

ABOUT FACE

The newsletter of
Farming And Countryside Education

Autumn 2009 Issue 17



Care Farming

CEVAS training has now involved over 1,300 farmers who wish to host school visits to their farms - a testimony of their commitment to this agenda. Many of these farmers are asking us for further training opportunities and one of these is an accredited course on care farming. But why care farming?

During the last few years, a movement has begun that uses farms as a place for promoting mental, social and physical health through normal farming activity. The range of educational provision offered by farms is very wide. Some provide a supportive environment for young people that have special needs, others offer meaningful work to disaffected pupils and those which develop the possibilities of youths who have been excluded from schools.

Even though there is still limited understanding and acceptance of the role that care farming can play, it is evident from visiting such projects that there are major benefits experienced by the young people which in turn, benefits the educational system and society as a whole.

We believe that educationalists should take the idea of care farming much more seriously and recognise the great potential for a network of farms supporting schools. It is yet another example of the many and varied



public services that farmers provide in addition to producing our food.

The National Care Farming Initiative promotes and supports the expansion of care farming throughout the UK; provides information and advice for

care farming initiatives; and ensures the benefits of care farming are better understood and resourced. For more information, go to www.ncfi.org.uk

For details about CEVAS Care Farming training please contact Ian Egginton-Metters at ian@fcfcg.co.uk

On the Farm

No time to waste!

J Hawley and Sons have been busy over the summer at events where they presented a display on crops and their uses alongside a hands-on grain pictures activity with grains kindly supplied by local business Manor Farm Feeds at Owston.

J Hawley and Sons continue to represent the agricultural sector at careers events, talking to young people, parents and teachers about the modern farming industry and a massive range of career opportunities. As a STEM ambassador, Julia Hawley will be working with Leicestershire EBC on the Environment and Land based Diplomas. She continues to offer farm visits for all ages and ran a summer holiday natural history morning to help child-minding grandparents keep their charges out of mischief!



Julia kindly hosted a FACE team meeting in glorious summer weather and the team was treated to a tour of the biodiversity features on the farm.



Growing Well Launches Its Cropshare

Growing Well, the small organic growing company based at Low Sizergh Farm, near Kendal, launched its Community Supported Agriculture scheme this summer. This will give local people the opportunity to buy a share of their crop and receive a weekly bag of produce straight from the farm. 40 people have signed up for the 6 month trial which finishes in December 2009 but will restart next year. For more details see <http://www.growingwell.co.uk/documents/CSAleaflet-final 000.pdf>



George Starts Farm School

As the school year reaches an end, local schools have again enjoyed visits to Fordhall Organic Farm (England's first community-owned farm) and most have been able to visit for free, taking advantage of the Higher Level Stewardship grant that the tenant, farmer Ben, was recently granted for group visits.

George the Cade lamb has made it his duty to insist that every child should fuss over him offering handfuls of freshly picked grass. Whenever possible he has then outwitted the supporting adults as they hold gates ajar for children and darted past in order to tag along with the tour!



Brogdale Fruitful visits

Brogdale Farm is pleased to report two years of fruitful uptake for education visits to the National Fruit Collection.

As year three approaches of the educational package developed with FACE and linked directly to the national curriculum, the future looks bright at the farm. It has been truly an honour to watch the children reap the benefits of such a national treasure. The opportunity for children to put geography, genetics, plant science, food production, diet and healthy eating, cultivation and cooking into context has been incredibly valuable and successful to their learning, development and understanding.

For details please contact Sally Roger on 01795 536250 or visit www.brogdalecollections.co.uk



New Educational cabin at Bull Farm

FWAG Farmers learnt how Steve Wild at Bull Farm near Much Wenlock had expanded his already successful educational visits to offer pond dipping. The lake has great shallow margins and a log cabin has been built nearby should schools need to dodge showers! Steve has plans to improve access further to the water's edge.

Geography on the Farm

Key Stage 1 pupils from Great Kingshill C of E School in Buckinghamshire followed up a visit to their local mixed farm by designing a collage of the farm's land use. Pupils designed and added animals, wheat, apples and trees made out of different types of material to the farm plan.



On the Farm

Farms Gets Top Marks For Educational Visits

The Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge scheme, introduced in 2009, combines for the first time learning and safety into one easily recognisable badge for all organisations providing experiences away from the classroom. A number of CEVAS trained farmers have been amongst the first providers to receive this award.

