



The EFCF is a member of the
European Environmental Bureau

European Federation of City Farms

Working together for a Sustainable Future



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Annual General Meeting 2006 in The Hague

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the European Federation of City Farms (EFCF) took place in the Netherlands from 24 – 26 March 2006 and was hosted by the City of The Hague, in cooperation with the Vereniging Medewerkers Kinderboerderijen (VMK = Association of City Farm Staff) and Stadswerk. Present were 17 delegates from 9 member federations.

A few years ago the association of City Farm Staff (VMK) has sought contact with Stadswerk (city work) to gain access to and participate in a large knowledge network. Stadswerk is an association that works to preserve and improve public space in the broadest sense of the term. More than 80% of the Dutch municipalities, provincial governments, water boards and representatives from the private sector support the association and the work undertaken by its 1,200 members. The primary aim of the association is to collect and disseminate knowledge within professional disciplines concerned with designing, organising and managing public space.

Stadswerk is now responsible for the administrative and financial support of the VMK. The relationship with the Green Spaces – Nature – Landscape discipline is particularly important in this respect.

Chairperson on Friday, **Ruud Oosterhof**, head of the Centre of Environmental Education in Breda introduced the speakers during the press conference.

Marc de Staercke, chairperson of the EFCF, emphasized the importance of animal welfare, sustainability and cooperation in Europe.

Alderman Ries Smits of The Hague went more deeply into the role of city farms in sustainable relationships of a multicultural city and the importance of information and education on food production and animal welfare.

Mike Primarolo, treasurer of the EFCF could not agree more and was very happy that the UK Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) and the Dutch Stichting Kinderboerderijen Nederland (SKBN) have led on discussions to develop new improved Animal Welfare Guidelines for city farms across Europe. Additions to include: the need to maintain direct contact with farm animals by children and adults, advice on responsible breeding programmes, advice on dealing with the abandonment of animals at City Farms and information on the care of pets in education programmes.

Ted van Herpen, managing director of Stadswerk gave an account of his own experience of city farms since his earliest childhood and explained how both Dutch organisations have cooperated to issue a checklist as a first step for city farms in the Netherlands on the way to a quality mark. This checklist was developed in association with the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, various

educational institutes, the Animal Health Service and the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority. A key characteristic of the accreditation procedure is that it allows the individual city farms to participate in different stages and, partly, at their own pace.



After that the Checklist was presented to Alderman Smits of The Hague by representatives of the two Dutch federations, **Wietze Neef** (SKBN) en **Erik Franken** (VMK).

Rare Breeds Working Group

Erik Franken, manager of the 'De Wolfslaar' city farm in Breda and representative of the VMK, explained during the AGM the benefits of Rare Breeds at city farms in the field of diversity, cultural history and education.

'De Wolfslaar' city farm in Breda is one of the first official Rare Breeds centres in the Netherlands. Delegates from UK and Sweden have already been involved in these discussions and Erik Franken wants to know if there are more interested people to exchange good practice on this 'unity in diversity'.

Please contact him: e.franken@breda.nl www.mecbreda.nl



Child in the City

During the AGM, the EFCF Board and Hans Jörg Lange of the Bund der Jugendfarmen und Aktivspielplätze had a meeting with two representatives of the Child in the City Foundation about possible EFCF involvement in the 3rd Child in the City Conference in Stuttgart on 16, 17 and 18 October 2006. The purpose of this international conference is to bring together social scientists, policy makers, planners and practitioners to share current thinking and disseminate good practice on one of the most pressing challenges facing urban governments.



We need to meet these challenges by integrating the play and recreational needs of children within the planning, design and governance of the modern city, against the background of the demographic changes.

Ultimately the conference will seek to identify guiding principles and practices for the realisation of childfriendly cities. The conference will focus on mobility from 5 viewpoints:

- urban planning integrating children's view on mobility
- the design of space of children to enable them to move in the living environment
- public transport
- children's participation and mobility
- children's mobility and health

The European Federation of City Farms (EFCF) will take part at this Conference through here member-federation Bund der Jugendfarmen und Aktivspielplätze e.V. in Stuttgart. The Bund will provide an excursion to different Jugendfarmen and Aktivspielplätze in Stuttgart and present their work in the trade-center of the conference.

For more Information please visit:
<http://www.europoint-bv.com/events/?child2006/321>

New EFCF member

The AGM 2006 has accepted the request of Accueil Champetre en Wallonie asbl (Fermes pédago-giques) in Belgium for associate membership.

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More information on the EFCF website.

City farms in The Hague and Zoetermeer

During their stay the delegates visited four city farms in The Hague and some of the delegates also visited two city farms in Zoetermeer on Sunday.

