

Cross Visit Ruminants

Organic Sheep Production for Meat

Field-Based Learning on Organic Sheep Grazing, Housing and Flock Management

ESTONIA, NORTHERN REGION

1-3 June 2026



The OrganicAdviceNetwork project aims to build a strong network of advisors with organic competences across Europe. As part of this mission, the project organizes cross visits for agricultural advisors to meet, exchange and share their innovative organic farming practices.

Estonia is a country where 23% of all agricultural land is certified organic, and nearly half of the country's sheep and beef are raised under organic production systems. The diversity of Estonian sheep farms is quite varied, ranging from small family-run hobby holdings to larger commercial enterprises, each applying different grazing strategies and housing systems.

What you can expect from this cross visit

- Explore diverse organic sheep farming models: learn about rotational grazing and management of semi-natural pastures, compare three different sheep housing systems: 1) year-round outdoor production, 2) housing in polytunnels, and 3) barn housing.
- Engage in discussions on animal welfare, flock health and the practical management challenges associated with each system.
- Gain practical insights into on-farm slaughtering and butchering, short value chains and the "tail-to-nose" utilisation approach in organic sheep production.
- Discover how organic sheep farms diversify through agritourism, farm visits and rural education activities
- Exchange with other advisors across Europe and Estonia

DAY 0 – 1 June 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
19:00	Joint dinner in Tallinn city centre (optional)	Informal meeting. Round table to get to know each other

DAY 1 – 2 June 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
8:00-8:15	Meeting point in Tallinn city centre	Gathering and pickup of participants.
8:15-9:00	Introduction session (on the bus – transfer to the farm)	Introduction to the overall cross-visit theme and program, and Estonian organic agriculture.
9:00-11:00	Visit 1, Regenerative farming	Round table to get to know each other. Argo Allikmets, Allika Farm Mixed grazing of grass-fed sheep (Estonian Blackhead breed) and beef; rotational grazing; year-round outdoor livestock management; small on-farm slaughtering and butchering unit (also as a service for other farmers); tail-to-nose concept, direct marketing, agritourism.
11:00-14:00	Transfer and lunch	
14:00-16:00	Visit 2, Simple housing solutions	Priit Jõesalu, Oruküla farm Lleyn breed sheep; 340 ha farmland; 360 breeding ewes; export-oriented production; using PVC halls in sheep farming; wolf management measures. Discussion on challenges in conversion to organic farming (first year as a fully organic farm)
16:30-18:15	Reflections on the first day	Discussing lessons learned from the first visits. Sheep farming context in different countries – discussion round.
	Sauna and dining	Vihula Mõis

DAY 2 – 3 June 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
09:30-11:30	Visit 3, Breeding, diversified activities	Priidu Veersalu, Iisaka Farm Location in Lahemaa National Park. Blue Texel sheep breeding, semi-natural pasture management, shepherd dogs, wool handicrafts and sheepskins. Agritourism, farm visits and rural education activities.
11:45-12:30	Lunch	
12:30-15:30	Reflection and feedback	Discussion round of advisory systems/challenges in different countries, lessons learned from the visits.
15:30-16:30	Transfer to Tallinn (drop-off at the airport, if needed)	
19:30	Joint dinner in Tallinn (optional)	

Practical Information

Requirements

Participation in the entire cross visit program. There is no possibility of arriving later or leaving earlier, except for local participants. All participants must arrive in Tallinn on June 1st, as the pickup for the trip is at 8:00 AM on the 2nd of June. Returning to Tallinn on the 3rd of June will be no later than 5:00 PM. Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodation in Tallinn before and after study trip (if needed). The organisers have booked accommodation only for the night of June 2-3.

Participants

Agricultural advisors supporting organic farmers or farmers in conversion as well as, advisors or young graduates willing to gain competences in organic advice are welcome to join this cross visit. Maximum 16 participants.

Registration

You will be asked to provide some personal information, a brief description of your interest in joining this visit and your capacity to cover your travel costs. Participation is not guaranteed, because the number of participants who may join the visit is limited. Participants taking part will receive a confirmation message.

First-round registration deadline: 20 March 2026; Confirmation of application: 10. April 2026.

The registration deadline might be extended in case of undersubscription.

Link to Registration: [Cross Visit: Organic Sheep Production for meat, Estonia, 2-3 June 2026 – Fill out form](#)

Travel costs

In case you do not have a budget to cover your travel costs, the project advisory partner in your respective country can reimburse part of your travel costs. Eligible countries for cost reimbursement are FR, BE, DE, IT, BG, EE, DK, AT, CH, HU, ES, PT, HR, RO, IE, NL, SE, FI, CZ, PL, GR, SI, RS. Eligible costs for reimbursement are transport (train, flight), accommodation (2-3 nights), social lunch and dinners, up to a limit of 400-800 EUR/participant. Once your participation in the cross visit is confirmed, you will receive more detailed information from the advisory project partner in your country about the conditions for cost reimbursement.

Estimated costs during the Cross Visit (2–3 June) are 190 EUR, which includes coffee breaks, social lunches and dinner, one night of accommodation (in twin rooms) and breakfast, as well as transportation costs during the 2-days trip (all already booked by organisers). In addition, participants are responsible for covering their own costs for food and accommodation in Tallinn, as well as travel to and from Tallinn from their home location.

Contact information

For any additional information, please contact: Airi Vetemaa (coordinator): airi.vetemaa@gmail.com and Merit Mikk: meritoko@gmail.com