

Newsletter ^{2/99}

European Federation of City Farms

News from the Board

EFCF has a new Board:

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The next board meeting will take place 28 and 29 August 1999. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April 2000 in Brussels

EFCF Chairman attends Italian Conference

In Italy, Marc De Staercke, EFCF chairman, met a new organisation. The AICER (Region Milano-Bologna) who organised a conference in Parma about AGRICULTURE TOURISME, which included school visits to farms. Marc gave an illustrated lecture on the importance of City Farms for the education and health of children and young people.

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During his stay Marc visited a City Farm near Milano. It was an open day, where school children and their families were active on the farm. "I felt directly at home seeing that the work in an Italian way is similar to city farms in the rest of Europe" said Marc.

Contact address: Casina Arco Baleno, via SS Trinita 14, Capergnanica, Italy.
WWW.cascinarcobaleno.it

E-mail your E-mail Address!!

If your city farm has an e-mail address, you can receive the EFCF-newsletter and other important information directly. Send your cityfarms name, region, country and e-mail address to efcf@vgc.be

Link up the EFCF Website

Does your city farm have a World Wide Web site? E-mail EFCF with your Website address and we will link it to the EFCF Website <http://efcf.vgc.br>

Nordic Conference on Organic Animal Husbandry

16 - 17 september 1999

This conference will present Nordic research in organic animal husbandry. It will take place in Horsens, Denmark, and the language will be English.

For more information contact the secretary:
tel. ++47 6259 16 00, fax ++ 47 6253 3643
e-mail: vonne.lund@hnh.slu.se
<http://www.rala.is/njf/>



Genetic Engineering: Dream or Nightmare?

Genetic engineering biotechnology has underestimated the risk to the environment and people. Patenting plant varieties in developing countries robs indigenous farmers of their livelihood. Is genetic engineering producing miracle crops to feed the hungry of the world? Does it offer greener agriculture to protect the environment? Or will the promise of a commercially driven largely untested technology get out of control with nightmarish results?

Send your views to the EFCF efcf@vgc.be

Making use of the World Wide Web.

In each issue of the EFCF Newsletter the Board will publish some www.addresses of sites that have information useful to city farmers. If you have found useful sites send them in by e-mail so that we can publish them.

- European Federation of City Farms (EFCF) efcf@vgc.be
- International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM): [www:http://ecoweb.dk/ifoam](http://ecoweb.dk/ifoam)
e-mail: ifoam@t-online.de
- European Union: <http://europa.eu.int>

News from Belgium

Flemish Federation

since 1-1-1999 the Flemish Community doesn't subsidise the Flemish Federation of City Farms because they are too small!!!!?? But they are glad to work on a European level, because Belgium smells too much non organic?

News from UK

Child protection

The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens in the U.K. - with the help of money from Marks & Spencer - published in June 1999 Guidelines to help City Farms draw up their own Child Protection Policy.

Child protection is about ensuring that a City Farm or

Community Garden is a safe environment for children and young people.

Children, young people and adults should understand that a safe environment for children and young people includes:

- safety with tools
- safety with animals
- safety with plants
- safety with people

Child Protection = Safety with People

City Farming and Community Gardening is about people and land. Whilst you and other members of your team may have a clear understanding of how your project operates, it may be useful to consider how your local community view it. The project is probably seen as a safe open space, with people around to keep an eye on things.

Farms and Gardens need to look at child protection from several angles. To create a safe environment on your site there are various issues to consider:

- Creating an environment where children and young people are listened to and encouraged to speak openly to workers and their peers.
- Enabling paid and unpaid workers to work safely with children and young people.
- Enabling paid and unpaid workers to support children and young people who disclose any form of abuse.
- Reducing the risk of children and young people to be harmed by members of the public.
- Providing information to parents/carers and young people that shows how your work with children and young people.

The focus of this guidelines is safe working practise for anyone working with children and young people on a City Farm or Community Garden and all other projects where children and young people under the age of 16 are involved. They are designed to help projects to develop their own Child Protection Policy. It is important to think through the issues and develop procedures that will work on the project.

more information:

e-mail: farmgarden@btinternet.com

Food, Health and Nutritional education

How can City Farms and Community Gardens work with schools?

On the 19th and 20th April 1999, the federation of City Farms and Community Gardens organized an education workers and teachers seminar in Bristol. This event gave the opportunity for education workers from farms and gardens to meet, share experiences and build confidence

in their work. A few participants ... but this permitted really nice and fruitful exchanges! the first day, we visited two City Farms (in the city and in the surrounding of Bristol): tour of site, discussion of current and planned resources, problems encountered, etc.. The following day was devoted to discussions: the future of the FCFCG's (Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens) work, presentation of the EFCF's Healthy Food Project (results and discussion of findings, the activities in nutritional education raised interest among the participants with the discovery of some approaches and techniques that could be of potential use in the UK).

Also we could look at some education teaching packs (the Greenhouse Teacher Resource Centre revealed itself full of information) ... and after a brainstorming session on „how to integrate nutrition education with schools, what can, should be done to improve nutritional education, what can each one personally do?“ this seminar ended (as it started) with a delicious „healthy“ lunch!

News from France

„Les Assises Française pour l'Éducation à l'Environnement“, a national meeting about environmental education, will take place in Lille, North of France, the 4th, 5th and 6th of January 2000.

