# Denmark to Implement Tax on Livestock Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030



Denmark has announced it will implement a tax on greenhouse gases emitted by livestock farmers beginning in 2030. This initiative targets methane emissions from cows, sheep, and pigs, aiming to decrease Danish greenhouse gas levels by 70% from 1990 levels by 2030.

Taxation Minister Jeppe Bruus stated that the tax will start at 300 kroner ($43) per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent and increase to 750 kroner ($108) by 2035. Due to a 60% income tax deduction, the effective cost per ton will be 120 kroner ($17.3) initially and 300 kroner ($43) by 2035.

Methane, 87 times more potent as a heat-trapping gas compared to carbon dioxide over a 20-year timescale, is a significant concern. Livestock is responsible for approximately 32% of human-induced methane emissions, according to the U.N. Environment Program. Methane from cows primarily comes from digestion processes and manure ponds.

This taxation deal, reached between the center-right government and various stakeholders, is seen as a landmark move. The Danish Society for Nature Conservation called it a "historic compromise," anticipating a more sustainable food industry post-2030.

Denmark, a major dairy and pork exporter with roughly 1.48 million cows as of June 2022, anticipates passing this tax in the parliament where it is expected to gain broad-based support.

New Zealand had considered a similar law, slated for 2025, but it was retracted after criticism and a governmental shift in 2023. Denmark’s approach is seen as pioneering in taxing agriculture for its CO2 impact.