

STATUS REPORT: CLIMATE CERTIFICATION FOR FOOD

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Introduction

A Swedish initiative was started in 2007 by KRAV and Swedish Seal/Svenskt Sigill in order to develop a climate certification for the food chain. Currently, the project is managed in cooperation with several major Swedish food companies: Milko, Lantmännen, the Federation of Swedish Farmers, Scan and Skånemejerier. The purpose is to create a certification system, which will reduce the negative climate effects in food production and give consumers a chance to make a conscious climate choices as well as strengthening the competitiveness of the food producers.

Establishing and communicating a new label on the market is very challenging. Our approach is to produce a certification scheme that can be used as a plug-in-module for existing sustainability labels or standards for food production in order to insure quick introduction and impact on the market. The plug-in-module guarantees substantial reductions in climate impact. No carbon footprint is presented; the criteria are based on a scientific scan of climate impact in the food chain.

Repeated market studies demonstrate that Swedish consumers are interested in products with reduced climate impact. Three out of four consumers want to be able to choose food with lower climate impact, and every second consumer say they are willing to pay more for such a product.

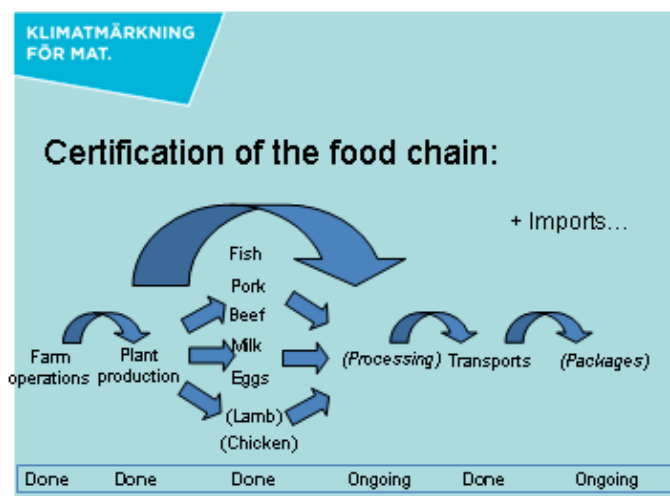
The certification scheme aims at raising awareness and stimulating development of production methods with lower climate impact. Examples of criteria:

- Fodder: Lower use of soy. Locally produced, climate calculated fodder for efficient production
- Nitrogen: Efficient use of nitrogen to reduce emissions of nitrous oxide.
- Animal welfare: Healthy animals results in lower emissions per produced kg meat.
- Energy: Saving energy is good for the wallet and for the climate.
- Packaging, processing and transports are also included in the criteria.

Criteria have been presented for the following areas:

- Farm operations
- Plant production
- Greenhouse production
- Fish
- Pork
- Beef
- Lamb
- Chicken
- Eggs
- Milk
- Processing/packaging/handling
- Transports

All criteria are available on the website: www.klimatmarkningen.se/in-english. The criteria for lamb, chicken and processing/packaging/handling are currently in translation, and will be available shortly.



The climate certification covers the food chain from farm to store including distribution and packaging. Focusing on the climate question alone can lead to sub-optimal solutions. Therefore the criteria are developed to integrate climate measures with other sustainability issues. For example, the criteria promote renewable energy rather than carbon neutral energy, and healthy animals rather than high production.

The system was launched officially on June 15th 2010, the picture to the left shows Anders Carlgren, minister for environment and Elisabeth Gauffin, milk producer recently climate certified, in the middle. The picture to the right shows climate certified Christmas ham that was launched on November 24th.



The climate certification builds on existing standards for sustainable food production with regular third party inspections by an accredited certification body, currently the Swedish organic label KRAV or the Swedish food quality label Swedish Seal/Svenskt Sigill. Swedish

Seal/Svenskt Sigill offers producers who have voluntarily climate certified their production a label communicating to consumers that improvements have been made. KRAV integrates climate criteria in the existing criteria for organic production so that all KRAV certified products will be climate certified within a few years. This process has been started with greenhouse production and fisheries, and continues with animal husbandry, plant production, processing and trade.



Currently the following products have been certified:

- Milk from a dairy north of Stockholm (Sigill)
- Pork meat from a major producer in Västerås – Nibble (Sigill)
- Tomatoes from greenhouses (KRAV)
- Fish (KRAV)

The following products are in the process of certification and will be launched shortly:

- Frozen vegetables
- Flowers (greenhouse production)
- Milk
- Pork

We are currently working on supportive tools for producers who want to certify their production. Criteria, data and scientific reports are available in English on the website: www.klimatmarkningen.se/in-english

There are currently plans for a workshop focusing on methods for climate labelling/certification for food products in cooperation with Thema1/PCF Forum. The objective is to discuss different methodologies considering the fact that the agricultural sector has inherent problems regarding carbon footprinting (ie land use, nitrogen cycles, etc), and there is a need to present and penetrate ongoing activities such as the one described above.

For more information, please contact

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