

The Greenlandic food

In September there are a lot of turmoil in the mountains. Travelling on board a boat and from a helicopter between the settlements in South Greenland, we can watch long columns of sheep.

The farmers shepherd the sheep from far out in the wilderness to the picking-up folds at the sheep farms close to the coast. The owners sort the animals in different paddocks, and the noise level increases considerably when the lambs are separated from their mothers.

After the lambs have been born earlier in the summer, the sheep stock reaches more than forty thousand animals: In the recent years the sheep population of breeding animals in South Greenland consists of more than 21,000 breeding animals, and every year the publicly owned slaughterhouse, Neqi, in the town Narsaq slaughters more than 20,000 lambs.

The agriculture in Greenland is focused on sheep farming, but today there are also reindeer farms, beef cattle and cultivated land with potatoes and different types of vegetables.

Farming has been practiced in South Greenland back to the period when the Northerners settled in the region (year 985 to about 1450). Since the end of the 1700's, agriculture has been a traditional profession together with fishing and hunting.

Like the agriculture in other countries, it is a sector with high public subsidies. Compared to other countries, the farms are relatively small units, and the climate and other natural conditions make it a challenging profession to be a farmer in South Greenland.

My dinner tonight? Lamb chops! Served with my homegrown potatoes!



*The slaughterhouse Neqi, Narsaq,
South Greenland, September 2017*