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00:00:00,870 --> 00:00:03,750

Hello, everyone. Welcome to our podcast episode.

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00:00:04,080 --> 00:00:10,890

This is an assignment that is part of the course Sustainable Organizing in Times of Crisis, at Hanken School of Economics in 2024.

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00:00:11,520 --> 00:00:13,650

Our group consists of me, Emilia Jansen.

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00:00:14,010 --> 00:00:23,339

Agathe Daoudal, Nishani Kodikara, and Moja Ladvelin. In this episode, an interview recorded on Thursday 29th of February 2024,

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00:00:23,340 --> 00:00:31,650

Nishani is in Helsinki discussing with our guest Tomas Torsein, who's on his farm over Microsoft teams about regenerative agriculture.

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00:00:32,580 --> 00:00:39,930

Tomas is a regenerative farmer from Sweden, close to Falköping, where he has his farm belt, at Bältaregådens Angus that is specialized in endless cows.

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00:00:41,010 --> 00:00:47,160

Sustainability is a definition that can be interpreted in a broader context that is dependent on the author of the definition.

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00:00:48,090 --> 00:00:55,409

In this episode, our topic Degrowth is discussed, and the term degrowth here is about the transformation of societies or economies to

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00:00:55,410 --> 00:00:59,490

ensure environmental justice and good life for all within planetary boundaries.

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00:01:00,210 --> 00:01:05,220

Thanks to Maxime Blossom, there are different ways to degrowth in today's society that can be local,

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00:01:05,550 --> 00:01:10,920

decentralized and participatory solutions like agroecology and regenerative agriculture.

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00:01:11,940 --> 00:01:19,140

The proponents of degrowth are about ecological and social well-being rather than corporate profits, overproduction, and excess consumption.

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00:01:19,410 --> 00:01:25,860

And this is what Tomas will tell us more about. How can degrowth come into being due to the premises we live with?

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00:01:26,490 --> 00:01:32,790

What is this kind of eco-preneurship working in the dimension of grassroots movements, human and non-human life in the community?

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00:01:33,270 --> 00:01:37,050

Let's listen and gain some new information about regenerative agriculture.

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00:01:37,290 --> 00:01:55,700

Enjoy. Hello everyone, welcome to our podcast where we delve into the inspiring world of eco entrepreneurship and I’m Nishani.

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00:01:55,800 --> 00:02:04,560

And today we have a fascinating guest with us, Thomas, a trailblazing eco entrepreneur on a mission to make sustainability accessible to all.

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00:02:05,160 --> 00:02:15,150

So our aim for this podcast is to go in deep into the eco entrepreneurial landscape, making it understandable and engaging for everyone.

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00:02:16,110 --> 00:02:25,520

Throughout our conversation, we explore Tomas’ journey, activities and gain valuable insights into his perspectives for a more sustainable future.

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00:02:26,530 --> 00:02:29,920

Thank you so much for joining us today, Tomas.

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00:02:30,130 --> 00:02:33,340

I'm thrilled to have you as an esteemed guest on this broadcast.

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00:02:33,340 --> 00:02:36,630

So, if you are ready, I can move on with the questions.

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00:02:37,750 --> 00:02:47,540

Yes, I think I'm ready. Okay. Is this and what did they call it, the eco-preneur.

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00:02:47,560 --> 00:02:54,700

I never heard about that before, but I guess it has something to do with entrepreneurial things.

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00:02:55,330 --> 00:03:04,150

Yeah. So, like, first thing is, do you have any perspective or opinion about this eco entrepreneurialism or being an eco-entrepreneur?

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00:03:04,540 --> 00:03:15,040

Basically, eco entrepreneurship means like into eco sustainability and being an entrepreneur on that area.

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00:03:15,670 --> 00:03:20,110

So, do you have anything like that sort of, do you have any idea about that?

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00:03:21,190 --> 00:03:31,870

Well, I think it's a good thing to be. It's a good way of running well, in many ways, of course.

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00:03:31,870 --> 00:03:38,160

But for us, the way to run our business to be an entrepreneur.

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00:03:39,490 --> 00:03:43,930

Okay, let's talk about, like, your part in this.

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00:03:43,930 --> 00:03:51,670

So, can you tell us about your farm in Falköping and how would you explain it to someone who has never heard of this type of farming?

