AU **FOULUM**

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AT AARHUS UNIVERSITY

AARHUS UNIVERSITY

There are approximately 700 employees at AU Foulum. Around 400 are researchers and PhD students.

AU Foulum is part of Aarhus University and is home to the university's research in food and agriculture. Research areas include plants, animals, food, organic farming, bioenergy, environment, climate, soil, genetics and technology.

Within the centre you will find the Department of Animal Science, Department of Agroecology and research groups from the Department of Food Science, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, and Department of Engineering.

DCA – Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture – is based at AU Foulum and is a supporting body for the collaboration with industry, organisations and authorities.

COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY, ORGANISATIONS AND AUTHORITIES

Many activities at AU Foulum are targeted high-priority concerns for society and are part of its collaboration with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries or other public authorities. Other activities focus on current issues in agriculture and in the food industry and are combined efforts with private companies or trade organisations. Much of the research is basic research carried out at international level.

In close proximity to AU Foulum are also the Agro Business Park and the Cattle Research Centre (KFC) that both have close links with scientists at AU Foulum. The Agro Business Park is a science park and home to 15-20 innovative and knowledge-intensive companies. KFC is a state-of-the-art cattle research farm that functions both as a research centre and a demonstration facility.

STAFF

There are approximately 700 members of staff at AU Foulum. About 400 of these are scientific staff and PhD students who represent a wide range of expertise within, for example, agronomy, biology, animal science and engineering science.

There is a strong international environment at AU Foulum. About 50% of the 150 or so PhD students come from abroad. There is also a constant flow of international visiting scientists who stay – and live – at the centre for shorter or longer periods. Students often stay at one of the student residences in Viborg and there is collaboration with the local authority in Viborg to ensure people from abroad are successfully introduced to the Danish society.

FACILITIES

AU Foulum has a combined area of approx. 590 ha and buildings covering an area of around 120,000 m^2, including offices, laboratories, animal houses, machine storage and a biogas plant.

Laboratories

AU Foulum has a wide range of specialised laboratories and research facilities, including odour laboratories, GIS laboratories and technological platforms. The research centre has climate chambers and a semi-field facility where precipitation can be controlled and plants and soil studied at root level.

Bioenergy

The biogas plant at AU Foulum is the world's largest plant for biogas experiments. It consists of a main reactor, a pilot plant with four reactors ranging in size from 10 m^3 to 30 m^3, a micro-plant and a demonstration facility with 400 m^2 floor space for experiments with animal manure. A laboratory has also been constructed for testing boilers with a view to optimising fuel use.

Organic farming

AU Foulum has an organic livestock platform for research into management, technology, nutrition, health and behaviour under organic conditions. The organic livestock platform is primarily for experiments with poultry, pigs and horses but can be used for other types of farm animals as well.

Field experiments

Actual field experiments are carried out at Foulumgaard experimental station, which is a 90-ha arable farm. About 70 ha are used for conventional field experiments and 20 ha for organic experiments. Foulumgård has the facilities and machinery to carry out a wide range of different trials such as quality grading of agricultural crops, experiments on soil tillage, nutrient leaching, animal manure experiments and the growing of forages.

Livestock facilities

AU Foulum has flexible housing facilities for experiments with pigs, cattle, poultry, horses and mink. The facilities include an experimental slaughterhouse, a feed mill and an intensive care unit. The intensive care unit contains a wide range of facilities, including highly specialised operating theatres, an infection unit, a rat house and isolators.

Arable facilities

The research centre has facilities for experimental cultivation and research in cropping systems in field plots and semi-field facilities. Approximately 500 ha are used for experiments and for feed production for the centre's stock of animals.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The exchange and implementation of research results is undertaken in many different ways. This includes conferences, workshops and meetings as well as publishing in books, journals and technical publications.

On www.dca.au.dk you will always be able to find the most recent articles from our research in agriculture and food production. Here you will also be able to subscribe to free newsletters and publications.

VISIT THE CENTRE

We welcome groups of visitors who are interested in knowing more about agriculture and food research. Visitors may be companies or groups with specialised interests, but all groups are welcome.

We are very keen to give visitors an impression of the results of the research, of their practical applications and the conditions under which results are generated. In this connection we have special programmes for school classes, technical colleges, teacher training colleges and other educational establishments. Read more about it on www.dca.au.dk.

AARHUS UNIVERSITY

CONTACT US AT
AU Foulum
Aarhus University
Blichers Allé 20
PO Box 50
DK-8830 Tjele
Telephone: +45 87 15 60 00
E-mail: dca@dca.au.dk