

Newsletter ^{4/99}

European Federation of City Farms

Kinderboerderijen

*City Farms and
Community Gardens*

*Ferme d' Animation
Educatives*

4H-garder

4H-Farms



*Kinder-, Jeugd- en
Gezinsboerderijen*

Ferme d'Enfants

*Jugendfarmen, Kinderbauernhöfe,
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News from the Board

EFCF Annual Meeting (AGM)

New Date!!! 3. - 5. March 2000 in Brussels

Each Member-Federation may send two delegates. Papers will be send to all Member-Federations in January 2000

Board Meetings in 2000

Brussels: 14. - 16. January 2000

Brussels: 1 day before AGM 2000

Hannover: 24. - 25. June 2000 (EXPO2000 and Event of the German Federation 26. - 28.6.99)

Rotterdam: Autumn 2000 (to be agreed with Rotterdam City Farm and Dutch Federation)

Board Meetings with Commission and relevant DGs of the EU

These meetings took place in late October and early November 1999. The purpose was, to raise the profile of the EFCF, to publicise and educate th EU on the work of City Faarms and to show how our work fits into Europes goals and objectives. To explore ways to fund our proposed EFCF-programms, the work of Member-Federations and their City Farms.

Board actions to date:

The EFCF-chairperson met with the Commission Secretariat and the Board met with relevant officials in DGV, DGXI and DGXXII. The positive results of these meetings is now being worked on by the Board with recommendations to be send with AGM papers. A draft programme and policy papers for AGM will include information on individual exchanges under European Voluntary Service (EVS) and transnational sustainable development and job creation programmes und the environment on City Farms under the innovation initiatives.

The Board also visited Local Action for Employment Exposition (www.employmentweek.com) met with social economy and EU practioners and gather relevant information and contacts.

The Board visited and held meeting with INAISE (international organisation of social banks and lenders to social economy organisations (eg city farms).

Healthy Food Project Report

Further copies of the report are available free but EFCF needs to charge postage of 5 Euros per copy to cover the costs not supported by the programme. Tell local teachers and local libraries of this offer. Many teachers have already found the report useful in planning lessons around food and health.

Visit the EFCF website

<http://efcf.vgc.be>

Help promote City Farms around the world, link your own web site to the EFCF website!!!

Email: remember to send the EFCF your Email adress to receive the newsletter and other information directly. Send your Email adress to: efcf@vgc.be

from Belgium

News from Flandres

Our federation has been national youths-service for about three years. Now since January we've lost that title and at our first meeting, we talked about our future. It is so, that the members of the federation work at their own farms, we have no paid people working for the federation. For the time being, we decided to work together on a small scale and regretfully, to let go some larger projects. Anyway we worked good during the last meetings and we made a description of our city farms.

We found in a book a bizar definition for a city farm: „It's a place, specially designed for children, where animals run free“.

We were amused by that way of puttings things, but we saw it also as a sign, that many people really don't know what a city farms is like, how we work and why it is important that „we“ exist. So we worked at a written profile. We don't say much about legal things, about how to start a city farm, technical explanations about farming, ... because we think the profile has to be short and easy to read. We want to give this profile to students, adults, politicians, press ...

Here is a small resumé of the text.

In our way of life, we've lost nature. The need to feel nature has become very big. We know that contact with nature is important for the mind and the spirit of human kind. City Farms can bring nature back ...

1 Visitors (who is coming?)

The age of the visitors is not important. The city farm is a chance for everyone to meet other people, to play, to stay and enjoy farming life. We work with a lot of other services, we can provide activities for everyone who's interested in our farms.

2 Purposes (what are we doing?)

We can devise our purposes in three groups: instructif, informatif and recreatif. We achieve that by offering practical activities.

3 Know-how (how are we doing it?)

We create lots of activities on our farms. The visitors can come in groups, but the individuals are also welcome and they will find people of the farm to guide them. The activities create possibilities you can't enjoy anywhere else.

4 Staff (who is working there?)

The people at the farm are very important. They are pedagogical formed by schooling or experience. Every member of the staff meets the visitors and is therefore socially very important for the farm. We like the action, the enjoyment of doing things at the farm. Visitors who come every day are glad to see the housekeeper, the cleaners, the farmer ...

That's our start. We will work again at the text and say something about the land, the buildings, the animals, the location... But the purpose remain the same. The profile will tell in about three or four pages, who we are and what we do. Keep up the good work and enjoy it!

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News from Belge Francophone

At the end of the century, the members of the federation decide to increase the action about educational and environmental image for the public. With the result of the good food project, we have now more information to show about our action.

The Federation has participated at two big exhibitions in Wallonie. The people show a really interest for this good food project and we have kept a lot of contacts for the futur. A training program start for the members in winter. It speak about harnessing horses, making cheese specialities...