The city of The Hague (445,000 inhabitants) was one of the first cities in the Netherlands to start city farms. Already from the very beginning, 50 years ago, recreation has gone hand in hand with education. Now the city has 11 city farm projects. The city allocates budget for staff, maintenance, livestock and part of the activities on the city farm through the districts where the city farms are located. Per project there is 1,8 staff for management. On every project there are opportunities for volunteers, trainees, employment programmes and community service. Every year there are many activities on the farms like sheep shearing, polling willows, exhibitions and school programmes. At five farms there are Ekokids programmes (visit www.cityfarms.org Good Practice Database).

Children can help at the farms and schools can borrow chicken for a lesson at school. On five city farms there are Street Litter projects using goat-carts or donkeys (see www.cityfarms.org Good Practice Database). The farms also keep rare breeds farm animals, such as cows, goats, sheep, chicken, rabbits and guinea pigs. At some farms there are pigs, donkeys, ducks and turkeys. The number of animals is limited and the breeding programme depends on the educational programme. At three farms there are Environmental Service Points where schools can get information about and help with environmental education in and around The Hague. The many school topics vary from energy, water usage, urban space to gardening and farm work. More information: www.denhaag.nl/stadsboerderijen, where you can also find the comprehensive environmental school programme for primary schools in English. The city farms are open from Tuesday through Sunday from 9 am - 5 pm.

'Op den Dijk' city farm (formerly 'Wateringse Veld' city farm) is the 11th project in The Hague and was officially opened on 22 February 2006. The farm covers 5 ha. and is an example of sustainable building.
Bovendijk 141/143, 2548 AX The Hague.
Tel.: + 31 70 3965991





Visitors at 'Op den Dijk' city farm

'Herwijerhoeve' city farm covers 5,7 ha. The farm is situated in a big city park and attracts 115,000 visitors per year. There are also an Environmental Service Point, a large school garden complex, allotment gardens, corn fields protected by hawthorn hedges an oven and a fire place. The park is part of a former big Dutch landscapes park and in the attractive botanical garden you will find a clever solar energy trail.

Anna Polakweg 7, 2533 SW The Hague
Tel.: + 31 70 3295992.



'Schildershoeve' city farm covers 1,5 ha. and is a green oasis in a concrete residential area with many ethnic minorities. The city farm also has an Environmental Service Point and a school garden complex. The extended school day project, funded by the city offers activities for school children. The farm attracts 15,000 visitors per year. Teniersplantsoen 83, 2526 MS The Hague
Tel.: + 31 70 3890367



Street Litter project using goat-carts

'Molenweide' city farm is situated in an area with many foreigners and covers 1,5 ha. and attracts about 20,000 visitors per year. There is a big school garden complex and every week special activities are organised for every age group. Stuwstraat 31, 2516 TA, The Hague
Tel.: + 31 70 4155496



The city of Zoetermeer (120,000 inhabitants) has two city farms: '**De Balijhoeve**' and '**Het Buitenbeest**'. Both farms organise all kinds of activities like sheep shearing, shearing the cows when they come back to the stables in November, cleaning the stables in spring, Animal Day on 4 October and many other seasonal activities. There are clubs like Kids for Animals of the Animal Protection Society, the Rangers of World Wildlife Fund, Ecokids programme and other youth clubs. The farms have educational school programmes and schools and institutions can borrow animals. Ecological farm products like dairy, vegetables, eggs, honey, ice and nesting boxes are sold in the farm shops. The whole management of the farms is ecological from fodder to cleaning products and re-use of material. There are boarding facilities for pets during holidays. There is 2,85 staff per farm (0.85 from 'work and learn' programmes included). They are assisted by volunteers, trainees, handicapped people and workers from employment programmes and community service. Both city farms are open daily from 10 am – 5 pm.

'**De Balijhoeve**' city farm was built on the occasion of the World Horticultural Exhibition 'Floriade' in 1992. During this show the farm was used to explain future modern farming according to the latest environmental laws and regulations. After the exhibition the farm was handed over to the city of Zoetermeer and on 1 October 1993 it was officially re-opened as a city farm. The name Balijhoeve comes from the 1000 ha. woodland between the cities Zoetermeer and Delft.



In 2003 the farm building and the stables were renovated to accommodate the increasing number of school groups and visitors. Manure is used in one of the 5 school gardens and hot water comes from a sun boiler. Among others there are 4 cows, 2 donkeys, 2 ponies, 2 sows, 10 sheep and 15 goats. The farm attracts about 95,000 visitors per year. Next to the farm is the 'play forest' for children. An area where children can roam about, build huts and play with water. The farm keeps an eye on the area.

