



The EFCF is a member of the  
European Environmental Bureau

# European Federation of City Farms

Working together for a Sustainable Future



**Newsletter** 1/2007

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## EFCF Conference 2007

The European City Farms Conference will be held near Namur (Wépion), capital of Wallonia, Belgium from 10 to 12 October and in the area of Tournai, historical and Cultural City from 12 October evening to 14 October.

### "How the City Farms develop the skills and competences of the students and youngsters"



Organised by: the Fédération Belge Francophone des Fermes d'Animation (FBFFA) and Accueil Champêtre en Wallonie (ACW) two member Federation partners of the Fermécole project (see Newsletter 2006.2 on [www.cityfarms.org](http://www.cityfarms.org)).



The programme includes visits, presentations and workshops round three themes: From Mathematics to Environmental Education and Health Education, The Landscape tool serving Sustainable Development Education and The Farm, a place of creativity and action on its environment.

The conference fee is € 300,- to include: accommodation (in 3 to 4 person rooms), meals and transport from Namur Station 10 October and during the whole conference. Opportunity for optional visits on Sunday 14th October: City of Tournai or Mosaic gardens of Lille or Organic Gardens of Mouscron. (Places for a Sunday visit need to be booked in advance).

Registration: From 1st April 2007 to 15th June 2007 by e-mail or post.

C/O Valérie Mayérus <[info@fermecole.be](mailto:info@fermecole.be)> Tel: 00 32 81 62 74 59

Or by post: Valérie Mayérus, Chaussée de Namur,47, 5030 Gembloux, Belgium

Payment before: 15/6/2007. Visit website for Registration forms, bank account and details: [www.cityfarms.org](http://www.cityfarms.org): [events/activities/conferences](http://www.cityfarms.org/events/activities/conferences), which will bring you to the webpage of the conference.

## Italian farmers' study visit to UK farm projects

From 26th November to 2nd December 2006, 43 Italian Farmers from Bergamo, including some children went on a study visit to the St James City Farm in Gloucester, Gloucester 'Country Park' which is educational and specialises in rare breeds of farm animals, St Werburghs City Farm and Windmill Hill City Farm in Bristol, Lower Shaw Farm in Swindon and had a meeting with Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens in Bristol.

A report from **Stefania Pendezza**, representative of the Bergamo net of pedagogical farms:

*"The participants of the journey to England in 2006 are farmers, agricultural experts and managers of the Provinces of Bergamo and Cremona. The farmers represent a network of pedagogical farms in the district of Bergamo. At the moment the pedagogical farms (fattorie didattiche) in Bergamo area are 62, all working farms with different types of production (wine, meat, fruit, vegetables, corns, honey...) with different pedagogical programmes according to their own agricultural production.*

*The aim of these farmers is to teach the young generation about the rural world, about the typical products of their land, trying to encourage positive behaviour in relation to nature and a sustainable development of our society. The Council of Bergamo promotes this and helps its farmers to increase their knowledge in the pedagogical field with many courses and workshops. Moreover, every year the Council organizes study visits to city farms in different countries in Europe.*

*In 2002 the Italians farmers of pedagogical farms of Bergamo went to France, in 2003 to Holland and Belgium, in 2004 to Germany and Poland and in 2005 to Spain.*

*The first day of the journey in UK was spent in the Bristol area. The mourning was spent at St James farm in Gloucester. The guide for the day was Mr Derek Brown who has shown the aims and the organisation of this farm, with enthusiasm and interest.*





**Councillor Chris Witts, Sheriff and Deputy Mayor of Gloucester and Giancarlo Vailati -functionary of the Council of Bergamo, Department of Agriculture**

The reception of the group was very good, not only at the farm but also at the City Hall of Gloucester, where the group of Italians felt very welcome. The farm workers were willing to answer all the questions and to show their activities. Nice were also the typical food products offered by the farm.

The second day was as interesting as the first, with the visit to St Werburghs City Farm and Windmill Hill City Farm with Mike Primarolo. We are very grateful to Mr Primarolo, since he helped us a lot in organizing the entire journey. Very useful was the afternoon, when the Italian participants have been involved in some pedagogical activities for children (learning by doing works for adults too!!!). In the afternoon the participants visited the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens with the director Jeremy Isles. This meeting was very interesting since it was a perfect occasion to gain all the information about the organization of the network of English city farms.

