

## Introduction:

When the Buan family started managing this farm in 2000, it constituted of buildings of about 200 years old. The farm is located at 45 km out of Trondheim. The main activities carried out are:

- sheep breeding;
- cereals for animals;
- forestry management and green care, with production of wood and wood handicraft;
- Animal Assisted Activities and Therapies with children/youngsters and their families.

## Promoter Profile:

Full name: Line Svee Jensen

Age: 26

Gender: Female

Marital Status: Married

Number of children: none

Education and Training: Psychologist in charge of Green care unit

Years of professional experience: 5

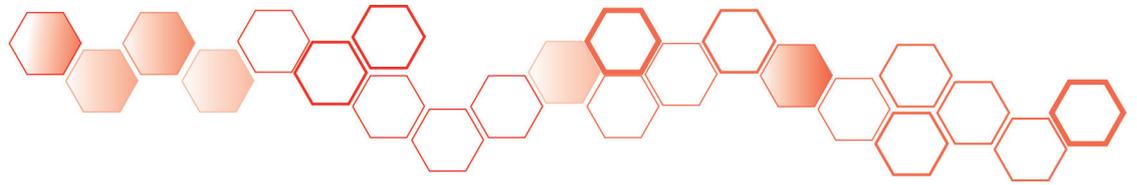
## Farm Data:

Name: Ådne Buan (Husband)

Address: Buan Gård Grønn Omsorg (Buan farm, Green care) Fannrem7320 Orkanger Norway

Website/Email: <http://www.buangard.no/> ; [line.svee.jensen@buangard.no](mailto:line.svee.jensen@buangard.no)

Year of Establishment: 2000



Hectares: 60 (10 for farming and 50 forest). Also available are: a mountain area in common property lease for free grazing of sheep and a summer house at the sea shore.

Family Farm workers: Mrs. Jensen and her husband (his father is also involved)

### **Previous situation:**

The farm was originally a sheep breeding farm with low profitability.

### **Multifunctional Experience:**

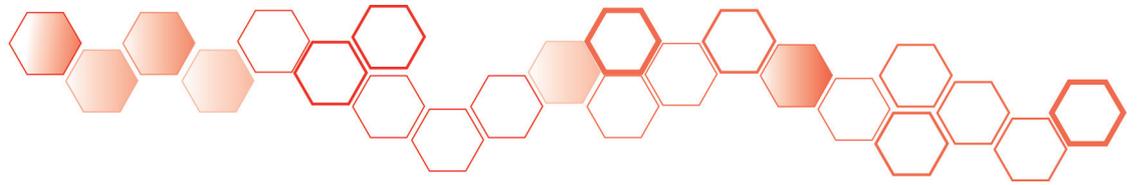
Activities promoting multifunctional activities started on 2000 when Lin Svee Jensen and her husband took over the farm and started with Animal Assisted Activities (AAA). Previously the main activity was sheep breeding, but the owners Iver Buan, Ådne's father and his wife, also worked as teachers outside the farm.

The main reasons why Mrs. Jensen decided to pursue this new project were the poor profitability of the former farm and the desire to use her own competence as a psychologist with children and youngsters in a natural environment.

The farm activities are divided into three units:

- the Green Care unit with 3 full-time, 2 half-time and 3 part-time workers;
- the Family unit, for baby and child sitting, with 2 full-time and 2 part-time workers;
- the Youth Care unit, with 8 employees, acting in shift work;
- crop production for animal feeding and forestry management for horse riding and trekking trips are also performed at the farm.

In 2000 the Buan family started with green care education and animal assisted activities in order to work with children and youngsters with behavioural and mental problems. The projects beginnings were hard and also economically difficult, but the incentive was the desire to work in a beautiful environment helping children and youngsters discover and develop real interest in life and life skills. The original financial investment, intended to re-



store the buildings and adapt the surrounding areas, was quite high and was more than € 1 million, however the institutions provided their technical support and the credit facilities for this project. When the farm activities became well known in the surrounding area, the farm became more and more attractive for families and institutions who dealt with children with behavioural and mental problems.

## **Results:**

Nowadays more people are involved in the farm activities – two families: Ivar Buan and his wife and their 3 children of less than 10 years old.

Line Svee Jensen and her husband Ådne Buan live of the farms income. Also at supported by the farm are the people involved in the three farm units.

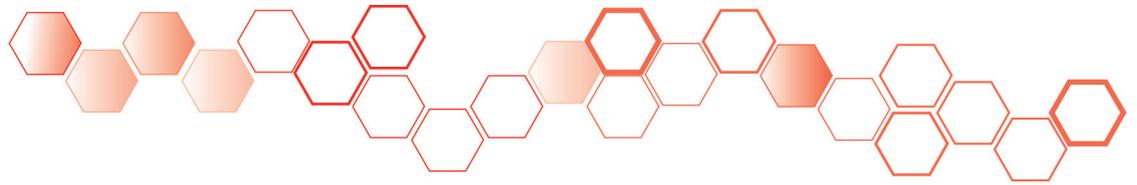
The activity has become profitable and the income security is quite high due the good reputation of the activities offered at farm.

## **Promoter Competences:**

From 2000 Mrs. Jensen improved her professional skills as a psychologist with training courses on green care and animal activities addressing children, this included children with behavioural and mental problems.

## **Promoter Advice:**

Don't throw yourself into a job if you don't think you can commit yourself to doing it". "The key to the success of my project has been based on total commitment and cooperation between all the people involved, both on the farm and in the local community".



