



Who owns the land in the future?

Organic Summit 2025

Lars Pehrson



Agenda



- Short introduction, moderator Lars Pehrson
- Patrick Holden, CEO Sustainable Food Trust
- Thomas Høgenhaven, CEO Planetary Impact Ventures
- Julie Birk, Headmaster, Danish Organic Agricultural College
- Questions and discussion
- Conclusions



Lars Pehrson, moderator

- Chair, Dansk Økojord A/S (Danish Organic Farmland Ltd)
- Co-founder and former CEO, Merkur Cooperative Bank (1982-2020), a values-based bank pioneering in financing *i.a.* the Danish organic sector
- Co-founder Global Alliance for Banking on Values, 2009
- + a number of board positions in sustainable companies, NGOs etc., in Denmark and Germany

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Dansk Økojord A/S

- Danish landbank initiative, established 2017
- Initiated by Organic Denmark and The Danish Society for Nature Conservation
- Purposes: Access to land for young organic farmers, protection of drinking water and biodiversity (multifunctional land use)
- Appr. 900 shareholders (citizens and a few companies), share capital 50 m DKK (6.7 m EUR), still growing
- Acquired appr. 900 ha on 14 locations, total investment 120 m DKK (16 m EUR)

Access to Land network

- European network established 2012, supported by EU and private foundations
- Strategic objective: “Make agroecology flourish by facilitating access to land”
- 18 members from 9 countries, in Western and Eastern Europe
- Land Banks, land stewardship initiatives, networks, farmers unions, research institutes
- See more: <https://www.accesstoland.eu/>





The pain

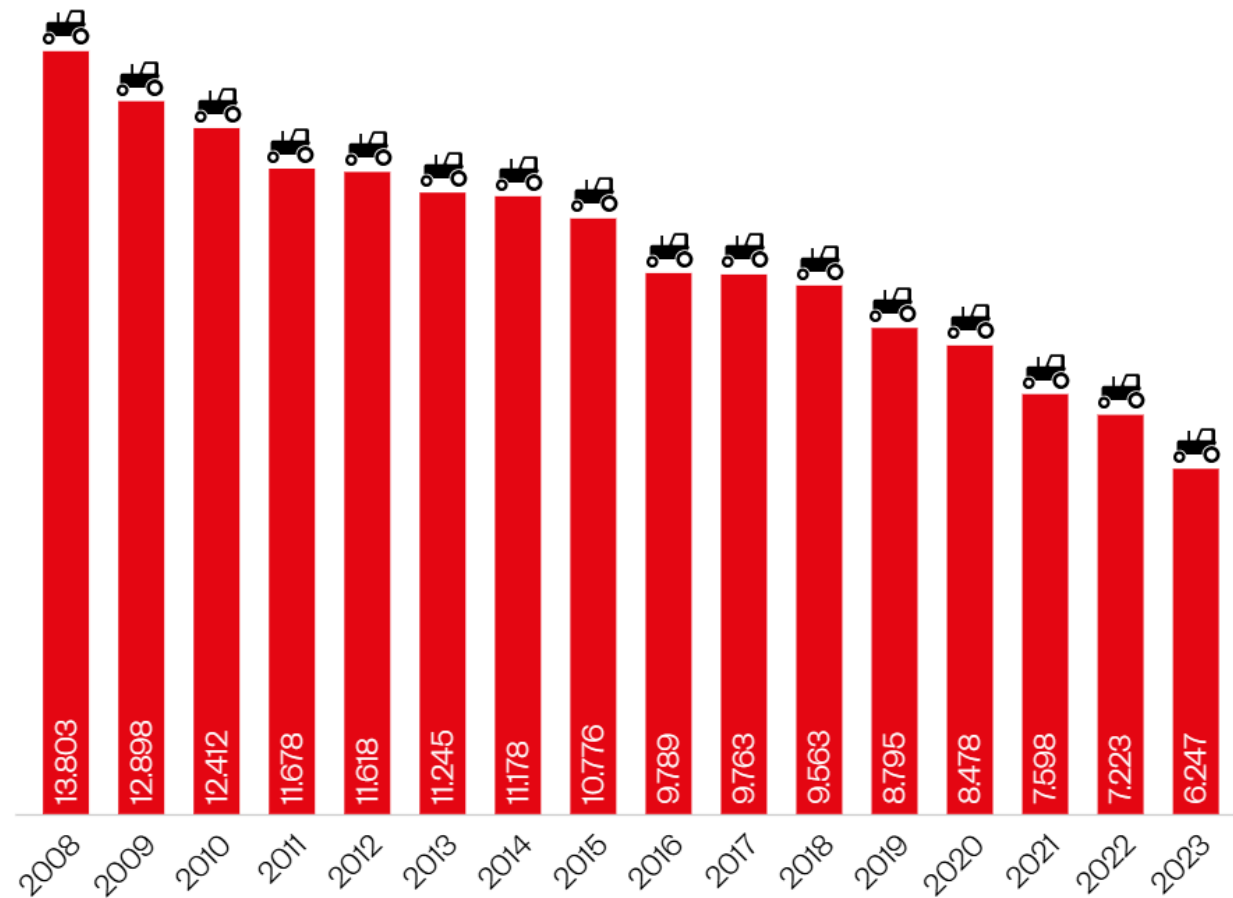
- EU and member states have ambitious targets – but the amount of land grown organically does not grow
- Denmark has seen a decline in organic acreage and number of producers two years in a row
- Other declining countries, according to IFOAM: Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Baltics, France, UK.....
- Most countries see a growth in organic sales
- So, what is the problem?