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00:03:52,750 --> 00:04:07,329

Well, I think if you look at our farm or our farming business, I think for and for most of the people that watch our farm,

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00:04:07,330 --> 00:04:17,739

I think it looks like a quite ordinary cow, calf operation, like we breed cows that get calf.

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00:04:17,740 --> 00:04:24,700

And they grow old and become meat and food for us.

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00:04:26,590 --> 00:04:35,130

But I would say for us it's very important to revitalize the ecosystems.

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00:04:35,140 --> 00:04:38,500

It's more important to do that than the cows or.

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00:04:39,460 --> 00:04:48,300

Our animals, both wild animals, and like our own cows and horses.

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00:04:48,300 --> 00:04:56,430

There are more tools to get the ecosystem processes work as good as possible.

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00:04:57,270 --> 00:05:03,719

But while we are doing that, we are growing as well.

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00:05:03,720 --> 00:05:06,840

A very big variety of plants.

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00:05:07,530 --> 00:05:20,790

We are growing fruits and berries, like at least 15 different kinds of berries and fruits and also hazelnuts and so on our land.

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00:05:21,510 --> 00:05:28,169

Okay. To get the right variation of different plants to feed the ecosystem.

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00:05:28,170 --> 00:05:40,080

And in the ecosystem, it's not all, it's not only like people and cows, there's also wild birds and insects and worms and everything.

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00:05:41,220 --> 00:05:48,270

So, for us, it's important to look after them and see that they have got like shelter,

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00:05:49,050 --> 00:05:56,220

Water and food and everything we want, to have on our farm needs shelter and water and feed.

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00:05:57,900 --> 00:06:01,560

So, for us, it's important to create that for them.

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00:06:02,430 --> 00:06:05,960

So that's important. It's we're on about

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00:06:06,330 --> 00:06:19,140

800 hectares,I think it's like 1500 acres or something that we are running at this day on the way.

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00:06:20,040 --> 00:06:27,540

And it's almost on perennial plants and some vegetables that are annual.

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00:06:28,260 --> 00:06:34,860

So that's a small picture of our farm, I would say.

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00:06:35,400 --> 00:06:42,660

Is there anything more you think you would know about it, want to know about it done or listeners.

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00:06:43,470 --> 00:06:49,920

Oh, okay. Like if we talk about like, how did you come to this?

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00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:55,780

Did you study in this field or family affair, or did you like it?

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00:06:55,780 --> 00:07:01,020

It's a brand-new idea of yours or did you started this?

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00:07:01,770 --> 00:07:11,550

Well, from the beginning. I'm a mechanical engineer, so I'm not from the farming business at all from the beginning and also a flying instructor.

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00:07:12,120 --> 00:07:20,880

So I educate new pilots. So farming is not actually my main what you say?

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00:07:21,300 --> 00:07:25,080

Area or subject, but I think farming is very interesting.

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00:07:25,080 --> 00:07:33,350

So as a mechanical engineer, I was sitting in an office looking out the window and felt them.

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00:07:33,760 --> 00:07:42,930

I think I would like to be more outdoors. So, what should I do to be more in that in that environment.

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00:07:42,930 --> 00:07:47,069

So then, well, farmers, they are outside almost all the time.

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00:07:47,070 --> 00:07:54,809

So that's why, I combined those two professions with also the farming interests.

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00:07:54,810 --> 00:08:04,020

So, but we are doing something that I think most of the people nowadays called regenerative agriculture.

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00:08:05,970 --> 00:08:11,370

You can call it a lot of things, but I think that is what most of the people would call what we are doing.

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00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:16,650

And when we start. When I started doing that, it was like 25 years ago.

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00:08:16,800 --> 00:08:24,480

Not many around here. I didn't know anyone else doing that and I didn't even know about the name regenerative agriculture.

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00:08:24,480 --> 00:08:29,430

So, we were doing that on a place that I was employed.

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00:08:29,700 --> 00:08:31,830

We didn't have our own farm at that time.

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00:08:32,580 --> 00:08:50,190

So I started to try new ways of getting more, from photosynthesis and, and to get more water in our land.

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00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:54,360

But I had I hadn't no one else to talk about that at that time.

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00:08:55,140 --> 00:09:02,530

But maybe a little bit more than ten years ago I met other peoples and

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00:09:02,970 --> 00:09:08,070

Maybe most important was that I did I got in contact with holistic management.

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00:09:09,340 --> 00:09:13,990

I met Alan Savoury after lunch in Norway.

