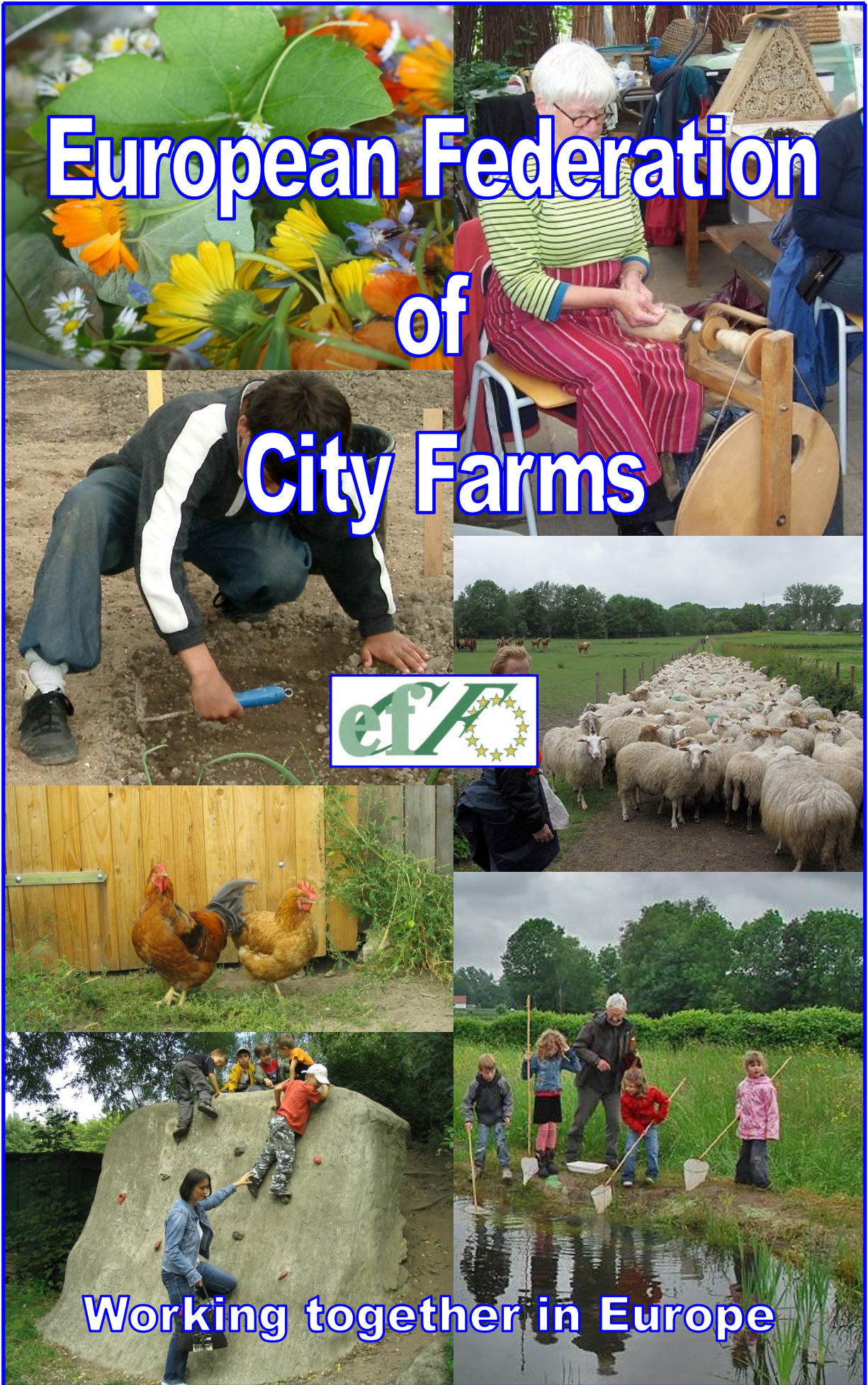


City Farms Fernes d'Animation Educatives Kinderboerderijen Jugendfarmen 4H gårdar Granjas Urbanas Discovery Farms



European Federation of City Farms

Working together in Europe

Working together in Europe

The European Federation of City Farms (EFCF)

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Working together in Europe

A city farm, a link between urban and rural life

City farms are environmental and agriculture projects, working within a framework of sustainable development, where children, young people and adults can learn about the urban and rural environments and their inter-relationship with plants and animals, the importance of the seasons and the relationship between these. City farms bring visitors in touch with animals, nature, their environment and each other. They achieve this by offering practical activities, training and information, a social meeting point, recreational facilities and animal "therapy".