The french groupment for environmental education has been created in 1998 in consequence of the first World's and French speaking Forum of Montréal, Canada (November 1997) called:

In french: PLANET'ERE (Education Related to Environment)

in english: PLANET EARTH

This international Forum joined together 42 french speaking countries around this thema.

It is an urgent necessity for some developing countries to promote environmental education. But PLANET'ERE has confirmed the existence of a large potential of experiences, of knowledge, of abilities. This is in this context that the french network has been created. It gathers together 45 organisations and the GIFAE is one of them. These organisations have a common purpose: to develop a practice of environmental education in France and on the earth with all the actors of the durable development.

The french network has now specific objectives:

1. To establish an inventory of the french situation
2. To make concrete and efficient propositions for an action plan for the year 2000
3. To create links between the different actors of the field
4. To clarify a french identity in the environmental education, which is a priority to prepare the Forum PLANET'ERE II, which will take place in France in 2001.

For further informations, please contact the GIFAE or consult the website:

www.educ-envir.com/collectif_francais_ec

In the city farms of France, the activities of transformation and tasting of farm products are going to gain by guides of good practices in hygiene and security.

Since 10 years, the number of city farms has grown up in France. As they are tools for the public's education, and especially the young people, these structures propose activities in the farm:

- Discovery of the animal and vegetal world
- Discovery of an agricultural work
- Activities of animal's care
- Activities of gardening

These activities lead most of the time to activities of transformation and tasting of farm products. They permit to make the children discover the origin of food and the way the products are made, but also the savour and the taste. The children are able to follow the product along its process to its eating. These activities are a complement to the work done in the schools by the teachers.

Why making a guide of good practices?

The children have to manipulate food products and to transform them in the farm. Usually, they end with tasting of products they have made. And tasting supposes the respect of standards and food hygiene. The city farms have also to respect these national standards. They have to prove to the teachers, to the departmental directions and services the tasting quality but also the food products security.

Of course, such guides and specific legislation exist for the transformation and the direct selling of farm products in the farms. But regulations for pedagogical activities don't exist. The departmental directions of control interpret the texts in so different ways and there are large disparities in the regions of France.

We receive requests from teachers, parents... and lots of interrogations coming from the animators and people responsible of the city farms. That's why Interministerial Commission of City Farms and the Bergerie Nationale of Rambouillet found necessary to elaborate a guide of good practices relative to the transformation of products (milk, cream, butter, yoghurt, meat, eggs, cereals...)

The GIFAE participates in this thought, in the elaboration and has received a subsidy by the french Ministry of Environment in order to be co-producer of these guides. The professionals of food production will be partners of these documents. The guides will be submitted to the validation of the authorities to be used by the administration of control during their inspections.

For the french city farms, it is an indispensable tool which will confirm their recognition in the sphere of public's education.

News from Germany

Adventure Playground Berlin-Treptow

We are looking for an exchange partner from another european country. The aim is to organise an exchange of our and your kids during this summer.

If you are interested in cooperation, we are looking forward to hear from you and to talk about further planings.

contact: Julia Fechner
Abenteuerspielplatz „Waslala“
Ecke Venusstr. / Birkenweg
D - 12524 Berlin / Germany
phone: 0049-30-67909356

anima 21 - european conference 19 - 26 September in Berlin

Prolonged registration deadline!

Following several requests the deadline for sending back the **registration forms** for the conference has been prolonged to the **30th June 1999**. To save mailing costs, the final inscription forms and programmes will only be sent to those registered. Everybody else will have to contact us or their regional or national organizations for the inscription materials. **Inscriptions in any case will only be accepted if they reach us before 15th August, unless you care for your lodging !**

More information about the conference and registration please visit our website
www.akib.de and click „anima 21“

New books

The german federation „Bund der Jugendfarmen und Aktivspielplätze e.V. has printed two new books in german language:

Ask the children themselves - methods of the participation of children in playground planning

This book for playgroundplanning with children is made for engaged paedagogues, planners, politics, administrative coworkers, citizens' initiatives and parents, who are interested who, where and how children do play.

The basic request is to represent the necessity and the

possibilities of taking part children in planning processes. In the first part of the publication important aspects of the participation of children are represented. Afterwards participation methods in the work with children are represented so concretely that interested adults are encouraged and put into the position to avail itself of these methods

Standard and quality criteria supply and service catalog for educationally cared playgrounds

The regional organization of the adventure and child farms (AKIB) in Berlin compiled a supply and a service catalog for educationally cared playgrounds in coordination and co-operation with the federation of the youth farms and activity playgrounds, who functions also as a publisher. This book is meant as working-help for the organisations of the open work with children and young people, as decision making aid e.g. with project-application and central requests at the youth welfare offices and social agencies as well as as meaningful instrument in view to self-manifestation and evaluation of the respective project

If you want more information please see our website:
www.bdja.org or contact our office in Stuttgart

No News

No news from the Netherlands, from Sweden, from Norway, from Denmark, from Belgium (francophone)!

Next Newsletter

Copy dead-line for the next newsletter is **15-8-1999**

Please send all your text by email or send a disk in word-format or rtf-format to our office in Stuttgart - we don't wont to type your text.

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