The third day has closed the journey in a wonderful way, thanks to the visit to Lower Shaw Farm, in Swindon. Andrea Hirsch was a very good guide and the involvement of the participants to the visit was great.



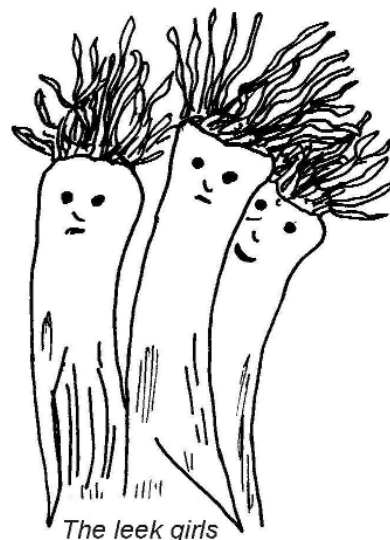
**Lower Shaw Farm, in Swindon**

Besides the pedagogical activities, the day was enriched by the story telling, the collecting of vegetables

and the cooking of food in the earth oven. Were very pleased of how the journey was organized and want to renew our thanks to all the members of the European Federation of City Farms for their support during all the journeys made in the last 5 years".

## The City Farmer's Food Art Book

A new booklet in the "City Farmer's" series can be downloaded from the EFCF website under 'Kids Stuff'. The purpose of the City Farmer's Food Art Book is hands-on creativity with the basic ingredients of our daily food. Fact is that many children (in many cases also their parents!) have not got a clue



where their food comes from and the activities can help them appreciate good food. The booklet also appeared to be of good use for children with a poor appetite. In short: you may play with your food before you eat it, but as the foreword says: "Food is precious - do not throw it away".

## New example of Good Practice on the web



From Norway came the description of another example of Good Practice for the EFCF website. It describes a course in ecological agriculture for children from the ages of 10 to 13.

You will find it on [www.cityfarms.org](http://www.cityfarms.org) under Guidance & Good Practice.

## Clever ideas



**Sensory garden  
in Spittafields City Farm  
in London**

## Cow hugging for reflection, balance and inspiration



More and more production farms are involved in education, recreation and care. The dairy farm (75 cows) of Jaap and Marente Hupkes in Voorst, the Netherlands is also a care farm. In the past years the farm has extended its many activities (school programmes, children's parties etc.) with workshops painting and cow hugging for organisations, businesses

and individuals. The workshops call upon intuition and non-verbal communication in order to restore respect for people, animals and nature and also aim to prevent sick leave and burn-out. Based on mutual trust, both cows and clients clearly enjoy the workshops. A complete programme cow hugging and painting costs € 40 per person; a session may last 3 hours. More information: Marente Hupkes. tel: + 31 575501397 or [info@marentehupkes.nl](mailto:info@marentehupkes.nl) [www.marentehupkes.nl](http://www.marentehupkes.nl)

## Dutch tourists would like to visit your farm!

On a large number of Dutch city farms visitors can get free copies of a quarterly city farm magazine. The magazine which has a circulation of 240,000, contains information like activities and facts of city farm life. In the next summer edition there will be an article about city farms in Europe and the magazine would like to have photographs of city farms abroad, together with information about opening hours, website and contact persons. If you are interested, please send these to [info@diereneducatie.nl](mailto:info@diereneducatie.nl) **before 10 April**. If it will be printed, you will receive a copy of the magazine.

## 'Atana' recruits board members, committee members and advisors with a double cultural identity/experience for non-profit organisations in the Netherlands

The 'Atana' program is active in scouting new board members, committee members and advisors for the cultural sector. Atana organizes the recruitment of new board members for cultural institutions in close cooperation with cultural and non-profit institutions. Its aim is to find and train members. Atana focuses on people with a double cultural identity/experience. People who are comfortable in the Netherlands and are also at ease with one of the many cultures in Holland. To enlist, quality in matters of finance, management, marketing, juridical affairs or knowledge of the arts and civilization is pre-eminent. A new applicant member should be motivated to become 'part of the machinery that keeps the cultural institutions in good shape'. Participation in the Atana programme is nearly free of charge. An intensive and personal selection precedes admittance to the training program. The complete Atana training program consists of three modules: 'Facts and backgrounds to cultural institutions', 'several field - cases' and 'working visit with a number of cultural institutions'. Atana is a network and the participants form an active and vivid platform of

board members. They meet on a regular basis. Also some Dutch City Farms have applied successfully for enthusiastic Board members. The Atana programme is financed by the Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs and Science, several foundations and funds. [www.atana.nl](http://www.atana.nl)