Happy new city farm century for everyone"

Bernard Herlin

from France

Thanks for the last newsletter and the opportunity to read it on website.

In the moment I haven't any news about city farms in France.

from Germany

anima 21 - european conference 19 - 26 September in Berlin

In our last issue of our magazin „Offene Spielräume“ we give a report of Anima 21 – Contributions of Adventure Playgrounds and City Farms towards sustainable development. This report is in german language but it includes also some nice fotos of the event. People are free to order the magazin for free.

At the moment we work hard for the documentation of the conference and hope we can publish it in january 2000.

National Conference 24 - 26 March in Stuttgart

The next national conference of the german federation takes place from 24 to 26 of March under the theme: „Youthfarms and adventure playgrounds goes dialogue“ A detailed description of the conference is available in January 2000 (see our homepage www.bdja.org and klick „Fortbildungen“).

from the Netherlands

Like all federations, the Dutch federation is always desperately looking for funds. Recently the opportunity arose to participate in the Dutch National Support Action. The objective of this national organisation is to support sport clubs, hobby clubs, youth work etc. The good thing about this project is that both the federation and the individual city farms will benefit. Farm workers are asked to find contributors (visitors e.g.), who are prepared to sign a standing order for a yearly financial contribution for the farm. This commitment gives the participants the right to take part in a national lottery once or twice a year, depending on the amount of the contribution. The contributors can be sure that the action

will support their 'own' city farm and on top of that there are nice prizes to be won. The farms send the signed orders to the Dutch City Farm federation that does all the involved administrative work for them. Once a year the federation will divide the proceeds over the participating farms. Most of the money goes to the individual city farm projects, a small percentage goes to the national federation. Of-course the success of the National Club Action depends on the willingness of the city farmers to co-operate and try to obtain as many standing orders as possible. In addition to this the National Support Action arranges a wide spread national campaign in the media to attract the attention of the public.

from Norway

*We promise to work towards becoming a youth with a clear **head**, warm **heart**, clever **hands** and good **health**.*

There are at present 48 farms in our network, Forum for Norske 4H-farms (FNG). The main goal of this network is to provide members with courses connected with running city farms (educational farms). The courses have themes such as security and health issues, driving with horse drawn carts, milk processing and educational science.

The network is also important for putting pressure on politicians and financial authorities for gaining more resources for improved activities on the farms. We hope that the authorities will in time discover the resources of these farms have to offer and this will lead to more financial support for salaries, as is the case for school teachers.

The farms are divided in three groups

4H-farms (4H-garder): Open farms with activities for school classes, kindergartens, private groups and 4h-members. There are fourteen 4H-farms in Norway. They are the most part connected to cities or towns. They give special attention to children who do not have any connections with farm animals and agriculture, or who not know much about where our food comes from. 4H-farms give children the opportunity of developing into whole people, with an awareness of nature, culture and people.

4H-farms can be run privately or by municipal or country authorities. Norske 4H is responsible for the approval of the farms. There are strict requirements to security, animal welfare, educational aspects and general impression}}s.

Open farms: These are almost the same as 4H-farms but without their formal status.

Holiday farms: Farms that accomodate children for several days at a time. The young visitors live with the host family

as family members. The visit is usually for five days, but can be longer. This holiday concept is increasing in Norway today. There is a broader involvement in working for the welfare of young children. At a time when there is a deficiency of time and surplus energy to give children enough care, a stay on a small farm where time is spent together, and in safe and friendly environment.

Norske 4H is currently working on a project looking into the farm-holiday offer for children as a possible new niche for small farms who are finding it difficult to survive in the modern day farming market in Norway.

from Sweden

Unfortunately we have no possibility this time to contribute with an article to the newsletter, but maybe we can try to fix one on the next newsletter.

from UK

Child Protection Guidelines have been produced for the movement to help raise awareness of the issues involved on farms that are open to the public, and provide useful training material for staff and volunteers.

Access to farms is the name of a consortia of agricultural organisations, chaired by the FCFCG, that has agreed to produce a joint directory of farms in the UK that are open to school visits; it will also appear on the internet in January.

A Millennium Festival project is being undertaken to link all City farms and Community Gardens in the UK, and potentially throughout Europe, looking at food and shelter. A nomadic home (Yurt) will tour a number of projects, and about fifty will be built for use with multi-cultural story telling and arts activities. Something for all projects is the growing of old varieties of cereals, some growing half a hectare, others only a square metre or even a window box. These will be harvested and a bread baking festival co-ordinated, baking hundreds of different breads. An internet site will contain information about each project; would European City Farms like to join us?

Next Newsletter

Copy dead-line for the next newsletter is **15-2-2000**

Please send all your text by email or send a disk in word-format or rtf-format to our office in Stuttgart - we don't want to type your text.

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