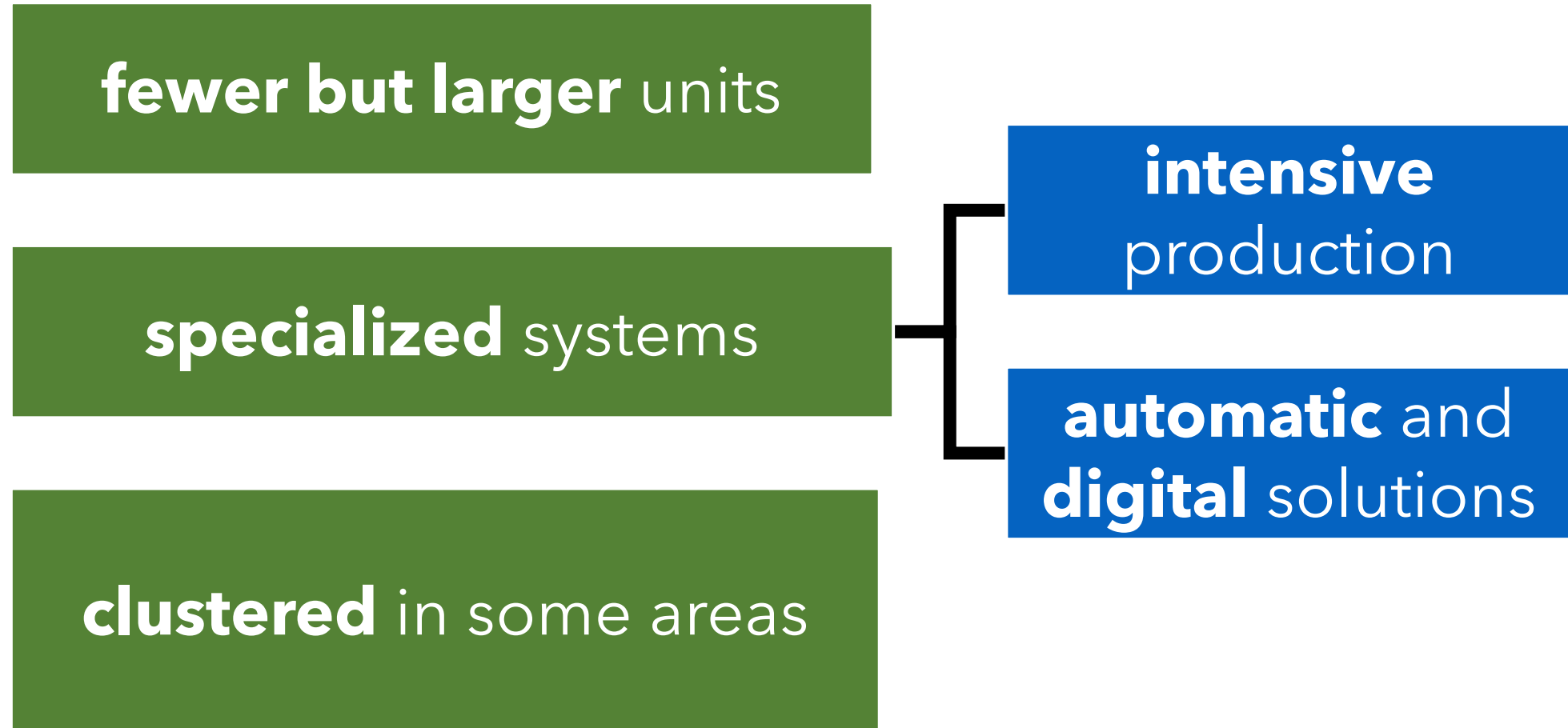


500 km

Small herd of dairy cows on family farm

	Total number of dairy farms	Total number of dairy cows	Average number of cows per farm	Average yield per cow per year (kg ECM)	Total prod. of milk (Mn tons)
1950	267 000	1 654 000	6	2900	4,9
1980	45 000	656 000	15	5000	3,3
2000	13 000	430 000	34	6500	3,2
2020	3 200	306 000	96	8900	2,7
2023	2700	296 000	110	11 000	2,8

Ongoing structural changes



Small herd of dairy cows on family farm?

