



*European Network for
Rural Development*

Overview of Social Farming and Rural Development Policy in Selected EU Member States

CASE STUDIES
September 2010



Connecting Rural Europe

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1. Case Studies of Social Farming in the Pioneering Situation

1.1 Quality Management and Certification Requirements for Animal Assisted Therapy – Austria

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2. Short description of the case study:



The combination of social services and rural activities involved in Social Farming opens up new sources of income for farmers, and the involvement of farm animals in these activities is becoming more and more popular. For this reason meeting the quality requirements required to provide clients with a reputable and high quality service is essential for all those who wish to be involved in this kind of activity. The Austrian Council for Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development (ÖKL) has devised a system for the certification of farms offering animal assisted work in accordance with specific quality guidelines. The agricultural chamber and the related federal ministries, the Social Insurance Institute (SVB) and Continued Educational Body for farmers (LFI) are involved in the certification process as co-operating partners.

The certification system is based on 5 pillars:

1. Farmers and their team partners from socio-educational or therapeutic fields need to have successfully completed the recommended ÖKL-LFI courses (animal assisted therapy and education on farms) or recognised equivalent courses, in order to permit further certification.
2. Farmyard safety is a primary concern in order to minimise the risks to clients, especially when farm animals are involved. An expert from the SVB checks if the farm fulfils all the safety requirements.
3. The farms are inspected by an expert of the agricultural chamber to optimise the living conditions of the animals and to guarantee animal welfare. This is carried out in accordance

with farm animal welfare standards provided by the animal protection act and the Austrian bio act. Feeding, medical treatment, etc. can be conventional.

4. The therapy animals are adequately socialised and trained. A professional and extensive examination verifies their suitability. Specific assessments consider the needs of different client groups and different animal species. The examination is done by ÖKL.
5. Veterinary surgeons attest to appropriate health care conditions.

Once they are certified, the farms can apply for funding, provided they comply with the rules established by the national guideline for quality management and funding as provided by the ÖKL and the Ministry of Agriculture. Certified farms receive a seal of approval from the authorising institutions to confirm that the service offered is of a significant quality and professional.

3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Certification requirements
- Quality management
- Animal assisted therapy
- Animal assisted paedagogics
- Farm animals
- Examination rules for farm animals
- Quality requirements

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | The target groups are double qualified farmers who hold additionally to their agricultural qualification a degree in an educational, therapeutic, social or medical field, and teams, in which one person is a farmer, and the other one holds a degree in an educational, therapeutic, social or medical field. |
| Purpose: | To increase quality management and professional qualifications for animal assisted therapy on farms. |
| What activities are involved? | <p>The certification consists of the following elements</p> <p>Qualification Training course 'Animal Assisted Therapy on Farms' - Basic information on animal assisted interventions, appropriate farm animal care, practical animal training, planning and practical application of animal assisted work with different client groups, specific requirements the farm has to meet, marketing, etc</p> <p>Farmyard safety - Marking of possible danger zones, no access to machinery, non-slip flooring and safeguards against tripping, appropriate covering of pits and potholes, adequate insulation of electric cables, etc.</p> <p>Animal welfare - Austrian animal welfare act, regulations in accordance with the bio act contact to fellow species - keeping of herds or groups, ample stable space, regular grazing opportunities, displays of comfort behaviour, etc. are compulsory. Declaration as an organic farm is not necessary.</p> <p>Selection and training of farm animals - Suitable character traits and specific capabilities, training methods with positive reinforcement, professional socialisation and habituation, knowledge about body language and stress signals, patient, respectful and affectionate handling, compliance with resting</p> |

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| | times of the animals, and examination of training lectures with the opportunity of optional subjects. |
| Who started the project/activity? | Austrian Council for Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development (ÖKL) |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | Animal assisted work is becoming more and more important and in particular the involvement of farm animals. It was recognised that many farms offering this kind of service did not have the adequate knowledge required to meet the basic quality and safety requirements. For this reason this certification system was implemented. |
| Does anyone else support the initiative? | Ministry of agriculture, AMA ('Agrarmarkt Austria', which promotes agricultural marketing in and of Austria), LFI, agricultural chambers, SVB |
| When was the initiative first started? | 2009 |
| What is the current status? | Ongoing project |
| Number of certified farms and clients | In May 2010 the ÖKL started to certify the farms and their teams. Now there are approximately ten farmers/teams across Austria offer ÖKL-certified AAP/AAT activities on farms. In total approximately 500 clients are benefiting from their improved offer each year. These figures are steadily growing. |
| Number of days of certification process | It depends on the size of the farm and the number of therapy animals however it averages 4 days per farm. |
| Geographical coverage: | National |
| Other relevant details: | The farms earn between 5% and 50% of their total income through their AAP/AAT activities. |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

Farm animals like cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, donkeys, poultry, rabbits, lamas and alpacas. This involves the holistic environment of the whole farm, e.g. pastures, stables, straw, hay.

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | The main source of funding is public, in particular the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water, with 30% EU co-financing. The project/activity (certification of farms/teams) is 100% funded by the RDP. |
| What is the size of the budget? | Non public |
| Has funding been applied for and <i>not</i> received? | The project has received all the funding it has applied for |

7. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

It would be important to create equal or comparable quality standards in AAP/AAT across Europe.

8. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | There is an increase in the quality standards of animal assisted therapy on farms, with a more professional service delivered to clients. Due to the strict requirements concerning welfare oriented animal husbandry and positive training methods, highest animal protection and welfare are guaranteed. |
| Strengths: | The certification results in the professionalisation of animal assisted therapy on farms, all of which have to meet comparable quality standards – the requirements are traceable, equal for everybody and a legal basis for the activity now exists. Certification enables farms to receive RDP funding. The project has developed very good cooperation amongst authorities in Austria, who all officially recognise the scheme. The scheme is now sustainable and has developed a consistent marketing approach and corporate identity which will raise awareness of Social Farming throughout Austria. |
| Weaknesses: | The certification process is a time consuming activity because of the on farm inspection, and it requires a lot of effort for farmers to prepare the necessary documentation. The 'team concept' is a prerequisite, so if the providers of the animal assisted work do not have a double qualification they must form a team with someone who has social care qualifications. If the team breaks up, neither of the former team members is allowed to work in AAP/AAT unless they find a new suitable partner. Sometimes it is difficult to convince individuals and organisations that quality and professionalism are essential for the project to become sustainable in the long term. RDP funding at "county-level" is dependent on political conditions which means that individual Austrian counties can run out of RDP funding and so farmers do not get subsidies for the animal assisted work although their colleagues in other counties do. |
| Wider Benefits: | A diversification into Social Farming enables farmers to develop an additional source of income. Farmers providing social services for people in need improves the image of agriculture to the general public. |

9. Future prospects and sustainability:

The aim is to establish as many AAP/AAT farms all over the country as necessary to cover the demand from clients. Social farming has started to become "mainstream", so farms who offer their AAP/AAT services with high quality standards are likely to have a profitable income from this work. The establishment of a Quality Management and Certification system is a positive example for other countries and can contribute to increasing confidence in those farmers who are offering these services.



The project is expected to be sustainable and self-sufficient. It is planned that the farms themselves pay for the costs of the certification process. Certified farmers and teams are obliged to charge a minimum of € 60 from their clients in order to receive RDP funding for their animal assisted work. ÖKL will continue the further development of the project and contribute to its improvement. Regular network meetings of ÖKL and the five former pilot farms which now act as role models for the other farms assure the ongoing development of the project.

10. RDP Links:

The project is 100% financed by RDP.

11. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

In promoting quality in animal assisted work, setting high safety standards, monitoring the correct handling of animals used as 'co-therapists', and encouraging professional working co-operations amongst interdisciplinary team partners, the ÖKL has developed nationally uniform standards for quality management in animal assisted therapy and education on farms. Farmers who offer AAP/AAT have to follow these quality management criteria in order to provide effective and responsible work for clients, and to guarantee the welfare and protection of the animals.

The overall value of the certification system in AAP/AAT is that it succeeded in implementing concrete quality criteria and establishing an open and flexible system which covers the diversity of providers, client groups, animal species and farming systems.

1.2 Training course “Animal assisted pedagogic therapy on farm” – Austria

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2. Short description of the case study:



In order to certify people who want to offer animal assisted pedagogic or therapy with farm animals in a professional and responsible way, in 2009 the Austrian Council for Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development started developing and delivering a training course. Farming and social qualifications must be combined in order to meet the requirements of diverse client groups such as people with special needs, children with behavioural problems and elderly people with dementia, hence a ‘team concept’ was developed specifically for this qualification.

Team partners attend the training course for animal assisted therapy and education on farms together. Upon successful completion they understand how to effectively use farm animals in assisting particular client groups. Normally two people form such a team, unless a single person holds both basic qualifications and therefore is entitled to complete the course without an additional partner.

As well as the basic qualification requirements needed to enter the course, certain personal prerequisites are also highly relevant - farmers should relate to socio-educational and therapeutic work by accepting various special needs and other target groups on their farm. It is also especially important that interested parties from social, therapeutic or medical fields should be open-minded in learning about farm life with all its requirements and certainly be interested in farm animals.

The first course including 252 teaching units was successfully implemented in the Austrian province of Styria. Due to demand two additional courses will begin in autumn 2010, in Styria and Salzburg. Courses are run and organised by the continued Austrian Rural Education Institute (LFI) in cooperation with the Austrian council for Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development (ÖKL), and with the collaboration of the Austrian Agricultural Chamber, its federal provincial ministries and the European Union.

Farmers and their team partners from socio-educational or therapeutic fields need to have successfully completed the ÖKL-LFI course or recognised equivalent training, in order to be permitted further certification.

3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Animal assisted therapy
- Animal assisted pedagogic
- Farm animals
- Education
- Training course
- Qualification

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | The main target groups are double qualified farmers who hold additionally to their agricultural qualification a degree in an educational, therapeutic, social or medical field, and teams in which one person is a farmer, and the other one holds a degree in an educational, therapeutic, social or medical field. |
| Purpose: | To increase quality management and professional qualifications for animal assisted therapy on farms. |
| What activities are involved? | <p>The course covers the following topics:</p> <p>Personality development - Each participant develops their individual perspective and how they can implement their specific AAP/AAT ideas, a plan is then developed to define their personal and operational goals. Participants also learn how to communicate with their future clients.</p> <p>Basic principles of AAP/AAT on farms – The fundamentals of human-animal relationships and ethics in AAP/AAT with farm animals is understood, and information is provided about project related experiences of the ÖKL and its work.</p> <p>Spheres of activity and client groups - different client groups including their specific behavioural pattern and clinical pictures are discussed, and participants learn professional ways to deal with the specific wishes and needs of their future clients. The fundamentals of education and psychology are communicated.</p> <p>Animal welfare and animal diet - Detailed information about farm animal ethnology for different animal species is provided, different forms of barns and stables are examined, which all meet the requirements of species-appropriate animal husbandry, appropriate diets of each species are highlighted, and disease identification is discussed.</p> <p>Operational requirements - Preconditions of stable construction are communicated by an expert of the Austrian Agricultural Chamber, legal issues such as social insurance law, trade law, fiscal law, building law, laws about animal welfare, and questions about liability and insurances are covered, and to guarantee maximum safety on farm, participants learn how to prevent accidents. General topics of how to make the farm easily accessible for</p> |