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00:09:14,290 --> 00:09:21,609

I listened to him there. He was talking about holistic management, and that was for me.

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00:09:21,610 --> 00:09:26,590

It was really to get the key to a door I wanted to open for a long time.

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00:09:26,900 --> 00:09:36,820

He really gave me the tools to hurry up my understanding of the ecosystems,

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00:09:36,820 --> 00:09:42,850

how they were worked and how I could affect them in different ways.

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00:09:43,780 --> 00:09:46,900

So that was maybe ten years, a little bit more than ten years ago

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00:09:47,470 --> 00:09:54,680

I think so. So that was when I climbed up a little bit on an understanding of regenerative agriculture.

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00:09:54,680 --> 00:09:58,420

And I would say I think for most other people interested in this, I think.

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00:09:58,450 --> 00:10:05,590

Alan Savoury is a quite known person.

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00:10:06,560 --> 00:10:10,010

Oh, I don't know. That was a quick answer.

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00:10:10,280 --> 00:10:14,120

Yeah, that’s okay. And also, like,

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00:10:14,420 --> 00:10:21,620

you have this website, and we went to it and we were able to find this quotation from you

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00:10:21,620 --> 00:10:27,530

that your ambition is to grow agricultural goods in the most natural and practical way for you.

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00:10:27,920 --> 00:10:31,700

So how is your way of growing?

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00:10:31,700 --> 00:10:36,290

By breaking the norms and being eco-friendly, how does that works?

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00:10:37,070 --> 00:10:46,880

You mean how we do or how we feel about it? Yeah, how you go beyond like the normal practices and become eco-friendly while you are doing your work?

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00:10:47,420 --> 00:10:50,120

I think it's been very close to me all the time.

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00:10:50,120 --> 00:10:58,130

Even when I was younger and even a kid, maybe I was very interested in the nature and how it works and.

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00:10:59,340 --> 00:11:03,239

How, and I liked almost everything in the nature.

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00:11:03,240 --> 00:11:11,580

So it was it has always been there for me, I think. And though I haven't been like in the traditional agricultural.

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00:11:12,360 --> 00:11:21,690

Well, I have had some courses or education in traditional, but I didn't really like the way of doing things.

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00:11:23,070 --> 00:11:28,370

Like a big difference from what we are doing. We are. How do you say we want to

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00:11:29,130 --> 00:11:34,560

Well, in the traditional farming, you want to kill everything that you don't want.

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00:11:35,490 --> 00:11:46,780

Like with pesticides and with machinery and with a lot of things you want to get rid of, like weeds and.

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00:11:48,540 --> 00:11:55,620

Like insects you don't want there. But in our way of looking at generative agriculture,

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00:11:55,770 --> 00:12:06,569

you are more looking to what to make it good for the things you want there. You don't really take think too much of the things you don't want,

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00:12:06,570 --> 00:12:13,410

but you more look at what do the things I want here I need and take care of that instead.

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00:12:13,410 --> 00:12:26,160

And I think for me it was a much more interesting way of looking at it, because when you do that, the things you don't want there, it does not disappear.

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00:12:26,160 --> 00:12:31,680

But the importance of it disappears. Was it understandable?

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00:12:32,250 --> 00:12:40,620

Yeah, it was. And also like you said it not aligning with the normal traditional ways that we are seeing.

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00:12:40,620 --> 00:12:48,450

So what are the challenges that you have faced in a company in this way of farming than,

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00:12:48,750 --> 00:13:02,220

like going beyond the traditional way of farming? Well, I wouldn't think, I don't think it's been so many struggles or problems with that.

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00:13:02,250 --> 00:13:08,070

It was more difficult when I tried to run it more traditional actually,

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00:13:08,670 --> 00:13:18,960

because there are so many of the problems that of course, that you don't find in regenerative agriculture.

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00:13:19,530 --> 00:13:29,070

So, for the lazy people (I’m a lazy person) it's good to do this way instead because most of the problems doesn't well,

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00:13:29,700 --> 00:13:33,990

the problems maybe not disappear, but you don't see them as problems anymore.

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00:13:34,830 --> 00:13:39,180

So. Well, to say the question again, if there was a.

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00:13:40,210 --> 00:13:43,640

It was like, do you face any challenges?

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00:13:43,660 --> 00:13:46,270

Challenges? Of course. There's always challenges.