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2030					
2050					

OBJECTIVES

HOW DO PREVIOUS FINDINGS ON FARMER LOGICS APPLY IN THE
CONTEXT OF SWEDISH DAIRY FARMING?

Key points

- ! Fewer farms, less diverse production
- ! Highly diverse agricultural landscape and long distances
- ! Huge on-farm changes over a short period of time





Multilevel challenges in primary production

- **Input-dependent** production
 - **Milk price fluctuates** on global market
 - Financing favor **resource-efficient** production systems
 - **Global events** – war, climate change, pandemic...
 - **Alternatives to traditional succession** necessary
-

Overall objectives

- ? **How to build resilient and sustainable primary production**
- ? **How to motivate farmers to continue in milk production**
- ? **How to ensure diversity to best make use of the differences in agricultural landscape**



Previous research on farmer logics

Demonstrate various motivations behind decision making, related to

- the production of food or feed
- environmental issues
- the life and role of farmers
- management of the farm, agricultural landscape or farmed animals
- entrepreneurship

Previous research on farmer logics

Previous findings either

- not in Sweden,
- not specifically on dairy production,
- use other source of data

- How do previous findings on farmer logics apply in the context of Swedish dairy farming?
- How will these findings influence the understanding of Swedish dairy production?

MATERIALS & METHODS

DIGITAL QUESTIONNAIRE TARGETING SWEDISH DAIRY PRODUCERS

Construction of questionnaire

- ✓ **descriptive data** on the farm, respondent, production
- ✓ **perceived significance** of given factors related to dairy farming in Sweden

statements on

(a) attitudes on farmers life	13 statements
(b) self-identification	2 statements
(c) views on future farming	14 statements

Construction of questionnaire

Respondent asked to state to what extent they agree or disagree with presented statement on likert scale (1-5) or (0-10)

