



VALUING THE RURAL | EVENT

What: Rural Symposium Common grounds ? Changing grounds.
- on the changing concept of rurality.

In December 2018 the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People working in Rural Areas in response to the radical transformations rural areas around the globe are witnessing. The status of rurality in a so-called urban age is increasingly subject to controversy, geographically, economically and culturally. The symposium brings together rural researchers in discussing these perspectives.

When: January 2020 at DAC
More information available soon at ruralagentur.com/events

Who: Rural Agentur in association with ARENA Architectural Research Network.

The event is free and open for all.
The event will be in English.

AT VÆRDISÆTTE DET RURALE | EVENT

Hvad: Ruralt Symposium Common grounds ? Changing grounds.
- om ruralitet som et foranderligt koncept.

I december 2018 vedtog FN's generalforsamling en Deklaration vedrørende bønder og landarbejderes rettigheder, i respons til de rurale områder over hele verden er vidner til radikale forandringer. I en såkaldt urban tidsalder, er det rurale i stigende grad genstand for kontroverser, geografisk, økonomisk såvel som kulturelt. Symposiumet samler rurale forskere til en diskussion omkring dette.

Hvornår: Januar 2020
Mere information tilgængeligt snarest på ruralagentur.com/events

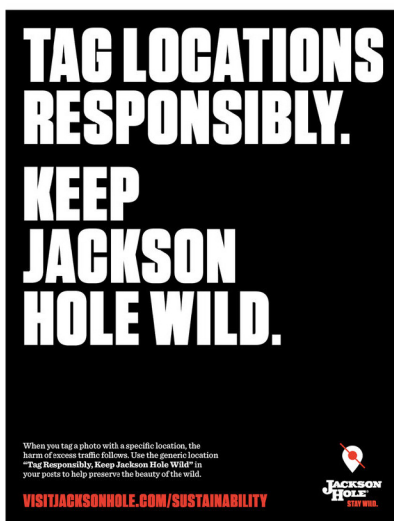
Hvem: Rural Agentur i samarbejde med ARENA Architectural Research Network.

Eventen er gratis og åben for alle.
Eventen vil foregå på engelsk.

Engage more!

Read more!

RURAL AGENTUR		
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Do you instagrame nature ?

Nature is facing negative effects of increased tourism caused by social media postings.
- A Campaign to get tourists to stop geotagging photographs

Naturen står over for negative effekter af øget turisme forårsaget af postings på sociale medier
- En kampagne for at opfordre turister til at stoppe geotagging af billeder

New York Times, 2018
Celle McVoy, 2018 2.10

Opinion

'Our Small Towns Are Topping Like Dominoes': Why We Should Cut Some Farmers a Check

For pennies a meal, the federal government can incentivize better environmental services.

By Robert Leonard and Matt Russell
Mr. Leonard is the news director for the Iowa radio stations KDKA and KJLS. Mr. Russell is a co-owner of Coyote Run Farm and the executive director of Iowa State University's Center for Rural and Community Development.

How we address an expanding list of crises related to global warming is the most demanding question of our day. So far, our approaches have been piecemeal, enormously costly and largely unsuccessful.

A common denominator for many of these crises is in how we use the land, and that is where we find the solution. A simple, cheap and relatively quick fix is to pay farmers and ranchers for environmental services. Not traditional government cost-share programs, we mean cut them a check when they provide measurable environmental services. It would cost Americans pennies per meal.

We already provide enormous taxpayer support for farmers to stabilize our food supply: The Trump administration's trade bailouts for farmers to the tune of \$28 billion in 2018 and 2019 are examples. Unfortunately, right now, farmers who invest in conservation practices are at a competitive disadvantage to those who don't. Government programs like the current farm bill pit production against conservation, and doing the right thing for the environment is a considerable drain on a farmer's bank account, especially when so many of them are losing money to low commodity prices and President Trump's tariffs.

