

Jens Ivan í Gerðinum, Agricultural adviser

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Búnaðarstovan, Faroe Islands

Faroese Sheep



búnaðarstovan



Búnaðarstovan, Frammi í Dal 166. FO-410 Kollafjørður.
Faroe Islands

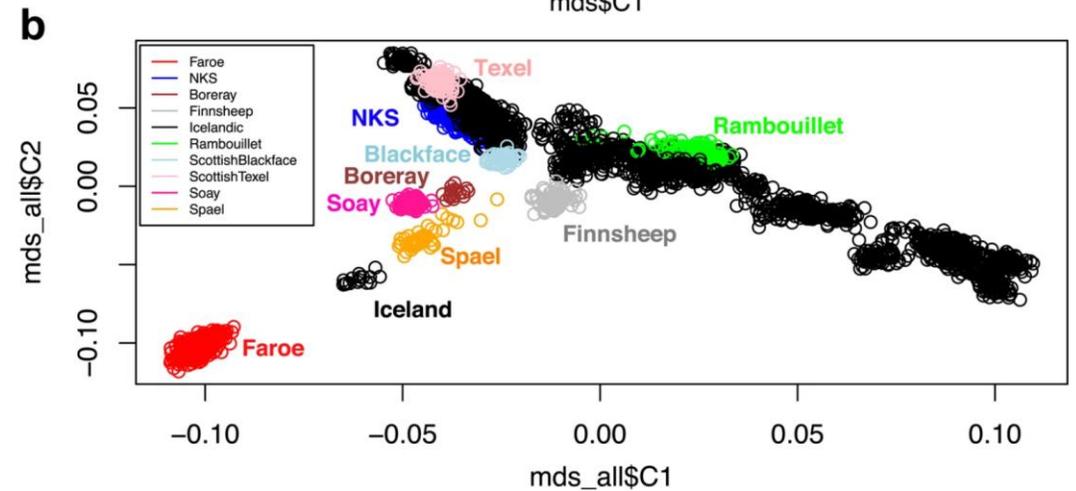
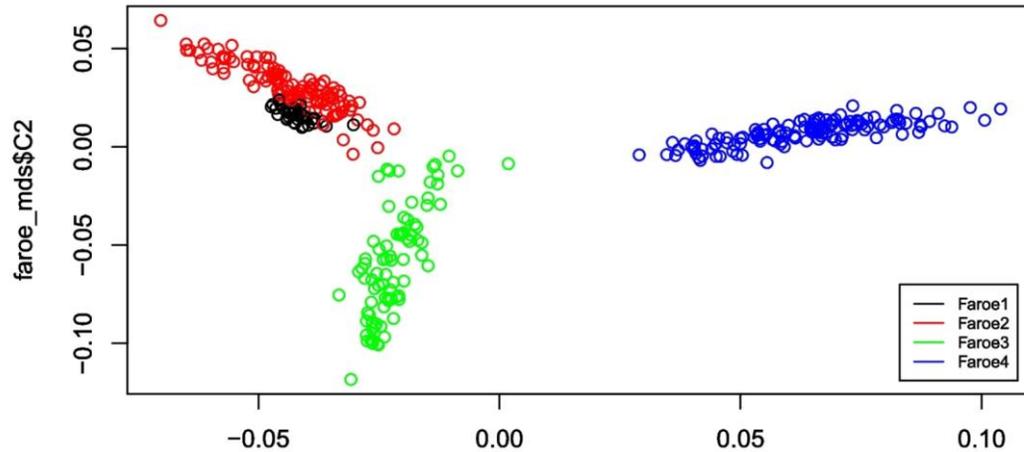
Faroese sheep

- Own breed of sheep
- Lamb age at slaughter 5 months, avg. Weight 15-17 kg. carcass
- Uncertain whether it preceeds landnam (Scandinavian settlement) app. Year 800
- There has been import due to massive catastrophies in 1600s and 1800s
- More research in the future will help establishing ancestry of the breed



Geneology of the Faroese sheep

From: [Faroese sheep expand overall global ovine genetic diversity](#)



Logistics

As of today there is no major abattoir on the islands. Attempts were made in late 1990 and again in the first two decades of this millennium