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| | <p>handicapped people or people in wheelchairs are covered.</p> <p>Selection and training of farm animals - Participants learn theories about socialisation and habituation of animals, attending practical lessons during which they can practice different training methods which are based on positive reinforcement, and learn to identify expressive conduct and stress signals of different animal species.</p> <p>Animal assisted work with clients - Participants attend AAP/AAT sessions with various client groups.</p> <p>Business management and marketing - Topics covered include income calculations, price policies, and work scheduling.</p> |
| Who started the project/activity? | Austrian Council for Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development (ÖKL) and Austrian Rural Education Institute (LFI) |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | Animal assisted work is becoming more and more important and in particular involvement of farm animals. The training course provides farmers and teams with knowledge and practical skills so the graduates are able to use farm animals in a therapeutic setting in a safe environment |
| Does anyone else support the initiative? | Federal Ministry of agriculture, AMA ('Agrarmarkt Austria', which promotes agricultural marketing in and of Austria), LFI, agricultural chambers, SVB |
| When was the initiative first started? | 2008 |
| What is the current status? | Ongoing project |
| Number of training course participants or graduates | Twenty participants graduated from the training course that ran from September 2008. The two training courses starting in September 2010 will be attended by approximately 40 participants. |
| Number of days of training course | The training course lasts one and a half year covering 34 days and 272 teaching units. |
| Geographical coverage: | National |
| Other relevant details: | The training course offers a lot of practical experience to the participants. The lecturers are international. |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

Farm animals like cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, donkeys, poultry, rabbits, lamas and alpacas. This involves the holistic environment of the whole farm, e.g. pastures, stables, straw, hay.

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | The main source of funding is public, in particular the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Environment and Water, with 30% EU co-financing. The certification project itself is 100% funded by RDP |
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| Has funding been applied for and <i>not</i> received? | The project received all the funding it has applied for. |
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7. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | This project has increased the quality standards in “Animal assisted therapy on farms” enabling farmers to offer a more professional service to their clients. Due to the strict requirements concerning welfare oriented animal husbandry and positive training methods the highest animal protection and welfare standards on participating farms are guaranteed. |
| Strengths: | The training course provides an additional qualification. The participants are already professionals in their field, namely therapists, direct-care workers for the disabled, or farmers. So they are either well versed in working with clients or in agricultural practices. A legal basis for the training course exists – it is approved by the Federal Ministry of agriculture. This project has developed very good cooperation between LFI and ÖKL. |
| Weaknesses: | If the participants do not have a double qualification the team concept is a prerequisite for certification. If the team breaks up, neither of the former team members is allowed to work in AAP/AAT unless they find a new suitable partner. |
| Wider Benefits: | Due to the diversification farmers have an additional source of income. Farmers providing social services for people improve the image of agriculture to the general public. |

8. Future prospects and sustainability:

The aim is to establish AAP/AAT farms across the country to meet the demand from clients. The qualification acquired through the course gives farmers the opportunity to offer high quality services and so develop new sources of income from these activities. The training course in AAP/AAT could serve as an example for other Social Farming initiatives in Austria, and for initiatives in other countries.

9. RDP Links:

The training course is 83% financed by RDP, the remaining 17% of the costs are paid by the participants.

10. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

The participants acquire experience in training farm animals and in animal assisted work with different client groups.

1.3 Guat leb'n association / Brueckler farm - Austria

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2. Short description of the case study:



Guat leb'n is a non-profit, non-party, and private association, located in Styria in the Eastern part of Austria on the farm of Hans Brückler. The Association was founded by Hans Brückler and Walburga Siebenhofer who wanted to create a social area within agriculture in which everyone could find their own space. The Association employs ten people, eight of which are directly involved in the care of people with special needs. The farm consists of four hectares, housing various animal species like horses, donkeys, sheep, pigs, chicken, and cats. There is no classical agricultural production on the farm which only provides food for the animals that are kept free-range all year long.

Two main activities are carried out, both linked to people with special needs:

- Work with disabled people in the field of transport services. A contract is agreed with the federal state to pay a certain amount of money to use the mobile services which enable clients to come to the farm and access the animal assisted program.
- Work with external disabled people, who visit the farm for a certain number of hours and pay for accessing the animal assisted programme.

The animal assisted program includes methods of care and maintenance, and individual games to develop physical and sensory perception, to enhance the memory, and to gain emotional competences. Animal assisted work is flexible and so can be tailored to the different needs of client groups.

The owners have been working together with the ÖKL for a long time, and since April 2010 the farm has been certified, recognising the professional offer available. The farm is also used as a best practice example for the students on the certification course of animal assisted therapy organised by the ÖKL (Austrian Council for Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development).

3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Animal assisted therapy
- Animal assisted pedagogic
- Therapeutic farm
- Animals and disabled people

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | People with special needs, children and young people with behavioral disorders, people with psychiatric problems, kindergartens and schools. |
| Purpose: | Therapy with animals helps people with various disabilities to improve their situation. The owners also want to increase the use of this therapy, to facilitate access to it for a higher number of clients and to raise awareness of animal assisted therapy within society. |
| What activities are involved? | <p>Several activities are carried out, and all of them are related to the specific needs of the clients and tailored to their specific situation. Some examples are:</p> <p>Donkey walking: the activity requires the client to know the animal and its behavior, and this understanding improves the self-esteem of the client.</p> <p>Duty and fun: the client learns a specific activity and celebrates the successful learning. For example the client learns how to clean a sheep, they need to learn where the cleaning utensils are, and how they should handle the animal. If the client manages to perform the task successfully, the event is then usually celebrated in a pub.</p> <p>Training on motor skills: these activities are considered very important as they allow the client to improve their independence.</p> <p>Learning to be polite and respect for animals and people</p> <p>To take responsibility by caring for animals: clients with low will power and low motivation can learn how important it is to give food and water to animals. They recognise that these animals would starve or die of thirst if they were not cared for. They take responsibility for the animals and then are also able to take responsibility for themselves.</p> |
| Who started the project/activity? | The owners of the farm started the project with the support of the Austrian Council for Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development (ÖKL) |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | Ms Siebenhofer wanted to start an independent business and has always been interested in psychology. Through her biology studies at University she researched the positive influence of animals on human beings and wanted to develop a enterprise that would support this. |
| Does anyone else support the initiative? | The project is supported by the Austrian Council for Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development (ÖKL). Positive feedback has also been received from the local community. |
| When was the initiative first started? | November 2004. The work with disabled people started on the farm in January 2005. |
| What is the current status? | Ongoing project |