Coombe Farm's spokesperson Fiona Madge said "Being awarded the Quality Badge is a real coup for all the staff here as it shows that we offer young people the type of high quality learning experiences they really benefit from. We're thrilled to get official recognition for our efforts on our farm at Hill Dairy."



Steve Ward of Uncle Henry's Farm Shop at Grayingham Grange Farm near Kirton said "Uncle Henry's offers the ideal outside classroom experience, with a true reflection of where their food comes from, allowing children to

see the process of growing our food and selling it in our farm shop." See www.unclehenrys.co.uk



Other award winners include three of the Co-operative Farms sites at Tillington, near Hereford, Swinefleet, near Goole, and Ashby St Ledgers, near Rugby. The farms, in conjunction with local Co-operative Food stores who provide produce for schools to take to the farms, host regular "From Farm to Fork" visits where children experience how to create healthy meals to take home to their families.

Nick Padwick, Farm Manager at Stoughton, oversees From Farm to Fork for The Co-operative Farms. He said: "These accreditations are welcome endorsements of the hard work by everyone which has helped make From Farm to Fork such a success." See www.fromfarmtofork.co.uk.



Rochdale Schools Take Part in Local Environment Action Week.

All Rochdale schools were invited to take part in Local Environment Action Week. The local FACE co-coordinator organised for John Alpe, a sheep and dairy farmer, to visit two schools. John had a very busy day and spoke to over 120 pupils. In the last academic year John has developed a presentation which contains pictures of his farm, his animals and the jobs he has to do. John is also keen for the children to learn how he farms with a focus on sustainability, and how he encourages wildlife on the farm.

Local Food Fund success in Devon

Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, which manages Occombe Farm in Paignton, has secured £297,000 from the Local Food Fund to run a three year project based at the farm. This will set up a 4 acre market garden as the base for a pilot community supported scheme allowing local people to purchase a weekly veg box. In addition a Community Kitchen will be built enabling classes of children that visit the farm to have a go at cooking with local produce.

Children Go 'Down on The Farm' With The Parks Trust

Over 150 school children discovered more about farm animals and their role in caring for Milton Keynes' parks and green spaces with a new farming education programme from The Parks Trust.

New born lambs, cows, horses, chickens, orchards, crops and farming methods have been introduced to children that visited the Trust's farmer Luke Stacey at Home Farm, Castlethorpe.

The Trust has its own herd of sheep and cattle that graze 4,500 acres of parkland throughout the city. They are a vital conservation tool, helping to manage large areas of grassland to create a rich diversity of wildlife.



Growing Wild

In the last edition we reported on a pilot project led by Natural England called Natural Connections which, in the South is known as Growing Wild and works with urban primary schools in Oxford and High Wycombe.

The main aim was for the children to visit farms and wildlife sites and then make decisions on how to develop their school grounds for wildlife and food growing based on what they had learnt.

All four schools had Celebration Open Days for their gardens and the children took part in activities including harvesting giant beetroots! Evaluation results show that children's attitudes to nature have changed as a result of the project and they are keen to go on more trips out to the countryside.



Learning about the Countryside

Trainee Teachers visit Devon Sheep Farm

Graduates from Exeter University with their tutor, Dr. Rob Bowker, visited Ashtree Farm, part of the Clinton Estate in East Devon. The purpose of their visit was to gain an insight into modern methods of animal husbandry and to see at first hand the opportunities to enhance children's knowledge as part of the Post Graduate Certificate of Education course.

The farm manager, Graham Hill, gave the students every chance to ask questions and even aid the safe delivery of several lambs as the visit coincided with the lambing time for some 1350 ewes !!

Morrison's Teachers' Evening at Castle Gardens, Sherborne, Dorset.

At Castle Gardens centre in Sherborne, 21 teachers, classroom assistants and governors attended a meeting to find out how to pursue the Morrison's "Let's Grow" project and benefit from vouchers to purchase garden tools, seeds and other equipment.

Mike Burk, the Managing Director of Castle Gardens Group, gave helpful growing advice about plants for raised beds and containers. He also generously donated several containers to the schools attending.

The teachers and school representatives had a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive time admirably concluded with a delicious cream tea!!

Young chemists enjoy Myerscough workshops

Myerscough College hosted a 'Chemistry at Work' event for over 100 Year 9 pupils. The event was organised in conjunction with the LEBP (Lancashire Education Business Partnership) and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Programme.

Many of Myerscough's subject areas participated in the day and workshops included Agriculture – Livestock Feed

Identification, Arboriculture – How to Build a Tree, Horticulture – DNA your Onions, Motorsport – Wheel Change Challenge, Photography – Photograms and Veterinary Nursing – Blood and Water.

