



**Danish Farmers  
ABROAD**

## **DFA ERFA-Group 2 – meeting in Bulgaria October 2023**



### **About Bulgaria and Bulgarian farming**

For a Dane, Bulgaria is probably connected mostly with Sunny Beach at the Black Sea. However, Bulgaria has much more to offer; A long history that starts with the existence of Homo Sapiens 6,500 before Christ, to the Roman Empire and over the Osmania Empire, and finally part of the Soviet Union until 1990, and today - an independent republic.

The southeastern EU country, bordering Turkey in East-East-West with the Black Sea as its point, Greece in the south, Romania in the North along the Danube River and Serbia-Macedonia in the west, with 6.4 million. Inhabitants. Bulgaria joined the EU in 2007 and it is expected to join Schengen and the eurozone from January 1, 2024. Bulgaria has the lowest wages in the EU.

In 1992 there was a pig production based on 350,000 sows, but after the collapse of the Iron Curtain, it went downhill to the lowest point in 2014 with 52,000 sows. ASF played a major role in 2014. Today, Bulgaria has a pig production based on approx. 65,000 sows. The country is 30 % self-sufficient and imports 70 % of its pork consumption from the European market, primarily cheap meat. The meat consumption is in 2020 at 10.9 kg of meat per day per inhabitant and the curve are upward.

The infrastructure of slaughtering is in poor constitution. By 2020, there were 63 registered slaughterhouses (for pigs) primarily small businesses with a capacity of 2-500 pigs weekly. Today, slaughter capacity is missing for approx. 500,000 slaughter pigs, which are mainly exported to Romania and Greece to be slaughtered.



**Danish Farmers  
ABROAD**

Wheat, barley, maize and sunflower are grown in Bulgaria - soy and premix are imported into the country to be used in pig production.

#### **About ERFA Group 4**

The group's meeting in October had the following participants: Kim Holmgård, Lars Christiansen, Kim Christensen and Martin Thorsen. There was a cancellation from Jacob Bruun.

The group visited the farm **Agrosip**, having 2,500 sows in full line, owned by Peter Irgang - an Austrian veterinarian, who chose to settle in Bulgaria in 2008, as well as a Bulgarian private agricultural fund. Peter's first goal was to invest in properties in Sofia, but subsequently saw an opportunity to utilize all the good feeding products in a country where meat production is in short supply.