

Dairymaids' Knowledge Recognised by UNESCO

In December 2024, the summer farming tradition (*seterkultur*) was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This inscription is not a protection, but rather a recognition of the valuable knowledge that has been passed down from dairymaid to dairymaid through generations.

Summer farming is about more than milk production. It represents a culture of care, where the interaction between people, animals, and nature is at the core. Dairymaids have not only transformed milk into butter and cheese, but also developed a rich food culture and preserved traditions rooted in closeness to and respect for nature. The summer farm culture lives on, both through modern operations and in the simple, traditional mountain farms. It remains a vibrant part of our cultural heritage – and is now officially recognised for the future.



Contact us

Do you have any questions or want more information? We're happy to help!

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Cover photo: Siv Beate Eggen



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Norwegian Summer Farming Culture – a living part of our cultural heritage

Embodied Knowledge

Summer farming culture is not just about producing milk and cheese. It's about what we do at the summer farm – the knowledge. This intangible heritage is something you have to experience in order to learn.

This heritage encompasses knowledge of nature, animal care, cheesemaking, grazing practices, and traditional crafts. It also includes the preservation and passing on of old legends, folk music, herding calls (*lokking*), and place names that tell the story of how people have interacted with the landscape. It is about sharing and transmitting our common cultural heritage – the embodied knowledge carried from hand to hand.

Read about
the UNESCO-
status here



seterkultur.no/prosjekt/unesco-nominasjon-av-seterkulturen/



Photo: Hans Brimi

Blooming in Our Footsteps

Summer farming is a sustainable way to use natural resources. When animals graze in the outfields, they help maintain open landscapes, increase biodiversity, and preserve important cultural and natural environments.

In addition, summer farms play a key role in Norway's food security and self-sufficiency. Grazing ensures local food production and makes use of resources that would otherwise go untapped.

Read more
about the role
of summer
farming in
sustainability



Publication: Stølslandskapet – der natur og kultur møtes

Support the summer farming culture

The number of active summer farms has declined, but many are still alive and well across Norway. In 2023, 750 summer farms received support for continued operation, and several initiatives are working to spread knowledge, preserve, and further develop this important tradition.

By visiting a summer farm, you support a living cultural heritage. Many farms welcome guests, offer farm-made products, and share their knowledge with visitors. By learning more about summer farming culture, you help keep the tradition alive. Feel free to take this brochure with you and explore more of Norway's summer farming history.

Plan your
visit to a
summer farm



<https://www.visitnorway.com/hotels-more/summer-mountain-farms/>



Photo: Kirsten Lexberg