(1) Do not agree at all -- (3) -- **(5) Totally agree**

(0) Do not agree at all -- (5) -- **(10) Totally agree**

Survey targeting active dairy farmers

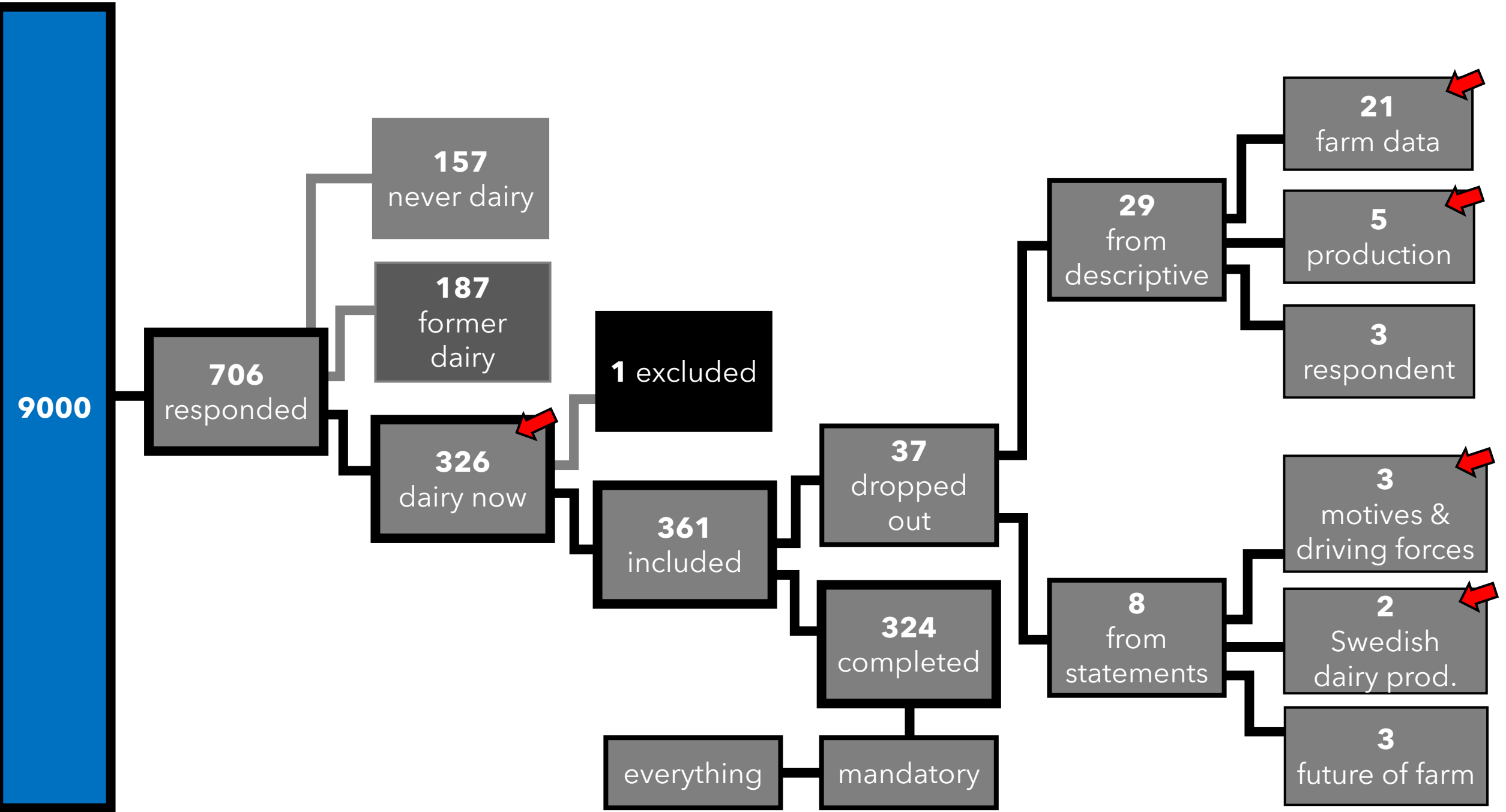
- Netigate link (email) distributed to ~9000 registered Swedish cattle farmers in April 2023
- Question branching to separate cattle farmers with either
 - no dairy production