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00:13:46,540 --> 00:13:56,379

There is always, but more not because we are doing this way, but because there is challenges like weather and politics and economy.

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00:13:56,380 --> 00:14:00,070

And so, but those challenges would have been even.

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00:14:01,110 --> 00:14:08,100

Greater if we would have continued or like with traditional farming.

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00:14:08,790 --> 00:14:13,710

Now when we are using holistic management in the way we are now,

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00:14:14,220 --> 00:14:23,250

like the holistic management for them who don't know about it is a framework for decision making.

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00:14:25,040 --> 00:14:34,400

In like businesses that you want to be. How do you say for your business that you want to be sustainable?

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00:14:35,120 --> 00:14:40,550

Yes. Yeah, you can say that. Yeah. To be sustainable for a long time.

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00:14:42,450 --> 00:14:49,250

And so, it's planning, to plan the.

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00:14:49,430 --> 00:14:52,880

So it's that you don't get very that many.

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00:14:54,860 --> 00:15:01,910

surprises that you get in traditional farming and traditional farming, you get a lot of surprises all the time.

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00:15:02,750 --> 00:15:09,830

But then when you use well, of course you can. You can try to use holistic management in traditional farming as well.

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00:15:10,010 --> 00:15:14,110

But probably you would probably change a lot of things.

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00:15:14,120 --> 00:15:19,020

You do things. So, it would probably end up in regenerative agriculture.

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00:15:19,060 --> 00:15:28,370

But anyway, if you start using holistic management and yeah, so like in this business model that you're running currently,

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00:15:28,610 --> 00:15:32,680

do you find any areas that you think need more improvement in the future?

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00:15:32,690 --> 00:15:38,020

Maybe. Do you have like that, to improve the existing business model of yours?

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00:15:40,020 --> 00:15:52,530

Well, we are doing that all the time, I would say. And also because of the ecosystems and changes of the time and also the

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00:15:52,530 --> 00:16:01,440

politics change just over the time and our financial strength, changes like we are,

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00:16:02,160 --> 00:16:11,370

We are getting it's easier for us to make investments if we want or need it than it was in the beginning.

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00:16:11,370 --> 00:16:14,940

So of course, it is changing all the time.

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00:16:15,660 --> 00:16:18,840

Improvement. Special improvements would be maybe.

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00:16:19,970 --> 00:16:28,070

Things that have been difficult is to find people who both want to and can work with these things,

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00:16:29,060 --> 00:16:35,120

both that have the knowledge that, of course, we tried to give them, but also just the physical strength.

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00:16:35,630 --> 00:16:36,070

Many,

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00:16:36,280 --> 00:16:46,820

Many other people that are interested in this maybe not have the skills to need to drive the tractor or take care of big animals and such things.

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00:16:47,800 --> 00:16:57,740

So, it's to find people who have been there that want to help us with this have been difficult.

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00:16:57,740 --> 00:17:03,950

And we are looking for a lot of. That's how we could make that easier for us.

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00:17:05,540 --> 00:17:16,940

Okay. That could be, of course, an improvement not only for us, but for all the regenerative communities or something.

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00:17:18,950 --> 00:17:27,710

And since we are talking about this regenerative agriculture, so what are the practices that make this regeneration come into play?

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00:17:28,250 --> 00:17:35,120

Like, do you find any special practices when it comes to regenerative agriculture?

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00:17:36,150 --> 00:17:38,890

Well for us, I think there are quite a lot, but.

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00:17:40,590 --> 00:17:50,250

As I said, it's to make what you can to make the plants or the animals that you want to be there,

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00:17:51,750 --> 00:18:00,750

to find ways to make them thrive and thrive together. We use, as I said before, animals as a tool and the planning.

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00:18:01,410 --> 00:18:06,810

The important part of that is to have a good grazing plan.

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00:18:07,350 --> 00:18:21,210

I think most plants we have, if it's trees and brushes and grass and whatever, it's most of it is plants that thrive while being grazed.

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00:18:22,140 --> 00:18:31,440

So, the grazing plan is very important tool for us to get more out of the land and also to give the.

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00:18:33,180 --> 00:18:39,930

Did we talk about the four ecosystem processes? No, no, I just mentioned a moment,

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00:18:40,260 --> 00:18:50,010

but we are talking about the water cycle like the rain and rivers and so on and mist and so and we also talk about the mineral cycle,

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00:18:51,480 --> 00:19:01,830

the energy flow to get most of it out of the sun, like having a lot of green plants as long as possible during the year.