Myerscough College's Schools Manager, Katy Pallas, commented: "It was a hectic day for many of the staff here, but it was very worthwhile."



Plumpton College students and local pupils join forces to build a Wildlife Garden

Year 5 and 6 pupils from Telscombe Cliffs Primary School visited Plumpton College to work with the student conservation group, New Leaf. They created a series of wildlife friendly features which included a 'five star' bug hotel; planting a hedgerow; creating bird feeding stations, nesting pods and bird boxes and building a compost bin.

Miss Farley, teacher at Telscombe Cliffs Primary said "The children benefitted greatly from the hands on approach to learning and the experience has inspired us at school to develop our own nature garden and use the skills that we learnt along the way".



Forest Schools at Duchy College



Duchy College in Cornwall has had a busy and exciting year developing Forest Schools on campuses at Stoke Climsland and Rosewarne.

There has been a huge demand for training of Forest School Leaders and Assistant practitioners with over 400 participants; teachers and others involved with children and young people attending the Forest School courses. Duchy College actively promotes the outdoor ethos in all its Early Years courses with the intention to give students the skills and confidence to embrace outdoor learning.

Contact: tracey.maciver@duchy.ac.uk

FACE Teachers' Advisory Group visit Cheshire farm

FACE farm members Jane and Steve Ellsmoor of Dorrington Hall Farm in Cheshire hosted the summer term meeting of the FACE Advisory Teachers' Group. The morning was spent discussing current curriculum developments. After a wonderful lunch, the group was treated to a tour of the farmed land and learned about the many award-winning biodiversity features about which the Ellsmoors are so passionate. The couple share their beautiful environment with visiting school groups.



Learning about the Countryside

Let the Mouse do the walking on the Virtual Farm Walk

Farms are great places for learning. Farmers are great people to learn from. Now every school child can explore the British countryside to see and hear about the way our food is grown with care for wildlife on the LEAF Virtual Farm Walk.

The walk, on a website developed for the farming charity LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming), is hosted by two real farmers who are on hand at every step to explain what is going on.

The LEAF Virtual Farm Walk is open and ready for visitors - whatever the weather!

www.virtualfarmwalk.org



One Million Children Outdoors

Natural England's One Million Children Outdoors programme is a key part of its strategy to encourage more people to enjoy the natural environment. It comprises a range of initiatives such as funding for educational visits to farms, public events on National Nature Reserves and the Access to Nature Grant scheme. The programme recognises the important role that gardening plays in inspiring people to get involved with nature. To highlight the link between gardening, wildlife and biodiversity Natural England has created The Big Wildlife Garden. This website is aimed at children and their families who want advice and inspiration to improve their gardens for the benefit of wildlife..

Visit www.bwg.naturalengland.org.uk

Young Farmers and the Dairy Event

Young Farmers helped to improve the quality and availability of careers advice at a day at the RABDF Dairy Event and Livestock Show at Stoneleigh Park. The session was organised by RABDF, FACE and the local EBP and Coventry and Warwickshire Connexions services. Sponsored by the NFYFC this year for the first time, the careers event was aimed at teachers and careers advisers and designed to broaden the information available through them to young people.

Delegates toured the YFC stockjudging competitions and spoke to YFC members about the industry jobs open to them, as well as the practical skills gained through club competitions. Members helped highlight the range of career opportunities by giving day-in-the-life presentations on a range of roles, from agricultural consultant to vet.



Family Farm Tours Project

FACE, working in partnership with one of the Rural Hubs, Ludlow market and a local Housing Association set up a pilot project for adults and their young children to visit local farms. Here they found out about local food and followed this up with a shopping and cooking experience to show that good food can be found locally without bursting the bank balance!

Secondary teachers say cheese!

FACE, working with Coventry and Warwickshire Connexions, invited teachers of Food technology and Science to take a unique look behind the scenes at Berkswell cheese. Stephen Fletcher, farmer and artisan cheese maker, showed them the process from milking the flock of ewes to the finished product of this delicious local cheese.

Jenny Stokes, Teacher Placement Coordinator for Connexions Coventry and Warwickshire, said: "The aim was to help teachers enrich the curriculum by giving students a better understanding of food production issues facing the farming industry and the modern techniques being used."



Agricultural Society Strengthens Links With Midlands Schools

The Three Counties Agricultural Society (TCAS) is working with Bam Construction and the Worcestershire EBP to involve schools in the creation of sustainable, environmentally-friendly gardens at its Malvern Spring Gardening Show (6 – 9 May 2010).