- previous dairy production

- active dairy production

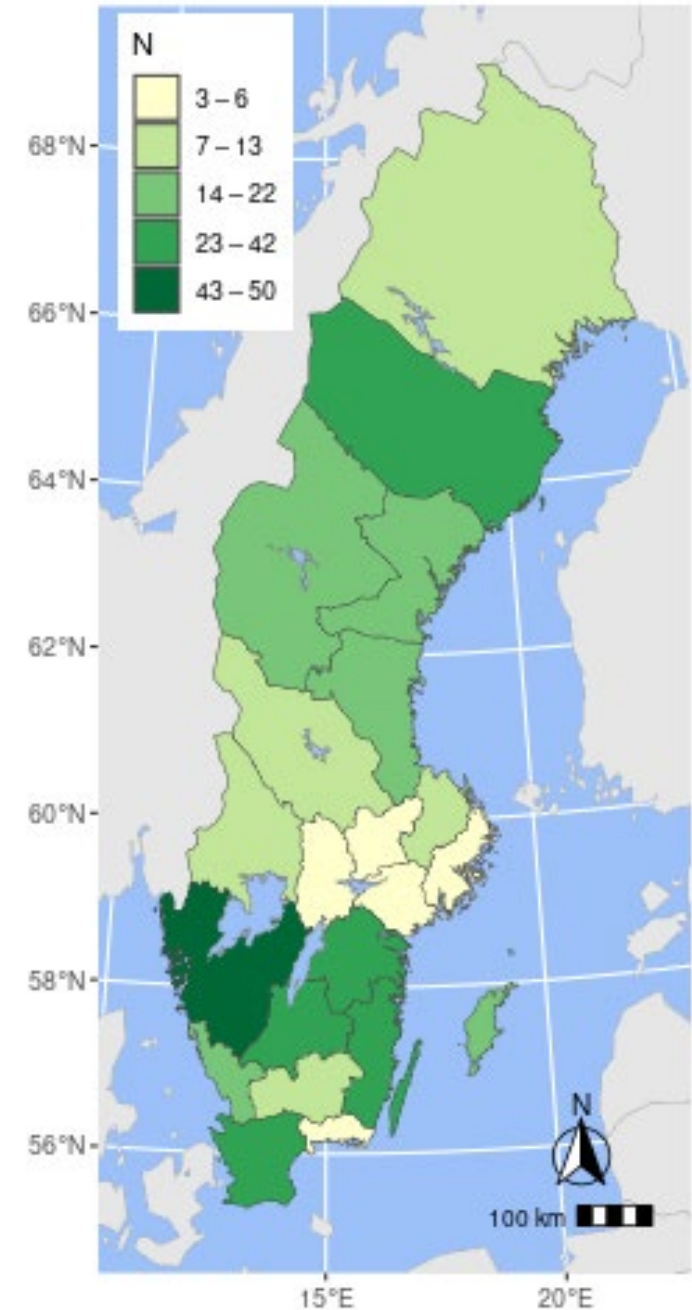
target group: ~2800 farmers

RESULTS & DISCUSSION



The respondents

- **23 - 87 years old** (median: 55, mean: 54)
- **233 male / 77 female / 2 other / 12 unknown**
- **1 - 2000 dairy cows** (median: 75, mean: 116)
- **all counties represented**



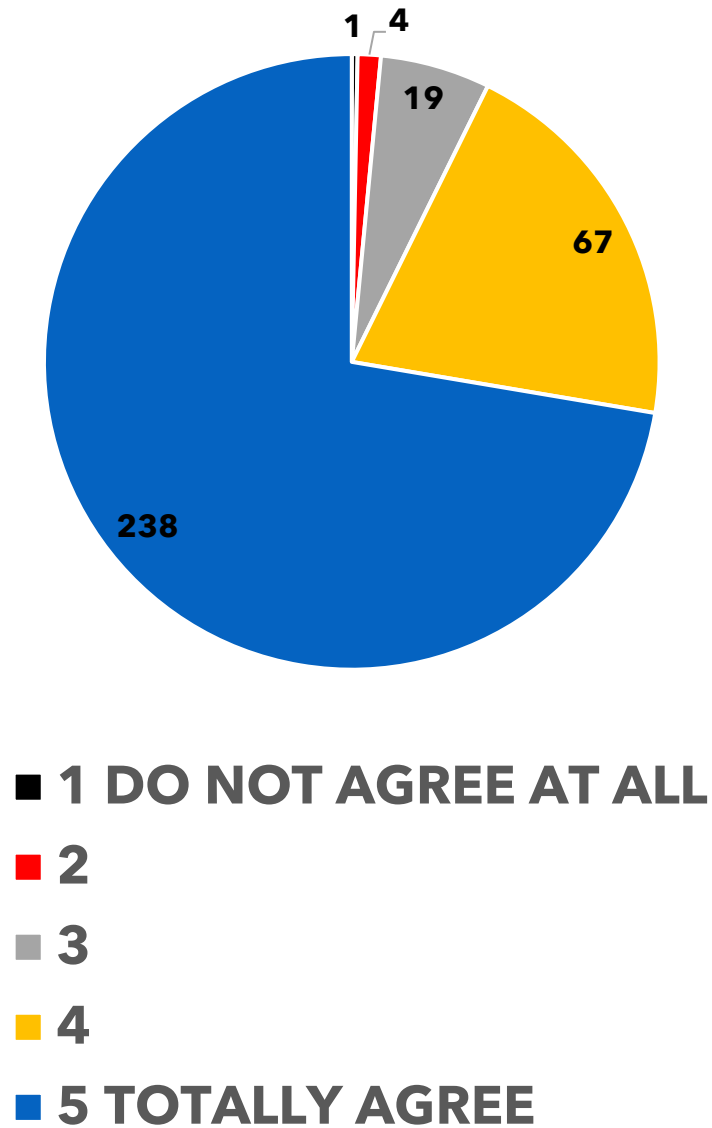
Results

- what drives and motivates you as a dairy farmer?

