

## **New possibilities for willow - Lantmännen and Ny Vraa sign license agreement for modern willow varieties**

**Lantmännen is one of very few breeding companies in the world with willow in the portfolio. The breeding is long-term and prime breeding targets is high biomass yield, together with climate adaptation, and resilience. The energy crisis and search for plant-based alternatives in different processes have increased the interest from both traditional and new markets.**

From now on Lantmännen together with the new licensee Ny Vraa ApS, Tylstrup in Denmark will develop the crop by introducing new excellent varieties to the market. The successful collaboration since many years with Salixenergi Europa AB is terminated due to retirement.

-We see a new era for short rotation production of Salix, it is a crop with potential, according to Desirée Börjesdotter, Director of Plant Breeding at Lantmännen. -In the future the role of willow will change, from being associated with “only” energy production via burning, to be a multi-purpose crop with major positive climate impact. We are developing modern, new varieties suitable also for new demands from the market, comments Desirée Börjesdotter.

Ny Vraa is a trusted supplier and well established in Salix for some 35 years. In 2012 the company decided to focus completely on Salix and today they produce willow on 500 hectares. The cultivation is mainly for cutting production and also for energy purposes, different cultivation substrates and bio-bedding. Lately, Ny Vraa is also the leading partner in Denmark and abroad, supplying consultancy in relation to variety material, planting, harvesting and sale plus own developed machinery.

Ny Vraa is the licensee for the Salix material developed by Lantmännen since February 2024 in Europe and North America. The system with sub-licensing will prevail under responsibility of Ny Vraa.

### **For more information please contact:**

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### **About Lantmännen**

Lantmännen is an agricultural cooperative and Northern Europe's leader in agriculture, machinery, bioenergy and food products. Owned by 18,000 Swedish farmers, we have 12,000 employees, operations in over 20 countries and an annual turnover of SEK 70 billion. With grain as our basis, we process arable land resources to make farming thrive. Some of our best known food brands are AXA, Kungsörnen, Scan, GoGreen, Schulstad, GooH, Finn Crisp and Bonjour. Our company is founded on knowledge and values built up through generations of owners. Having research, development and operations throughout the value chain means that we can take responsibility together – from field to fork. For more information: <http://lantmannen.com/en>

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