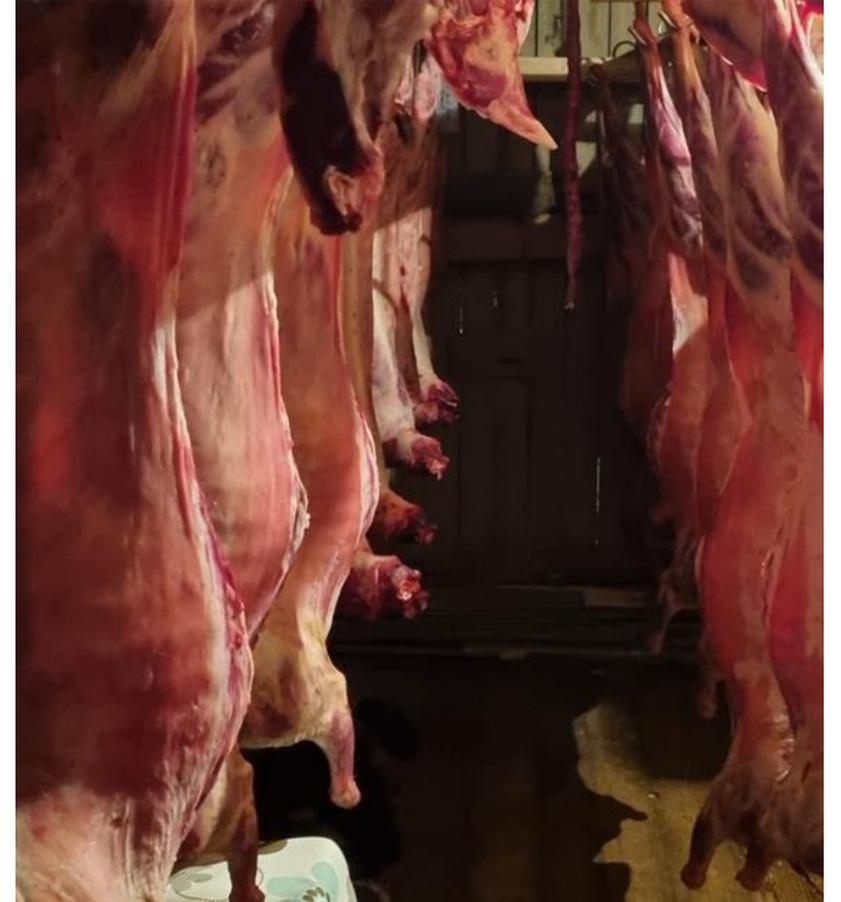
Regulations were changed, to allow home slaughter for 3rd parties, albeit at certain criteria. This forced abattoirs to close

It comes with disadvantages as it occupies farmers to become whole retailers for the meat. A job that the majority of farmers, can not fit into their daily routine

This might also increase the waste from offals etc. Which again has to be delivered at municipal waste management to be sent off for incineration.

Lamb and mutton consumption

- Compared to most countries, mutton is high value, both ewes and rams, but the rams are most valued, due to “new” traditions and its strong characteristics for fermentation and drying.
- Faroese lamb is nonetheless a sought after delicacy as its meat is also suited for the fermentation process as compared to commercial imported lamb
- Lamb and mutton consumption in the Faroes can be summed up to be consumed like this:
 - Rams, fermented for dinner and dried served on bread
 - Culled ewes, legs dried and served on bread. Rest of carcass typically minced when fresh, and used in sausages
 - Lambs, fermented for dinner, also legs for drying. Typically hindlegs
 - Imported lamb (Iceland, New Zealand) used for consuming fresh



Future prospects for Faroese lamb and mutton

- Fortunately traditions are strong that favours fermented lamb over fresh meat
- This can only be achieved with breeds that are less commercial
- As long as we, the Faroese eat our sheep fermented and dried, our breed will prosper
- A management system that is more modern than that of today, might also go a long way, in succeeding as sheep farmers in the Faroe islands





WOOL

Búnaðarstovan, Frammi í Dal 166. FO-410 Kollafjørður.
Faroe Islands

WOOL

- Biproduct from meat or vice versa.
- Bred for wool for > 5000 years, oldest woven-wool fabrics in Scandinavia 2500 years old.
- Natural thermal regulator for the sheep while preventing wind and rain to the skin
- Sheds once a year if not shorn - renewable
- Excellent on farm resource for clothing



