



Unusual sowing time: Ærø oats win Skyd Høsten Først

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(Translation from Danish)

Oats from the Danish island of Ærø are the winners of Skyd Høsten Først 2025. They were harvested unusually early, on July 10th. The producers were Peter Forum Jørgensen and Jolanta Maria Forum Jørgensen, who grew the variety 'Scotty', a spring oat that, this time, was sown in the autumn.

“It is not completely unheard of abroad to sow spring oats in the autumn, but in Denmark it is very unusual. On Ærø we have mild winters, and that gives us some opportunities that you don't have elsewhere in the country,” said Peter.

The harvest was carried out with a Claas Lexion 520 with a 6-meter header. In the field, Henning from Maritime Engineering was behind the wheel, with Magnus as a 'co-pilot'. Next to him was a New Holland TD 5.95 without a cabin and a Ukrainian Elvorti Alfa 4 Mini Till seed drill, which was imported directly by the farm itself.

“Everything worked. Sun and wind – and then it was just driving. We had a good crew, and harvest went without any problems,” says Peter.

The yield ended up being 9 tons per hectare with a moisture percentage of 15 – a result that was extremely satisfying for both Peter and the harvest team.

The weather conditions on Ærø played a key role in this experiment with autumn-sown spring oats.

“We don't have harsh winters, and we don't get such hot summers. The water around us dampens the fluctuations - and plants like that. Especially oats,” explains Peter.

He emphasizes that they were well aware of the risk of winter damage, but that they had support from German plant breeding experts from the island of Rügen, who are working to develop more winter-tolerant spring oat varieties.

The crop was quickly sold to Valsemøllen in Svendborg as the harvest got underway.



“When you have such quality, it's just a matter of getting going. It gives a better price than feed oats, and Valsemøllen was ready,” says Peter.

A decision has not yet been made on what the field will be used for next time.

“We plan from season to season, but this experiment gives us food for thought. We are very satisfied,” concludes Peter.

(A harvest photo is included with the original article.)