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00:19:02,310 --> 00:19:08,280

And we also talk about community dynamics. It's from the holistic management.

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00:19:09,420 --> 00:19:14,490

And I guess you can find them in other places as well.

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00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:28,890

But so very important to get those four ecosystem processes to be as good as possible and try to get them even better,

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00:19:29,640 --> 00:19:36,750

to like to get the work, to stay on the farm, to make it available for plants and animals,

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00:19:37,740 --> 00:19:41,850

both during droughts or a longer time without rain,

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00:19:42,690 --> 00:19:58,350

and also, to make the land as good as possible to take care of like heavy showers and rains when it comes and to make well and also to.

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00:19:58,630 --> 00:20:04,230

So, one practice could be when I was talking about community dynamics it's to have like

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00:20:04,260 --> 00:20:12,700

a big variation of plants and also the age of plants like not only 300-year-old oaks,

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00:20:12,840 --> 00:20:17,520

but maybe one year old oaks. So that could.

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00:20:18,060 --> 00:20:29,430

So, we are talking about a big variation of ages of plants and animals and also a big variation of types of plants and

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00:20:29,430 --> 00:20:40,379

animals to make it possible for them to thrive together in all different kinds of conditions like weather and climate.

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00:20:40,380 --> 00:20:51,180

And so that that is I would say it's all of that is tools for us.

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00:20:51,870 --> 00:20:57,929

But you were not talking about tools. Can you tell me again?

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00:20:57,930 --> 00:21:01,320

It’s okay, tools are also included I think, I was talking about practices, but obviously tools are included.

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00:21:02,760 --> 00:21:03,870

Yeah.

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00:21:04,920 --> 00:21:16,350

What is easy to see at our place is that we are like bunching our cows in smaller herds to get high density grazing and high density,

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00:21:16,360 --> 00:21:22,919

many animals on a small area and move them through their landscape to get the

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00:21:22,920 --> 00:21:30,090

plants grazed and eaten and get manure on short time on the one spot and also get

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00:21:30,090 --> 00:21:38,640

trampling from the animals to feed the soil and feed the like micro-organisms from

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00:21:40,050 --> 00:21:46,290

with both organic material in different forms like manure and plants trample down.

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00:21:46,590 --> 00:21:49,890

And then we move the cows.

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00:21:51,020 --> 00:21:57,190

Or whatever animals we use at a new place every day and so on.

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00:21:57,810 --> 00:22:14,110

And then we let this area rest or at least recover before we come back again with this herd or another herd or another,

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00:22:14,470 --> 00:22:18,400

maybe we harvest the grass for, for winter hay or something.

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00:22:19,570 --> 00:22:26,889

And everything of that is in our plan that we use for to know where we should be with the

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00:22:26,890 --> 00:22:33,070

animals and know that we have feed for them and for the wild animals all over the year.

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00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:42,370

So, I would say that the planning and the herds and high-density grazing is practices that we use a lot,

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00:22:42,970 --> 00:22:53,060

that was very informative! And I think we don't plan a lot like,

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00:22:53,250 --> 00:23:01,239

We never plant cereals or something like annuals, but sometimes plants trees.

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00:23:01,240 --> 00:23:12,970

And so, if we want more of some specific and we do like seed some grasses and so if we want to.

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00:23:14,670 --> 00:23:23,730

Get greater variety. Like if you look at the farming, like all the kinds of farming that are happening in the world.

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00:23:24,390 --> 00:23:27,480

What do you think about farming in the future?

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00:23:27,490 --> 00:23:36,150

Like, do you think it will move towards regenerating farming and ecofriendly farming in the future?

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00:23:37,080 --> 00:23:46,380

What I can see, we have had a lot of visits to our farm, both from students and other farmers and so on during this time last year.

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00:23:46,900 --> 00:23:50,580

So, the interest has been very great and big.

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00:23:51,690 --> 00:23:58,980

So, what I see is that the interest is increasing a lot in generating agricultural.

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00:23:59,550 --> 00:24:07,950

So, I would be very surprised if the practices wouldn't increase and not as well.

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00:24:08,970 --> 00:24:17,310

But I'm a little bit surprised that it takes so like so long time for the traditional farmers, too.

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00:24:17,820 --> 00:24:21,750

I mean, it's not a very big step.