Kurkhout 100, 2719 JZ Zoetermeer

Tel.: + 31 79 3620832

e-mail: balijhoeve@tiscali.nl



the renovated stables at 'De Balijhoeve



'play forest' for children

'**Het Buitenbeest**' city farm was built in 1811 and is a typical Dutch farmstead of this region in Holland. It is listed as a historic monument and has been in use as a city farm since 1978. The farm covers 1,5 ha. and has many rare breeds such as 25 goats, 5 cows, 1 sow, rabbits and guinea pigs. 250 school groups year visit the farm for self-guided activities. The farm also organises about 65 birthday parties and 3 exhibitions per year. The farm attracts about 90,000 visitors per year. Voorweg 93, 1925 AN Zoetermeer

Tel.: + 31 79 3520624

e-mail: buitenbeest@tiscali.nl





Stables at 'Het Buitenbeest' city farm

On behalf of all participants, the EFCF Board wishes to thank the City of the Hague, Stadswerk, VMK and all the farm workers at the farms for the warm welcome, the perfect organisation, the excellent food and the great atmosphere during the AGM 2006 in The Hague.



Participants of the 2006 AGM in The Hague

AGM 2008

The British Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens has offered to host the AGM 2008 of the EFCF in April/May 2008, so it can be tied in with the European City of Culture in Liverpool.

Street litter project

Another project was added to the EFCF Good Practice Database on www.cityfarms.org

'Street Litter: great fun for children, goats and donkeys', an example that the AGM delegates have experienced during their visit to Schildershoeve City Farm in The Hague. Please let us know about more Good Practice projects to be put on the web.

The City Farmer's Crafts Book



The third booklet of the 'City Farmer's Books' series, the City Farmer's Crafts Book, was presented on the occasion of the AGM 2006 in The Hague. The booklet contains about 75 ideas for craft with 'free material' (rubbish and what nature provides). The two pages with illustrations and names of the material and tools function as a dictionary. You can download the booklet from www.cityfarms.org, 'Kids Stuff'.

Farming for Health Workshop June 21 –24 2006

The second Community of Practice Workshop on 'Farming for health' will be held at Hotel Alstor, Stavanger from 21 – 24 June 2006. The outline of the workshop will follow the general plan from the first workshop held in Wageningen,

the Netherlands, 16 – 19 March 2005, with some modifications.

More information: http://www.fylkesmannen.no/fmt_fagomrade.asp?tgid=4448&gid=4455&amid=1252833
Last year's scientific report: www.esf.org/generic/2167/04167Report.pdf

EFCF conference in Sweden 13 - 17 September 2006

Find information and booking form on the web: www.cityfarms.org. Bookings and payment before 31 May 2006.

EFCF Conference 2007

The EFCF conference 2007 will be organized by the Fédération Belge Francophone des Fermes d'Animation in cooperation with Accueil Champetre en Wallonie asbl.

'Workmate' lends a hand at Dutch city farms

'Workmate' is a programme that promotes volunteer work, community service and civic engagement within businesses and (local)



authorities. An increasing number of companies and authorities want to link up their activities with the community by enhancing voluntary work in the workplace and an increasing number of charities are in urgent need of help.

The employers encourage their staff to register at the match site of WorkMate and to accept chores for charities. The charities plan their activities and offer volunteer opportunities. The Vereniging Medewerkers Kinderboerderijen (VMK) acts as one of the project partners to promote this volunteer service programme, but city farmers need not be members of the VMK. This model of community-based service will not only get a lot of work done on city farms but will also highlight the good work of city farms within the participating companies and local authorities.

The official launch of the project will be on 22 April 2006 and will be covered by the national press.

More information: www.workmate.nu

Magazine for visitors of city farms in Holland

Towards the end of 2005 a new magazine for visitors was introduced in Rotterdam and the surrounding area. The magazine was a success and will therefore also be published in other parts of the country. The magazine is meant for every age group, explains the philosophy of city farm work and gives information about the farm animals and about the work at the farm in general. The magazine comes out three times per year and is a joint initiative of the VMK and a publisher. The magazine is free of charge for city farms and visitors. The costs are covered by advertisements.

Clever ideas

If you come across a clever idea or if you had a brilliant idea yourself, take a photograph and e-mail it to Hans Jörg Lange (bdja@bdja.org) or to Pauline Wolters (pwolters@planet.nl). Location and two or three lines of explanation will do.

Silo as rabbit run



If you are looking for a more natural way to house rabbits (in groups and more space), this might be an idea. Buitenbeest City Farm in Zoetermeer, the Netherlands
Tel.: + 31 79 3520624; e-mail: buitenbeest@tiscali.nl



Toilet for rabbits



Most rabbits are clean animals. If you put a plastic bin (cat box) in the corner where they normally 'have to go', the rest of the area will stay dry and is easier to clean.