13
statements

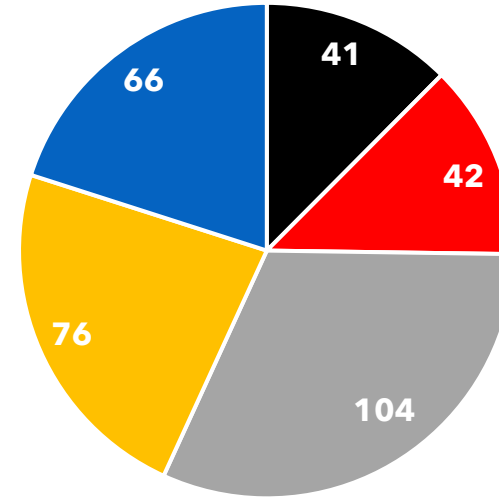
likert scale
1-5

n=329



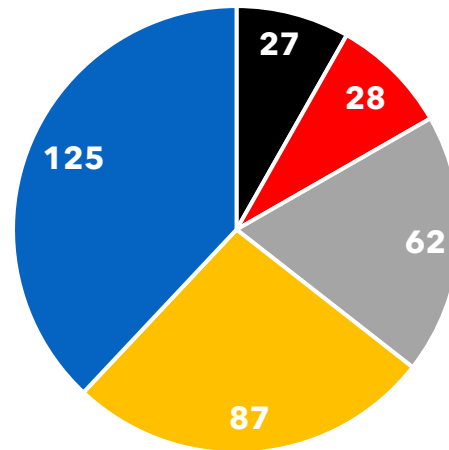
One of the most important goals of my farm is to meet the needs of the animals so that they are well

*I can't
imagine
working with
anything
other than
COWS*



- 1 I DO NOT AGREE AT ALL
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 I TOTALLY AGREE

What is important to me is to manage my family's agricultural heritage in a good way



■ 1 I DONT AGREE AT ALL ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 I TOTALLY AGREE



