



Detailed Information about Speakers and points of visit

1. Kolding – The City Hosting the Congress:

Kolding is one of Denmark's oldest cities, founded in the Middle Ages and first mentioned in 1231. The city grew around Koldinghus, a royal castle built in the 13th century as a southern border defense. Over time, Kolding has held significant strategic importance, particularly during wars with Germany. The city was severely affected during the Swedish Wars and later the Napoleonic Wars. In 1864, it was close to the front line during the war against Prussia. Industrialization in the 19th century turned Kolding into a major trade and industrial hub. Today, the city is known for its culture, design, and business, and is home to Design School Kolding and the Trapholt Museum.

2. Søren Søndergaard, Chairman of Danish Agriculture & Food Council:

Fifth-generation farmer at Baldershave near Randbøl between Vejle and Billund. Elected chairman in November 2020 and re-elected for a two-year term in November 2024.

Self-employed farmer since the age of 24. Produces 1,100 sows and 35,000 slaughter pigs for Danish Crown. Manages 900 hectares with his parents, growing grain, rapeseed, seeds, and potatoes. Maintains 100 hectares of nature with suckler cows.

Business & Policy Engagement:

- Former Vice Chairman of the Pig Production division of the Danish Agriculture & Food Council.
- Chairman of advisory company Sagro.
- Board member of DanBred P/S.
- Member of the main board of the Danish Agriculture & Food Council since 2017.

3. Christian Fink Hansen, Director of Pig Production at Danish Agriculture & Food Council:

Holds an MSc in Agriculture (cand.agro.) from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (1999) and earned a PhD in pig nutrition and production in 2004. Previously worked as a researcher at Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia, and as a lecturer at the University of Copenhagen.

4. Thomas Kjær, Pig Producer from Northern Jutland (<https://vmlandbrug.dk>):

Former Vice Chairman of Danish Crown AmbA.

Farm:

Runs Vrejlev Møllegård near Vrå in Northern Jutland. The farm includes integrated pig production with 2,000 sows and annual production of about 70,000 pigs delivered to Danish Crown. Also cultivates 1,580 hectares mainly for feed, along with beets and grass for the farm's biogas plant.



5. Volkerts Fylke:

Volkerts Fylke is a modern event and conference venue in Kolding, tied to the city's industrial history. Part of the former Volkerts Fabrikker, which operated as a wool and cloth factory from 1877 to 1991.

After closing in 1991, the buildings were converted into today's venue, offering elegant rooms for meetings and events for up to 350 guests. The historical setting combined with modern facilities makes it ideal for conferences and private functions.

6. "The Black Diamond":

A nickname for a farm that visually resembles the famous library in Copenhagen. The farm is part of the Kjær Knudsen family's pig production business (Father: Peter Kjær Knudsen – long-time EPP member; Sons: Kim Kjær Knudsen – 1st alternate on Danish Crown's board, representative for Region 3; Knud Kjær Knudsen – board member of the National Association of Danish Pig Producers and representative for Region 3).

About the Family Business:

Kjaer Knudsen Agriculture A/S, headquartered in Allindemagle near Ringsted, Zealand, was founded in 2017 and operates pig production in Denmark and Sweden.

- **Denmark:** 7,100 sows and substantial slaughter pig production. In 2019, they sent 104,000 pigs to Danish slaughterhouses. In December 2024, they bought two properties near Sorø for DKK 73 million, adding 278 hectares and increasing their production by 20,000 pigs annually to 160,000.
- **Sweden:** 3,500 sows, demonstrating cross-border operations.

www.kjaerknudsen.eu

7. Danish Pig Academy (<https://www.danishpigacademy.com>):

A collaboration between 28 independent Danish companies specializing in pig farming equipment and services. The aim is to strengthen exports and cooperation through a joint showroom and network.

Expertise includes design, genetics, feed and grain storage, barn technology, manure systems, green tech, and finance.

They also produce "PIG FACTS" videos to share knowledge on topics like insemination, farrowing, and feeding.

8. Porcus:

A Danish veterinary practice focused on pig health consulting. Comprising 17 veterinarians, Porcus advises pig herds in Denmark and internationally.

<https://porcus.dk/sunde-grise-sund-forretning/porcus-english-version/>



9. Koldinghus Castle:

Founded in the mid-1200s, Koldinghus is the last royal castle in Jutland and has played a central role in Danish history. Originally a border fortress, it became a royal residence and administrative center. Destroyed by fire in 1808, it stood in ruins for over a century until a major restoration was completed in 1993. Now a museum and cultural venue with exhibitions and events.

<https://www.kongernessamling.dk/koldinghus/>

10. Steen Sønnichsen, CEO of TICAN:

Appointed acting CEO of Tican in early 2023 during a time of rebuilding trust with suppliers. Under his leadership, Tican has secured new contracts and improved producer relations.

Previously led the international division of Tönnies Group, overseeing operations in Denmark, Poland, Spain, and the UK. Extensive experience in food industry management.