The theme is 'Fast Forward The Future' and pupils will be tasked to consider how important it will be to grow our own food in the years ahead. Much of the planting material will be grown in school, and the gardens will be built at the Malvern Showground for display to 90,000 people over the four days. All will be judged by the venture's partner the Royal Horticultural Society.

For more information, please contact Sue Hodgson-Jones, TCAS Education Officer on 01684 584907. www.threecounties.co.uk/springgardening

Around the Shows and Events

Royal Show

Over 7000 school children enjoyed the Education Village at the last Royal Show. Supported by HGCA and DairyCo/School Milk Project, the Village offered activities which included baking bread, grain art, creating hay hats, sampling cheeses and using microscopes. An added bonus was the bag of breadmix kindly donated by Allinson's for each visitor to the Village.



FACE is now planning a Countryside Education Day for June 16th and 17th 2010 to ensure there is still plenty to offer schools. Do contact FACE if you would like to be involved!

2009 Royal Norfolk Show

This year over 6000 school children visited the Show and took part in trails linked to the national curriculum.

A cow, turkeys, sheep, a sow and her piglets could all be seen in close proximity. Children had the opportunity to try their hand at butter making. A magnificent display of fruits and vegetables and crop boxes of cereals, vegetables and lettuce were being grown. The winning entries and prize giving for the Art, Poetry and Growing Food competitions attracted a lot of interest.



Inner-city kids have great day out at The CLA Game Fair

Pupils from Holy Cross Roman Catholic School in Leicester got to grips with falconry, wildlife, the maize maze and handling ferrets, and had a lunch of locally sourced food at the CLA's Food Chain Initiative.

The CLA arranged the day and provided the tickets. Transport and lunch was funded by The CLA Charitable Trust. The CLA also enlisted the help of The Country Trust and the Ernest Cook Trust whose staff led the children on their tour.



Countrytastic

2008 saw the launch of CountryTastic, the Three Counties Agricultural Society's food farming and countryside event for children. It was a great success, attracting 3,000 visitors who enjoyed glorious weather and a whole host of activities, provided by 30 exhibitors.

Many organisations and individuals have already signed up for the next show in April which will feature tractor rides, a mock auction, farm animals and food demonstrations and will be opened by BBC Countryfile presenter, Adam Henson.

Connect with the Countryside Day

The weather was kind to over 2400 children who came along to the South of England Showground for the fourth successful Connect with the Countryside day. This free educational event is organised by the South of England Agricultural Society for pupils from Sussex, Brighton and Hove and Surrey and gives an insight into farming, food and the environment. The fifth Connect with the Countryside



Day will be held in July 2010. Enquiries to Karen Pritty, Educational Development Officer, South of England Agricultural Society, 01444 892700 or email education@seas.org.uk.

Careers in agriculture

NFYFC agriculture and rural affairs steering group chairman Doug Jackson chaired the final Royal Show RASE debate, highlighting the huge range of career opportunities presented by modern farming and agriculture. Speakers from Harper Adams University College, Fresh Start, Co-op Farms and the Agricultural Engineers Association outlined the need for 60,000 new entrants over the coming decade; the task of presenting new entrants with professional career paths; and changing perceptions among teachers and careers advisers to better reflect the diversity of highly skilled roles presented by agriculture in the 21st century.



NEWS Round Up

Royal County of Berkshire Show

FACE was delighted to be nominated as the President's Charity at the Royal County of Berkshire Show. The team carried out creative activities with visiting children who enjoyed making hay hats, woolly sheep and having their faces painted!



Adults and children learn about wool at Cronkshaw Fold Farm

Joy McCarthy of Cronkshaw Fold Farm at Helmshore, in east Lancashire is working with the British Wool Marketing Board and local craftspeople to develop an exciting educational feature focusing on sheep, wool, and fibre.

"We are extending the way we can enlighten and educate children and adults about the important role played by sheep in the creation and maintenance of the landscape and to take that on to the next stage by covering all aspects of wool and fibre uses," says Joy.

"As well as our own flock of sheep on the farm we will also be displaying a range of sheep fleeces from some of the 40-plus British sheep breeds to show the variety of wool in terms of texture, quality and uses," says Joy.

For further information contact: Joy McCarthy at www.cronkshaw.co.uk



NFAN appoints regional representatives

The National Farm Attractions Network (NFAN) has appointed a number of regional representatives around the UK. These are in place in Kent, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, the West Midlands, and Durham.