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00:24:22,380 --> 00:24:36,140

You just have to change the way of how you see it, look at it, and change some small things in your practices like Stop Growing Annuals.

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00:24:38,130 --> 00:24:45,180

It could be that, well, you can do that also and maybe a little bit.

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00:24:45,990 --> 00:24:59,459

Well, I it depends on most how politics change this and also how it's going to be the prices on like fuel,

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00:24:59,460 --> 00:25:15,060

like diesel and oil and fertilizers and how that will change the coming years because we don't use much of that at all at our top of farming.

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00:25:15,390 --> 00:25:27,840

So we can produce if oil gets more expensive, the stuff is smaller I guess, to step over to regenerative farming.

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00:25:28,800 --> 00:25:33,630

So I don't know. I hope it will be more of it.

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00:25:34,290 --> 00:25:38,850

And there is plenty of room for the farmers who want to do that.

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00:25:39,450 --> 00:25:44,960

But there are so many like forces and big companies that are doing all these things.

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00:25:45,230 --> 00:25:52,590

But I guess it feels like they are trying to slow that transformation down.

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00:25:53,640 --> 00:26:05,870

Like the ones that are making these fertilizers are making these chemicals like pesticides and so on and GMO.

199

00:26:05,880 --> 00:26:10,950

And so, it might be for the farmers.

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00:26:11,100 --> 00:26:16,530

It's, I would say it's almost it's better almost all the time to,

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00:26:16,770 --> 00:26:23,040

to transform or to change from traditional farming to what we are doing economically.

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00:26:23,730 --> 00:26:29,910

So it's it will probably be economical for the first year to change.

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00:26:30,750 --> 00:26:37,740

So, it's I don't know actually what is stopping that change.

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00:26:38,250 --> 00:26:45,360

But we see a big interest and we see a lot of farmers that actually do change the way of farming.

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00:26:45,990 --> 00:26:57,630

So, we see it real like now we see that, but it's still maybe in my way of seeing it, it's a little bit too slow still.

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00:26:59,400 --> 00:27:06,330

Let's hope that it will be you know, it will become one day, the norm.

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00:27:07,650 --> 00:27:13,389

Yeah, I hope so. Or if we find something even better way of doing it.

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00:27:13,390 --> 00:27:25,280

But I hope for the future generation I hope it’s. I'm so old now so it doesn't matter for me but my kids and my grandkids,

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00:27:25,290 --> 00:27:32,969

It would be good if you got that as a norm. Can you talk about this KRAV private label,

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00:27:32,970 --> 00:27:36,280

And how did you get?

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00:27:36,330 --> 00:27:42,360

It's the label that most well it's I think it's the most common label in

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00:27:42,360 --> 00:27:52,200

ecological but ecological is still the most traditional farming for farms.

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00:27:52,440 --> 00:27:59,370

Well, it's traditional farming. So, it's not a label for regenerative farming.

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00:28:00,600 --> 00:28:07,020

So, it's not difficult for a farm like we are running,

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00:28:07,170 --> 00:28:16,170

it's not difficult at all to reach out to those regulations to be certified to get that label.

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00:28:16,530 --> 00:28:28,889

So most of the farmers that are doing ecological farming here in Sweden and I don't know how widespread that label is actually.

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00:28:28,890 --> 00:28:32,969

I don't know if you find it in Europe and other places.

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00:28:32,970 --> 00:28:39,270

I don't know actually, Maybe I should know, but in Sweden it's a very common label.

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00:28:39,270 --> 00:28:51,350

It's also to be certified ecological, it's a way to get more of some you say substitutes or like for.

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00:28:52,540 --> 00:29:02,699

So, this is the way of certified to get those subsidies, but you don't have to be regenerative

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00:29:02,700 --> 00:29:11,939

to get it. So, seems like you are talking about the impact of political parties on this scope as well.

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00:29:11,940 --> 00:29:21,320

So, are there any government structures that favors or support these eco entrepreneurship or regenerative farming in Sweden?

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00:29:22,080 --> 00:29:33,540

No, not that I know about. There are some regulations that maybe make it harder to do this, that we are doing, that we are trying to get change.

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00:29:33,990 --> 00:29:41,129

Maybe. But nothing that I know about that helps us or that I can think of.

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00:29:41,130 --> 00:29:51,780

No, in the way. No, I don't think so. Maybe there or maybe there are, and I forgot it, but I cannot find any of them now anyway, so.

