

PhD-project:

The farm as an alternative learning arena for pupils in the secondary school

Presentation of status of the project

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Photo: Unsplash.com

The PhD-project is a part of a major research project lead by Bente Berget with the title: «*Farm-based adapted education for pupils in the secondary school*».

NORCE Norwegian Research Center AS is the owner of the research-project, which is founded by Matfondavtalen, NRF (Norwegian Research Council).

Background for the research

- An unknown number of young people receive adapted training on farms in Norway
- About 400 quality assured and approved farms are currently available in Norway
- There are little research on the "farm as an educational resource" in a Norwegian context



Illustration photo: Siv Merete Arnesen

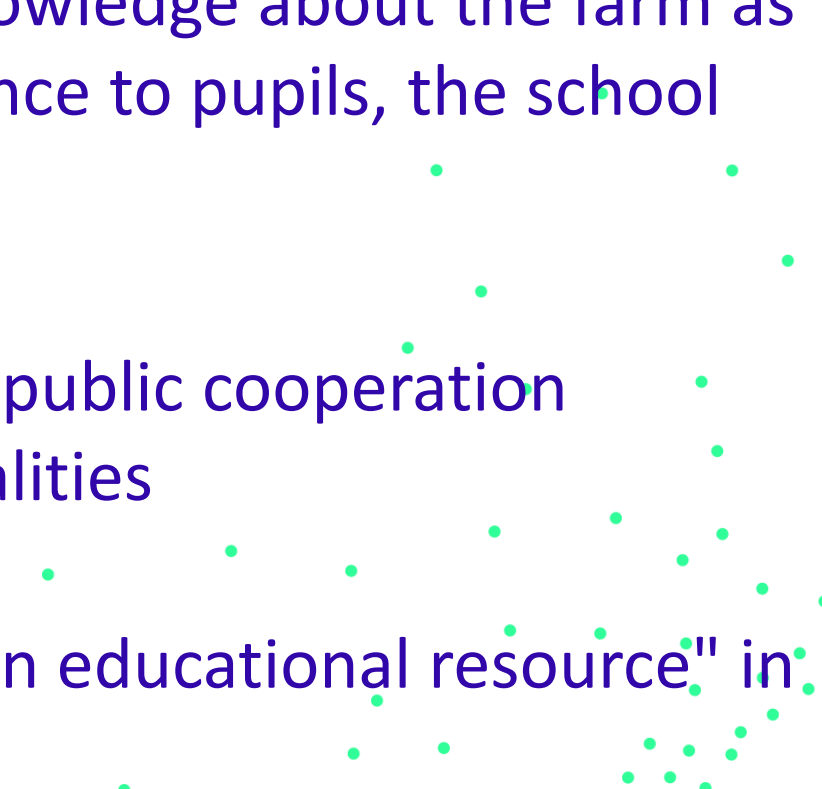
- Only 74,5% of young people in Norway and in the other Nordic countries complete upper secondary education within five years (SSB, 2018)
- There are teachers who experience that the school doesn't cater for the variations of the individual pupils
- There are different opinions in Norway regarding if it is an advantage or a disadvantage taking pupils out of their class to receive special education (Markussen, Frøseth and Grøgaard, 2009)



Research questions

- ***Explore how the farm as a learning arena is organized and works and what experiences the pupils in 9th and 10th grade have with the farm as a learning arena associated with their learning process and well-being.***
 - 1) *How do the pupils experience the farm as a learning arena?*
 - 2) *In what ways are the pupil's mastery, learning and well-being influenced by participating in activities at the farm?*
 - 3) *What characterizes the interaction between the teachers and providers who work together about the learning arena, and how do the different persons influence the learning arena?*

Why is this research important?

- The research is important in obtaining knowledge about the farm as an learning arena. This can be of importance to pupils, the school system and providers
 - To increase knowledge of the private and public cooperation between farmers and schools or municipalities
 - There are little research on the "farm as an educational resource" in a Norwegian context
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The research project consists of two part-studies:

- **Part-study A: Two surveys**

Sent to:

- Providers/farmers registered in KSL Matmerk's approval system market with "GSPR" per. January 2019. National survey. Response rate approx. 41 % (102 answered by N=249)
- Principals of secondary schools in two counties. Response rate approx. 8% (21 answered by N=260)

- **Part-study B (main study): Interviews**

- Participatory observations on five different farms
- 30 interviews with pupils, farmers, teachers and others involved in pupil's education
- The pupils have been interviewed twice

Research methodology

Exploratory qualitative research design: (the main study)

- Case-studies: 5 different farms
- Participatory observations
- Interviews:
 - Pupils in 9th and 10th grade (N = 13)
(interviewed twice: 2019 and 2021)
 - Farmers (N = 5)
 - Teachers (N= 7)
 - Principal, inspector, other educational staff
(N= 6)



At the conferences, some preliminary findings from the surveys and interviews were presented. I am still analyzing this data, and it will therefore not be posted in this presentation on the website.

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