But even a small percentage of the billions in play can be directed to incentivize capturing carbon, among other environmental services. Farmers would focus on five categories of practices to do this and generate collateral environmental and social benefits: conservation tillage; keeping roots in the ground all year (like using cover crops); using livestock for environmental services like managed grazing; adding crops into rotations; and producing renewable energy.

Such a program might work like this. The Department of Agriculture could work with its National Institute for Food and Agriculture (generally the land grant institutions) to set up the mechanisms to measure and reward carbon capture on farms. A small farmer in, say, Iowa would enroll with the Agriculture Department, which would offer payments for carbon pulled from the atmosphere and locked up by being put to work in the soil.

The value of that carbon would be determined in real time by governments and markets. But the carbon markets on their own aren't enough. Markets are risky, and should they no longer bring profit to farmers, other payments need to fill the gap to profitability to keep the farmer in business and serving the public.

It will take agricultural economists, government officials and farmers to knock out a budget for a successful program, but we suggest \$16 billion a year — which matches President Trump's most recent tariff bailout. It will scale over time. The Environmental Defense Fund says the current social cost of carbon is about \$40 per ton.



The more that Iowa farm innovates by stacking the production-based conservation practices, the more carbon it is likely to store. And if it adds renewable energy, that's an additional bonus. So let's say it raised soybeans. Instead of just growing that one crop, it grows three additional crops: corn, oats and hay. It adds cover crops during the fallow season and livestock for grazing back the cover, feeding the hay and adding nutrients to the soil. By focusing on the biological activity in the soil, it can increase organic matter and thus store carbon. It's an exponential feedback loop.

In their least productive areas, farmers could shift acres from growing a crop to storing carbon by establishing a wetland, planting trees or creating pollinator habitat.

We think small and midsize farms should be compensated at a higher level. Larger farms are important because of scale and because they are great at adapting technology for efficiency, but smaller farms are more capable of innovation, as groups like Practical Farmers of Iowa have proved. Provide smaller, midsize family farms incentives that reward innovation, and they will creatively stack multiple practices in ways larger farms are not capable of doing.

Nearly all of these smaller farms have both on-farm and off-farm income — i.e., someone has a job in town. These multiple income streams create resilience and an ability to innovate. These farms exist in nearly every county in America.

By utilizing public policy to reward innovation focused on ecological solutions, we create an additional source of income for farmers. Our small and midsize farms in particular are disappearing from rural America, and with them our small towns are toppling like dominoes.

Paying farmers like this would create numerous collateral benefits: improved water quality, increased biological diversity, the need to use fewer pesticides and herbicides, and rural economic development (carbon farming requires higher levels of management and labor).

We're not the first to bring this up. A small but growing number of farmers, agriculture scientists and farm organizations believe a voluntary solution where farmers are compensated is the key. With incentives, American farmers will lead the way in protecting ecosystems as they produce our food and fiber. It might also offer a global model as the world develops land management strategies to fight the climate crisis.

Current federal efforts are just the opposite of what's needed, like bailouts instead of investments. Several of the Democratic presidential candidates we have spoken with recognize that paying farmers is a key to the solution. In a recent visit to Coyote Run Farm, co-owned by one of us (Mr. Russell), Ito O'Toole advocated paying farmers for environmental services. We have

Opinion on agriculture as part of the solution on climate change

Debatindlæg om landbruget som en del af løsningen på klimaudfordringer.

Robert Leonard & Matt Russell
New York Times, 2019 2.11

VALUING THE RURAL

- a peek into our research archive

Is nature for free?

You probably take it for granted that you can go to the countryside for a free ride. You spend little thought on the value of the countryside. After all, money is made in the city, right?

Yet, every city depends on the supply of foods, goods, energy and water from rural areas.

Urbanization as such has only been made possible through the transportation of supply to the City over long distances - fueled, of course, by cheap fossil energy.

With climate change, a growing world population, and increasing concerns about food and energy supply, the rural is moving into the centre of global political and economic focus.