226

00:29:51,780 --> 00:29:58,049

Could you also tell us about your teaching at Bäckedal folkhögskola.?

227

00:29:58,050 --> 00:30:06,000

I don't know whether I spelled it right? Well, yes, we are.

228

00:30:06,330 --> 00:30:12,000

Every year we are. We are hosting this school.

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00:30:12,240 --> 00:30:16,170

They are coming to our place to stay for three days.

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00:30:17,220 --> 00:30:24,660

And they are travelling around visiting different farms in Sweden.

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00:30:24,660 --> 00:30:29,780

So one of the farms that they usually stay at is our farm.

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00:30:29,790 --> 00:30:38,080

That's for three days. So, we are showing them our business, how we do it.

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00:30:38,130 --> 00:30:45,360

We walk around on the farm and looking at the ecosystems, how, how they change.

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00:30:45,360 --> 00:30:57,170

We tell about them, and we also show them how we handle the animals for them on this Bäckedal folkhögskola,

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00:30:57,540 --> 00:31:08,909

There are people that both that are running big businesses already to people that have never seen a tractor or a cow before.

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00:31:08,910 --> 00:31:13,230

So, well they haven't touched them.

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00:31:16,740 --> 00:31:25,950

So, it's a very big variation of a lot of a lot of different people coming to at that place at that time.

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00:31:26,640 --> 00:31:35,940

And that's fun. And some of them are just curious about it and some of them are really into maybe.

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00:31:35,940 --> 00:31:41,489

start a business or to transform or change what they are doing at their farm.

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00:31:41,490 --> 00:31:46,170

They already are running. So, it's well, my wife is a veterinarian,

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00:31:46,170 --> 00:31:55,110

so, she's talking about those things and I'm more into like handling cows and maybe fencing and

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00:31:55,770 --> 00:32:02,220

practical things about materials and tools that we use and how we use them and why we use them.

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00:32:02,520 --> 00:32:13,169

And we also quite a lot get down to the ground and just to scratch the surface to see if we can find how the plants are,

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00:32:13,170 --> 00:32:24,980

what we see there, spiders and worms we see and what birds we can listen to and why we can do that and, and yeah,

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00:32:25,200 --> 00:32:32,190

so, but it's not only Bäckedal and a lot of groups that visit us every year to,

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00:32:32,220 --> 00:32:36,390

look at these things and to listen to this or maybe it's not stories,

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00:32:36,390 --> 00:32:43,290

but the kind of story or what we have experiences that we have during the years.

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00:32:43,740 --> 00:32:51,900

Well, from the years that could be important for new farmers and old farmers to get to know.

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00:32:52,350 --> 00:32:56,400

And that is really I think it's really fun and interesting to do that.

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00:32:56,670 --> 00:33:00,959

It's well, of course it takes a lot of time to do that.

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00:33:00,960 --> 00:33:04,470

But it's also interesting for me to listen to the questions.

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00:33:04,470 --> 00:33:06,840

The questions are the best things.

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00:33:06,840 --> 00:33:18,520

for me to just well, for everyone, I guess, to actually think of why we are doing this and if there is a better way of doing it.

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00:33:18,900 --> 00:33:28,469

What we see and so the beauty of teaching in those situations is it's

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00:33:28,470 --> 00:33:33,510

great to be a part and it's I think it's also a good I don't know if they think so.

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00:33:33,510 --> 00:33:41,309

but I think it's a good opportunity to get more people interested in another way.

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00:33:41,310 --> 00:33:48,330

of making a living of farming like we. I don't know if I said that from the beginning.

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00:33:49,050 --> 00:34:00,870

I started with this kind of thinking of ecosystem revitalizing. I think is maybe 25 years ago.

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00:34:00,870 --> 00:34:04,769

But we have only had this farm for a little bit more than ten years now.

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00:34:04,770 --> 00:34:16,590

So we started with on eight hectares from the beginning and maybe for heifers, bread heifers.

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00:34:17,640 --> 00:34:21,690

And every year we have increased the land and the herd.

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00:34:22,770 --> 00:34:30,419

And so, for the interested people that are from the same, like we did,

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00:34:30,420 --> 00:34:37,770

we started from zero and grew this business during only maybe like ten years now.

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00:34:38,370 --> 00:34:48,300

So I hope it could give new farmers inspiration to maybe not do the same, but that it's possible to do it in a way.