## World Forum for Food Sovereignty in Mali, "Nyéléni 2007"

The World Forum for Food Sovereignty, 'Nyéléni 2007', took place from 23rd - 27th February in the village of Sélingué, 90 kilometres south of Bamako, the capital of Mali. The EFCF received an invitation and Pauline Wolters attended the Forum. 'Nyéléni 2007' aims to define a global and collective strategy to guarantee the right of all peoples to food sovereignty, realized by all countries and guaranteed by the United Nations. The Forum was organized by several organisations, among which Friends of the Earth International and Via Campesina (see Newsletter 2006.3 on [www.cityfarms.org](http://www.cityfarms.org)). "Nyéléni 2007" was funded by, among others, various governments and NGO's. The principle of food sovereignty was first launched by Via Campesina during the FAO World Food Summit, which took place in Rome in 1996.



Participants were housed in Mali Style

Mali is the largest country in West Africa and is a democratic country where civil society organizations and unions enjoy the freedom of action and expression. Agriculture plays a dominant role in its economy, yet many urban and rural families suffer from hunger in spite of the abundance of natural resources. In response to this predicament, Mali is one of the first countries in the world to make food sovereignty a primary goal, with its new Law of Agricultural Orientation, which identifies the development of family farms as a

principal objective. For these reasons, Mali was chosen as the host country for 'Nyéléni 2007'.

More than five hundred delegates from about 80 countries from all over the world, representing every sector of society that has an interest in agriculture and food, had gathered in Mali to develop a plan of action to promote food sovereignty within all sectors. The major part of the participants was housed in the newly constructed African village that has 121 houses. In each house 5 or 6 people were accommodated. The village had been specially built for the Forum and will be used afterwards as a training centre by peasant organisations and other social movements in West Africa. Apart from the delegates there were also about 100 people staff, press, interpreters etc. present.



The food was prepared by local women

The Forum was organized in six sectoral groups and three interest groups. The sectoral groups were Peasants and small farmers, Fisherfolk, Pastoralists, Indigenous peoples, Workers and migrant workers, Consumers and urban movements. The interest groups were Women, Youth and Environment. The key discussions in the Forum were organised in sessions of thematic working groups around seven central themes that relate to food sovereignty: 1. Trade policies and local markets, 2. Local knowledge and technology, 3. Access to and control over natural resources, 4. Sharing territories and land, water, fishing rights, aquaculture, forest use, 5. Conflicts and disasters, 6. Social conditions and forced migration and 7. Production models: impacts on people, livelihoods and environment. There were simultaneous and whisper interpretations into English, French, Spanish and into the local language Bambara. Sometimes a working group was divided into language groups. At the end of each day plenary sessions were held to report the results of the working groups.

Pauline Wolters participated in the sectoral group Consumers and urban movements, the interest group



Environment and in the thematic working group Production models: impacts on people, livelihoods and environment. She also participated in the preceding women's day on 22 February. One of the outcomes of the working groups was the importance of awareness programmes and education about food sovereignty for producers and consumers on all levels. The various written, audio and visual reports and statements will be available on [www.nyeleni2007.org](http://www.nyeleni2007.org)