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| Number of certified farms and clients | The farm was certified in May 2010. There are currently ten transport services clients, and ten to twelve regular external clients. |
| Number of days of certification process | 2-3 days per week. |
| Working/care hours for each client per day: | Some of the clients come 1 hour per week, others come 4 hours per week. |
| Geographical coverage: | Styria/ Austria. |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

The project utilises a range of farm animals including horses, donkeys, sheep, pigs and chickens all within the holistic environment of the whole farm.

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | The main source of funding is from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Environment and Water, with 30% EU co-financing. |
| What is the size of the budget? | Non public. |
| Has funding been applied for and <i>not</i> received? | The project received all the funding it has applied for. |

7. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

The project also aims to contribute to a healthy environment and to preserve the traditional culture of the region.

8. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | The clients are able to learn and carry out new exercises demonstrating improved mental and physical well being. Animal assisted therapy is increasingly perceived in a positive way, and is becoming more widely accepted. |
| Strengths: | Working on the farm brings about improvements in disabled people skills. The project has also enabled the farm to develop new sources of income. |
| Weaknesses: | It can be difficult to find employees who are willing to work with animals. The farm is dependent on grant fund which is exacerbated by the lack of understanding of the importance of animal assisted work on an official level. |

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| Wider Benefits: | Social Farming creates an additional source of income for agriculture. Due to farm animal pedagogic and therapy, communication with other institutions for disabled people becomes easier. |
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9. Future prospects and sustainability:

The development of animal assisted work is perceived as a positive opportunity for the future, particularly as these therapies are being used more frequently. The owners aim to be accepted by the federal government as a day care farm facility for people with special needs, which will enable clients to live on the farm.

10. RDP Links:

The project is already 100% financed by RDP.

11. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

Running a Social Farm requires commitment, idealism, discipline, and persistence when working with public authorities. The owners believe the farm is highly valuable for society and the local community in particular, but it is not an occupation to become rich from. The number of interested clients is growing and there is an opportunity to involve other farms to network and cooperate together.

1.4. The Hakamaa Estate - Finland

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2. Short description of the case study:

The Hakamaa estate is a farm house owned by the Eteva Federation of Municipalities, which organises regional services for people with severe disabilities. The farm is located in Nastola, near the city of Lahti in Southern Finland. The farm includes around 12 hectares of forest and arable land, some domestic animals including sheep, ducks, pigs, rabbits, hens, and cats, and buildings for living and farm activities. The success of the Hakamaa estate is the result of determined and persistent work, successful recruitment and continuous staff training.

3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Severe disabilities
- Residential unit
- Therapeutic community
- Finnish cultural and agricultural tradition
- PCP (Person Centered Planning) as a tool for empowering the clients.

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | People with special needs and developmental disabilities. |
| Purpose: | To provide new options for residential services and work for people with severe disabilities. |
| What activities are involved? | Caring for animals, gardening, forestry, housework, catering services, hobby crafts, exercise and trekking. |
| Who started the project/activity? | One of the managers of the Pääjärvi Institution had the idea to develop a farm as a living unit especially for those clients who had grown up in the countryside and might benefit from being in that kind of environment again. It took several years to convince the other managers to implement this idea however in 1996 financial support was secured and a proper farm was identified and bought with the permission of the federation. The project was started by the manager with the help of an employee. The current activities started in 1997. |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | In the late 80's people with severe disabilities were either living in an institution, small residential units or with their old parents. |
| Does anyone else support the initiative? | No |

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| When was the initiative first started? | In 1997 |
| What is the current status? | On-going |
| Number of clients: | Eleven adults aged 24 to 56 with learning disabilities, and thirteen adults with severe disabilities, aged 18 to 55. |
| Number of days per client per week: | Clients live in the farm. |
| Geographical coverage: | Fifty municipalities in Southern Finland with a population of 1.3 million people. |
| Other relevant details: | The employees at Hakamaa come from different backgrounds, are flexible and open to trying new techniques. There are ten counsellors with multi-professional educations including nurses, bachelors of social services, and agricultural technicians working in three shifts. |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

There is no real farmer working on the farm. The clients and the staff run the farm together without the pressure of making a profit, in fact as a public service unit they must be non profit making. So the products are utilised within the farm as much as possible. Taking care of the animals is the clients favourite activity; waiting for unborn animals, cherishing them and seeing them grow up. Gardening in the summertime, small scale forestry and environmental management are also very popular tasks.

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | There is a mix of public and private funding. The municipalities pay a certain amount of money per day per client. Every client is officially retired and contributes through their pension. |
| Has funding been applied for and <i>not</i> received? | The manager has not applied for RDP funding. |

7. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

The main challenge at Hakamaa is to ensure continuity for the clients. Those with severe disabilities find it challenging to adapt to new conditions such as different employees or new clients joining the unit. For this reason transition of any kind has to be carefully managed.

Since the renovation The Old House has received visitors and various meeting participants which has grown the catering service provided by the clients enabling it to become part of Hakamaa estate work activities.

8. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | The farm is considered a more convenient environment for those who have disabilities compared to more restricted places like traditional residential units. |
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| | The farm environment has proved to be a positive solution for those clients who have serious behavioural problems and used to live in suburban areas. |
| Strengths: | The well being of both clients and employees has improved as the farm offers meaningful work for everyone, developing a strong sense of community. There is an increasingly high demand for these kind of "out of institution" services. |

9. Future prospects and sustainability:

In the near future Hakamaa wishes to develop new activities which will increase the number and diversity of clients. In particular disabled clients from other residential units and day centres will be welcomed to the farm and take part in the farm activities. These clients may have physical disabilities, which require wheelchair accessible paths, doorways wide enough to visit the cattle shed etc.

10. RDP Links

The farm has never applied for RDP funding and at present there is no link with the RDP.

11. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

There have been many positive results from working within the combination of farm activities and rehabilitation work.

1.5. The Pegasos Project - Finland

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1. Short description of the case study:

The Pegasos Project is a two-year development project being delivered by a group of enterprises. The project is being implemented by the Etappi Group (Etappi-Ryhmä ry.) a Finnish child welfare development association. The members of the Etappi Group own a medical centre and six different units specialising in child welfare. The following are involved in the project: Toiska Foster Home in the village of Koskenkorva (Ilmajoki), the Koskenkorva Stable (Ilmajoki), Koskela Foster Home (Kurikka), and the Hepomäki Stable (Kurikka).

The project aims to develop child welfare services through a method involving the use of socio-pedagogical horse activities to teach and enhance children's social skills. These services will form part of the non-institutional services for child welfare. They will also be developed to meet the needs of local child welfare institutions. The development work focuses on the creation of various service packages. These activities can also be used to prevent challenging situations from escalating and leading, for example, to the placement of children or young people outside the home.

The Pegasos Project also aims to further develop the physical operational environments of the partner organisations by making them more functional and pleasant for customers, thereby increasing customer well-being. The safety of the operational environments will also be improved, while the expertise of the various operators will be enhanced through additional training.

2. Some key words to describe the case study:

- child care
- healthcare
- horses
- Social exclusion
- Social services
- Society
- Training
- Young people

3. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

Main target group:

The main target groups are children and young people receiving support from child welfare services. The service buyers are municipalities.

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| <p>Purpose:</p> | <p>Socio-pedagogical horse activities are a preventive and restorative method of social rehabilitation that can be used in the learning and enhancement of social skills. These activities help the participant to identify, deal with and externalise a range of emotions and to put them into words. The horse's everyday routines and the stable itself, with its rules and regulations, provide a structured setting for the activities. They also teach children and young people time management, help them to create a routine for their everyday lives, and encourage them to take responsibility. A horse in itself motivates them to participate and become active. The environment of the stable allows them to interact with others, and working there increases their self-knowledge, gives them confidence, and makes it possible for them to experience feelings of success and to gain insights into their own and other peoples characters.</p> |
| <p>What activities are involved?</p> | <p>The work involved in taking care of the horses is target-oriented according to the socio-pedagogical model. For example, when a young person interacts well with a horse, attempts are then made to transfer these learned models of interaction to the interaction between people in the young person's everyday life.</p> |
| <p>Who started the project/activity?</p> | <p>The Koskenkorva Stable is located in the courtyard area of the Toiska Foster Home. The stables were renovated in 2007, and the host couple of the Foster Home began to wonder how the environment could be better utilised within their activities. Ekola, who is familiar with socio-pedagogical horse activities, was working in the region, and the host couple contacted her in order to discuss ways in which Ekola's know-how and the interests of the Foster Home could be combined, and whether there were other operators who had similar development needs.</p> |
| <p>What was the inspiration or motivation?</p> | <p>The activities were launched on the basis of need. The target was to more fully utilise the environment of the stables in the courtyard of the Foster Home within the home's activities.</p> |
| <p>When was the initiative first started?</p> | <p>The project was launched in March 2009. In April 2009 a Project Manager was hired and a project employee in June 2009.</p> |
| <p>What is the current status?</p> | <p>On-going. The project will end in March 2011.</p> |
| <p>Working/care hours for each client per day:</p> | <p>The activities are not daily, taking place on average twice a week.</p> |
| <p>Geographical coverage:</p> | <p>Some of the clients come from the South Ostrobothnia area, others from all over Finland.</p> |
| <p>Other relevant details:</p> | <p>Responsibility for the development of the socio-pedagogical activities belongs to a vocational working group with experience and training in socio-pedagogical horse activities, child welfare and youth work, and horses.</p> |

4. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

The Koskenkorva Stable and Toiska Stable are part of the Toiska Foster Home farm. The stables are located in the same courtyard as the family's home where the young people, host couple and the hostess's mother live. The domestic environment consists of three buildings, and the cleanliness and aesthetic character of the environment is well looked after. This alone is reassuring and has a positive effect on people's mood in an otherwise challenging situation.

In addition to seven horses, there are rabbits, cats and three dogs on the farm. The employees' two dogs also wander around the farm daily. Five of the horses are utilised in the socio-pedagogical horse activities.

5. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | A grant from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development covered 75% of the costs, the owners contributed the remaining 25%. |
| What is the size of the budget? | 200 000 € |

6. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

N/A

7. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | <p>Four different product packages have been created during the project for the development of child welfare.</p> <p>The marketing material of the enterprises participating in the project has been updated. As a result of training events implemented with the assistance of the project, the employees' proficiency has significantly improved. Socio-pedagogical horse activities have produced encouraging results. 1-2 new jobs will be created in the participating enterprises.</p> <p>During the project, a process description of socio-pedagogical horse activities will be created, as well as a set of evaluation criteria to review the activities. The operators in the project are also considering whether the services could be offered to others.</p> |
| Strengths: | <p>Interaction with horses is an excellent tool for emotional education. A horse handled correctly rewards with instant obedience and respect. A horse will not obey when treated with aggression. This type of Social Farming is easy to integrate into stable life as the everyday routines of horse activities enable each participant to experience success and gain personal insight, thus enhancing self-knowledge, raising self-esteem, and inducing a feeling of well-being.</p> |

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| Weaknesses: | This form of service is new in South Ostrobothnia and indeed nationwide. There are no other full-time operators. Increasing buyers awareness of this service and raising credibility is a great challenge. |
| Wider Benefits: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 new jobs will be created as a result of this project. • When a young person feels better it eases the whole family's situation. • Costs to society are reduced. Preventive activities 1-2 times per week are considerably cheaper than, for example, child custody. |

8. Future prospects and sustainability:

The enterprises participating in the project will have product packages that they can utilise in their own activities. The activities will continue to be developed and the possibility of a partial commissioning of further development is being considered. The service units will be consolidated into the activities of the enterprises. The enterprises will strive to offer professionals further training relating to socio-pedagogical horse activities in the future.

9. RDP Links:

The project is being funded by the Rural Development Programme for Mainland Finland (Axis 3, Measure 312).

10. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

'Green Care' thinking is only now making its way into Finland, so the activities are something of a trail-blazing enterprise. As far as can be established, there is only one farm in Southern Finland offering similar services. This means that the results achieved in the project will also be a valuable source of information for others.

2. Case studies of Social Farming as a form of Multi Functional Agriculture

2.1 Development of a Social Farming Network – Ireland

1. Contact details:

Deirdre O Connor, University College Dublin, Ireland
 E-mail: Deirdre.oconnor@ucd.ie

2. Short description of the case study :

This initiative arose from the contacts and linkages established between Social Farming stakeholders in Ireland, who first came together during the SoFar project (Social Services on Multifunctional Farms - see www.sofar.unipi.it). A key aim of the SoFar project was to provide linkages between social farming practitioners, researchers and rural actors to enable them to compare, exchange and co-ordinate experiences and activities. In the Irish context, these meetings or “platforms” provided the first opportunity for Social Farming stakeholders to have this type of engagement. When the SoFar project came to an end in 2009, there was a view that such collaboration could continue through the formation of a Social Farming Network in Ireland. Subsequently, a “core” group of Social Farming interests (service providers, statutory agencies, community and voluntary interests and researchers) worked on developing the aims and objectives of such a network which can be summarised as follows:

- to be a representative forum to progress the development of the concept of Social Farming in a coherent and cohesive basis in Ireland;
- to gain acceptance for the idea and the potential of Social Farming as an opportunity for occupation, therapeutic intervention or simply as a medium for social interaction or any combination of the above;
- to create awareness among stakeholders (individual, institutional and statutory) of the well established existence of Social Farming in Ireland;
- to create awareness in the public and government spheres of the broader cultural, social and economic role of farming and promote the development of Social Farming among the farming community, people who use services and care service providers;
- to help farmers, gardeners and land owners to consider the social and economic benefits that Social Farming could bring to the countryside and society.

3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Social Farming
- Network Development
- Information Exchange
- SoFAR project

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

Main target group:

All stakeholders engaged in Social Farming in Ireland including service providers, statutory agencies, community and voluntary interests and researchers.

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| Purpose: | To be a representative forum to progress the development of the concept of Social Farming in Ireland and promote the development of Social Farming among the farming community, people who use services and care service providers. |
| What activities are involved? | Public events such as Information Evenings on Social Farming, which are run by network members, hosting of joint workshops and seminars particularly among rural development actors within the network, collaboration on joint funding applications to national or regional funding bodies in Ireland, hosting of study visits for network members. |
| Who started the project/activity? | This initiative arose from the contacts and linkages established between Social Farming stakeholders in Ireland, who first came together in the course of the above mentioned EU-funded research project entitled SoFAR. |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | The SoFAR project facilitated meetings between Social Farming practitioners, researchers and rural actors to enable them to compare, exchange and coordinate experiences and activities at a regional and national level. When the SoFAR project came to an end in 2009, there was a collective view that such collaboration could continue through the formation of a Social Farming Network in Ireland. |
| When was the initiative first started? | In 2009 |
| What is the current status? | Ongoing |
| Geographical coverage: | The island of Ireland. |

5. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | There is currently no budget for this initiative however some contributions "in-kind" are provided by institutions associated with stakeholders, i.e. support for meetings, office facilities etc. However, as noted early, the initiative is almost wholly run by part-time, volunteer effort. |
| What is the size of the budget? | None. See above. |
| Has funding been applied for and <i>not</i> received? | No funding applications have been submitted on behalf of the network overall. However, subgroups within the network have collaborated on joint funding applications on specific initiatives. Currently, a decision is awaited on an INTERREG application on which many of the network members co-operated. |

6. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | A greater level of collaboration between Social Farming actors – evidenced in such things as joint funding applications (in all cases these have been submitted – but not funded as yet) and participation in study visits and conferences. The feedback from network members is very positive, suggesting a "better than expected" result. |
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| Strengths: | It is drawing on the aforementioned experience, track record, knowledge, skills and commitment of a wide range of Social Farming interests (service providers, statutory agencies and government departments, community/voluntary interests, researchers and activists) who share a common view about the route to developing Social Farming in Ireland. This has proved very beneficial in enabling the development of a Workplan for the Initiative with clear aims, objectives and actions for the coming year. |
| Weaknesses: | The operational and management structure of the Network is still somewhat unclear - which affects decision-making and the work rate within the Initiative. This problem is very much related to the lack of funding and the consequent reliance on part-time, volunteer effort. |
| Wider Benefits: | Public events such as Information Evenings on Social Farming, which are run by network members, have had a significant impact in terms of raising the profile of Social Farming in Ireland – for example generating interest among the farming community, service users’ groups and the media. In the rural development arena, workshops/presentations given by network members have also attracted significant interest. |

7. Future prospects and sustainability:

Lack of access to funding sources has meant that the initiative remains dependent on a core group of volunteer, part-time contributors, which raises questions about the long-term sustainability of the initiative.