Farm Plan in Braille



Apart from the text, blind visitors can also feel the animals, enclosures and buildings on the plan.

Hackney City Farm
Tel. + 44 20 7729 6381
or e-mail enquiries@hacknecityfarm.co.uk

Interesting websites

www.newamigos.org

'Play the board-game, learn a language and meet people from all over the world!' The 'New Amigos' foundation has set up card clubs in fourteen cities in Europe every Tuesday evening from 7 pm from January-April and September-December. You can play and learn Italian, English, Spanish, French, German or Norwegian. Playing is free of charge. The foundation was established in 2003 with the aim of supporting mutual interest and respect between people by encouraging communication and exchange regardless of cultural or economic background. Board games are also for sale.

Pauline Wolters of the EFCF has attended one of the

meetings in Maastricht and had a great time trying to learn Italian and teaching the Italian player Dutch. The website is in Norwegian, German, English, French and Dutch.

www.edupics.com

This website offers 1666 educational colouring pictures in 135 categories. Free downloads for educational purposes only.

www.3weec.org

Information about the 3rd World Environmental Congress in Turin, October 2005. In English, French and Italian.

European Voluntary Service (EVS) on Hagerhof City Farm in the Netherlands



The 'Youth' programme comes under the European Commission, department for Education and Culture and is meant for non-profit organizations only. 'Youth' is subsidized by the European Community for (inter)national activities.

Their target group is young people between the ages of 15-26. The projects should last between 6-12 months. Sometimes also a short term project is possible, normally between 3 weeks and 6 months. The hosting organization takes care of a suitable project for which tasks should be stated clearly for all parties involved. Other important tasks/fields are: daily support for the volunteers, language training on a regular basis (e.g. once a week), pocket-money, means of transportation (e.g. a bicycle) and board and lodging.

EVS takes care of travelling and visa expenses, a (possible) visit before the actual start of the project, expenses made on behalf of the sending and hosting organizations and training of the volunteers. The hosting organization will receive compensation for pocket-money, board and lodging, etc. The hosting organization gets about Euro 7000,— for each volunteer. Normally this will be sufficient to cover all expenses. However, sometimes it will not be. The hosting organization should hand in an expression of interest, in which the project is clearly stated.

This should be sent to the coordinating organization, or National Agency. The coordination and support for the Netherlands is the Nederlands Instituut voor Zorg en Welzijn (NIZW, Peter Barentze, tel. + 31 30 2306546, www.programmajeugd.nl). After approval, the sending organization can submit the application. Every year has 5 deadlines. These of course are very important. The actual beginning of a project may depend on this date.

Hagerhof City farm is a centre for environmental education. Primary school children visit the farm every day to learn

about biology, nature and environment. There is a special school programme. We work with professionals, volunteers and trainees. In addition, we also work with young people from other countries, through the EVS. Hagerhof started with only 1 volunteer 9 years ago, but nowadays we have 3 or 4 volunteers every year. Most of them come from Germany, sometimes also from other countries, like Belgium.

Because of possible language problems we only accept volunteers who are willing to learn and understand the Dutch language. We ask the volunteers to start learning our language already before they get here. This will make things easier for all parties, especially in the very beginning, which, of course, is always difficult for all. There is, however, another aspect to this. Learning a new language will also enable the volunteers to integrate better in their new country and local community. This has proven to be very important for them, so we learned during the years. The volunteers work in animal care, prepare the school activities, explain the self guided school activities, give lessons, work in the farm shop, do administrative and computer work and also do weekend duties. Of course the nature of the work depends on the nature of the project.

We are convinced that language training is a must. Furthermore, we think it is important to be quite flexible within the project. Take into consideration the qualities each volunteer has, whatever these may be. Sometimes certain goals may not be reached, then try to shift in different directions within the project. Quite a lot of paperwork has to be done before the actual arrival of a volunteer. Nevertheless, in spite of all the information one has, the outcome may be different, when actually here. Therefore, it is very advisable to plan a short visit in advance. By doing so, both parties get to know each other better.

The Youth programme has space and money for this, so take it. A lot of paperwork is involved and has to be done. This however is really a necessity. All papers have to be signed by the person responsible for the project. First, the application must be done, then the actual selection of the volunteers, followed by formalities. Sometimes it can make quite a difference if the sending organization passes the correct information straight away. This will save time, even money. During the stay, a progress report has to be filled during and at the end of the stay, also a final report has to be filled in. By doing so, both parties can express their opinion(s) about the outcome of the project. Normally, each project has a positive outcome for all involved, the volunteers and the hosting organization. For more information you'll find a direct link to the Youth programme on the home page of www.cityfarms.org

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