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## European Arable Farmers

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28 April 2003  
EAF-Mu-426.100.2

### Arable Farming Outside the European Union

#### Around the Mjoesa Lake

#### Annual Meeting of the European Arable Farmers Club

12 – 15 June 2003 in Hamar near Oslo, Norway

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The EAF meeting is held in one of the best areas for agriculture in Norway. Situated along the beautiful lake of Mjoesa, the undulating plains, rich soil and warm summers give excellent conditions for farming. The first settlers in Norway appreciated this, as you can see from the rich Viking history of this area. The area was also hosting the 1994 Winter Olympics and as a visitor to this area you can see some of the arenas. Being only one and half hour from Oslo, the district of Hedemarken gives you an easy access to Oslo. As part of the program a guided tour of Oslo is planned on Sunday.

Norwegian farming operating on the northern outskirts of Europe face disadvantages of both remoteness and climatic conditions. Farming in Norway also faces the problem of small farm sizes due to both topographical and political regulations.

Up to 15 years ago, farmers in Norway were producing under favourable political conditions that secured most farmers a good income. However, changes came and today they face the same problems like other European farmers, with decreasing product prices, increasing costs and permanent changes in the subsidy system. During the meeting you will get an insight in former and today's agriculture policy and the challenges of farmer trying to adjust to changing political environment under still strict political regulations.

Norwegian farmers are one of the best-educated farmers in the world and their farming is of high quality due to an especially well established co-operation between agricultural research and farmers. This is due to a good education system and an excellent farmer-owned extension service. This extension system will be outlined for the participants in the meeting. Further one of the research farms will be visited, including information on testing of new varieties for cereals and potatoes.

The agricultural co-operative has a central position in Norway both in sales, regulating the market and as a supplier of farm inputs. During the first day the participants will be given a lecture on how Norwegian farmers operate today and the challenges they are facing in the future.

The farms to be visited represent a cross section of the typical arable production in this area: cereals production, contract farming of potatoes and strawberry fields. A visit to a farm that has grown to become one of the biggest chips producers is also on the agenda.

Some of the farms in this area have existed for more than 1 000 years and consequently are important cultural elements in this country.

Let's meet in the land of the mid-night sun and exchange common agricultural challenges and enjoy the Nordic midsummer night.

**Provisional programme**

(Alterations reserved)

**Thursday, 12 June 2003**

- Up to 14:00      **Arrival** at First Hotel Victoria at Hamar
- 13:00–14:00      **EAF Committee meeting** in the hotel  
(special invitation for committee members)
- 14:00-17:30      **Conference** in the hotel
- 14:00              **Welcome to Norway and the District of Hedmark**  
Anne Kathrine Fossum  
Director of Agriculture, The District of Hedmark
- 14:30              **Norwegian Agriculture Policy**  
Leif Helge Kongshaug  
Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture
- 15:00              **Norwegian Agriculture Policy in the WTO**  
Elin Ostebro Johansen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 15:30              **Coffee break**
- 16:15              **Norwegian Agriculture and the Farmers' Cooperative  
in Norway Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**  
Svein Ole Borgen  
Norwegian Agricultural Economics Research Institute
- 16:45              **The Farmers' Extension Service**  
Harald Solberg, Hedmark Forsøksring
- 17:30              **Mineral Fertiliser in the Future  
- Sustainable Farming**  
Dr Joachim Lammel, Hydro Agri
- 19:00              **Common Dinner** in the hotel on invitation of **Hydro Agri**

**Friday, 13 June 2003**

- 08:00              **Departure** from the hotel at Hamar by bus
- 09:00              **Visit of the Norwegian Crop Research Institute, Apelsvoll**  
H. Stabbetorp, Director of Research
  - Varieties, fertilisers, chemicals
  - Cereals Production
  - Potato Production
  - Nutrition leaching
- 12:30              **Common Lunch** at Hoel Farm
- 13:30              Guided tour at **Hoel Farm**  
Per Eilif and Vigdis Sandberg
  - Grains and potato production
  - Chicken: Salmonella free production and restrictions
  - Catering business

- 15:00           **Visit of Farmers' Cooperative Felleskjøpet**  
Morten Torp, Director
- Cereals Seed Production
  - Marketing of Cereals
- 19:00           **Visit of Staur Fram**  
The Norwegian Government Farm in Hedmark
- Beef cattle and sheep – semen production
  - New varieties of winter and spring cereals
- 20:00           **Common Dinner** on invitation of **Kverneland Group**  
at Staur Farm  
Including a **Presentation of Kverneland Group Activities**
- 23:00           **Arrival** at the hotel

