Pre Congress Tour
PRELIMINARY PLAN – 18.10.2020

Time and duration
Arrival at Bergen Saturday June 18th 2021. Start Sunday morning June 19th with transition between Norway and Sweden on Wednesday June 22nd. The tour ends in Copenhagen on Saturday evening June 25th.

From Norwegian fjords and mountains through Sweden
In just over a week you will gain a good insight into agriculture in two of the host countries: Norway and Sweden. It will range from small-scale collaboration and milk production almost 1,000 meters above the sea level, to large production farms. You will see farmers investing in new industries in addition to their traditional farm operations. We will also give you an insight into new technology in grass production, top competence related to genes and one of the world’s most successful mashin producers. For all visits, the focus will be on strategy, leadership and finances.
In parallel, we will be able to show you scenic experiences related to Norwegian fjords and mountains, forest areas and the large lakes in Sweden. You will also find tourist attractions such as Flåmsbanen, Borgund Stave Church and the world famous midsummer celebration in Sweden.
Transport and accommodation
There will be one comfortable bus that follows us all the way and the driver knows local conditions. The accommodation will take place at good hotels and on farms with tourism. All meals are inc.

Saturday, June 18th

It is possible to arrive at Bergen Airport Flesland (BGO) with direct flights from around 12 international destinations, including Copenhagen. You can also arrive in Norway via flights to Oslo and on to Bergen. A scenic and environmentally friendly alternative is train from Oslo to Bergen across the mountain.
Those arriving early can join a guided walk in Bergen. We will gather for dinner in the evening.

Sunday, June 19th

This day the focus will be on Norwegian nature; fjords and mountains. The hotel is very close to Bergen train station. We start with a train ride from Bergen to Flåm. We reach an altitude of 866 meters before the train winds 20 km down to the Sognefjord and Flåm. In 2014, this stretch was voted the most beautiful train journey in the world by Lonely Planet.

In the evening we come to Lærdal where we are presented with the challenges the farmers encountered there a few years ago. As a result of sickness on the salmon, the income they had beside the farm disappeared. At the same time, it became more difficult to trade berries, fruits and vegetables from small farms. Collaboration and innovation became the solution.
Monday June 20th

The day will start at the fjord and end up in the high mountains.
First we will visit some skilled farmers in Lærdal (fruits and berries) who have been through restructuring. On the way to the mountain we will also visit the Borgund Stave Church and in the mountains we will be presented to the special Norwegian tour and cabin tradition. In the afternoon we will meet the milk production almost a thousand meters above sea level.
The accommodation will take place on a farm that has run their hotel for more than a generation. Today it is run by two brothers.

Adjustable farmers
We visit two fruit / berry growers and neighbours at Lysne in Lærdal, Kari Signe Lysne and Rikard Lysne. They have been involved in the restructuring that we were briefed on the night before. In addition, they will inform about cultivation techniques, where they, among other things, create "tunnels" to protect the berries.

Milk production in the mountains
In the afternoon we will visit the mountain area, Hedalsstølen. At this time, the cows and goats of three farmers have just moved from the farm to the mountains for the summer. The milk from this summer production is particularly sought after. We hope to have a cheese producer telling you how he uses this raw material and of course get some tastings. We have also made some agreements with people who can tell us about the economics of having animals on the mountain and the political framework conditions for this.
Tuesday, June 21th

We travel from the mountains and down to the lowlands. Here we come to typical Norwegian farms where milk production based on local resources is dominant. We are also focusing on how several Norwegian farmers are investing in other industries to obtain sufficient financial basis. The day ends in one of the best agricultural areas in Norway where also the largest farms are located. Here we spend the night in an old, magnificent mansion.

**Noraker Gård**

has built up a new industry which has grown to become the main industry on the farm. Here, it is the breeding of trout that is processed into «rakfisk», a spesial old way of preparing fish. They are one of 6 producers in the area that together promote this product as a special brand.

**Monica and Petter Klette**

are dairy farmers who receive us in a typical area with grassland farms. Petter is a consultant himself and is involved in a project called Future Farm. The focus is the registration and collection of data to improve the quality and profitability of feed production.

