

# Newsletter

1/2000

## European Federation of City Farms

*Kinderboerderijen*

*City Farms and  
Community Gardens*

*Fermes d' Animation  
Educatives*

**4H-garder**

**4H-Farms**



*Kinder-, Jeugd- en  
Gezinsboerderijen*

**Fermes d'Enfants**

*Jugendfarmen, Kinderbauernhöfe,  
Aktivspielplätze*

Administrative Office  
Neerhofstraat 2  
B - 1700 Dilbeek  
Belgium

phone: +32-2-5691445  
fax: +32-2-5692651  
email: [efcf@vgc.be](mailto:efcf@vgc.be)  
internet: <http://efcf.vgc.be>



# News from the Board

## GENERAL MEETING

### EFCF has a new Board:

- Marc De Staercke**  
Schapenstraat 14, B 1750 Sint-Martens-Lennik  
phone: ++ 32 2 569 14 45, fax ++ 32 2 569 26 51  
e-mail: EFCF@vgc.be
- Marc Verachtert**  
Alkenstraat 136, B 3512 Stevoort  
phone: ++ 32 11 31 30 90, fax 32 11 31 24 44  
e-mail: m.verachtert@hasselt.be
- Mike Primarolo**  
The old vicarage, Fraser street, Bristol BS 3, 4 LY  
phone: ++ 44 117 9662193, fax ++ 44 117 9632821  
e-mail: mike@primarolo.freeserve.co.uk
- Pauline Wolters**  
Romeinse Baan 200, NL 6215 SK Maastricht  
phone: ++31 43 347 4407, fax ++31 43 347 4786

### EFCF Board Meetings

The four EFCF Board members set the following meeting dates for the remainder of 2000:

28 – 29 April	Brussels
24 – 27 June	Hannover, Germany
22 – 23 Sept.	Brussels
8 - 9 December	Brussels

### Presentation and discussion of Strategy Paper (as previously circulated)

Board pointed out that the short term strategy was to carry out work within existing resources and expand the programme if further funding was achieved, (as identified in the strategy paper). It intended to make 5 applications for funding, of which 2 had already been made to DG Environment and DG Youth.

### Issues

Celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Delegates expressed disappointment that up to the present it had not been possible to raise funding for an activity for 2000, eg: a delegation of members to visit the European parliament in Strasbourg or Brussel.

Karl reported that in Europe such visits were for national rather than European visits!  
Therefore we would need to make an application from each member state via our MEP's. This was seen as illogical and difficult. The Board was asked to explore the

other avenues for an event in the autumn.

### Future conferences

Although the EFCF had not had conferences in member Federation states each year, the feeling was that this was important for our movement. John (UK) agreed to ask the UK to provide a conference in 2002. Pauline reported on the progress of the conference in Rotterdam, September 19-23, 2001, and the meeting once again thanked the Bund for a good conference in Berlin in September 1999.

### Revised Policy on Children

Accepted unanimously. Proposed Netherlands, seconded UK.

### Discussion on Best Practice

Agreed to place information on EFCF website.  
Oliver requested EFCF to publish information on good design for City Farms for land and buildings. Agreed that many member Federations had information. Federations agreed to send information to Oliver in Germany for him to collate and the EFCF to place on the website.

### Working Groups

Mick Marston (UK) proposed a working group on quality and accreditation of quality led by the UK and asked for other federations to join the working group and/or provide information from their own countries. France and Norway expressed an interest at the meeting.

### Discussion on policy papers, information and discussion papers

Board is currently working on revising existing policy papers for distribution to member Federations for comment.

UK raised issue of circulation of the Animal Welfare Policy, which originally involved a EFCF working group. This policy has since been revised in the UK. Delegates agreed that UK circulate the new policy as soon as possible, highlighting the chances, and that member Federations should comment by October 2000 at the latest. Netherlands was requested to send a copy of the Hague Animal Welfare Policy to the UK. Board to send information explaining the status of particular papers, eg: green paper, white paper, discussion paper and policy.

### Blue Booklet

Revisions and additions to Blue Booklet text to be sent to Pauline Wolters (Netherlands) by 23. April 2000.  
Discussion on making the Booklet more presentable and informative for external organisations. Agreed a more professional cover, to be possibly paid for by Catalonia.

Eric (France) argued that the content and page presentation needs to be addressed.