A network of city farms

At the beginning of the seventies in the last century, we note that all over Europe groups were trying to find answers to the continuing alienation of people from nature and environment by setting up city farm projects. When we now read all the basic texts of those first projects we can see that they are the same all over Europe, without them influencing each other.

"City farms are all organisations that actively promote the equal access and involvement of children, young people and adults through practical experience in a wide range of educational, environmental, recreational, social and economic activities focussing around farming, empowering peaceful people to improve their own lives and environment in peaceful coexistence" (article 3 of the EFCF constitution)

In the European countries, city farms are known under different names: Kinderboerderijen, Fermes d'Enfants, Fermes d'animation, Jugendfarmen, 4H farms, City Farms, Discovery Farms or Granjas Escuelas. They may have different origins but are developing similar activities. Different countries started national federations. From 1975 to 1985 a series of informal contacts between City Farms in Europe took place and resulted in the first meeting in May 1986 between delegates from Austria, Belgium, France, Denmark, United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands. The EFCF was established in 1990.

The EFCF is a member of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

European Federation of City Farms (EFCF)

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Mission statement, values, aim and objectives

Mission

- The mission of the European Federation of City Farms (EFCF) is work with her members through city farming to actively build a future in which their community lives in harmony with nature; by enhancing their local city farm's and communities natural environment through mainly -biodiversity, air, water and soil, and ensuring that the use of renewable resources are sustainable and to minimise pollution and wasteful consumption.

Values

- Commitment to sustainable development and our ethical, environmental, social and economic outcomes, (EASE). The EFCF strives to improve lives everywhere she operates, aiming for a healthy, safe and sustainable environment. Considering the needs of the present generation whilst, at the same time, anticipating the needs of future generations.
- Commitment to work within a democratic, equal opportunity and social justice framework; encouraging member organisations, wherever possible, to address issues of social inclusion and community cohesion.
- The EFCF involves, consults, encourages feedback and provides services that meet the needs of members.
- The EFCF delivers what is committed to and keeps those people affected informed of progress, subject to resources available.
- The EFCF is honest, trustworthy and straightforward in all her dealings, and uses time, money and resources wisely.
- The EFCF works co-operatively, by asking for and giving support, and sharing success with others.
- The EFCF values others for their contribution, irrespective of personal differences, and provides equal access to opportunities and challenges any form of unfair discrimination.
- The EFCF involves and listens to others, and shows consideration and empathy for their emotional and physical well-being.
- Acting responsibly should be fundamental to how the EFCF carries out every aspect of our work. The EFCF demonstrates this with passion to her volunteers, her members, the environment and society as a whole in a wide range of ways.

Aim *

- Promoting of the interests and mutual co-operation of Kinderboerderijen, Jeugdboerderijen, Gezinsboerderijen, Fermes d'Enfants, Fermes d'Animation, Jugendfarmen, Aktivspielplätze, City Farms and 4H-Farms, similar organisations that actively promote the equal access and involvement of children, young people and adults through practical experience in a wide range of educational, environmental, recreational, social and economic activities focused around farming, empowering people to improve their own lives and environment in peaceful co-existence;

Objectives*

- promoting the exchange of information, best practice and expertise of people who are engaged in city farms and other community land based projects and their activities (including: Community gardens, adventure playgrounds, food growing projects, environmental conservation and biodiversity projects and recycling ventures);
- encouraging the organic management of land;
- promoting education and training of members including: city farm board members, staff, volunteers, members and regular users;
- promoting transnational projects and exchanges both as hosts and visitors;
- promoting and aiding the organisation of annual European Conferences;
- maintaining an active commitment to sustainable development principles and practices in all programmes and actions;
- promoting a programme of European co-operation and integration.

