

FUR

Fel! Okänt växelargument.

A fur story

TA: Tor-Alf  
MA: Marianne  
KL: Karolin Linden



(time code starts at 10.00.00.00)

10.00.25

TA: There's freedom in this line of work, you can plan your own day.

10.00.30

(demonstrators shouting)

The fight goes on! oppression will end.

10.00.36

KL: There are surprisingly many vegetarians and vegans. The animal rights movement has come a long way.

10.00.44

TA: The alternative would have been to try and get a job in one of the industries in the area, or to simply move away from here, to the south or to Sweden.

10.01.10

KL: I look forward to the future. I believe that mink - and other types of fur farming will disappear.

10.01.53

TA: We have a fox farm with around 300 breeding females, which means that we produce around 2000 cubs a year. We are mostly producing blue foxes. I have been working in the farming industry since 67. And since 1979 we have been working full time with the farm. It has been our livelihood since 1979.

10.02.36

KL: My name is Karolina and I come from a town called Varberg. It's about 80 kilometres south of Gothenburg. I am 17. I live at home with my parents and my sister, although she is studying in the USA at the moment. I became a vegetarian when I was six. Then I went home to my mother and said that I don't want to eat animals any more. So, then I didn't, but then I started eating meat again. Before I became a vegan I was a vegetarian for half a year. And now I have been a vegan for one year.

10.03.23

MA: I am the second generation; my mother and father had a mink farm. I came into the picture when we started going out together. I first had a job in a factory, a textile factory, but the times became more difficult and there was more work at the farm so I also started to work on the farm. I haven't had another job.

10.03.59

KL: Some workshops and things like that. I can imagine we will hand out flyers too. We don't really know. Eat vegan Danish pastries because they are supposed to exist.

10.04.37

TA: Of course it's fun to see when the cubs are coming. That's the purpose of fur farming. It's an annual event.

10.04.54

MA: The first thing you do when you check the box is to see if the cubs have a good pelt, are healthy and how far they've developed. A new year begins with the cubs. When we have separated the cubs from the mother we try to spend as much time as possible with the cubs so they become used to people. I don't want them to be as tame as cats and dogs. I want to keep a distance - they are production animals, not pets.

10.05.57

(demonstrators shouting)

Murderers!

10.06.39

KL: I demonstrate against all animal oppression. And I think that the fur trade is wrong because it's a very painful and unnecessary animal oppression when there are synthetic materials to choose from.

10.08.11

KL: (shouting together with other demonstrators):

War, war against the fur trade! War, war against the fur trade!

10.08.58

KL: Of course, there are many different ways to work. I believe in handing out information, spreading information on the situation of animals on fur farms... trying to create empathy among people.

10.09.17

(demonstrators shouting in Tampere)

What do we demand?

Rights for animals!

10.09.25

(angry young Finnish demonstrator)

Fur trader, shame on you!

You have blood on your hands!

10.09.39

(old Finnish man)

They must be allowed to live in the north too.

There are no jobs.

10.09.44

KL: People quite regularly come up to me and call me a militant vegan without really knowing what it means, because militant means fighting, but you can also connect the word militant to the military and if there is someone who's militant in this case it's the fur farmer who is abusing the animals in such a way.

10.10.14

TA: We have different types of animals. We have wild forest animals that we don't socialise with at all and then we have pets that we have inside the house. Then we have the production animals and these are domestic animals like cows, pigs, horses as well as fur-bearing animals, and it's this animal that we have and take care of the best we can during the time we have them, but they are not like pets and I think you have to make these distinctions: wild animals, pets and lets call them production- or commercial animals.

10.11.59

MA: How's it going over there?

TA: It'll be finished soon.

MA: The coffee's ready.

TA: I'm coming soon. I'm just finishing the last bit here. Then I'll come.

MA: All right.

10.12.18

MA: We have never tried to count the hours we spend on the farm. But we have more and more come to the conclusion that it is not only a job but a lifestyle. Your spare time depends on what's happening on the farm. They need food twice a day from now on, the middle of May until the beginning of November. And that takes time. They need feeding seven days a week. You have to fit the rest of your life around this, dividing your time according to the feeding and caretaking.

10.13.20

(Danish demonstrators shouting)

Don't buy fur!

Respect animals!

10.13.28

(Danish demonstrators)

Middle finger, middle finger - where are you?

Here, I am here, hey,hey,hey.

