

## ***Dr Mette Vaarst – Curriculum vitae***

**Date of birth** 13 October 1961

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- Summary**
- 35 years of research experience, including teaching, supervision and dissemination, building mainly on veterinary science and anthropology, mainly on-farm-research, action research, multistakeholder involvement, qualitative and participatory research. Systemic research approaches and interdisciplinarity in relation to farming and food systems.
- Research interests**
- Organic and agro-ecological animal farming systems; different approaches to the principles and philosophy of organic farming, health concepts, shared lives of animals and humans, communication around farming, advisory dialogues and handling of antibiotics
  - Anthropological perspectives on animal health, welfare, farmer collaboration, advisory dialogues.
- Index**
- H-index 37; Citations 4267; i10index 77
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### **Work experience:**

- 1998 – today Senior scientist at AU, currently at Department of Animal and Veterinary Science.  
Participation and leadership of research activities primarily in organic dairy herds, but also organic pig herds and conventional dairy herds in projects based on action research methods, cross-disciplinary research, qualitative and quantitative research approaches. Coordinating Danish and international research projects, mostly related to organic dairy farming.
- 1995-1998 Researcher at Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences (DIAS); partly 'Cattle farming system whole-year research' group; and in group 'Animal health and welfare'.
- 1992-1995 PhD student at Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, research group 'Cattle farming system whole-year-around research'
- Project leader experience:** Project leader and country coordinator of Danish and international research project and research networks, most recently ROADMAP 2019-2023 (<https://www.roadmap-h2020.eu/> ; DK coordinator, WP leader and 'Pillar-leader'), GrazyDaiSy 2018-2022 (COREOrganic, project leader), KALVvedKO 2019-2023 (OrganicRDD4, project leader).

### **Education involvement:**

- 2007 MSA Health Anthropology (6 years half time study within the period 1996-2007 in Ethnographic Methods, Ethnic Medicine, Anthropology, Philosophy of Health Sciences, Theory of Science, Medical Anthropology)
- 1995 PhD in Veterinary Epidemiology / Clinical Veterinary Sciences with the Thesis 'Health and disease handling in Danish organic dairy farms' [in Danish].
- 1990 DVM / Veterinarian, RVAU, Copenhagen

***Involvement in education and teaching activities:***

- Supervisor of 9 PhD students and numerous MSc students. Leader of several PhD courses.
- Responsible for the MSc-course 'Organic farming systems analysis, product quality and environmental management' (10 ECTS), involved in developing the new educations in Veterinary Science and Animal Science at AU Campus Viborg, plus guest teaching in other courses.

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***Selected publications***

Bertelsen, M., & Vaarst, M. (2023). Shaping cow-calf contact systems: Farmers' motivations and considerations behind a range of different cow-calf contact systems. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 106(11), 7769-7785. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2022-23148>

Duval, J. E., Bareille, N., Fourichon, C., Madouasse, A., & Vaarst, M. (2017). How can veterinarians be interesting partners for organic dairy farmers? French farmers' point of views. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*, 146, 16-26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2017.07.013>

González-García, E., Gourdine, J. L., Alexandre, G., Archimède, H., & Vaarst, M. (2012). The complex nature of mixed farming systems requires multidimensional actions supported by integrative research and development efforts. *Animal*, 6(5), 763-777. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s1751731111001923>

Johanssen, J. R. E., Kvam, G. T., Logstein, B., & Vaarst, M. (2023). Interrelationships between cows, calves, and humans in cow-calf contact systems-An interview study among Norwegian dairy farmers. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 106(9), 6325-6341. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2022-22999>

Lastein, D. B., Vaarst, M., & Enevoldsen, C. (2009). Veterinary decision making in relation to metritis - a qualitative approach to understand the background for variation and bias in veterinary medical records. *Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica*, 51, 10, Article 36. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1751-0147-51-36>