Results

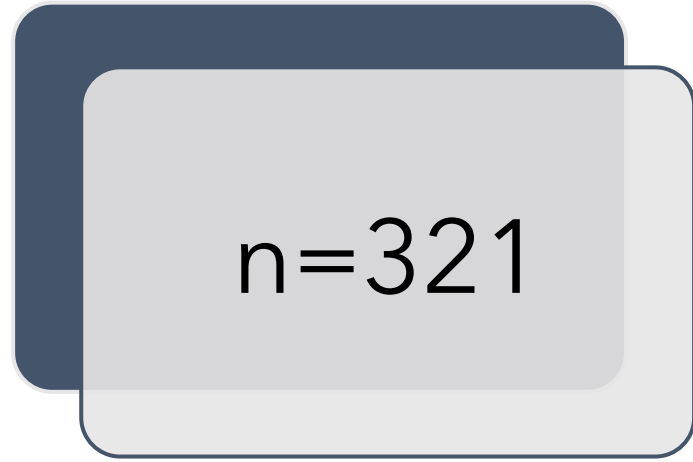
- **self-identification**



2
statements

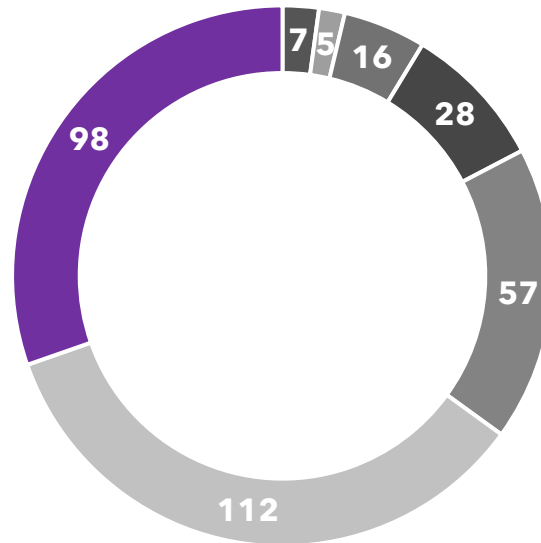


likert scale
0-10



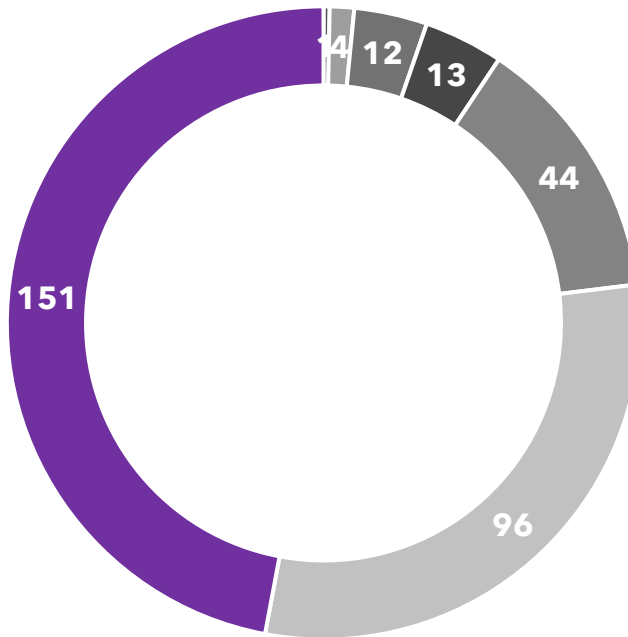
n=321

I identify myself as an entrepreneur



■ 0 I DONT AGREE AT ALL ■ 1, 2 ■ 3, 4 ■ 5 ■ 6, 7 ■ 8, 9 ■ 10 I TOTALLY AGREE

I identify myself as a farmer



■ 0 I DONT AGREE AT ALL ■ 1, 2 ■ 3, 4 ■ 5 ■ 6, 7 ■ 8, 9 ■ 10 I TOTALLY AGREE



Results

- **views on future farming**

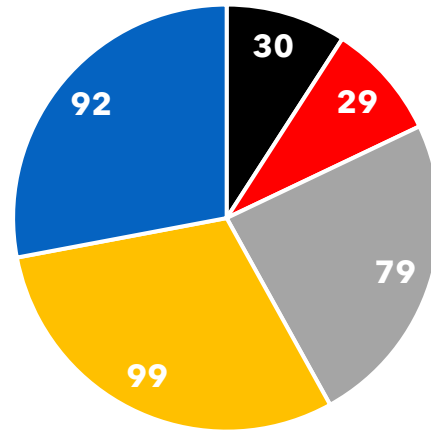


14
statements

likert scale
1-5

n=329

As a farmer, I have a responsibility to reduce the farm's climate footprint



■ 1 I DONT AGREE AT ALL ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 I TOTALLY AGREE

Continued data analysis

- Is it possible to **identify groups of farmers with similar motivation**?
- Are there any **detectable patterns related to descriptive data** on farm or production?

- How do previous findings on farmer logics apply in the context of Swedish dairy farming?
- How will these findings influence the understanding of Swedish dairy production?

Discussion

What determines the farm size?

- Number of lactating dairy cows?
- Total number of cattle on the farm?
- Hectare of arable land?
- Definition related to practical conditions – animals per robot?
- Dependent on geographical location?



FORMAS 

Thank you

*Questions, input or
comments are more than
welcome*



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