**Saturday, 14 June 2003**

- 09:00-09:45   **General Assembly in the hotel**  
(Special invitation for EAF members)
- 10:00           **Departure** from the hotel at Hamar by bus
- 10:15 –12:00   **Visit at "Sten and Stønn"**  
5 Farmers running their farms together in one company
- Management, contracts
  - Cost reduction: Optimising of machinery and labour cost and utilisation in Norwegian cereal production
- 12:30           **Common Lunch**
- 14:00 –15:00   **Visit at a strawberry farm: Nils Martin Struperud**
- Export of strawberry to the European market
  - Import of labour – is the production possible without?
- 16:00 –17:30   **Visit at Maarud farm**
- Potato production for chips at Kraft Maarud
  - Cereals for seeds at Norgesfôr
  - Deere raising
  - Farm-museum: Tractors, farm equipment, industry-production: Eggs, cheese and chips for 100 years
- Light serving** before leaving
- 18:30           **Arrival** at the First Hotel Millennium in Oslo

**Individual evening programme**

**Sunday, 15 June 2003**

**Optional Programme**

- 09:00-12:00      **Guided Tour of Oslo Options**
- The Munch Museum
  - The Kontiki Museum
  - The Vikingship Museum
  - Holmenkollen

**Spouse Programme**

(Organised by Ms Gerd Ringnes)

**Friday, 13 June 2003**

- 09:00 **Start** at the hotel in Hamar
- Hamar Sightseeing
  - Open-air museum
  - Shopping and (individual) lunch in Hamar
  - Tea time at Ringnes' home  
(300 years old farm house)  
[www.ringnesgaard.no](http://www.ringnesgaard.no)

In the evening joining the main group for **Dinner**

**Technical**

**1. Hotels**

**Hotel from 12 to 14 June 2003**

First Hotel Victoria, Strandgaten 21, N-2317 Hamar (Norway)  
Fon 00 47/62 02 55 00 Fax 00 47/62 53 32 23  
e-mail [hamvic.resepsjonen@firsthotels.no](mailto:hamvic.resepsjonen@firsthotels.no) Internet [www.first-hotel-victoria.no/](http://www.first-hotel-victoria.no/)

**Hotel from 14 to 15 June 2003**

First Hotel Millenium  
Tollbugaten 25, N-0157 Oslo  
Fon 0047/21 02 28 00 Fax 00 47/21 02 28 30

Please book rooms **directly** at the First Hotel Victoria in Hamar, using their hotel registration form „European Arable Farmers Meeting" (that can be used **for both hotels**) before **23 May 2003**. **Any hotel reservations after that date may be refused by the hotel!**

**2. Access**

In the arrival hall of the **airport Oslo Gardermoen** (which is the main airport of Oslo) the railway company provides a ticket selling service (credit card payment possible). Local and Inter City trains from the airport to Hamar (with destination Hamar, Lillehammer or Trondheim) run every hour (most departing at 25 min after the hour at the airport), costs are about 120 NOK, travel time to Hamar is one hour.

First Hotel Victoria is located 250 m away from Hamar railway station, leaving the station to the left.

On Sunday trains from Oslo main station to the airport in Gardemoen can be used. (takes a 20-minute train-ride).

### 3. Registrations

Kindly return your registration form for your **participation at the meeting** before **30 May 2003** to:

EAF c/o DLG, Eschborner Landstraße 122, D-60489 Frankfurt am Main  
Fon 00 49/69/2 478 83 13 Fax 00 49/69/24 78 81 14, e-mail eaf@dlg-frankfurt.de

### 4. Registration fee

The registration fee amounts to 190.00 Euro for EAF members and press and 340.00 Euro for non members. Membership may be obtained during the conference. The participation fee covers dinners on Thursday and Friday and lunches on Friday and Saturday (all without drinks), lectures, translations, guides, bus, conference rooms and all other costs for the preparation and organisation of the meeting.

For **cancellation** before the **6 June 2003** (receipt date) we have to charge 20 % of the registration fee. For later cancellations no refund is possible. Replacements are possible.

**Hotel costs** will be **charged** directly by the **hotel**. Please use the Hotel registration form „European Arable Farmers Meeting“

### 5. Spouse and Optional Programme

The interest in the Spouse Programme and in the Optional Programme should be told directly EAF Committee member from Norway Erik Ringnes respectively to his wife Gerd Ringnes until **30 May 2003**:

- Erik Ringnes  
Ringnes Gard, N-2312 Ottestad  
Fon 00 47/62/57 80 47 Fax 57 82 14 Mobile 00 47/91 80 84 86  
e-mail er-ringn@online.no Internet www.ringnesgaard.no

This programme was made with the kind assistance of Knut Erling Rohnebaek and Harald Solberg, KiO Kornbondenes Interesseorganisasjon (Grain Producers' Association of Norway).

### Conversation rates

(28 April 2003)

10 NOK ≈ 1.28 EUR  
1 EUR ≈ 7.80 NOK

### Sponsors

European Arable Farmers convey their warmest appreciation for generous sponsorship by the following companies:

- **Hydro Agri**
- **Kverneland Group**

