



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Green jobs important measure to tackle unemployment during COVID-19 crisis

Published 20 April 2020

The Government is relaunching an initiative for green jobs for people who are far from the labour market. The initiative is aimed at mitigating unemployment linked to the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19. SEK 150 million has been set aside for 2020 and is part of the Government's proposed Spring Amending Budget for 2020, which is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The Swedish Forest Agency has been instructed to coordinate the initiative, which is aimed at creating work in the area of nature and forest conservation. Together with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the county administrative boards and the Geological Survey of Sweden, the Swedish Forest Agency is to employ people who are far from the labour market in subsidised employment to carry out simple tasks in primarily nature and forest conservation management.

This work increases access to outdoor life and recreation, which provides added value for many people. Nature and forest conservation can help to reduce the spread of the European spruce bark beetle and other pests. Green jobs are also a way to increase skills supply in the sector. Participants in the initiative gain skills that are in demand in green industries, which increases their prospects of later employment in the sector.

“Similar initiatives have previously worked well for people at risk of ending

up even further from the labour market,” says Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson. “It is important that we can now relaunch this initiative, not least because the measures also have a positive impact on nature and forest conservation.”



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Rural Affairs: The Government and I are in continuous dialogue with the food industry

Published 24 March 2020

Listen to the Minister for Rural Affairs, Jennie Nilsson, talk about food security in Sweden. "We have plenty of food available. There is currently no food shortage in Sweden."



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Information about Sweden's food security in light of the COVID-19 virus

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On Thursday, Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson called a meeting for the food industry to gain a picture of stakeholders' preparedness in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Trade organisations, food companies and trade union representatives for the food industry took part in the meeting.

The Government takes the COVID-19 outbreak very seriously. Food security is vital to society and a priority issue, and it is important to have a common view of the situation.

The common view of industry and food companies that took part in yesterday's meeting was that there is no lack of food security.

Stakeholders requested clear guidelines on how companies in the food industry should act and, when necessary, decontaminate in the event of an identified infection.

The Government will continue to have a close dialogue with responsible authorities and representatives of the food industry to discuss any situations that may arise and how best to resolve them.

- Sweden has good food security and the current COVID-19 outbreak has not impacted Swedish food production to any great extent.
- There is no reason for private individuals to stockpile food because of the COVID-19 outbreak. However, people should, as always, be

prepared with dry goods and tinned food on hand in accordance with the recommendations of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and the National Food Agency.

- The Government is continuing its dialogue with relevant actors to ensure that food security continues to function and ensure preparedness to deal with various situations in the best possible way.
- The responsible authorities are working intensively to contain the spread of the virus in Sweden. It is now important to monitor developments and the decisions and recommendations provided by responsible authorities.
- The COVID-19 virus is spread between people. The Public Health Agency of Sweden is coordinating communicable disease control at national level and providing planning support at regional and local level, where the operational work is being carried out. Each region has a communicable diseases officer. If you, as an individual or as an entrepreneur, have questions concerning communicable disease control, you can find up-to-date information on the Public Health Agency of Sweden's website and the regions' websites.
- The National Food Administration states on its website that there is currently nothing to indicate that the virus is spread by eating food or drinking water. Knowledge from previous outbreaks of similar coronaviruses also indicates that this type of virus spreads via people who are infected and not via surfaces such as food and food packaging.
- In the longer term, the Government is working on a policy bill for Sweden's total defence, which includes food security in the event of heightened alert or war.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Fisheries Council agreed on fishing quotas in the Baltic Sea

Published 16 October 2019

Targeted cod fishing in the eastern Baltic Sea will be banned in 2020, and the opportunities for cod fishing in the western part will be substantially reduced. This was agreed by the EU ministers of agriculture and fisheries on 14–15 October. Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson represented Sweden.

Agreement reached

Every year the European Commission presents proposals for the following year's fishing catch limits in the Baltic Sea. The European Commission's proposals for 2020 regulate the species cod, herring, sprat, salmon and plaice. Fishing quotas were an important item on the agenda when the agriculture and fisheries ministers met on 14–15 October. After many hours of negotiations, the ministers reached an agreement.

“I am satisfied with the results of the negotiations, we had the aim of coming as close as possible to the European Commission's proposal and we achieved this yesterday,” says Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson.

Ban on targeted cod fishing in the east

The decision entails the following:

- Targeted fishing of eastern Baltic cod will be banned, possible by-catch may amount to a maximum of 2000 tonnes.
- Fishing opportunities regarding cod in the western Baltic Sea will be

reduced by 60 per cent in relation to 2019.

- Herring fishing in the western Baltic Sea will be reduced by 65 per cent.

“I am most pleased that we managed to attain levels that are well within the range of what can be regarded as sustainable fishing. In this way we can ensure that future generations will also be able to fish,” says Ms Nilsson.

The Common Agricultural Policy

In June 2018, the European Commission presented a proposal for reforming the Common Agricultural Policy. The proposal has been discussed at several levels since then, and the Finnish Chair informed the meeting about the situation regarding the negotiations.

“We have come a long way in many areas. But work still remains at the technical level, particularly with regard to green architecture and its forms,” says Ms Nilsson.

Other issues discussed at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 14-15 October included a new forestry strategy, African swine fever, US penalty tariffs and the market situation.

Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson represented Sweden at the meeting in Luxembourg.