*Article 3 of the EFCF Constitution

For additional objectives of the EFCF, visit www.cityfarms.org

How the EFCF works

Following a number of get-together's of European city farms and their country organisations from 1983, in 1990 the original membership established the European Federation of City Farms (EFCF)

A federation is a form of governance that is made up of self-governing membership organisations, is owned by the voting membership and managed by a Board, elected by the voting membership. A federation is a mutual form of organisation, (that is working together for benefit of all our members); and this is reflected in the EFCF mission statement, values, aims, objectives and work plans.

The EFCF is run by volunteers. National and regional city farm federations are the voting members of EFCF. Individual city farms are members of their own national and/or regional federations. The working language of the EFCF is English, but every effort is made to provide translations if required. The EFCF uses e-mail written and audio visual material to communicate between city farms. The EFCF communicates with member federations who in turn commit to communicate with their individual city farm members. Alternatively, the EFCF website is updated at least four times per year with all relevant EFCF information for individual city farms. Our website: www.cityfarms.org is the major tool of communication.

Annual General Meeting and General Meeting

The EFCF Board is elected annually by the Annual General Meeting and meets and works to implement the policies and to manage and evaluate the EFCF programmes and services. The Annual General Meeting, (AGM) and General Meeting, (GM) takes place in the spring, (usually Friday to Sunday). Each member federation can send two delegates to the AGM - to review the year's work, approve accounts and budgets, address submitted resolutions, elect Board members and set the EFCF programme for the future. The role of EFCF members is important for it is the members who are the EFCF and therefore they decide on EFCF policies and on EFCF projects to be carried out. They supply the EFCF Board with the required contributions, information and comments. The EFCF operates a number of national, bilateral and multilateral working groups who are becoming more and more responsible for implementing particular programmes, publications and policies. The Board and the working groups can produce discussion documents on agreed topics, "Green Papers". Following discussions and amendments the paper becomes a "White Paper" which is a policy proposal. If agreed at an Annual General Meeting, it becomes an EFCF Policy. The EFCF research and policy papers can be found on www.cityfarms.org under Good Practice & Guidance and Research & Development

EFCF involvement

- The EFCF encourages countries to have bilateral and multilateral youth exchanges organised by individual city farms with help from their national federations. The EFCF also encourages the exchange of city farm workers and students in Europe under the European Youth programme. The EFCF participated in the Healthy Food Project of the European Union in 1998. The project includes the evaluation and validation of the city farm network in the field of primary prevention of cancer by food education of children in Europe.
- The EFCF participates in the European Voluntary Service (EVS) by encouraging members to register and intends to take part itself. EVS enables young people between the ages of 18 - 26 to gain knowledge and experience of another country by working as a volunteer in a project for 6 - 12 months.
- The EFCF has supported European programmes and training courses provided by member federations.
- The EFCF participates in the SAVE- network, a pan-European umbrella NGO established to preserve and promote genetic, cultural and historical diversity in farm animals and cultivated plants in Europe.



EFCF publications

- A newsletter is published seasonally four times a year and our annual 'Working together in Europe' is published prior to the European Conference.
- EFCF Healthy Food Project publication in 1999
- The City Farmer's Song Book, 2004
- The City Farmer's Picture Book and Dictionary, 2005
- The City Farmer's Crafts Book, 2006
- The City Farmer's Food Art Book, 2007
- The EFCF maintains a central point for city farm work in Europe, establishing an up to date database of addresses, activities, services and projects. The EFCF encourages the exchange of ideas, methods of working, expertise and new developments in the field of city farm work.
- PowerPoint Presentation, updated 2010
- 20th Anniversary Photo Booklet 1990 - 2010

European city farm meetings and conferences

The EFCF holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and policy and programme meeting in spring every year. The Board and two delegates from full and associate member federations attend. As part of the experience, delegates spend time visiting local city farms and/or other projects of interest to city farmers. A four or five day European conference is held each year in a member country to further European co-operation and understanding and to promote, training, 'seeing is believing', networking and communication of good practice.