**The president of Mali, Amadou Toumani Touré, visited the Forum**



**The auditorium**

### **The legend of Nyéléni**

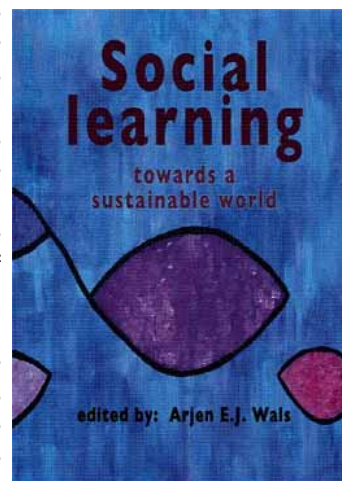
The Forum was named after Nyéléni. She was an only child, which in Africa was considered a curse. Nyéléni, as a girl and only child of her parents, suffered in her youth from all the mocking her parents were subjected to. She secretly resolved to remove this slur that men had cast on her by defeating them on their own ground, that is to say agriculture and working of the land. Nyéléni's reputation grew beyond the limits of her region, she became a living legend. This is the time when her fame was established and she earned respect. To every suitor she repeated endlessly that marriage could wait, that first she had a mission to accomplish as homage to her family, to women, to all women. This was her priority. Nyéléni took part in farming competitions and defeated all the champions with the best reputation in her village and in the surrounding region. Her reputation grew. The more arrogant men would challenge her, day after day, and to their disgrace they were all defeated.



### **Interesting books and articles**

#### **'Social learning towards a sustainable world' edited by Arjen E.J. Wals**

The publisher: "This comprehensive volume - containing 27 chapters and contributions from six continents - presents and discusses key principles, perspectives, and practices of social learning in the context of sustainability.



Social learning is explored from a range of fields challenged by sustainability including: organizational learning, environmental management and corporate social responsibility; multi-stakeholder governance; education, learning and educational psychology; multiple land-use and integrated rural development; and consumerism and critical consumer education.

An entire section of the book is devoted to a number of reflective case studies of people, organizations and communities using forms of social learning in moving towards sustainability. "This book brings together a range of ideas, stories, and discussions about purposeful learning in communities aimed at creating a world that is more sustainable than the one currently in prospect. The book is designed to expand the network of conversations through which our society can confront various perspectives, discover emerging patterns, and apply learning to a variety of emotional and social contexts."

From the Foreword by Fritjof Capra, co-founder of the

Center of Ecoliteracy. "Joining what is so clear and refreshing in this book with the larger movements toward a critically democratic and activist education that is worthy of its name, is but one step in the struggle for sustainability. But it is an essential step if we are to use the insights that are included in this book."

2007 - 538 pages - hardbound - ISBN: 978-90-8686-031-9 - € 49 - US\$ 65 For table of contents see: [www.WageningenAcademic.com/sociallearning](http://www.WageningenAcademic.com/sociallearning)

## Feeding People is Easy by Colin Tudge



The publisher: "When agriculture is expressly designed to feed people, all the associated problems seem to solve themselves. In essence, feeding people is easy. The message of Feeding People is Easy is the most important

that can be conceived. We can feed ourselves forever without cruelty to livestock and without wrecking the rest of the world. If we do the job properly, we will create human societies that are truly agreeable, co-operative and at peace in which all manner of people with all kinds of beliefs and aspirations can be personally fulfilled.

Feeding People is Easy homes in, from the outset, on the positives. It shows what each one of us can do to help put things right. It is clear that we cannot leave our affairs to the powers-that-be. And this means that we have to re-invent democracy, or rather to make it work almost for the first time in the history of civilisation. The book also proposes a Worldwide Food Club- the means by which humanity at large can establish a new global food supply chain, based on the principles of sound biology and justice.'

To be released in the UK: April 2007 ISBN: 978-88-901960-8-9 Price: £9.99 / €14.50. Format: paperback, 192pp

## On the relevance of city farms for nature conservation and nature education



In the new magazine of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (a part of the Federal Ministry for Environment in Germany) there is an article about City Farms in Germany.

The Authors Marion Rike Metzger and Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Erdmann do search on On the relevance of city farms for nature conservation and nature education. The whole article is in german language. But here is the Summary in english:

As an extra-curricular place for learning, city farms offer huge potential to communicate the aims of nature conservation in society by increasing the population's acceptance of and commitment to such aims. Besides targeted nature and environmental education, the key function of city farms is to give children and teenagers a direct experience of nature.



In such a setting, nature conversation obtains its power of persuasion not through arguments of science and rationality, but predominantly through people encountering nature in an emotional way.

Nonetheless, species conservation and biodiversity are also important issues at the sites. A schoolmostly approach is not workable in such "open playgrounds". It would be a valuable exercise indeed to explore in further depth the potential offered by city farms to foster nature education and conservation.

More information (in german language) [www.natur-und-landschaft.de](http://www.natur-und-landschaft.de)