

The Swedish Board of Agriculture





We strengthen the green sector for a sustainable society

The Board of Agriculture is the Government's expert authority in the area of agricultural policy, and has a wide field of activities. Our vision – the Board of Agriculture strengthens the green sector for a sustainable society – expresses our ambition to strive towards a positive and sound development in our area of responsibility. In order for us to succeed in our mission we need a holistic perspective and the ability to act swiftly and efficiently.

We are a sector authority, which means that we are experts in the following areas: animal keeping, plant production, environmental impacts of agriculture, markets for agricultural products and food, as well as rural development. We are the accredited paying agency for agricultural and rural support, and are also responsible for i.a. EU support to fisheries and aquaculture, and for furthering both recreational and commercial fishing.

As a sector authority we need to take a holistic view and deal with conflicting objectives. We merge knowledge from various fields and engage in active dialogue with stakeholders in order to fulfill our mission. Two examples of dialogue forums are our consumer council and our plant protection council. Our areas of responsibility are matters that many people feel strongly about. This is true of for instance animal welfare, which is in constant focus both for us and in public debate.

We need to keep evolving, and are always working on improvements and simplifications to the benefit of our customers. We actively strive to reduce the administrative burden and to develop our degree of service. For instance, together with the County Administrative Boards we are setting up a joint customer service to handle questions on agricultural support, and we also continue to develop our internet services to make things easier for our customers. Efficient administration and well-functioning in-house support processes and IT systems are necessary for us to be useful to our customers.

We aim to be a proactive, credible and professional authority, and by being so we strengthen the green sector for a sustainable society.



Mats Persson
Director General





Our mission and role

as a sector authority

- ◆ The mission of the Board of Agriculture is, within the areas of agriculture and rural development, to strive towards sustainable development, good animal welfare, dynamic and competitive enterprises in all of Sweden, and food production that benefits consumers.
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in Swedish public administration and in EU work

- ◆ As regards administration of EU agricultural policy, the Board of Agriculture has a central and coordinating role among the authorities concerned, and is the accredited paying agency for agricultural and rural support.
- ◆ EU work is an important part of our efforts, and the EU perspective permeates almost all areas of activity.
- ◆ At the Government's behest we take active part in Sweden's efforts to develop policies in our area of responsibility, and are responsible for implementing the agricultural policy.



Animals

The Board of Agriculture strives towards

- ◆ good animal health, biodiversity and sustainable environment
- ◆ preventing and limiting the spread of animal diseases that may affect animal and public health as well as food and feed
- ◆ good animal welfare, in which animals are kept in a way that furthers their health and permits natural behavior
- ◆ a nationwide preventive animal health care that is available at all times.

Animal health and welfare are closely related, both for pets and livestock. The Board of Agriculture seeks to prevent problems and is always prepared to deal with and limit contagious animal diseases, to the benefit of both animals and people. The District Veterinarians ensure that a veterinary organization is always available in all of Sweden.



Plants, environment and water

The Board of Agriculture strives towards

- ◆ achieving the national environmental objectives
- ◆ preserving and reinforcing the environmental and cultural values of the agricultural landscape
- ◆ reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental stresses caused by agriculture
- ◆ working with water use, management and preservation in the agricultural landscape
- ◆ combatting plant pests and preventing them from spreading
- ◆ safe use of genetically modified plants.

Advisory services and information are important tools in our environmental work regarding agricultural and rural matters. The Board of Agriculture is responsible for the environmental objective “A Varied Agricultural Landscape”.



Agriculture, fisheries and rural development

The Board of Agriculture strives towards

- ◆ an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable food production reflecting consumer demand
- ◆ a cost-effective and correct management of EU support
- ◆ production and publishing of statistics on agriculture, fisheries and food
- ◆ thriving rural areas
- ◆ achieving the goals of the rural development programme
- ◆ achieving the goals of the regional development policy
- ◆ efficient management of tasks concerning the fisheries policy.

The rural development programme includes agro-environmental payments, enterprise support, and project support. As regards the Single Payment Scheme and most of the other forms of support to agriculture or rural development, the County Administrative Board makes the decisions and the Board of Agriculture is the Paying Agency. From 1 July 2011 the Board of Agriculture has tasks concerning the fisheries policy. This involves responsibility for promoting the fisheries industry, fish processing, employment, regional development, markets, trade, and consumer issues, as well as promoting recreational fishing and managing the fisheries programme and aquaculture.



The Board of Agriculture in figures

- ◆ The Board of Agriculture has approximately 1 200 employees.
- ◆ 650 work at head office in Jönköping.
- ◆ 150 are placed in southern and central Sweden where they work with matters relating to environmental concerns, water, seeds, inspection, and livestock registers.
- ◆ Slightly more than 400 work at District Veterinary stations all over Sweden.
- ◆ Every year the Board of Agriculture pays some SEK 13 billion in various forms of support.



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