May 1987	The Hague, the Netherlands	Sept. 2004	Oslo, Norway
Nov. 1989	Stuttgart, Germany	April 2005	AGM + 15 th Anniversary, Stuttgart, Germany
Oct. 1990	Dilbeek, Belgium	Sept. 2005	Turin, Italy
Oct. 1991	Bristol, United Kingdom	March 2006	AGM, The Hague, the Netherlands
Sept. 1992	Lund, Sweden	Sept. 2006	Stockholm, Sweden
Sept. 1993	Lille/Mouscron, France/Belgium	April 2007	AGM, Lanaken, Belgium
Sept. 1995	Hurdal, Norway	Oct. 2007	Namur, Belgium
Sept. 1996	Maastricht, the Netherlands	April 2008	AGM, Antwerp, Belgium
June 1998	Bristol, United Kingdom	Sept. 2008	Dresden, Germany
Sept. 1998	Rambouillet, France	April 2009	AGM, Stavanger, Norway
Sept. 1999	Berlin, Germany	Sept. 2009	Hilvarenbeek, the Netherlands
Dec. 2000	10 th Ann., Brussels, Belgium	March 2010	AGM, Bristol, UK
May 2002	Rotterdam, the Netherlands	Sept. 2010	Conference Belgium, Flanders
Sept. 2003	Sheffield, United Kingdom		

EFCF membership

There are two categories of membership: full membership and associate membership. Full members have voting rights at the Annual General Meeting and policy and programme meetings.

Full membership is open to national and regional organisations of city farms that meet the following conditions:

- the organisation of city farms is constituted and has a membership and an elected Management Board;
- the organisation has city farms as members;
- the organisation membership is accepted by the majority of full members at an EFCF AGM;
- the organisation pays the full membership annual subscription fee;
- the organisation must be non-profit making;
- the organisation agrees to abide by the constitution of the EFCF and cooperate in sharing experience with other city farms.

Associate membership is open to:

- a group of city farms working together to form an organisation of city farms in their country or region.
- an independent city farm, or a working group trying to establish a city farm, in a region or country where no other city farm exists. This form of associate membership is reviewed annually by the full members at the AGM

Full member federations of the EFCF

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City Farm Federations in Europe *

Belgium, Flanders

Federatie Kinder,- Jeugd- en Gezinsboerderijen



The original aim of the Flemish federation was organising education, gatherings and exchanging information, but the federation has changed a lot the past few years. Nowadays the federation is an overall organisation for her members. The children's farms themselves take the initiative to organise education and activities and are supported by their volunteers, staff and visitors. Often these activities are valuable for other farms too. It is the task of the federation to spread this information to other farms and organisations by offering a lot of opportunities to assemble.

The evolution of the federation is the result of changes on Flemish children farms. Before the core business of children farms was meant for children in the neighbourhood. Nowadays the children's farms want to open their farm gates for everyone who is interested and wants to take part in the numerous activities on the farm. Not only locals take part in the activities. Thanks to the information highway people from all over visit the children farms. The core business of the farms has widened a lot as well. Nature and environment education are the key words; next to the traditional animals and farm activities, new activities are offered such as energy experiments and composting.

Next to the children farms a lot of other organisations set up similar initiatives to show people how important it is to live in a nice and unsoiled environment. This is also the reason why a lot of children farms got started. Nevertheless it is the typical approach, developed by the farms, that appeals to the visitors, people of all ages; children, families, disabled people. It makes people explore the farm reminding them of the importance of nature and environment!



Belgium, Francophone

Fédération Belge Francophone des Fermes d'Animation



The first city farms in the French speaking part of Belgium were started at the beginning of the 80s as non-profit organisations. The federation was founded in 1987. The federation wants to provide, support and exchange know-how, information and quality standards on behalf of the public and its members on a national and international level. The federation also acts as a representative of the farms towards authorities and wants to obtain status and funds for the federation and its members. The federation is closely linked with the "Réseau idée" (environmental education network in Belgium) and the GIFAE (see France). The federation wants to set up several working groups that deal with quality standards in the field of education and management; healthy food education at the city farm, promotion of the federation and a pedagogical relationship with commercial farms. Since 2003 the ministry of education supported the project "fermécole" (www.fermecole.be) enhancing the relations between the two educational farm types (ferme d'animation and ferme pédagogique) and schools.

