The campus of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) lies right in the middle of Skara. Here, there has been a focus on animals ever since 1775 when Peter Hernquist, a disciple of Linnaeus, started Sweden’s first educational courses for veterinary surgeons. Today, research in Skara concerns animals and their health, behaviour, care and living environment. In-depth research is being performed in a number of interesting areas, such as animal emotions and means of communication, and also in ethical arenas, such as rearing and the importance of pet animals for human beings.

Skara is the smallest of SLU’s four main locations. Today, research and education is being pursued in four areas: industry-proximate foodstuffs expertise; animal husbandry and welfare; animal medical treatment and care; and, precision agriculture. The animal healthcare programme is one of the most sought-after within the university.

Two of SLU’s faculties conduct operations at SLU Skara: the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, and the Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences.

The researchers investigate farm animals, such as cows, pigs and hens, in light of their accommodation, care, feeding, health, behaviour and protection, and also the outdoor environment. This research, just as educational courses on the Ethology and Animal Welfare Programme, is based on both healthy animals and animals with various kinds of diseases.

With the goal of reinforcing the economic sustainability of Swedish agriculture, our researchers work on improvements to crop yield and the quality of agricultural produce. This may take place, for example, with greater precision in cultivation, while at the same time ensuring that land resources are better utilised in environmentally friendly and resource-conserving manners.

Exciting scents emanate from the students’ experimental kitchen in SLU Skara. Food safety, the glychomic index and functional food are examples of what the Food and Technology programme is about. Students are able to test their theoretical knowledge and expertise in projects at business undertakings throughout the country.

SLU Skara collaborates closely with municipalities, regional authorities, commerce and industry, and anyone else who wishes to work together for positive development.

“Meny” forms a part of SLU Skara’s environmental investments, and is aimed at raising the level of expertise in small- and medium-sized food and biotechnology enterprises. Subjects like food safety, food quality, and the health impacts of foodstuffs lie at the centre of contemporaneous societal debate. Experiences of Meny’s web-based educational programmes are being exported throughout Europe.

The campus is lively and open. SLU Skara has many interesting partners, such as Agroväst, with Liveum business development, Advanced Vocational Education in Skara (Biologiska yrkeshögskolan), the “Blå Stjärna” hospital for sick domestic animals, Sweden’s trotting organisation’s (ATG) hospital for horses and its hoofing school, and the Museum of Veterinary History.
At the Hernquist Library, there are books about food, horses, veterinary medicine, and anything else to do with animals and nature. Every year, there is a Hernquist Day and “Smedjeveckan” – two open, traditional and popular-scientific events.

Skara is located close to the town of Skövde, directly between the lakes of Vänern and Vättern in the county of Västergötland. It is about an hour from Gothenburg on the X2000 fast-speed train.

SLU also operates at:
  • the Lanna experimental farm, 150 kilometres south-west of Skara, for long-term plant-production trials.
  • the Götala experimental farm, a few kilometres outside Skara, for research into fattening animals and sheep. The farm is a key resource for the development of Swedish beef and lamb production.
  • the Rånna experimental station, a few kilometres north of Skövde, for the sustainable cultivation of strawberries and other berries. The station belongs to the Faculty of Landscape Planning, Horticulture and Agricultural Science at SLU Alnarp.

Educational programmes at SLU Skara
  • BSc in Ethology and Animal Welfare
  • BSc in Food Technology (no-one accepted for 2008)
  • University Diploma in Animal Nursing

SLU Skara
420 students, of which 20 are PhD students
100 employees

Further information
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