**Hoel Gård**

ceseed livestock production half a century ago as a result of the reshuffling of Norwegian agricultural policy. But single grain production eventually did not generate enough income. The last generation has supplemented with chicken production and tourism. The key word is conversion. Recently they also have undergone a generation transition.
Wednesday, June 22th

The day starts with a presentation of high-tech breeding of cattle and pigs. This day we leave the agricultural areas of the flat countryside in Norway, crossing the border to Sweden as we drive through deep forests. Along the way, we will meet Norwegian dairy farmers who become big through collaboration and in the afternoon we will be introduced to Swedish agriculture.

**Geno and Topigs Norsvin**

has collected their development of pigs and cattle genes in Hamar. Here they are world leading in international development. Norwegian pig genes are exported to 54 countries. The development is also of great importance to Norwegian farmers, with a focus on minimal use of antibiotics and good animal welfare.

«**Melkesamdrift**»

means that two or three farmers are merging their businesses and moving production into a common building. But there are many human challenges associated with such close cooperation. In addition, the generation transition can be challenging. We want to end the cross-section of Norwegian agriculture by showing our way of achieving economies of scale in milk production.

The hotel we are staying at this night is in Karlstad which is located near by Sweden’s largest lake; Vänern.
Thursday, June 23th

We will drive through beautiful Swedish landscapes with forests, lakes and agriculture. During the day there will be exciting visits to three very different businesses, which equally show a good picture of Swedish agriculture. After many kilometers on the road it will be extra nice to end up in a vineyard.

**Hermelins**
It is a farm business with two very capable business leaders, Olof and Magdalena Hermelin. They have 300 ha plant cultivation with lawn cultivation as a specialty. They grow vegetables for retail and have a farm shop. Turnover 1.7 million €. Highly driven on marketing.

**Väderstad Ltd**
A Swedish manufacturer of seed drills, tillage machines and precision seed drills with sales worldwide.

**Bränninge farm**
A different agricultural company where a threat was turned into an opportunity. Plant cultivation, forestry and real estate improvement with sustainable thinking.

**Ästad Vingård**
is one of Sweden’s biggest vineyards, beautifully situated in the Åkulla beechforests natural reserve. Former dairy farm (organic) that turned over to tourism, experience and conference. A unique experience.
Friday, June 24th — Midsummer Eve

This is a very special day in Sweden: Midsummer Eve. We will feel the mood and attend the traditional celebration in the evening. But first, we will visit some successful farmers who produce respectively pigs and sheep. We spend the night and celebrate the Midsummer evening on a family run farm hotel.

Ragnarsson Pigs
A pig company that has developed a production system based on ethnological studies on the behavior of pigs. It has since been transformed together with organic production into a business concept, which then leads to different business models with added value on the revenue side. The owners Gun and Martin Ragnarsson are very dynamic in their appearance. The company has won awards for its animal care and entrepreneurship.

Öströö sheep farm
has uniquely developed sheep production and vertically integrated it with slaughterhouse and processing of both meat and wool. Then they have mixed it with a range of services that is a true experience for many visitors. About 60,000 visits per year. This year’s sheep entrepreneurs and also won several awards for their entrepreneurship.

Lögnäs Lanthotell
Here at the family farm outside Laholm, almost on the border between Halland and Skåne, they run our small rural spa hotel. They have two guest in the hotel- humans and heifers! 90 ha arable. The owners have tremendous entrepreneurial power and have grown strongly and have acquired a unique position in the market. Very good profitability in the business! Multiple award-winning.
Saturday, June 25th

The last day of Pre Tour runs along the beautiful west coast of Sweden. We will visit two very different livestock producers, who both have clear goals for their business. At the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences at beautiful Alnarp Campus we also get to meet a slightly different project. We leave Sweden and drive the famous “Bridge” over to Denmark and Copenhagen.

**Skottorps farm**
Family run business. 2.500 ha arable production, 1.300 milk cows in 3 units, pedigree work, cheese production etc. Highly effective farm run by Lars-Inge Gunnarsson (fader) and Anna Gunnarsson (daughter).

**Annelövs-pig farm**
This is the story about how a young girl, Cecilia Klasson, without money possibly took a farm business with 1000 sows!

**Alnarp’s rehabilitation garden**
for physical and mental health, lots of research and development. Very much in focus for the health debate! This is situated at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences at beautiful Alnarp Campus.