Member city farms are active in pedagogical, educational, environmental, social, therapeutic and cultural fields. The common objectives of all the farms are discovery and knowledge of plants, animals and the environment; active involvement; close contact between people and between people and nature.

The methods of working may differ: some farms only deal with one to ten-day school programmes, other farms also welcome children and young people for extra-curricular and more "open" educational programmes. The main objectives may differ from farm to farm. There is specific know-how for several kinds of integration (disabled people, immigrants), for ecological management, artistic creativity, global approach of environmental education, rural heritage, agriculture and animal husbandry.

* Full members of the EFCF

Germany

Bund der Jugendfarmen und Aktivspielplätze e.V.



At the end of the 60s the first youth farm was opened in Stuttgart and the first adventure playground was started in Berlin. The federation itself was founded in 1972. The German federation developed the general conditions for youth farms and adventure playgrounds in Germany and supports new foundations, gives advice and provides various forms of practical help, promotes the education and exchange of employees and collects and processes information and publications such as books and a magazine called "Offene Spielräume". The federation never stops explaining 'Open Work' with children and young people on farms and playgrounds to specialists as well as to the general public:

Youth farms and activity playgrounds are democratic and pedagogically supervised playgrounds for all children of 6 to 14 years and open for all visitors. They aim to further the independence and creativity of children and young people. Awareness of ecological developments and integration are also important issues. There is normally no fixed programme for building, physical games, riding or playing. Membership is not required. Children do not have to register and can decide for themselves when, how often and for how long they want to come. They also decide on their own activities and whether they want to make use of the opportunities or programmes offered by the organizers, or whether they want to do something of their own, singly or in groups. It is essential that the playground remains changeable and is not a ready made space designed by adults.

Some playgrounds are run as community institutions, the majority are run by parents' initiatives. Of course an attractive playground depends on the size of the playground, the number of workers and the money available. Conditions may vary from community to community. Financing playgrounds and supplying land and buildings fall to the communities. A federal law says: "the development of young people must be aided by the necessary offers of youth activities, which are to develop from the interests of young people and are also to be structured by those involved. They are to contribute to a self determined existence and to encourage social responsibility and interest".



United Kingdom

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens



Founded in 1980, the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) supports, represents and promotes community-managed farms and gardens across the UK, as a means of helping communities to grow. We help empower local people, often in deprived areas, to build closer, healthier and more integrated communities. We are also the national face of the community farm and garden movement, working to raise its profile with policy-makers, funders and the public.

The Federation currently represent 62 city farms, 78 school farms, more than 1000 community gardens, plus a growing number of allotments. There are 400 independent groups in our membership. Most are community-led, autonomous groups that have developed in response to the needs of the local community. As well as farming and gardening, facilities may include youth clubs, under five's groups, adventure playgrounds, National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and more informal training schemes, work placements, community recycling and composting facilities, public service provision, conservation areas, meeting rooms, shops, cafés, creative workshops and community enterprises. The UK's city farming and community gardening movement has an estimated annual turnover of £40 million (euro 66 million), has over 500,000 regular volunteers and attracts more than three million visitors per year.

Our patron is HRH The Prince of Wales. The Federation is managed by a Board elected from representatives of our member projects and currently employs four full-time and 13 part-time staff. We have a growing regional programme that provides hands-on support to existing and new city farms, community gardens and similar groups. Our regional and fieldworker team organise networking meetings and site visits, and offer advice, support and training on all aspects of their work.

