



The EFCF is a member of the
European Environmental Bureau

European Federation of City Farms

Working together for a Sustainable Future



Newsletter
4/2006

Administrative Office
Schapenstraat 14
B - 1750 Lennik
Belgium

phone: +32-2-5691445
fax: +32-2-5692651
efcf@vgc.be
www.cityfarms.org

EFCF Annual General Meeting 2007 in Lanaken, Belgium

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2007 will be held at 'Pietersheim' city farm in Lanaken, Belgium, from Friday 13 - Sunday 15 April 2007.

'Pietersheim' City Farm was opened in 1982 and is situated on the edge of the Pietersheim estate, an 80 hectare wooded castle park. The city farm covers 6 hectares and has an educational centre with two classrooms and offices, a guest house for 68 people, two large barns for the animals and a shed for agricultural machines. The buildings are situated between the paddocks, the orchard and the two ponds. There is a large play area and a small restaurant with a terrace. The educational centre offers an extensive school programme with guided and self-guided activities. It has facilities for school trips and the farm program also includes supervised birthday parties for children from the ages of 4 to 10.

The city farm is a tourist attraction for the whole region, which includes the Netherlands and Germany. There are many walking routes in the neighbourhood. The farm is situated near the Dutch border a short distance from Maastricht in the south of Holland. For many years there has been close co-operation between the Centre for Environmental Education in Maastricht, the four Maastricht city farms, animal park, animal ambulance and the animal shelter.



from potatoes to crisps in Pietersheim City Farm

Flemish City Farmers meet in Lanaken on 12 April 2007

Preceding the AGM, the Flemish Federation has organized a meeting and study visits for Flemish city farmers on Thursday 12 April. The theme of this meeting will be the importance and the many advantages of co-operation in your own district and country as well as in Europe as a whole. Marc Verachtert from Hasselt, Belgium, will chair the meeting.



The Maastricht Centre of Environmental Education, which has been involved in 'Eu-regional' co-operation for many years, Pietersheim City Farm and the EFCF will all participate, contributing many hands-on examples. More information: Willem Labeeuw; e-mail: bokkeslot@pandora.be or Marc de Staercke e-mail: efcf@vgc.be

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 in the UK

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 was given the Royal Assent on 10 November 2006. It is the most significant piece of animal welfare legislation for nearly 100 years. FCFGC welcomes the change in law, which will provide much greater protection for animals, including pets. The Animal Welfare Act includes a new welfare offence, which will for the first time protect thousands of animals from enduring serious ongoing by legally obliging owners to care for their pets properly. The primary elements of the Act have been finalised, but there are a number of issues - the subject of secondary legislation and codes of practice - which will continue to be considered into 2007 and beyond.

Party for the Animals gains two parliamentary seats in the Netherlands

On Wednesday 22 November, the Dutch political Party for the Animals gained 2 seats in the 150-member legislature in the Netherlands.



This makes the Netherlands the first country in the world where a party for animal welfare has been elected to a representative body of the people.

"We are thrilled to have achieved such a wonderful result from our campaign", says party leader Marianne Thieme. "Finally we can start realizing our party's highest priority, namely ending all animal suffering. We want a constitutional amendment, guaranteeing animals the right to freedom from pain, fear and stress caused by humans. Let's begin by easing the suffering of the hundreds of millions of cows, pigs and chicken stuck in factory farming", she said.

Thieme feels success in the Netherlands could help the movement elsewhere. One of the party's purposes is to be an inspiration to other countries and animal rights activists. A growing number of Dutch people are questioning why economic interests should prevail over ethical considerations when it comes to animal welfare and the interests of nature and the environment. "The Party for the Animals expresses this concern that so many Dutch people have", says Esther Ouwehand, number two on the party list, explaining the party's victory. The party and viewpoints of party leader Marianne Thieme received a great deal of media attention. After law school and a brief corporate career, Marianne Thieme decided to enter politics as an advocate for all animals and founded the Party for the Animals. A large number of well-known Dutch authors have joined the Party for the Animals.

20 of the party's 30 candidates are public-opinion leaders in the Netherlands. A number of business people have also contributed large sums of money to the Party, making it possible to run a comprehensive political campaign.

Environmental protection group get factory farming on the political agenda

'Milieudefensie', an environmental protection group in the Netherlands, has collected more than 75,000 signatures to get factory farming on the Dutch political agenda. A civil initiative to have this type of bill debated in Parliament requires 40,000 signatures.

FNG Norwegian Annual Meeting 9 - 10 March 2007

The FNG's Annual Meeting will take place at Voll 4H-Farm near Trondheim.

Clever ideas



Everybody knows the popular ball pools for children in shopping centres. We saw a 'maize pool' for children during an open day at a working farm in the south of Holland.