Oehen, B., Spaans, A., Bonnet-Beaugrand, F., Fortané, N., Kongsted, H., & Vaarst, M. (2024). Harnessing the Potential of Living Labs in European Research Projects on Agriculture. The Case of Promoting Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Livestock. *Eurochoices*, 23(2), 37-43. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1746-692x.12450>

Rell, J., Home, R., Bähler, C., Oehen, B., Vaarst, M., Wunsch, N., Kaske, M., & Walkenhorst, M. (2022). Motivations for Swiss veal farmers to adopt calf health management strategies that enable reduction in antibiotic use. *Animal Production Science*, 62(5), 490-500. <https://doi.org/10.1071/an20690>

Ritter, C., Koralesky, K. E., Saraceni, J., Roche, S., Vaarst, M., & Kelton, D. (2023). Invited review: Qualitative research in dairy science-A narrative review. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 106(9), 5880-5895. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2022-23125>

Skjolstrup, N. K., Vaarst, M., Jensen, C. S., & Lastein, D. B. (2022). Danish cattle veterinarians' perspectives on antimicrobial use: Contextual and individual influencing factors. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 105(4), 3377-3393. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2021-20981>

Vaarst, M. (2015). The Role of Animals in Eco-functional Intensification of Organic Agriculture. *Sustainable Agriculture Research*, 4(3), 103-115.

<https://doi.org/https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/230385/?v=pdf>

Vaarst, M., & Alroe, H. F. (2012). Concepts of Animal Health and Welfare in Organic Livestock Systems. *Journal of Agricultural & Environmental Ethics*, 25(3), 333-347.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10806-011-9314-6>

Vaarst, M., & Christiansen, I. A. (2023). Three years of situated social learning and development of diverse cow-calf contact systems in Danish organic dairy farms. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 106(10), 7020-7032. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2022-22755>

Vaarst, M., Escudero, A. G., Chappell, M. J., Brinkley, C., Nijbroek, R., Arraes, N. A. M., Andreasen, L., Gattinger, A., De Almeida, G. F., Bossio, D., & Halberg, N. (2018). Exploring the concept of agroecological food systems in a city-region context. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 42(6), 686-711. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2017.1365321>

Vaarst, M., & Klaas, I. C. (2011, Oct 25-27). Farmer-veterinarian communication in the new Danish herd health program: changing responsibilities in relation to mastitis treatment and udder health promotion. [Udder health and communication]. International Conference on Udder Health and Communication, Utrecht, NETHERLANDS.

Vaarst, M., Nissen, T. B., Ostergaard, S., Klaas, I. C., Bennedsgaard, T. W., & Christensen, J. (2007). Danish stable schools for experiential common learning in groups of organic dairy farmers. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 90(5), 2543-2554. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2006-607>

Vaarst, M., Paarup-Laursen, B., Houe, H., Fossing, C., & Andersen, H. J. (2002). Farmers' choice of medical treatment of mastitis in Danish dairy herds based on qualitative research interviews. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 85(4), 992-1001. [https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.S0022-0302\(02\)74159-3](https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.S0022-0302(02)74159-3)

Vaarst, M., Ritter, C., Saraceni, J., Roche, S., Wynands, E., Kelton, D., & Koralesky, K. E. (2024). Invited review: Qualitative social and human science research focusing on actors in and around dairy farming. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 107(12), 10050-10065. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2024-25329>

Vaarst, M., Smolders, G., Wahome, R., Odhong, C., Kiggundu, M., Kabi, F., Nalubwama, S., & Halberg, N. (2019). Options and challenges for organic milk production in East African smallholder farms under certified organic crop production. *Livestock Science*, 220, 230-240.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.livsci.2019.01.006>

Vaarst, M., & Sorensen, J. T. (2009). Danish dairy farmers' perceptions and attitudes related to calf-management in situations of high versus no calf mortality. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*, 89(1-2), 128-133. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2009.02.015>

Vaarst, M., Steinfeldt, S., & Horsted, K. (2015). Sustainable development perspectives of poultry production. *Worlds Poultry Science Journal*, 71(4), 609-620.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/s0043933915002433>