8. RDP Links:

Local Action Groups and the National Rural Network in Ireland are active members of the Social Farming Network. Local Action Groups have been instrumental in submitting joint funding applications to a range of agencies and programmes (including the INTERREG programme) and in hosting public events such as information evenings on Social Farming. The Irish NRN also has afforded opportunities to the Social Farming Network to hold workshops and other events aimed at raising awareness about Social Farming in Ireland.

9. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

The initiative shows the strong track record, lengthy experience and a wealth of information, knowledge and skills that exists among key stakeholders in Social Farming in Ireland, underpinned by good interpersonal relationships and a shared view about the need to co-operate to progress the development of the sector in Ireland. At the same time, it highlights and attempts to address some of the key weaknesses identified by Social Farming actors in Ireland. These include the “invisibility” and low profile of many of Social Farming initiatives; the lack of critical mass that exists within the sector; unfamiliarity/lack of contact with some of the wide range of policies/institutions relevant to Social Farming interests and the vulnerability that arises due to dependence on volunteer effort and a lack of funding opportunities.

2.2. Dunfirth Farm: Irish Society for Autism - Ireland

1. Contact details:

Dunfirth Farm
 Johnstown Bridge, Co. Kildare
 Website: <http://www.autism.ie/index.php/services>

2. Short description of the case study:



Dunfirth Farm is owned and operated by an association of concerned parents and friends of people with Autism. It is a not for profit charitable status organisation. Currently the farm is the basis of a community of 33 people, 31 men and 2 women, ranging in age from 18 to 48 years. The farm consists of 28 hectares, it was formerly certified as organic but has subsequently changed to a low input traditional management system. The aim of the farm is to provide a quality of life to service users, meaningful activity and some self-sufficiency for the community. There are also 12 acres for amenity woodland including a mix of larch and hardwoods and 4 acres hardwoods. On the farm they have also planted 500m of whitethorn hedging to develop a walkway. There are also a range of indoor activities including pottery, woodwork, nursery for amenity horticulture, art, computers, a small coffee shop and social & recreational skills.

3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Social Farming
- Autism
- Social Care
- SoFAR project
- Life Skills
- Community Living

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | Service users with autism. |
| Purpose: | The stated aim of Dunfirth farm is to provide a quality of life to service users, meaningful activity and some self-sufficiency for the community. |
| What activities are involved? | On the farm fruit and vegetables are cultivated and there is a range of animals including heifers, sheep, goats, pigs and a flock of laying hens that produce |

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| | eggs for the farms own use. Several batches of broiler hens are also reared for the table and turkeys which are frozen. Livestock are slaughtered in the local abattoir, frozen and used as needed. |
| Who started the project/activity? | The farm is owned and operated by an association of concerned parents and friends of people with Autism. The association has been in existence since 1963. In 1981, members of the society travelled to the UK and France and saw some community based rural projects that were reporting good progress in the care of people with autism. It was decided that a rural based service served their needs best and they felt it would give service users more freedom than a more custodial urban setting. A farm was purchased in 1982 and opened the following year with the first two service users in residence. |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | As mentioned above, In 1981, members of the society travelled to the UK and France to see some community based rural projects that were reporting good progress in the care of people with autism. Projects that were visited included La Bourgette farm near Aix en Provence, South of France; Somerset Court, Longford Court and Anglesea Lodge in the UK. |
| Does anyone else support the initiative? | The initiative is funded by the Health Services Executive on the basis of €85,000 per service user per year. The current payment for each service user is not sufficient to meet the costs. Deficits and new developments are funded from fundraising efforts, programmes that they make application under, lottery funding etc. The Department of Environment Social Housing Scheme has been very beneficial in terms of helping build housing for service users. |
| When was the initiative first started? | 1982 |
| What is the current status? | Ongoing. |
| Number of clients | 33 people |
| Number of days per client per week: | Clients live in the farm |
| Working/care hours for each client per day: | Service users are given structured activities arranged to include those they most want to participate in. A person centred approach is the ethos of this farm. On the farm the team will look at the areas of activity, how long is spent in an area, and whether the service user want to spend more time in that area or elsewhere. |
| Geographical coverage: | National coverage. |

5. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | The initiative is funded by the Health Services Executive (HSE). The Department of Environment Social Housing Scheme has been very beneficial in terms of helping build housing for service users. |
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| What is the size of the budget? | €85,000 per service user per year |
| Has funding been applied for and <i>not</i> received? | The Association has been trying to negotiate with the HSE to increase the payment in recognition of the comprehensive nature of the service, thus far unsuccessfully. |

6. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | The Association has won national and international recognition for its work with autistic service users and the farm model they developed on the original farm has been used as a model for the development of other communities in a number of European countries. |
| Strengths: | The basic philosophy and ethos at the farm is recognition of the individuality of people with Autism, their capacity to benefit from education, training and care, and their entitlement to participate in the development of society in accordance with their individual capacity and dignity as human beings. |
| Weaknesses: | The funding received from the Health Service Executive is inadequate to meet the needs of this high support service; each year there is a budget deficit of approximately €500,000; this deficit is met by fundraising efforts of the organisation and family and friends of service users. The Health Service Executive does not recognise the day activities programmes provided by the farm and so only contributes towards the residential aspects. |

7. Future prospects and sustainability:

The Association would like to see funding being delivered based on the individual needs of the service user, assessed on the basis of individualised care plans as the needs and supports required are varied and vary depending on the community within which they live. However, the Health Services Executive prefers an overall budget for the service. Although financial constraints may hinder the work it does not prevent the service from growing. In the last few years a large house and grounds have been bought, a 14ha farm in 2001 and another smaller farm in 2002.