German youth workers visit Adventure Playgrounds in Amsterdam

Fifteen youth workers from Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, paid study visits to two projects in Amsterdam on 15 November 2006. The first of these was to 'Youth Land', a 40,00 m2 area with one of the oldest adventure playgrounds in Europe (dating from 1950) combined with a children's farm.

The second visit was to the 'Het Landje' Adventure Playground in Rembrandt Parc (10,000 m2). 'Old fashioned' youth work from decades ago seems to have survived here successfully! Not because the 'eccentric, bearded' pioneers involved in the project from day one could not let go but because present-day younger youth workers recognize the great value of the concept. It is a real children's paradise, where parents are requested to stay away. Here the children from 6 - 14 come first. They can play, discover and learn to their heart's content and clearly have a great time! Zaid, the manager of the playground; a migrant as are 60 % of the young visitors of the playground, explained the activities which range from building huts, dealing with the elements in a variety of ways and taking care of the animals.

The Adventure Playgrounds are run by two different foundations: 'Welzijn aan het IJ' and 'Impuls'.

Scottish map launch

The British Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens has launched a map of community gardens and farms in Scotland (37 projects altogether). The federation had 20,000 maps printed which will be distributed to community projects, public places, local and national organisations and decision makers across Scotland.

The British federation now has developed 6 different maps of farms and gardens in the UK (Birmingham, Bristol, London, Northeast, Northwest and Scotland).

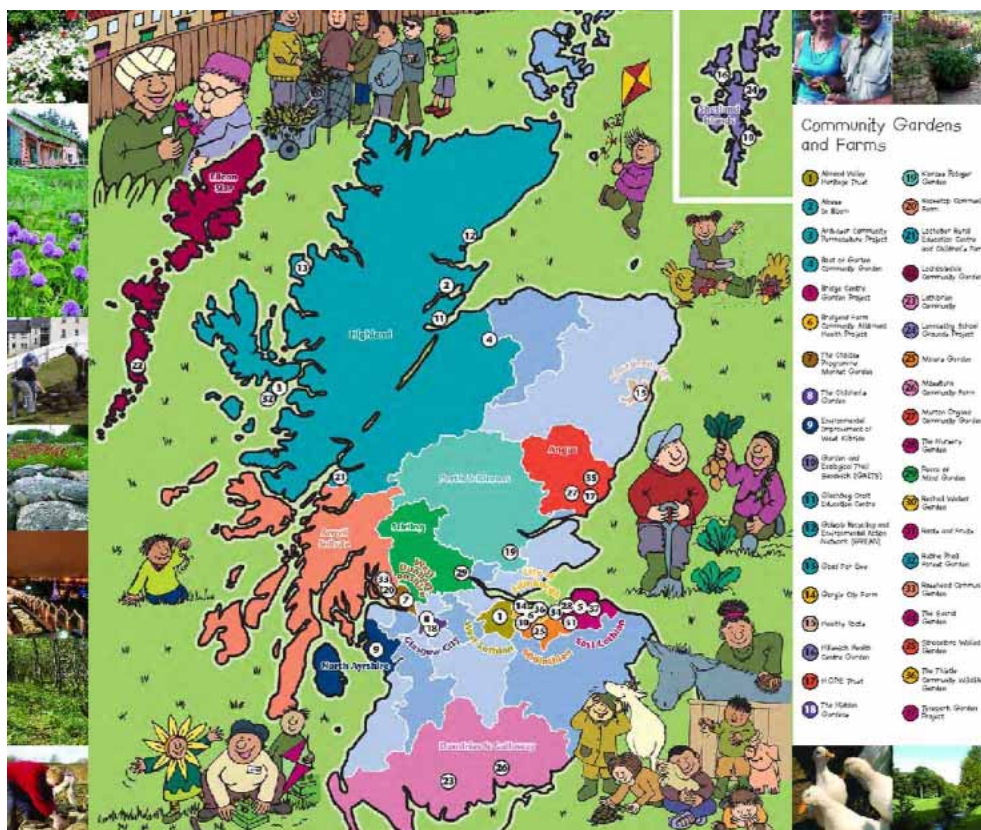
The London city farm and community garden map was the first in the series. The maps contain information about the projects and show how to get there. They can be downloaded from www.farmgarden.org.uk



Youth Exchange 2007

The Jugendfarm Stuttgart-Möhringen in Germany is searching for a youth-exchange-partner for the next year 2007.

The exchange should be for children between 12 and 15 years old. If your project is interested in an exchange please contact bdja@bdja.org.



Interesting websites

How many planets would we need if everyone lived like you? Measure your Ecological Footprint!

A growing number of government agencies, organizations and communities are adopting the Ecological Footprint as a core indicator of sustainable resource use.

www.footprintnetwork.org
<http://ecofoot.org>

.....and a happy New Year to you all !!!



One of the four different greetings cards designed and sold by a Dutch agricultural retailer. Part of the proceeds goes to SKBN members