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## **Actions and commitments made by member federations and associate members**

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### **GERMANY**

- To produce 4 seasonal issues of newsletter
- Look at organising an international work camp in 2001
- Translate one or two articles per year (German to English)
- Oliver is going to receive an design ideas
- Karl Teufel: youth exchange articles for the newsletter
- Hans-Jörg Lange proposes to put information on the website

### **UNITED KINGDOM**

- Animal welfare policy: identify the changes and send to all member federations for comment
- Articles for the newsletter
- Send out a flyer for their published guide the „composting box“.
- Want to set up a working group for quality and accreditation of quality for city farm
- To get educational information from Compassion in world farming.

### **SPAIN (CATALONIA)**

- Possibility to pay for a new cover of the „blue booklet“
- Training course about therapy with horses – spring 2001 – articles in the newsletter

### **FRANCE**

- Contact the Commission Presidency for the „food and nutrition“
- Articles in the newsletter

### **ITALY**

- Information for Pauline for the „blue booklet“

### **WALLOONS**

- Improve website of good food guide – link to database
- Promotion of good food catalogues on the farms
- Danielle to brief to Walloon Federation
- Articles for the newsletter
- Contact Danielle for translations into French

### **FLEMISH**

- Contact the EU to try to organize a visit of the parliament of Brussels or Strasbourg or Luxembourg for EFCF (October 2000) 10 years of the EFCF
- Marc Verachtert is able to translate Spanish articles

### **NETHERLANDS**

- Articles for the newsletter
- Rotterdam 2001 – European Conference
- Proposal of changes for EFCF aims
- Seek funds for EU training course for programme with handicapped people – Drawn up cost of programme
- Revise and produce „blue booklet“

### **NORWAY**

- To join UK working group
- Course from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2000: how to use the horses on a city farm
- Articles for the newsletter (4H project and horses)

### **SWEDEN**

- Work with Norway on the new Norwegian 4H farm project
- Articles for the newsletter
- Currently re-organising 4H farms, and will provide information on – how 4H is working with groups
- Make web link from Sweden site to EFCF site

## **from Belgium**

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### **News from Flandres**

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Imagine, somewhere in a little town, on a little farm, you can find an exiting thing to do. On this farm you can nose, and you can doze, so it's an nosedozefarm. The farm welcomes every visitor to enjoy and nosedoze. What can you do there?

In a session of 30-45', you explore things, you drift away with emotions, feelings, dreams, experiences. Why? Because on this farm you find a small place, a cabin, a corner of the stable, a room, a cart, a truck, use your imagination.

When you enter this place, you're overwhelmed by different things. These things are related to the four basic elements: earth, wind, fire, water. You bring those elements together with the senses and you create a interesting place on your farm.

The visitors smell, feel, hear, taste, see in one word, they nosedoze in this place. All the materials in that place are found on the farm. (Attention! Some visitors are allergic to skins, hay, grass,...)

Our federation is convinced that such a place on your farm is something more. It creates new chances to explore the world of the farm. At the moment the city farm of Marke is looking to make a nosedozefarm. We follow that process and hope that we all learn from their experiences.

We continue on our „Profile of a city farm“, make it easy to read and work at the lay-out. To be continued!!

## 25 years Het Neerhof

The Neerhoffarm has been bought on the 22th March 1974. But the first visitors came over the floor on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1975. Since a lot of Brussels young people participated in the activities of this Flemish project for the Brussels citizens.

The Neerhof staff is also proud they took an active role in the creation of the EFCF.

Now Het Neerhof is preparing an anniversary festival which will be held on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of May.

If you want to be with us, let us know.

Het Neerhofteam.

## from Canada

Please add our email to the EFCF-Newsletter

Michael Levenston, Executive Director  
City Farmer - Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture  
#801-318 Homer Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 2V3 Canada  
Phone: (604) 685-5832 Fax: (604) 685-0431

email: [cityfarm@interchange.ubc](mailto:cityfarm@interchange.ubc)  
<http://www.cityfarmer.org>

## from Germany

The City-Farm in Stuttgart-Möhringen is looking for an exchange-Partner in UK.

We would like to come to UK with a group of 12 to 15 year old teenagers during the summer-month in 2001 and we are happy to receive our partners as guests.

If you are interested please write to:  
Verena Hubert  
Jugendfarm Möhringen e.V.  
Balingen Str. 111

D – 70567 Stuttgart / Germany  
Fax: ++49-711-6872302  
Email: [verenahubert@yahoo.com](mailto:verenahubert@yahoo.com)

## Children-, Youth- and City Farms: a model for open access play and community work in international perspective

We like to invite our european partners for an interesting meeting in Germany / Hannover 26. - 28. june 2000

Improving the developmental potentials of children, young people and families is the goal of the Federal Children and Youth Service Act in Germany. Children-, Youth- and City Farms do offer a variety of practical approaches to achieve this goal in Germany as well as other European countries.