10.13.37

KL: There are many things that we do, but I have mostly been working with fur, questions about animal testing and hunting and recently very much with hunt sabotage which is a very good form of action. It is legal and we simply go out in the forest, a few of us, and find the hunters and try to talk to them and make them stop shooting. We put our own bodies between the animal and the hunter. Hunters, in general, are often drunk especially during the elk hunt so it's quite dangerous to be out there... they are out in the forest with the intention to kill. That's why they are there.

Most people are very surprised because hunt sabotage is very new in Sweden. In England and in Germany on the other hand it has become very common, and in Sweden it is becoming more common. Last autumn a few of us destroyed the king's hunt at Hannehunneberg outside

Trollhatten, in the Vänersborg area. So it is becoming more common in Sweden.

10.15.00

KING:

We can't have a lot of these small Tarzans running around in the forests and destroying the hunt. This is turning into a farce, and we can't accept things like that.

10.16.46.

Ex patriot:

Well, how's the farming and everything in Kolamby nowadays?

TA: It's not so good right now. Prices have gone down. But these ups and downs are normal. If we wait a couple of years they will start to rise. I think so.

Ex patriot:

But what about all the other things around it? Difficulties and so on?

TA: Well.... People are moving out of the village, but there are a few of us left.

10.19.27

(demonstrators shouting)

Fur for animals, no to fur

Respect life!

Let the animals out!

10.19.54

(Ole Nordang, fur trader)

we mostly sell seal because that's the cheapest. In second place we sell mink, and in third place fox.

10.20.09

(demonstrators shouting)

War, war, war against the fur trade!

10.20.16

(Ole Nordang)

Here we have sapphire mink. This is a model that sells well in Russia. The Russians like it. Seal-skin is interesting. There has been a lot of debate around Brigitte Bardot and seal-skin, but it sells well now. This is the coat model that I've also sold to Finland.

10.21.04

(Ole Nordang)

This is something for young people. It's sheepskin with a leopard pattern.

10.21.17

KL: (shouts at the demonstration): Struggle

(crowd shouts: continues)

KL: Oppression

(crowd shouts: will end ),

KL: Struggle

(crowd shouts: continues)

10.21.30  
(Ole Nordang)

Opposition creates publicity and interest. Bad publicity is better than no publicity.

*Arvids Vred  
TXH*

10.22.52  
TA: Come on then!

10.23.02  
TA: You don't usually like this.

10.24.13  
TA: Ok, where is his card?

10.24.53  
TA: First I choose the ones I'm not going to skin. I take the best material aside for breeding. So, that's what I choose first, those that are not going to be skinned. I mark them. After that we skin the rest when they are ready.

10.25.47  
KL: I think that animal rights activists sometimes direct their actions against fur in general and then they attack the consumers; it's usually women that wear fur, because men don't wear all the pelt. The ones we should really attack are the fur farmers who keep the animals in this cruel way. Naturally it's important to inform consumers but I think it's wrong to harass women wearing fur in the city. Furthermore, we should know that 90% of all fur is used for trimmings on coats and shoes.

10.26.45  
TA: One year we have good prices and the following year the prices can drop again. And you can say that you invest a lot of capital in the spring, summer and autumn to breed these animals and you don't know beforehand if you're going to get the capital back. You get it back in the form of pelt money the following year. It's a little bit like gambling.

10.27.27  
TA: Are you ready?  
boy: yes

10.27.36  
TA: take the sawdust, put the sawdust on your hands and rub them. Like this.

10.29.03  
(demonstrators in Copenhagen shouting):  
A fight - a struggle!

10.29.23  
TA: Have you been to school today?  
Small Boy (LP): It's fun to be at home.  
TA: So it's fun to be at home?

LP: Yes.

TA: Why's that?

LP: I think so, because then I get to play computer games. I even played 5 rounds.

TA: Now. Soon. What happened?

LP: Some fat sprayed on me!

TA: It was sawdust.

LP: No, it was fat!

TA: Now the fat comes. If I hold it like this. Look!

Just cut. How many is that for? How many birds?

LP: At least 30.

10.30.57

MA: The best thing with this farming industry or company is that you can decide your working hours for yourself. And you get to work with animals. No two days are ever the same. It's always different. During the season you work more and when it's quiet you can take it easy.

10.31.43

MA: If I wouldn't work with farming, I really don't know what I'd do. I don't have any qualifications in any other area. I would most probably have to get an education in another area. But I would still like to have something to do with animals.

10.32.12


TA: It needs oiling.

