

Newsletter

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
Schapenstraat 14
B - 1750 Lennik
Belgium

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



News from the Board

Collection of Membership fees

If the EFCF is to survive and you have not paid all or part of your membership fees, please send your outstanding payments as soon as possible. (memberships fee :500Euro)

DG Environment

Turned down the EFCF application in May 2001: reason lack of money to meeting existing project commitments.

European City Farm conferences 2001 to 2004

- No conference 2001
- Postponed Rotterdam Conference likely May/June 2002
- UK Conference September 2002, postponed indefinitely
- Portugal Conference 2003
- Norway and Italy considering, 2004.

Blue Booklet

Pauline Wolters (Netherlands) is working on a new edition of the „blue booklet“. A number of Federations have not sent their updates - the deadline was June.

Newsletter

The BDJA and Hans in particular are assembling and publishing the Newsletters in 2001. The next issue is due, Please send in your articles, recommended websites etc. In particular information on current effects of Foot and mouth disease in your country and ideas to be learnt from the crisis

EFCF Website Board working group

Board agreed first work priority is to upgrade the EFCF website to improve communications.

Contacts from

Southern Italy, India and Japan, details in next Newsletter

Board Meetings

Agenda includes: Website, Open Day, Training Course for City Farmers working with young people transnationally, foot and mouth, fundraising, sustainable development seminars, good practice examples, Rotterdam Conference and Blue Booklet. If you have any ideas, views or comments - please let the board know.

Open Day

The 2001 Annual General Meeting of the EFCF brought forth the suggestion to organize another European Open Day during the weekend of 18 and 19 May 2002. Due to the Foot and Mouth crisis the Dutch Federation had to postpone the EFCF conference to May 29 - June 2 in 2002. The Board feels that it is too much of a good thing to organize two European events in the same period, especially for the Dutch Federation which will be quite busy organizing the European Conference.

In consultation with the Dutch Open Weekend Working Group, the board would like to propose to you to organize an European Open Day (or weekend) in 2003. The Dutch Working Group proposes a subject for the open day: „Language“, which the Board feels, offers many possibilities to present (European) city farmwork in all its diversity. The theme can express all kinds of communication, between animals, between humans, between animals and humans. It can also apply to plants. Maybe it will even help us to get funding for translations.

Originally the Dutch Working Group was planning 'Language' as a theme for 2002, but is willing to choose another theme for next year's National Open Weekend if „Europe“ is enthusiastic about an European 'Language' Open Day event (Day or Weekend) in 2003.

The question to you is: Do you agree with this proposal and if yes, would the period end of April/beginning of May in 2003 be convenient for you? (we have not yet checked about the dates of Easter etc.). Please let the Board know before September 3. The Dutch Working Group has a meeting on September 6. The EFCF Board meets on September 7-9.

from the Netherlands

As you already have been informed, the Rotterdam city farm conference has been postponed. It will take place

on May 29 till June 2 in 2002. The new date is definite.

The situation concerning the Foot and Mouth in Holland today (May 23) is as follows: as from the day on which all the vaccinated animals have been destroyed, a screening period of at least 30 days will follow to be sure Holland is free from Foot and Mouth. Until the end of this this period no contact is allowed between visitors and animals such as pigs, cows, sheep etc. We can let the animals in the fields but only if they cannot come in contact with visitors.

The news bulletin said that the last vaccinated animals will be destroyed today (May 23).

News from France

PLANET'ERE 2

The Second Francophone Forum on Environmental Education

18 - 20 November 2001 : initial meetings across France
21 - 23 November 2001 : a general meeting at the Unesco, in Paris

HISTORY

1972 : Stockholm
1992 : Rio
1997 : Montreal
2000 : Lille
2001 : Paris
2002 : Johannesburg

STAKES / ISSUES

Environmental education more actual than ever

The aim of environmental education is to reconsider our way of feeding, our means of transport, our relationships with others and with ourselves. It is an issue for the cities and the countryside, the arts or mathematics, formal or informal education, the young and the adults, the poor or the rich, the nature protectors, the consumers and the parents associations. We are all concerned by environmental education.

A necessary and essential mobilisation

Since Stockholm, we have known how to make environmental education effective. All the other conferences have repeated it. In Rio, the states agreed to commit themselves to the task, especially to the application of article 36 in Agenda 21. The reports at Planet'ERE in Montreal have shown that these commitments are far from being kept. We want, through a joint action of the civil society in cooperation with governments and administrations, to put an end to this discouraging cycle.

OUR GOALS

The french-speaking people involved in environmental education will meet in order to open-mindedly :

- exchange their personal experiences in environmental education in order to strengthen their practices and commitments,
- mobilise for a sustainable development in an interdependent, fair and responsible world,
- settle some common prospects to take a part in the transforming of our society.

PREPARATION AND ORGANISATION

INTERNATIONAL DYNAMICS

There will be three different stages in Planet'ERE 2.

1. Preparatory works in 2001 in french-speaking countries:

- National assessments since the Rio meeting and the first Planet'ERE forum in Montreal.
- A report on mobilisation.
- An identification of international cooperation projects.