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00:34:48,810 --> 00:34:54,820

And it's for the people that are trying to start traditional farming now.

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00:34:54,840 --> 00:34:58,500

For most of the people, it's too expensive.

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00:34:58,860 --> 00:35:09,720

It's very difficult to start a traditional farm with all the housing and all the machinery that that it takes to do that.

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00:35:10,920 --> 00:35:16,170

So, for a lot of young farmers or young people or.

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00:35:16,400 --> 00:35:19,280

Maybe old people as well that are interested,

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00:35:19,580 --> 00:35:28,340

but think it's not possible because they don't have anything to, they don't have money or they don't have land they can see and

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00:35:28,340 --> 00:35:38,719

find solutions to actually do this and start a business on a farm or ranch in a maybe similar or another way.

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00:35:38,720 --> 00:35:43,970

But with the inspiration from our way of doing it.

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00:35:44,930 --> 00:35:56,450

That's fun. It's. It's fun. When we got students from agricultural schools, young people come to our place quite often.

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00:35:56,870 --> 00:36:10,669

And that is very nice and fun to see how they actually, you can see it in their eyes, you can see how they are started to plan,

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00:36:10,670 --> 00:36:19,340

how they should start a business, how to buy the first in growth or first ends or whatever to.

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00:36:19,370 --> 00:36:21,349

Well, it's actually possible.

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00:36:21,350 --> 00:36:30,590

I don't have anything, but it's possible I can rent some land and I can start with some chickens, and I can let this business thing increase.

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00:36:30,890 --> 00:36:38,300

It's really nice to see that young people or older people, too, of course.

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00:36:39,650 --> 00:36:50,570

And maybe that's I think that's one of the most the best part of being a teacher in this subject.

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00:36:51,260 --> 00:36:58,310

I think that it's on one hand, it's kind of a community service as well because you are making the awareness about this side of farming.

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00:36:59,270 --> 00:37:05,110

Maybe like most of the people have no idea about that until, you know, they witness it.

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00:37:05,840 --> 00:37:14,120

It's really interesting. Yeah, it is. And of course, I've been I've got a lot of inspiration from a lot of other farmers as well.

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00:37:14,690 --> 00:37:17,990

I read some names down so I shouldn't forget.

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00:37:18,140 --> 00:37:27,800

Well, I haven’t forgotten them, but like Byron Shelton has been very important for us, like teaching us, me and my wife a lot.

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00:37:28,550 --> 00:37:39,260

Allan Savoury that I said, and Alan Williams have been here at our farm and have had a lot to say.

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00:37:40,190 --> 00:37:48,799

Yeah, we had had clinics say so, but we are we say that more than we are doing such things with horses.

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00:37:48,800 --> 00:37:55,280

And yes, he's been to our place, and we have had talked about it. Like awareness.

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00:37:55,370 --> 00:38:10,249

Yeah, it was to talk to us and to other people about these things and what the journey have been very important for me.

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00:38:10,250 --> 00:38:15,600

I've listened a lot to them and Will Harris and Neil Dennis of course, and other,

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00:38:15,830 --> 00:38:25,730

a lot of other people that have been very interesting for me to listen to as well and to other farmers here in Europe, of course, also.

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00:38:25,740 --> 00:38:37,069

But so, I hope, well, I will not be one of those rock stars, of course, But it's nice when we can share some inspiration.

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00:38:37,070 --> 00:38:42,379

I think so. Like, this is like the end of my structured questions.

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00:38:42,380 --> 00:38:46,700

So, do you have anything that you think you want to add apart from this?

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00:38:47,210 --> 00:38:50,720

If you missed anything. There’s so much about this too

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00:38:51,110 --> 00:38:53,420

I'm not used to speak in English.

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00:38:53,700 --> 00:39:04,880

I usually it's in Swedish when I have people here, but of course it's a lot of things to say, but I don't know right now, actually.

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00:39:05,180 --> 00:39:08,260

No, I don't think so. Okay. That's a lot.

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00:39:08,390 --> 00:39:11,680

I cannot, you know. It’s totally fine.

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00:39:11,690 --> 00:39:16,610

I mean you have shared a lot in a short period of time.

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00:39:17,360 --> 00:39:26,540

So, thank you very much for spending your valuable time to share your experiences.

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00:39:26,540 --> 00:39:32,780

Insight and knowledge with us Tomas. It's very valuable for us. Thank you for listening.