10.32.31

MA: I think they're good with animals because they've been here when we've been working. They're both very good with animals. They're talented in this area. It would be nice if they'd continue the work we've enjoyed doing. But if there's no interest you can't do anything about it. They'll probably get an education in another area, but you never know. Perhaps they'll continue themselves later on.

10.33.55

KL: The debate has concentrated on minks destroying the Swedish nature because the mink is not naturally a part of it. But we believe that the mink farmers themselves have caused the situation where around one million minks are running loose in Sweden, because there are always minks escaping from farms. And researchers have been saying that those minks, since it is mostly minks that have been released by animal rights activists.... don't make a difference.



10.34.22

KL: Mink farming is classified as being environmentally harmful in Sweden; toxic substances have been found in the groundwater close to the mink farms. And then the pelts must be treated with a lot of preservatives and chemicals.

I think that mink farming and other types of fur farming will disappear. On the other hand it is a problem that the fur farming is so big in the Baltic countries and they don't really have any animal protection laws. Fur farming in Sweden is declining because it's very difficult to run a fur farm profitably.

10.35.15

TONE (Denmark):

In Denmark there are 3 000 fur farms and every year around 12 million minks and 600 000 foxes are killed and a small amount of other fur-bearing animals. Yesterday we demonstrated outside the Copenhagen fur center, which is the largest auction house of its type in the world.

10.35.46

ODD (Norway):

More and more fur shops are closing. The farmers are dependent on subsidies. A recent court case showed that the authorities are not yet ready to forbid fur farming. We haven't come as far as Sweden and England.

(här är två repliker på engelska; vilket förstås inte ska översättas)

10.37.56

TA: I don't think it will be forbidden in other European countries either. I find it hard to believe that someone could find reasons to forbid it. Compared to other domestic animals you really can't say that this would be ethically different, especially when it comes to taking care of animals. In England, where it's a populist issue, they try to make promises that they will forbid a way of life that, in principle, is not important because there are virtually no farmers.

10.39.06

TA: Well, well

10.39.10

MAN LIFTING: These are big pelts, but there's enough room for them.

TA: Yes, I said they were long. Now, we'll wait and see.

MSL: Now you must wait while I put up another rail. The last one.

10.39.31

MSL: Was it the last?

TA: Yes, it was the last one.

10.39.47

TA: Drive carefully, you have a valuable load.

10.39.59

TA: It feels exciting.

MA: It's an exciting auction because it seems as though the prices could go up.

TA: I hope they go up a little.

I have a feeling they'll go up a little. If you compare to how it went here earlier. The silver foxes went up a little bit and now it would be time for the blue foxes, if they follow the same trend. Let's see now.

10.41.17

TA: Euros. Is it marks, dollars or something else over there?

MAN (off picture): It's euros and dollars.

TA: Euros and dollars.

MA: Euros and dollars. Exactly.

TA: We have a calculator with us that converts directly into marks.

MAN (off picture): yes, you have.

10.42.00

TA: We will see even though we are sitting here.

10.42.10

Well, what do you have there 195? Is that the amount?

MA: 343.

TA: How do you put it in?

One. Nine. Five. Zero. Zero. I've already pressed the divided by button. Look: 57. That's good.

10.43.13

TA: The Euro and dollar are the same.

MA: Yes, I have noticed.

10.43.38

TA: Have you seen whose buying?

10.44.08

TA: We have to go and see.

MA: Hmmm.

10.44.17

TA: I didn't think they were very good. They are a little loose, if you look here.

MAN (off picture): Which one is it? This one?

TA: No, I think it was this one.

MAN (off picture): Was it here?

TA: Yes, I don't remember Tage's number now.

MAN (off picture): These pelts are not bad.

TA: No, they are not bad but if you look this way, they're not going to do well at an exhibition. They flap too much.

10.45.00

KL: My ideal society. It is very difficult to describe, to say what it looks like. But I believe in a society where we don't oppress anybody regardless of which species this individual belongs to, or which sex, or religion, or colour. I believe in a society where everybody can live together

10.45.35

TA: Do you remember this?

MA: We'll see from which year it is... we haven't had it engraved.

10.45.53

TA: I, or my family, will continue to work in this profession. I don't think it will stop because of some activists or anything like that... maybe the state of the market then. I believe that it will continue like before, with ups and downs. But whether the children continue, it's too early to say.

10.46.38



Fel! Okänt växelargument.

MA: I hope to continue being a farmer until I'm a happy pensioner. But you never know how the market will change. There are still many years to go.

Paul Wilkinson  
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