VALUE

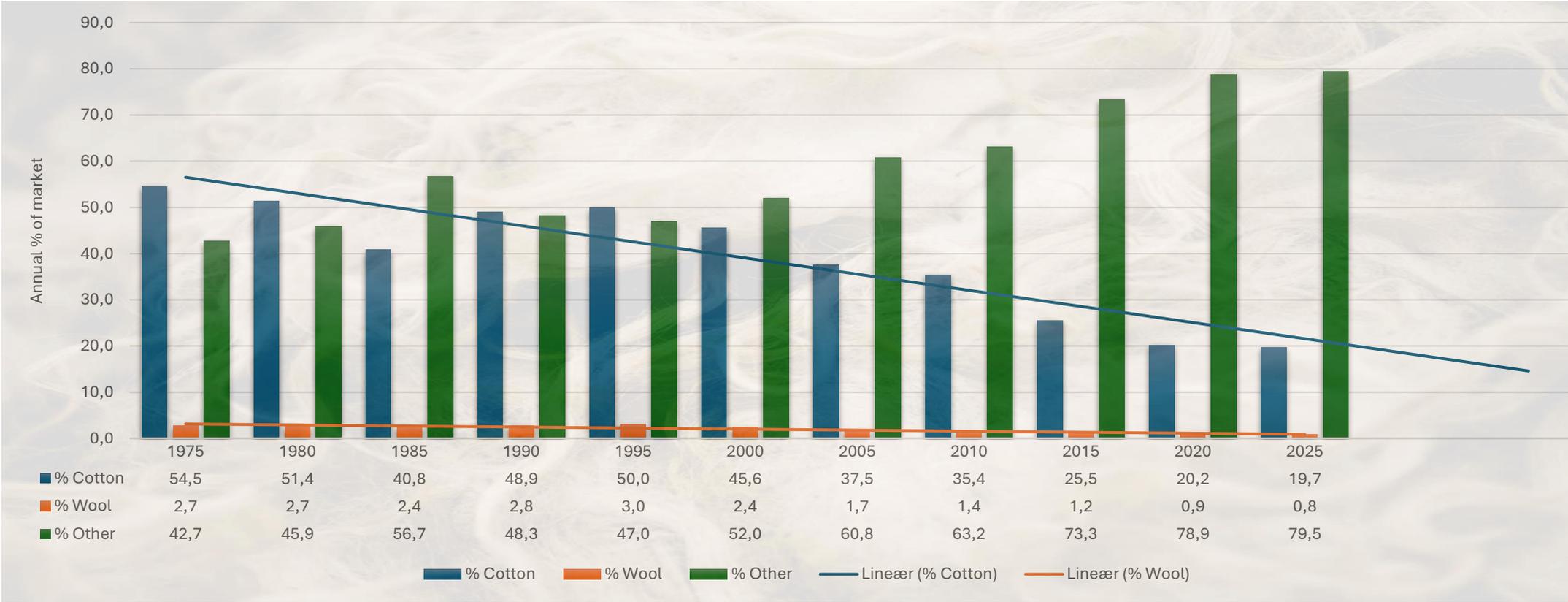
The Faroes major export goods were woolen socks from 1620 - 1830

From 1830 the major export was woolen jumbars, fishoil and fish

The typical Faroese farmer made his money from the wool. The fleece from one sheep would typically be more worth than a whole lamb carcass

Shift in value of wool fram late 1950 ´ to the situation where wool today is basically of no economical sale value for the farmer

Annual supply of fibre comparison in %



FACT

In 1975 the total yearly amount of fibre per. person was 8,2 kg. globally

In 2020, it was 14 kg. and estimated to be 15,6 kg. per person in 2025!



SWOT ANALYSIS – INTERNAL FACTORS

STRENGTHS

- Durable
- Recyclable
- 100% natural
- Biodegradable
- Part of the natural carbon cycle
- Renewable

WEAKNESS

- Durable!
- End produce expensive
- Low production premium
- Seasonal
- Does not fit into popular fashion

SWOT ANALYSIS – EXTERNAL FACTORS

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Consumer awareness**
- **Regulations for climate friendly fibre**
- **Improved processing technologies**
- **Policies favouring quality wool**

THREATS

- **Consumer preferences**
- **Cheaper counterproducts**
- **Fashion trends**
- **Unstable political policies**



Sources

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