The work of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens continues to raise the profile of the movement with the UK Government, and we have recognition and support at the highest political level. We will continue to develop opportunities such as the work with allotments, school farms, and accreditation of farm visits, whilst retaining the interests of our existing, and new members. Our Head Office is a purpose-built timber building in Bristol. We have regional offices in Edinburgh, Cardiff, London and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Netherlands

Stichting KinderBoerderijen Nederland (SKBN)



In 1988 the Dutch City Farm Foundation was established. Today more than 300 city farms are affiliated. There is a difference in their structure. Some are part of the local government and are financed by public means. Others are private foundations and have to take care of their own budget. The third category comprises farms that belong to institutions for the mentally handicapped, psychiatric clinics and in young people's homes. Here the emphasis is on therapy, integration or fulfilling and structured employment. Many farms have a professional staff with support from volunteers and trainees. The city farms play an important role in the Dutch society. Yearly they welcome over 20 million visitors. No other social-cultural institution attracts this overwhelming amount of crowd.

In 2005 the SKBN was awarded a long-term sponsorship agreement with the Dutch Postcode Lottery (Nationale Postcode Loterij). The financial backing made it possible to transform the volunteer organisation into a professional association for the city farm sector. Today it employs four full-time staff members and offers a wide variety of services to the farms and gives information to third parties. For the daily contacts with the affiliated farms, the office is supported by three regional coordinators. The SKBN has frequent contacts with governmental institutions and NGO's about legal matters and future developments. SKBN focuses on three core activities: education, communication / PR and quality management. Educational programmes are developed that can be implemented by city farms to teach school classes or groups of adolescents. The professional skills of city farm staff can be upgraded by special SKBN training programmes. For the communication about the sector a professional magazine "Vakblad Kinderboerderijen" is issued on a quarterly basis, with a circulation of 2500 copies. The content is not only of interest for the farms, but appeals to the wider public as well, e.g. veterinarians. The recently redesigned website provides up-to-date information and news facts. For affiliated farms there is an intranet section. A nationwide certification programme is established in order to improve the quality of the farms. This programme has three levels. The first quality mark shows that the farm complies with the entire relevant legal requirements for health, security and well-being of visitors, staff and animals. The other marks will show the position of the farm in terms of management, skills and education. An imported goal of SKBN for the near future is to ensure that every city farm in The Netherlands will be certified with at least the first of the quality marks mentioned above.

The Netherlands

Vakgroep Medewerkers Kinderboerderijen (VMK/Vereniging Stadswerk)



Stadswerk

VAKGROEP MEDEWERKERS KINDERBOERDERIJEN

The VMK was established in 2000 and is a trade group of the Dutch City Work Association, an umbrella organisation for professionals who work in public parks and gardens. Most Dutch cities are members of this association.

The trade group now has about 230 members and wants to protect the interests of individual city farm workers and organise practical study days and national and regional meetings. Results of research and educational programmes are communicated to the members and there is a helpdesk for the many questions a city farm worker may have. A Newsletter is produced four times per year.

In co-operation with the SKBN, the VMK has designed the Dutch accreditation system for city farms. This Quality Mark aims to safeguard health, security and well-being of visitors, staff and animals. www.kinderboerderijenkeurmerk.nl

The VMK is involved in a free quarterly city farm magazine for visitors. The magazine has a circulation of 240,000 on more than 200 city farms and contains background information about city farms.

The VMK also works together with other organisations such as the Dutch Rare Breed Survival Trust and the Youth department of the Dutch Animal Welfare Association. In May 2010 the VMK has signed a letter of intent with the National Animal Welfare Association on a number of starting-points regarding animal welfare on city farms.



Norway

Forum for Norske 4H-gårder (FNG)

FNG was established in 1995 and has 49 members. The FNG works towards increasing the competence of people working with children in agricultural environments, fund raising, collaborating with other interested parties and creating a good network for their members. The FNG is a subsidiary organisation of 4H Norge. 4H Norge is an idealistic, non-political, international and educational organisation for children and young people between the ages of 10 and 25, dedicated to positive youth development. 4H Norge has existed in Norway since 1926 and has approximately 18,000 members and 750 4H-clubs all over the country. The 4H-motto is 'learning by doing'. A four leaf clover with an H placed on each corner is the common symbol for 4H-organisations all over the world (clear Head, warm Heart, clever Hands and good Health). Traditionally a rural organisation, 4H is now moving into cities and urban areas, and hopefully the concept of 4H-farms in these areas will afford young people the same opportunities to learn about and understand a primary industry that rural young people have today.