### **Queries and considerations:**

- What do you think about the transformation of a sheep farm in an environmental and educational open farm? Do you think it could be implemented in your farming context?
- This case study is an example of medium/large self financed investment. Do you think that it would be possible to carry out a diversification plan in your farm according to this financing principle?
- What do you think about the possibility of using farm animals and green care for children and youngsters with behavioural and mental problems? Do you think that this farming practice is suitable for your farm?
- What do you think are the social, economic, environmental benefits of such a farm for the wider rural community?
- Which aspects of this case study draw your attention the most?

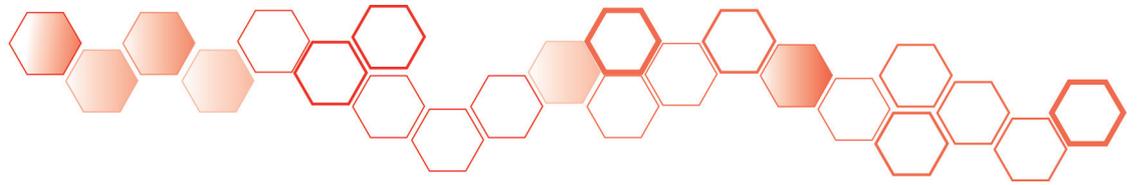
### **Recommended Training for farmers interested:**

- Business Management;
- Psychologist and Pedagogue Skills;
- Green Care;
- Animal Care;
- Environmental management;
- Open farm management,
- Communication and Information Technologies.

### **Links:**

<http://www.buangard.no/> (farm homepage)

<http://www.skjetlein.vgs.no> (agriculture college homepage)



## **Strengths and weaknesses:**

### **Strengths:**

- Diversification of income
- Use of existing “off farm” skills

### **Weaknesses:**

- High amount of investment
- High grade of organization

## **Multifunctional Criteria:**

### **Social/ Economic/ Environmental/ Cultural Aspects:**

#### **Social aspects:**

- involvement of society in agricultural production
- therapy through agricultural activities
- interpersonal aspects
- intergenerational aspects

#### **Economic aspects:**

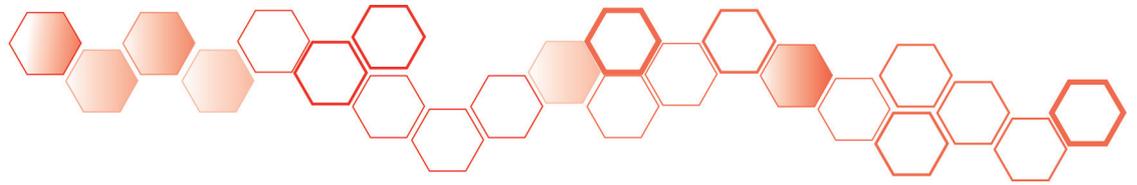
- diversification of income
- independence of trade business through niche production

#### **Environmental aspects:**

- maintenance of cultural landscape

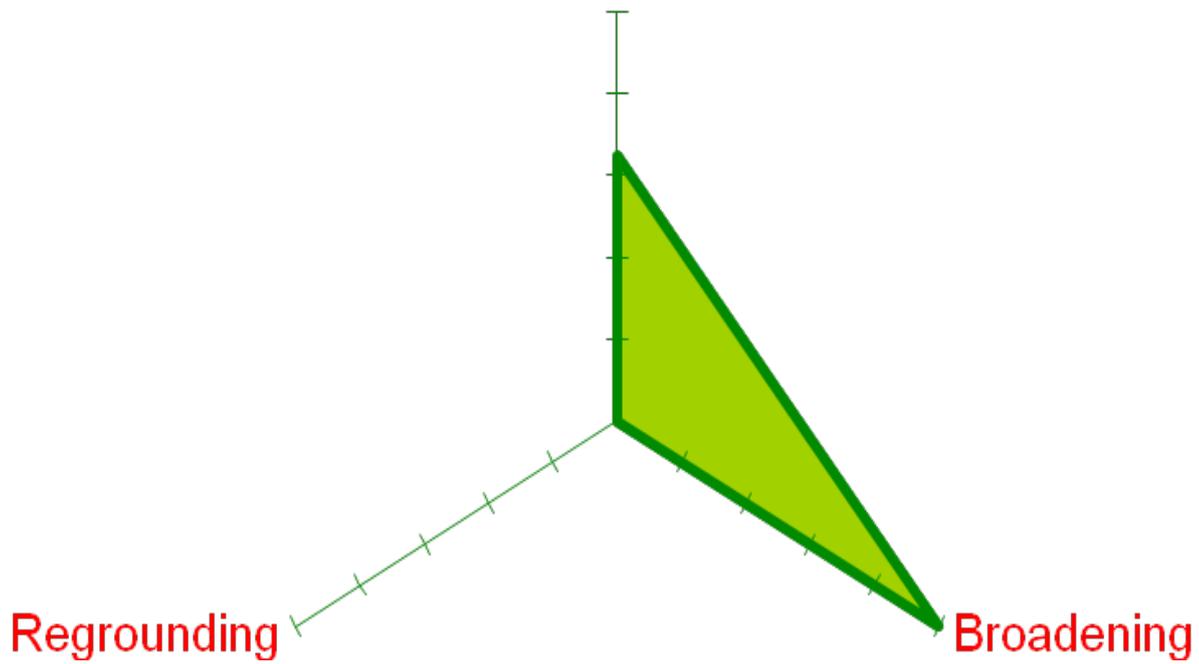
#### **Cultural aspects:**

- use of historical buildings
- fostering a sense of belonging to the land/landscape/farming sector



**DEEPENING/ BROADENING/ REGROUNDING**

**Deepening**



**Key Words:**

- Female Farmer
- Rural Vitality
- Social Therapy