Access to land!

- We need more land than we have: Feed, food, energy, infrastructure, city development, recreation, restoring of nature....
- Rising prices on land due to the heavy competition
- Liberalised land legislation – leads to land concentration
- Difficult for young farmers to enter, despite urgent need for generational renewal
- Large existing farms are favoured over the small and middle-sized farms of the future

No of full time farms in Denmark

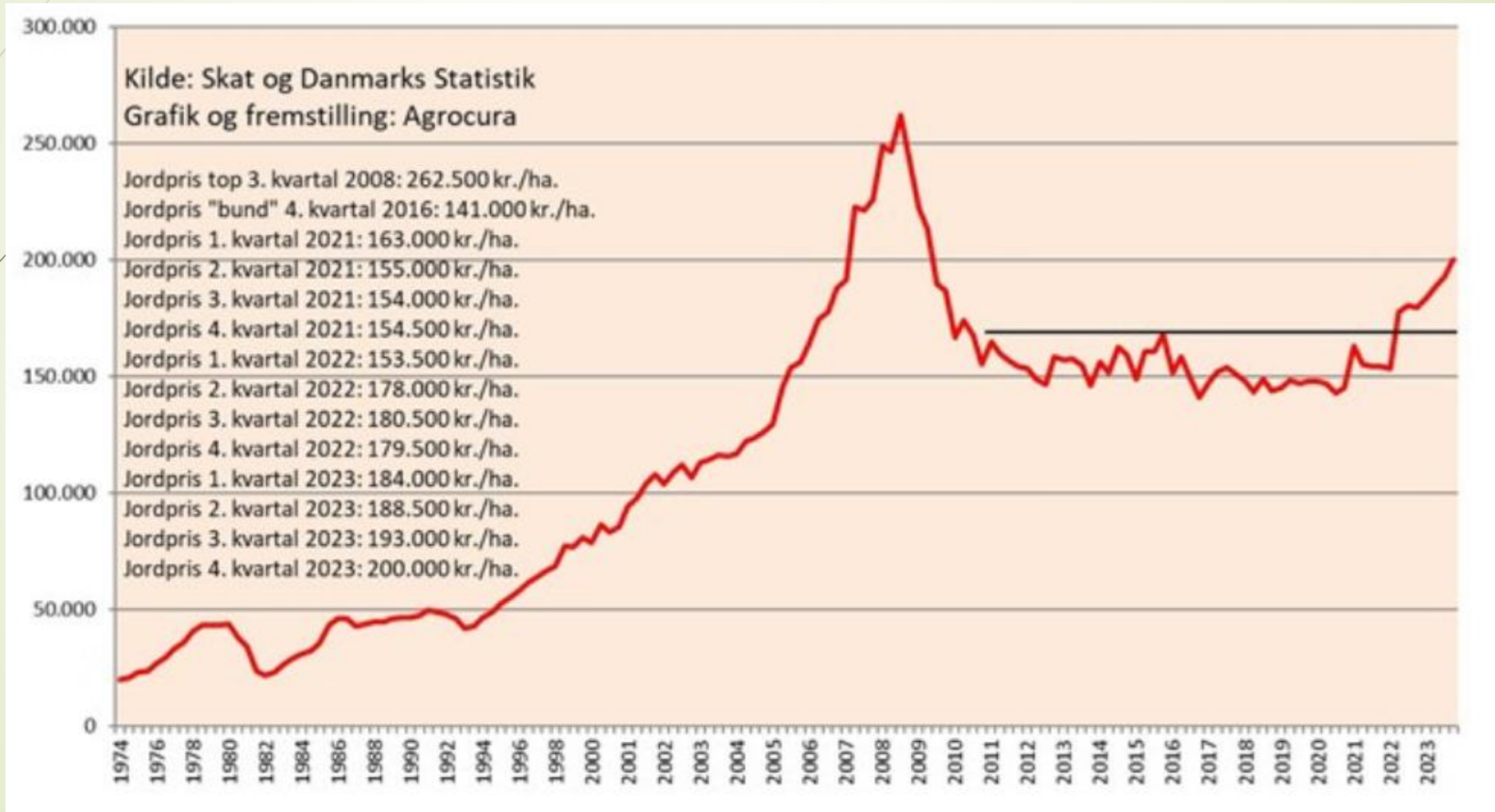


● Heltidsbedrifter

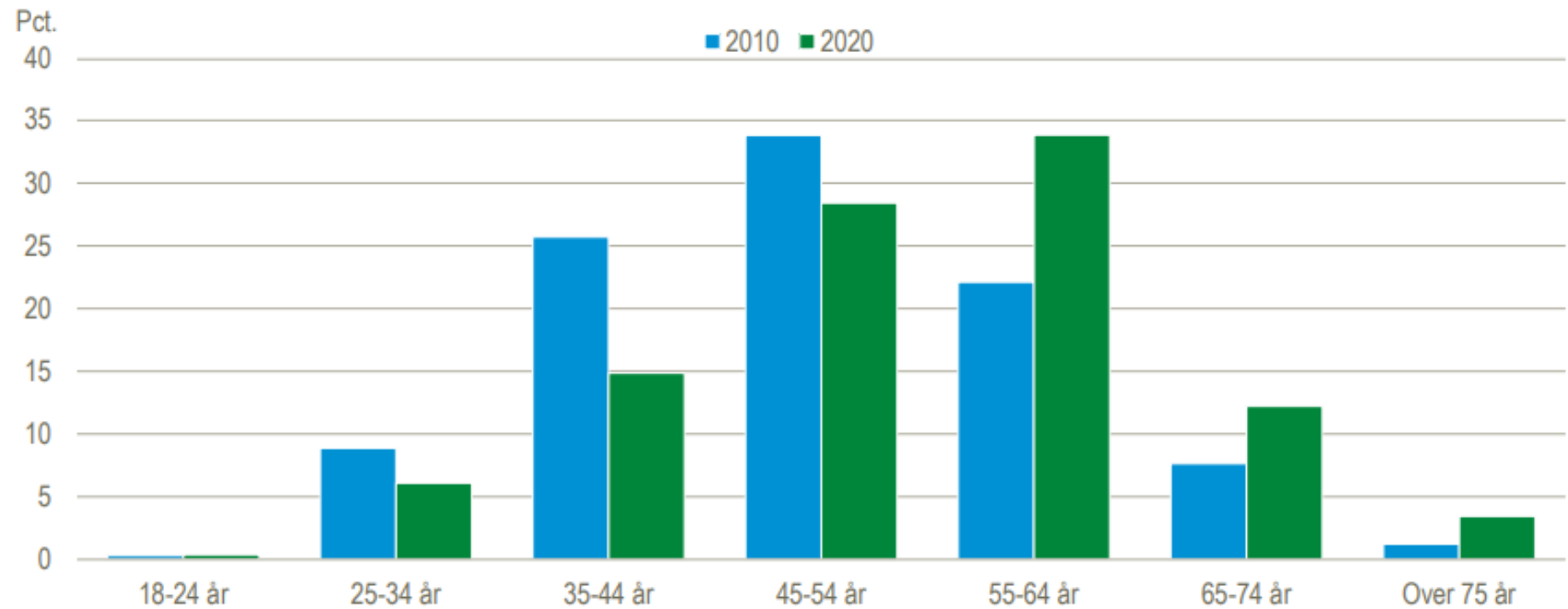
Kilde: Danmarks Statistik

Denmark - average price on farmland

DKK/ha



Danish farmers get older



Kilde. Landbrugs- og gartneritællingen, Den registerbaserede arbejdsstyrkestatistik og Befolkningsregistret.

94% of Danish farmers are men!



Thank you!



and over to the panellists