2. Planet'ERE 2 members' works during the first three days in various French regions:

- A workshop on (possibly thematic) experiences and works on the field.
- A workshop and debate on "what environmental education?".
- Grants for international cooperation projects.

3. Planet'ERE 2 members' works during the last three days, at the UNESCO, in Paris:

- A presentation of the synthesis of the outcomes.
- A synthesis on "what environmental education?" (consensus / issues to be debated)
- Grants for exchanges of international cooperation projects.
- A meeting of the members of all countries to define the structures of their national strategies.

TO BE CONTINUED...

- Towards an international Charter for environmental education.
- To encourage international cooperation projects.
- To define international strategy at the Johannesburg meeting.

For an interdependent, fair, and responsible world Let's mobilize for environmental education

French Collective for Environmental Education

16, rue Ferdinand Fabre
34090 Montpellier / France
tel : (+33) 4 67 02 25 70
fax : (+33) 4 67 02 65 41
cfee@educ-envir.org
www.educ-envir.org/cfee

PLANET'ERE 2 is organised under the high patronage of the Unesco - with the support of the French Department of Territory, Planning and Environment, the Department of Agriculture and Fishing, the Department of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Education, the Department of Foreign affairs, and the Department of the City.

News from Germany

The German federations websites <http://www.bdja.org> are updated. Now it is possible to find all training courses and conferences online and to register online. The most of the federations publications are now online available or online to order.

The next conference is from 5. - 7. Oktober in Kiel. We also invite our European friends to take part at our next training course „wilderness education“ - please see our website <http://www.bdja.org/fortbildung.htm>

The new magazine „Offene Spielräume“ is just printed and will be available at the internet within the next weeks - please see <http://www.bdja.org/offspiel.htm>

News from UK

Looking Ahead – Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens Director, Jeremy Iles writes with a personal view

The Food and Mouth crisis is not yet over, but it seems timely to try to take a broader view of the movement, and to see where we might be in the wider scheme of things. Whilst City Farms and some School Farms have been closed since late February, the Community Gardens have been largely unaffected, and over 50 projects are now signed up for Open Gardens day on 10 June (see the Diary and Events News Sheet for a full update and details of how your project can still get involved). We would hope that some of the City Farms may be re-opened by then and we would all welcome that, subject of course to necessary restrictions and advice from MAFF.

The financial stability of the City Farms is of course occupying all of us, as many have lost a significant amount of their incomes over the past two months. The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens will continue to seek funds or loans to assist its members. Details of our progress to date are given in the News and Views News Sheet.

Prior to the Foot & Mouth outbreaks, the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens had become involved in a number of Government steering groups and contracts, and these activities show that the farms and gardens are valued within political process. Some of these initiatives are also described in the News and Events News Sheet. Ironically, the Foot and Mouth crisis has given us an unexpected opportunity to raise our profile, and to position the movement as a part of an emerging „new vision“ on food and sustainability. Since February we have been lobbying at a national political level with MPs (including Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland) and Ministers and this led to a meeting with Michael Meacher in early April. We now have a channel to expand our collective vision

for the movement. We have also met with The Prince of Wales's office, as well as with Soil Association, the Henry Doubleday Research Association, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners, and the Royal Horticultural Society amongst others. We are seeking to work in partnership with all of these parties, but perhaps more importantly, we are promoting the idea of the Community Garden, City Farm and School Farm as being an essential part of the urban fabric, providing educational opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds. This can contribute towards a new understanding of food and local sustainability and could also be seen to help bridge the so called „urban/rural“ divide.

We are exploring political support and sources of funds to re-invigorate existing City Farms and to look at the possibility of new projects getting off the ground. This may seem over ambitious to some of you, but I would suggest that we could, in partnership with local authorities and regional offices, promote a growth in the provision of community farms and gardens as a part of the new concern over the provenance and distribution of our food. The idea is that every child should have access to a „growing“ project, and should be able to experience as a part of their development, a „hands on“ knowledge of growing and perhaps caring for animals.

If this model were to be developed we could adopt the long-term „every town should have one“ – this might require new partnerships between the voluntary sector, local authorities and the education authorities. It would also require local food links and alliances to work alongside the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and other bodies such as allotment societies to work out new opportunities and new ways of looking at Urban Green Space (see News and Views News Sheet).

I realise that at the present time many Farm projects will be more concerned about survival than visions of expansion, but whilst I take a pragmatic view, I am also an optimist, and I would suggest we all get our thinking caps on to see what opportunities the movement as a whole can harness for the future.

Exchanges

My name is Kirsten and I am the youth Development worker for the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens in the UK. This year we have worked at making links between different City Farms within the UK and for 2002 / 2003 we are hoping to form links with other youth groups based on City farms outside the UK for the purpose of joining up and doing exchanges.

I would like to hear from any groups who are interested in this and would like to join in. I am thinking of organising a contact making seminar for youth workers so that we can plan for the coming year.

My e-mail is Kirsten@farmgarden.org.uk

Once we get started I will keep a space on our web page for information www.farmgarden.org.uk