From that perspective, isn't it strange that Danish farmers, for instance, are statistically the most indebted farmers in the world, taking into consideration they are actually managing our most valuable common good - nature?

While you may dream about a nature reserve, a wilderness playground for your next escape ride out of the city, the rural is increasingly becoming a zone of conflicting economic interests.

How do you value the rural?

On these approximately 2.500 cm2 paper, we have collected a sample of our research archive related to the problems of valuing the rural - an unedited spectrum of research, articles, and images, which together merge into a mosaik of complex views as you unfold the paper.

Owner of Rural Agentur
Anna Sofie Hvid

AT VÆRDISÆTTE DET RURALE

- et indblik i vores research-arkiv

Er naturen gratis?

Du tager det måske for givet at du kan tage et smut ud på landet og nyde naturen kvit og frit. Måske tænker du ikke over værdien af det rurale. Væksten kommer jo fra byerne, ikke sandt?

Men enhver storby er afhængig af forsyninger af fødevarer, energi og vand, som kommer fra de rurale områder.

Urbaniseringen eksisterer udelukkende fordi det nu er muligt at transportere forsyninger til byerne over lange afstande - naturligvis godt hjulpet på vej af billigt fossilt brændstof.

Men med klimaforandringer, voksende verdensbefolkning og stigende udfordringer med fødevarer- og energisikkerhed, rykker det rurale mere og mere ind i centrum af vores globale politiske og økonomiske fokus.

Set fra dét perspektiv er det bemærkelsesværdigt at f.eks. danske landmænd er nogle af de mest forgældede i verden, når de varetager en af vores fælles vigtigste ressourcer - naturen.

Så alt imens du måske drømmer om naturreservater med vild natur, som scene for din næste udflyt ud på landet, er det rurale ved at udvikle sig til en konfliktzone mellem kontrasterende økonomiske og politiske interesser.

Hvordan værdsætter du det rurale?

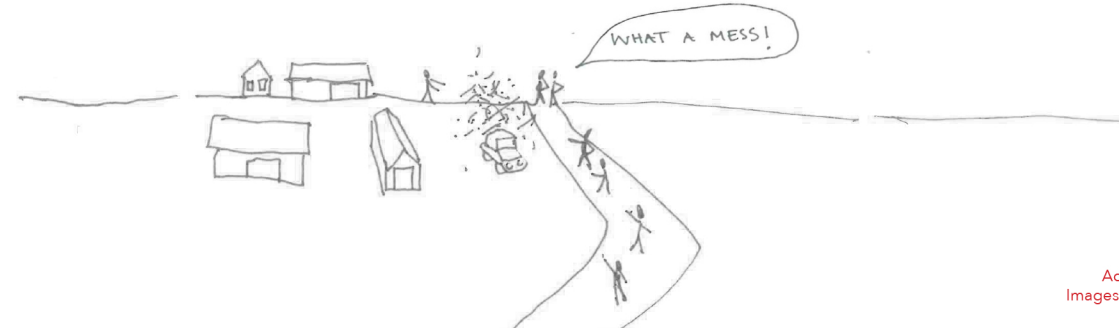
På disse knap 2.500 cm2 papir har vi samlet et udpluk af vores research-arkiv om den aktuelle problematik ved at værdisætte det rurale. Et uredigeret spektrum af research, artikler og billeder, der danner en mosaik af komplekse perspektiver, efterhånden som du folder papiret ud.

Owner of Rural Agentur
Anna Sofie Hvid

Does that make sense?



"In the Lake District of England (a famous area of natural beauty) a farmer was recently prosecuted for keeping a messy farm. He was charged with keeping broken and rusting machinery around the buildings and dumping piles of odd stuff on the land. A popular tourist footpath looked out on the farm and the concern was that people would get a bad impression of the area. Consequently, the grounds for prosecution were public nuisance. The prosecution was successful and the farmer was fined, and obliged to clean up his farm and introduce new tidier farming methods."



Adam Sutherland in
Images of Farming, 2011 2.12