Stadtteilbauernhof (neighborhood and community farm) Sahlkamp has been selected as part of the World Exhibition in Hannover because its concept includes and connects social, educational and ecological services.

The conference aims at defining “City as a social habitat” on the background of different experiences which member projects of the EFCF have collected over the years.

The major themes will be: How do projects promote efficient practical translation of their perspectives in times of tight fiscal margins and how effective are the pedagogical approaches in achieving their goal?

The Conference fee is 150 EURO, but we support all members of the EFCF with 50 EURO so that participants from the EFCF have only to pay 100 EURO. If people want to stay longer to visit the EXPO2000 - the city of Hannover will charge about 40 EURO for accommodation (1 night).

A detailed description of the conference is available from Bund der Jugendfarmen und Aktivspielplätze e.V.  
Oliver Ginsberg  
fax: ++40-30-61402173  
phone: ++49-30-61402172  
email: [ginsberg@blinx.de](mailto:ginsberg@blinx.de)

## from the Netherlands

Silver Spider is thought to have captured and possibly murdered Freddy Fly who has been missing for several days. Freddy Fly is known to have liked flying around the old maze and stream where Silver Spider hangs out. The

police are convinced that Adam Ant knows where Silver Spider is hiding but every time they follow him, he just leads them round in circles. Is he deliberately leading them astray to protect Silver Spider?’

and

‘William Wood Louse is suspected of stealing a beautiful, precious leaf from the top of Bucket Tower in the middle of the night. Eyewitnesses claim to have seen a grey creature, with a strange segmented body and lots of legs leaving the scene of the crime. Investigations at the Tower have discovered a recently dug tunnel by the back entrance and a small pile of soil nearby. Is Wilfred Worm, a small time villain, helping William Wood Louse by hiding the precious leaf deep underground until the police alert is over?’

The crimes above (and four more) will be committed in Creepy Crawly Land at one of the city farms in Maas-tricht. The crimes are going to be solved by detectives of about 7 years of age. Each crime involves two suspects – the main offender and an accomplice, to be found at the farm. The details of the crime are laid out in a Charge Sheet. As the detectives can not communicate with their suspects, they are encouraged to look beyond the animals they encounter and to focus closely on the surroundings to look for as much information as possible. After that they bring their suspects in for ‘questioning’ which will take place in the Incident Room in Headquarters where the Duty Officer (the teacher) assigns each group of detectives to an investigation corner.

This self-guided project is now being set up together with an English volunteer, who lives near Maastricht. She has studied biology, loves children and has a great sense of imagination. The so-called try-out will be in May this year. The aim is to introduce the world of Creepy Crawlies to small children and to help them step away from the ‘grown up’ world down in to the mysterious, fascinating underworld that exists at the tips of their toes. If the project is a success, other farms in Europe will be able to use this approach soon after the try-out, since the rough version was made in English. One of the nice results of two nationalities working together.

Other than the crimes mentioned above, there is no shocking news from the Netherlands

**from Spain**

## **SAC XIROI: Hippotherapy: an experience of social integration**

Miguel Gallardo, social worker.

Equestrian therapy is a therapeutic method which has been used since 1965 in France, Denmark and other countries of the E.U. for the treatment of the physically and mentally handicapped, and, most recently, for those with autism. In New York, the „Green Chimneys“ farm has been using this method since 1945 with children with serious emotional and behavioural difficulties.

**Sac XiROI** as it’s name clearly indicates, expresses the nature of this program: **SAC** signifies that which can welcome, and be open to those with difficult needs. **XIROI** signifies that which is happy and pleasant. The combination of these two therapeutic qualities results in a unique experience in Spain. The results gained so far show that this experience is both positive and necessary.

**SAC XIROI** welcomes people aged from 4 to 18 years old with social-integration and educational problems, as well as children with physical and/or psychological problems. This centre offers them the opportunity to become part of a family atmosphere set in the open countryside.