The main aim of a 4H-farm is to enable young people (and the general public) to learn about the importance of agriculture, nature and the environment through the philosophy of "learning by doing". Each 4H-farm offers a pedagogical programme and many have a professional staff member to run the programme. A 4H-club attached to the 4H-farm will be run by the 4H-members themselves (as in other 4H-clubs), but with the aid of adult advisors and professional staff where possible. The 4H-farms are situated in or within close vicinity of towns and urban areas. These farms vary in size and are run on different models, from pedagogical farms with professional staff to cooperative projects with ordinary farms and farms attached to country museums etc. Visitors to the farms are children and young people, school classes, the general public and 4H-members of all ages. The FNG divides farms into two groups:

1. 4H-farms that have gone through an accreditation process (safety, pedagogy, reputation etc.). 4H-farms must also have a 4H-club attached to the farm
2. Associate members



Sweden

Riksförbundet Sveriges 4H



City farms in Sweden are organised by the National 4H Association. 4H has its roots in the USA and came to Sweden in 1918. 4H stands for Head, Heart, Hand and Health and is a non-religious and non-party-political youth organisation. The Swedish 4H has about 20,000 members of all ages, although the majority are aged between 7 - 25. 4H teaches its members amongst other things about nature, caring for plants and animals, the traditional crafts, the preparation of food and outdoor life by using the common 4H way of working: "learning by doing". The local 4H-clubs are the basis of the organisation. There are about 400 clubs in Sweden.

The Swedish 4H runs about sixty 4H-farms all over the country. The aim of running these farms is to give 4H members the chance to get acquainted with life and work on a farm. For those who have been brought up and have lived all their lives in a city, the 4H-farm is a great experience. The members learn to take care of farm animals and they learn about cultivation and handicrafts. The 4H-farm also welcomes children from, for instance, schools and day nurseries, encouraging them to visit and participate in farm activities.

A typical Swedish 4H movement is the 4H project. This is a way for the members to practice and learn more about things they find interesting. As a member you choose one or several projects like how to take care of a goat, plant forests and so on. Guidance material is provided, if needed. When the project has been completed, the project workers report on their work to the 4H.



The EFCF is based on the following values:

- Commitment to sustainable development, (combining social, environmental and economic goals)
- Equal opportunities and social justice
- Inclusion of disadvantaged people (addressing social exclusion)
- Civil society
- Co-operation



EFCF Aim

To promote the interests and mutual co-operation of Kinderboerderijen, Jeugdboerderijen, Gezinsboerderijen, Fermes d'Enfants, Fermes d'Animation, Jugendfarmen, Aktivspielplätze, City Farms, 4H-Farms and similar organisations that actively promote the equal access and involvement of children, young people and adults through practical experience in a wide range of educational, environmental, recreational, social and economic activities focused around farming within a framework of sustainable development.

EFCF Strategy Objectives

- To promote the work and the image of city farms and raise the profile of the EFCF, member federations and city farms.
- To help and facilitate member federations and city farms to deliver programmes, activities and research that benefit other federations and city farms.
- To distribute useful information, in particular good practice, to member organisations.
- To collaborate and network with other like-minded organisations (particularly community run land based groups) to help further the aims and aspirations of member federations and their city farms.
- To place all our work within the over-riding theme of sustainable development (considering the economic, social and environmental aspects of all programmes and developments).
- To work within a framework of democracy, equal opportunity and social justice, encouraging member organisations, wherever possible, to address issues of social exclusion.
- To encourage and promote co-operative European working in the city farm movement.
- To raise funding for the operation of EFCF and participating member federations to deliver agreed programmes and action.
- To empower people to improve their own lives and environment in peaceful coexistence.

www.cityfarms.org



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Edited by Pauline Wolters
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