About Tican:

Founded in 1931 and based in Thisted, Denmark. Produces fresh and frozen pork, bacon, ready meals, and other processed meat products. Acquired by Tönnies Group in 2015.

11. Wild Boar Fence at the Danish-German Border:

Built to prevent wild boars from entering Denmark from Germany to protect against African Swine Fever (ASF).

Fence Facts:

- Length: Approx. 70 km from the Wadden Sea to Padborg
- Height: 1.5 meters above ground, 0.5 meters underground
- Construction: Completed in 2019
- Cost: Approx. €6 million
- The fence has sustained storm and tree damage requiring ongoing repairs

12. DTL – Safety Wash for Livestock Transport:

DTL A/S is a Danish company specializing in live animal transport. To protect Danish pig farming from diseases like ASF, DTL has implemented strict biosecurity, including “Safety Wash,” a disinfection process for vehicles after each transport.



13. Gram Castle:

A historic manor in Southern Jutland dating back to the Middle Ages. Extensively remodeled in the 16th–17th centuries. Owned today by Svend Brodersen, who runs it as an organic farm and cultural venue.

Features:

- Organic food production
- Hosts concerts, markets, and conferences
- Restored buildings in a scenic park setting
- Prominent in Danish TV shows on organic farming and rural life

14. ENORM Biofactory A/S:

Founded in 2017 by Carsten Lind Pedersen and Jane Lind Sam. Specializes in insect-based protein production, mainly by farming Black Soldier Flies. Their larvae are processed into insect meal and oil used as sustainable feed for livestock, fish, and pets.

Facility Highlights:

- Largest insect factory in Northern Europe
- Over 10,000 tons of insect meal per year
- Processes about 100 tons of larvae daily
- Larvae are fed food industry by-products to support a circular economy

15. Svendborg:

Svendborg is a charming coastal town located in South Funen and is one of Denmark's oldest market towns. The city has around 27,000 inhabitants and is known for its maritime environment, beautiful harbor area, and vibrant cultural life. Svendborg serves as the gateway to the South Funen Archipelago with ferry connections to islands such as Ærø and Skarø. The city's history dates back to the Middle Ages, and many historical buildings and cobblestone streets have been preserved. Svendborg is also home to Svendborg Gymnasium, several vocational schools, and the Maritime Academy. The city boasts an active music and arts scene and hosts annual festivals such as "Svendborg Festsuge" and "Svend – Film Days in Svendborg." The surrounding nature offers forests, hills, and coastlines ideal for hiking and cycling.



16. M/S Helge:

M/S Helge is a historic Danish passenger ship that has been part of Svendborg's maritime heritage since it was launched in 1924. Originally, the ship operated as a ferry on the Svendborg Sound year-round. Since the mid-1980s, M/S Helge has been used exclusively for tourist cruises in the South Funen Archipelago. In 2024, M/S Helge celebrates its 100th anniversary, marking a century of sailing in the Svendborg Sound and the archipelago. Thus, M/S Helge is not just a means of transport, but a living piece of Denmark's maritime cultural heritage, continuing to offer history and nature experiences to both locals and visitors in Svendborg.

17. Hotel Troense:

Hotel Troense is a charming hotel located in the idyllic old skipper town of Troense on the island of Tåsinge, with a stunning view over the Svendborg Sound. Its location offers easy access to scenic surroundings and attractions such as Valdemars Castle, which lies nearby. The area is ideal for hiking and cycling, and several golf courses are located nearby, making the hotel especially attractive to golf enthusiasts.

18. Tranekær Castle:

Located on the island of Langeland, it is Denmark's oldest continuously inhabited non-ecclesiastical building, with roots dating back to around 1160. Originally a royal fortress, the castle was taken over in 1659 by Frederik Ahlefeldt and has remained in the family ever since. The current owner, Count Christian Ahlefeldt-Laurvig, represents the 13th generation at the castle. The castle's distinctive red façade comes from renovations carried out between 1859 and 1863. Today, Tranekær Castle operates as a modern agricultural and forestry estate, producing seeds, grains, and Christmas trees.

19. Christiansfeld:

Christiansfeld is a town in Southern Jutland, founded in 1773 by the Moravian Church (Brødremenigheden) and named after King Christian VII. The town is recognized as one of the best-preserved examples of a planned Moravian settlement in Northern Europe and was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2015. Christiansfeld is also famous for its honey cakes, a tradition that dates back to the town's founding.

20. Skamlingsbanken:

Skamlingsbanken is the highest point in Southern Jutland, standing 113 meters above sea level. The area was formed during the last Ice Age around 22,000–25,000 years ago, when a glacier pushed large amounts of stones, gravel, and clay ahead of it, creating the hilly landscape. In the mid-1800s, Skamlingsbanken became a gathering place for large public meetings, where speakers like N.F.S. Grundtvig and Orla Lehmann addressed the people on national issues, particularly the language conflict in Schleswig.