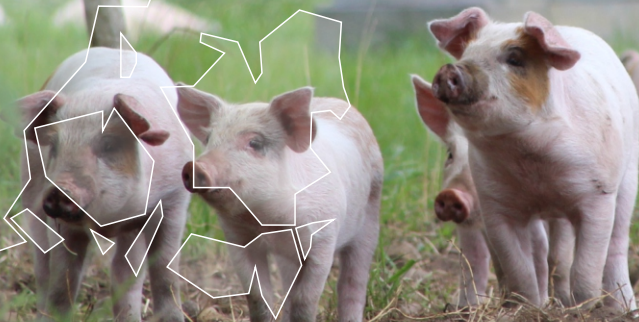




# HESTBJERG ØKOLOGI



**“ We work towards the principle that if you were reborn as a pig, then you would wish to end up here at Hestbjerg Organic. ”**



*The best and most challenging aspect about working with organic pigs are the changing seasons. The weather changes every single day, and therefore no day is the same.*



## Family Farm in Hestbjerg

St. Hestbjerg is an old family farmstead, which has roots all the way back to 1623. Bertel Hestbjerg is the 16th generation of St. Hestbjerg. When Bertel took over the farm in 1995 he started a production with free range pigs, and 10 years later he restructured the farm for organic purposes.

The large expanses of land and sandy soil at St. Hestberg are perfect for keeping organic pigs.

We have developed our own concept, with extra focus on animal welfare and sustainability.







“

***Every initiative on our farm is only implemented when we have a clear idea of how it contributes to our overall mission of increasing animal welfare and sustainability.***



## Giving the forest back to the pigs

The pig is originally a woodland dwelling animal, which loves to forage in the ground between trees. We wish to create a habitat where the pig can use its instincts and live as a pig naturally would. Therefore, we have planted woodland on about 30% of the pig's pastures.

Trees provide shelter to the pigs in the summer. The trees also make use of pig fertilizer and reduce nutrient washout. In a few years, we can thin out the trees and harvest bio-energy.

The woodlands on the pig's pastures and the fauna we have planted on our arable land, breaks the landscape and creates a pantry for wild animals. Several birds including partridges can be spotted, as well buzzing insects in the fauna.



“

***We make an effort to have good contact with our animals. We tame all the pigs to make them feel as secure and trustful as possible. This reduces the work involved in farrowing and makes it much more fun and inspiring to work with such animals.***



## Animal Welfare

The sows farrow (give birth) on the pasture. Here we provide isolated shelters, which are laid with straw. Every day the sows are hand-fed, keeping them calm and used to people.



The pigs are weaned off when they are 10 weeks old (In Denmark conventional pigs are weaned off at 3-4 weeks old and organic pigs at about 7 weeks), where they are then put in to the stables.



The stables consists of big, open sties. In one area, there is plenty of straw, which the pigs can sleep on. On a covered veranda, there is a feeding area, where they are given fresh mixed coarse feed twice a day. The feed can be for instance a mix of grass, peas and different root vegetables, all of course organic.



The pigs have access to a special “Wellness Centre” with wood chippings. Here the pigs can exercise their natural instincts to root with their snouts in a mixture of heather, mulch and shrubs. It is a pleasure to witness.





Marianne and Bertel Hestbjerg

[www.hestbjerg.dk](http://www.hestbjerg.dk)

 [/hestbjerg.dk](https://www.facebook.com/hestbjerg.dk)

“

*We realise that meat production requires excessive resources. We therefore strive to identify and introduce initiatives, which improve sustainability, so that we do not limit future generation's possibilities for development.*

”