In Castellvi de la Marca, in the ALT PENEDES region, some 50 km from BARCELONA, can be found the **SAC XIROI** teaching farm. It was the GALLARDO family who took the initiative in 1986 to establish the project. The family had been working for some time in the field of social integration. A grant was given by the European Social Fund, thanks to the intervention of the mayor’s office in Vilafranca del Penedés and of the CATALONIAN GENERALITAT Department of Employment. As a result a house was built to accommodate 18 youngsters and there are 5 places reserved for children with physical or psychological needs. From the point of view of administering the project, all its facilities are used flexibly and to maximum advantage. It has a great variety of services on offer.

**SAC XIROI** is a non-profit making organization, whose primary concern is that of children and adolescents with diverse difficulties, where people work intensely towards integration. Its activities are determined and defined by using and building upon a child’s interaction with farm animals. This is not as easy as it seems but it has achieved some very rewarding and promising results. This is especially true in equestrian therapy where the young person must act in a responsible manner but in doing so discovers that enjoyment and pleasure accompany their efforts. It also encourages a respectful attachment to the animal itself and this can often be of great emotional value.

Interdisciplinary work = work by a team of 12 young educators who are social workers and who work constantly to adapt to the needs of the different residents.

European willingness with educational exchanges = strengthened by different, annual exchanges with french teaching farms who are currently providing very positive results.

All of these aspects provide residents with a structured body of people, offering the necessary training in order to acquire the fundamental social-interaction skills which will give them the hope of a different and much more

interesting future than the one that they had before becoming a part of the **SAC XIROI**.

The **SAC XIROI** teaching farm is coordinated by a permanent team with professionals from the social services, social, workers, family therapists etc. who are jointly responsible, along with the centre in the role of altering the educational, family and social setting of the young people, and also in the preparing of their reintegration back into society.

The residents normally arrive at the centre having been referred there by either the Child Welfare Department or by the Ministry of Justice. There are some special cases that we cannot take as they are beyond our resources for social work.

Our success rests or falls on how well we perform our task and the motivation of staff who run the project.

So far, we have enjoyed a 40% success rate as far as our social work intervention and teaching methods are concerned. That has been made possible for us thanks to the devotion of our young teachers. It is also the result of a commitment to the principle of farm teaching strengthened by living in community in a beautiful and natural environment. It is also true to say that the project owes a lot to horse riding which we see as an integral part of our therapeutic programme.

**SAC XIROI** has pursued a programme of national and international exchanges. It has also participated in various international gatherings. Teaching farms are not yet well established worldwide but we take pride in our presence at conferences which focus on the interaction of humans and animals.

We are also proud of the fact that we are the only catalonian and spanish representatives internationally recognised by the small circle of teaching farms.

A national association has been established in Girona and Mojacar-Almeria.

Association El Sac Xiroi  
Cases Noves de la Riera. s/n  
08732 Castellvi de la Marca  
(Barcelona)  
(34 (9) 3. 891 84 5  
Fax: 34 (9) 3. 891 80 13  
sacxiroi@suport.org.

**from UK**

Please note our new email and website addresses:

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens

Email: [admin@farmgarden.org.uk](mailto:admin@farmgarden.org.uk)  
Web: <http://www.farmgarden.org.uk>

We are supporting a conference this September:

## **PEOPLE, LAND AND SUSTAINABILITY: NEW DIRECTIONS IN COMMUNITY GARDENING**

University of Nottingham, UK  
International Conference 13 – 16 September 2000

If you would like to attend, please contact;  
John Ferris  
School of Sociology & Social Policy  
University of Nottingham  
University Park  
Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK

Email: [sheila.jones@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:sheila.jones@nottingham.ac.uk)  
subject heading "Garden Conference – for John Ferris"

Fax: +44 (0) 115-951-4818

We are also holding major exhibitions to help the general public to understand community farming and gardening, in particular at the biggest gardening event at Hampton Court in London, 4 - 9 July. The consumer magazine Gardening which? is sponsoring the exhibition and doing most of the planning. It will link many community gardens and farms with their contributions of plants, containers and people.

Our Millennium Festival is also linking hundreds of community groups growing old varieties of cereals. Some groups are linking with schools and local history societies to research local farming history. All will have harvesting celebrations and we plan a major bread baking festival suitable for people from all cultures, in October.

## **Next Newsletter**

**Copy dead-line** for the next newsletter is **15-5-2000**  
**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.**

Bund der Jugendfarmen und Aktivspielplätze e.V.  
Haldenwies 14  
D - 70567 Stuttgart / Germany  
email: [bdja@bdja.org](mailto:bdja@bdja.org)  
internet: [www.bdja.org](http://www.bdja.org)