

was to describe cancer risk among male and female farmers in the Nordic countries.

**Methods** The study includes 622 000 men and 159 000 women aged 30–64 years registered as farmers in the 1960, 1970, 1980–1 and/or 1990 censuses in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. During follow-up until 2003–5, 140 500 cancer cases were observed among men and 26 900 among women. The standardised incidence ratio (SIR) was computed as a ratio of observed and expected number of cases calculated from incidence rates for each country for the whole follow-up period and for the three periods 1961–75, 1976–90, and 1991–2005.

**Results** Overall cancer incidence among male (SIR=0.83, 95% CI 0.82 to 0.83) and female (0.84, 0.83 to 0.85) farmers was significantly lower than in the general population. Risk of multiple myeloma was slightly elevated in both genders (men: 1.07, 1.03 to 1.11, women: 1.14, 1.05 to 1.24), chronic lymphatic leukaemia in men only (1.09, 1.03 to 1.14). Risk of lip cancer was elevated among men in all countries (1.57, 1.51 to 1.62). For lung cancer (men: 0.56, 0.55 to 0.57, women: 0.46, 0.44 to 0.49) and upper aerodigestive tract cancers (men: 0.52, 0.51 to 0.35, women: 0.74, 0.69 to 0.79) risk was consistently low in both genders.

**Conclusions** While there are specific occupational risk factors in agricultural work, which deserve further attention, the general cancer pattern in this group points to work-related lifestyle factors which appear protective.

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## CANCER RISK AMONG FARMERS IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

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**Objectives** Both the work and lifestyle of individuals engaged in agriculture may affect their cancer risk. The aim of this study