

RUW Newsletter November 2009

Dear reader,

This is the newsletter from RUW for November. Enjoy reading!

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Coming excursion: Ben & Jerry's - dairy farming

We have an important question:

- Why do a lot of companies want to have a 'green label' nowadays and how sustainable are they actually?

On Monday November 16th the Rural Wageningen Foundation organizes together with study-association Di-et-tri (Nutrition and Health) an excursion to a dairy farm, from family Hooch Antink in Koekange (Drenthe). This dairy closely cooperates with the Caring Dairy organisation. This organisation thinks sustainable dairy farming is very important. The milk is provided to Ben & Jerry's and Beemsterkaas.

A representative from the Caring Dairy organisation will tell us something about the organisation, farmer Hooch Antink will show his farm and tell something about it. Last but not least Alphons Rommelse will tell us something about sustainable entrepreneurship. He will talk about why organisations and companies want to be sustainable nowadays. We will complete the afternoon by a discussion and there will also be a little surprise for everyone!

Time: We leave at 1 pm at Droevendaalsesteeg and we arrive at Droevendaalsesteeg again at approximately 6 pm.

If you would like to participate in this activity, please subscribe by sending an e-mail to ruw@wur.nl or to diettri@wur.nl

Coming activity; Debate evening about small scale versus large scale agriculture

On Monday 7th of December the Rural Wageningen Foundation organizes a debate in LA13 about small scale versus large scale agriculture. This

is a follow-up debate following the youth-exchange we organized in July. Students from Wageningen went to Romania to explore the countryside there.

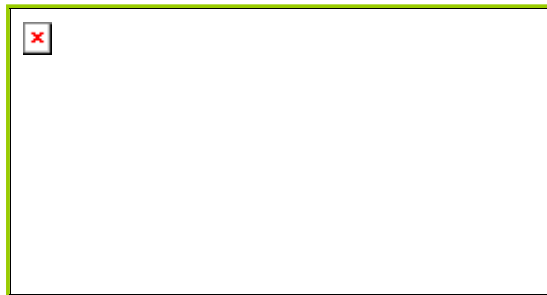
It's remarkable a lot of Romanian farmers produce on (very) small scale using a traditional way of working. It becomes harder and harder to make a living out of this way of working because of the competition the Romanian farmers face and will face in the future from farmers in other countries in the EU. This is a result of the accession of Romania in the EU. The farmers will also be limited more because of demands from the EU.

The main question during the debate will be:

Is there a future for small scale agriculture in the Netherlands/Romania or will small scale agriculture disappear, which is happening already in the Netherlands?

More information will soon be on our website!

Report Symposium 12th - 16th October



Friday 16 October the Rural Wageningen Foundation (RUW) organized the Symposium 'The Rural Idyll'. At this Symposium different actors presented their 'Rural Idyll' of the Dutch and European countryside and discussed how this could be accomplished. Motives to organize the Symposium were changes of function of the Dutch countryside and the discrepancy between the image of the Dutch countryside and the real situation. The Symposium was part of the 6th Lustrum to celebrate the 30th birthday of the RUW Foundation.

About 80 people joined to hear, speak and discuss about topics related to the themes: ~~Changes of functions of the Dutch countryside,~~ decreasing population at ~~the Dutch countryside and the Dutch and Romanian countryside were compared.~~ Speakers representing different actors from science, public authorities and the field presented their ideas in 'keynote' presentations, workshops, a panel debate and by an exhibition of photos and a documentary.

RUW is a foundation that has the aim to bridge the gap between students and actors from the Dutch and European countryside. The day gave students the opportunity to gain insights on visions from professionals from the field and at the same time professionals could gain ideas for cooperation and create or ~~strengthen networks.~~ The slogan for the day was therefore: 'The Rural Idyll: No coup but a call for cooperation'.

A more detailed report on the Symposium you can find on the website (www.stichtingruw.nl) soon and the pictures of the symposium are now

available on www.picasaweb.google.com/ruwfoundation

Report Counter-exchange / Lustrum

In week 42 we celebrated our lustrum. RUW is 30 years old now! In this week also students from Romania were visiting Wageningen because of an exchange with students from Wageningen University: who went to Romania this summer.

We organized a lot of nice activities to celebrate our Lustrum. On Friday the Romanians arrived in Wageningen and on Saturday people from RUW, Boerengroep and participants of the youth-exchange went to Amsterdam to show the Romanians our capital. The day after, the same group went to the Kröller Muller museum in Arnhem to let the Romanians learn something more about Dutch culture. On Monday besides the same group, also other students from Wageningen participated in the program. They visited a care farm in Barneveld and an ostrich farmer in Didam. In this way differences between Dutch and Romanian agriculture were discussed. On Tuesday also other students from WUR participated in the program. We visited the EU Parliament and the centre of Brussels. We learnt something about how the EU is organized and had a really good time in Brussels. On Wednesday the participants of the youth-exchange, RUW and Boerengroep visited The Hague. It was a long day with a lot of nice activities. First the group had a city tour through The Hague, afterwards there were presentations at the Ministry of LNV and a tour through the building. Then we visited the beach in Scheveningen and next we went back to Den Haag to have dinner. On Thursday the same group including students from WUR went to Zeeland to see the 'Deltawerken'. Friday was the day of the Symposium 'The Rural Idyll' (look at the report in this Newsletter and on our website). In the evening we had a party in the International Club to celebrate the nice experiences we had that week. On Saturday the Romanians travelled back to Oradea again. We had a really great time with all the participants this week! We would like to thank them for participating and we hope they enjoyed it as much as we did.

We made daily reports in the lustrumweek, you can find them on the website (www.stichtingruw.nl).

www.stichtingruw.nl