NFAN is also looking for local representation in other parts of the UK and would be happy to hear from anyone interested in helping to promote their work.



**National
Farm
Attractions
Network**

How can pets benefit your school and your pupils?

National Pet Month is a registered charity, unique in bringing together animal welfare charities, professional bodies, pet businesses, schools, youth groups and pet lovers, with the common goal of improving the welfare of pets.

We have lots of resources for schools on our website from animal masks to colouring in activities, and some rather inspiring lesson plans – to find out more:

www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk



Free Educational Trips and Materials for Schools

FACE and Growing Schools are pleased to announce their new partnership with Reciproc8™ Recycling, a company that provides free products and experiences to schools throughout the UK through a recycling rewards scheme. The Reciproc8 Rewards™ programme offers a wide range of products and experiences to support schools in curriculum delivery and associated Growing Schools activities. All of these are available for FREE!

The products include seeds, hen houses, a range of tools for children and compost bins.

The experiences include visits to venues such as farms, free transport to these locations and others and courses.

The schemes are simple to start and manage. You gain Reciproc8 Points™ for the mobile phones, inkjet cartridges and toners that you collect for recycling.

For full details visit www.reciproc8.co.uk, or you can call the Reciproc8™ team on 0845 194 8288.

Criminal Records Bureau Disclosures

If you are an organisation that wishes to use Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks as part of your recruitment or appointment processes, FACE may be able to help you by supplying the necessary forms and guidance. Our charges are very competitive: only £20 per application for non-members and £15 for FACE members. (In addition the CRB makes a charge of £36 for all applicants except volunteers).

If we can help you with CRB Disclosures, please telephone 024 7685 3089 or email janet@face-online.org.uk

News from Wales

Virtual Farm in Wales

Lakeside Farm Park has been funded through an Axis 4 project to provide a virtual farm with webcams and interactive sessions for rural schools. The aim is to provide an educational farming website with information on different types of farming in Wales. It gives an insight into rural life with tours and videos and how agriculture fits in to a sustainable lifestyle. There will be a flavour of seasonal foods available and food miles involved.



A chance to win up to £1,500!

The Grain Chain is delighted to provide an opportunity for innovative teachers to demonstrate their passion and flair for practical food-based work in the classroom. Have you got some great ideas you would be happy to share? The winning entry will focus on developing and running an exciting and inspiring lesson(s), based around flour. These resources will be uploaded onto grainchain.com and fabflour.com to highlight excellence in teaching.

Inspire! is open to all teachers of students aged 11-14 years across the UK. Student teachers in their final year are also eligible to enter. For more information visit www.grainchain.com/competition

Eat your own veg

FACE Cymru and Careers Wales organised two training days for teachers at Moelyci Environment Centre near Bangor. A total of 22 teachers came for practical gardening and cookery sessions. After harvesting potatoes, onions, salads and soft fruit they took them back to the barn and prepared lunch. Under the guidance of Elwen Roberts from Hybu Cig Cymru they also made pizzas, salad dressings and fruit smoothies. Afterwards they were given training in sowing seeds and potting up tomatoes and cucumbers.



Events at Treberfedd farm

In June, Elin Jones, Minister for Rural Affairs, opened the farm trail at Treberfedd Farm, Ceredigion and there was a sponsored walk to raise money for Cancer Research Wales. In July, Nick Rebbeck of Learning on the Farm led a joint educational day for Llanwnnen and Cribyn Primary Schools. The headmaster said: "The children saw a day's work, through the eyes of the farmer, plus where their food comes from. They also saw the way wildlife plays an important part in farming. www.treberfedd.co.uk and www.learningonthefarm.co.uk.



Farm safety day

Children from four primary schools on the Llŷn Peninsula took part in a farm safety session in the summer, organised jointly by FACE Cymru and Communities First. The event was held at Ysgol Botwnnog near Pwllheli, one of the few secondary schools in Wales to have its own farm, and pupils were taken around a range of hazards, including a tractor, animals, chemicals, barbed wire and an imaginary slurry pit. They discussed the risks of each and drew up safety rules, and everyone went away with a farm safety comic from the HSE – after washing their hands, of course.



Sponsorship opportunity!

FACE would be pleased to hear from any organisation which would be interested in providing sponsorship towards a future edition.

FACE, Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

Bill Graham 024 7685 8261, Janet Hickinbottom 024 7685 8261
enquiries@face-online.org.uk, Fax 024 7641 4808, www.face-online.org.uk

FACE helps young people learn more about food and farming in a sustainable countryside.
FACE is supported by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the National Farmers' Union and its members.