8. RDP Links:

No formal engagement with RDP instruments to date but key personnel from Dunfirth Farm have been actively involved in the aforementioned Social Farming Network in Ireland and through that, have engagement with a range of RDP actors and institutions.

9. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

A person centred approach is the ethos of this farm. They use a 'Personal Outcome Measures' (POM) based on 23 standards of practice to measure their own standard of practice against. This is not an easy system to adhere to, but as an organisation, they are interested in the journey to strive for that.

2.3. Belmont Farm – Ireland

1. Contact details:

Belmont Farm
 Ferrybank,
 Waterford, Ireland

2. Short description of the case study:

Based on the outskirts of Waterford city, in the South-east of Ireland, Belmont Farm is a working farm embedded within an intellectual disability support service, a wider entity called Parkside Services. The farm is owned and operated by a charitable company limited by guarantee called Brothers of Charity Services that was established by the Brothers of Charity, a Christian organisation involved in the support and care of people who are marginalised by society. The farm and horticultural nursery are part of a range of social care occupation opportunities available to people who use the services. On a weekly basis there are 17 people using services on the farm (80% male) and 24 people using services in the horticulture area (85% male). A further 31 people are involved in the other workshop activities on the same site.

Belmont Farm itself is a 40 ha farm which is conventionally managed. All staff on the farm and garden are dual qualified in agriculture and horticulture, and have social care training. There are approximately 70 staff based at Parkside. These include the workshop, farm, and nursery staff as well as the clinical back-up of psychologists, medical support and administration. These services also provide residential accommodation for 23 of the people that use the services and who also participate in day service activities. This residential accommodation is provided within the community in 8 separate houses with occupancy ranging from one to five people per house.

3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Social Farming
- Intellectual Disability
- Tailored Services
- Community Integration
- SoFAR project

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | Service users with learning disabilities. |
| Purpose: | To provide social care occupation opportunities to people who use the services. The development of life and social skills as part of training has come much more to the forefront and Social Farming lends itself to this approach. |
| What activities are involved? | Dairy farming, beef production, vegetable production, tillage production, horticultural nursery, and companion animals. |
| Who started the project/activity? | The farm was part of an old psychiatric hospital. The former hospital treated patients with mental illness and alcohol abuse and also provided care for people with learning disabilities. When the hospital was closed the mental health care and alcohol abuse treatment were moved to another hospital. Since that time the current organisation has taken over the site and provided day activities for |

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| | service users with a learning disability. |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | In common with other services, there has been a movement away from providing vocational work programmes to programmes designed to be flexible to the service users needs. To this end, regular review of service users progress takes place to try and fit the services to the service user rather than fitting the service user into the available service. The development of life and social skills as part of training has come much more to the forefront and Social Farming lends itself to this approach. |
| Does anyone else support the initiative? | The Irish Health Services Executive provides the core funding for the service, effectively using this care provider on a sub-contract basis. |
| When was the initiative first started? | 1980 |
| What is the current status? | Ongoing |
| Number of clients | 48 |
| Number of days per client per week: | The whole week. |
| Geographical coverage: | South East of Ireland |

5. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | The Irish Health Services Executive provides the core funding for the service, effectively using this care provider on a sub-contract basis. |
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6. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | As this farm is part of a large care organisation there are Psychologists that work with the staff, these Psychologists believes that there is a lot of value in the farming work undertaken by service users. By coming to the farm the clients have a structure to their day. It gives them a sense of identity as they can say 'they work on the farm' and it provides social networks with a mix of people. The farm also provides a sense of the seasons and a sense of time and its passing. For some the work is relaxing, working with the soil and working with animals which the service users learn about including how to care for them. There is a sense of achievement. Some of the skills on the farm are quite difficult and require co-ordination e.g. during milking, service users need to learn to sequence their work and this can be difficult to learn, with a great sense of achievement when they do. |
| Strengths: | As an aim of the service is to help the person to be as independent as possible and gain experience of life and work outside the support organisation, the use of |

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| | <p>agriculture and getting to know people that come in contact with the farm can be of great benefit. The people who use services can build a relationship with suppliers, gardeners, veterinarians etc. who come on to the farm and these outside people have the opportunity to engage with the clients in a non-clinical environment.</p> |
| Weaknesses: | <p>According to the Farm Manager there is a challenge in managing a farm with such a strong emphasis on care. The farm has to look at its enterprises not just for their intrinsic farming value but also from what use this can be in the provision of therapeutic interventions. All farms have inherent dangers and a keen eye must be kept to ensuring that the environment of the farm does not present unreasonable risk to any of the participants. Resources are always scarce so financial constraints are ever present, but social care is the primary aim of this farm.</p> |

9. Future prospects and sustainability:

Belmont Farm would like to develop relationships with external private farms whereby the people using services could get the opportunity and experience of working or spending time on farms in the wider community. Of course this needs to be approached on a phased basis to ensure that the “host farmer” is comfortable with the requirements of having such people accessing their farm. Also there is need for backup especially where people may have a propensity to act strongly in an unknown environment.

10. RDP Links:

No formal engagement with RDP instruments to date but representatives from Belmont Farm are actively involved in the aforementioned Social Farming Network in Ireland and through that, have engagement with a range of RDP actors and institutions.

11. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

The Services of the Brothers of Charity at Belmont in Waterford utilises farming and horticulture to provide support services tailored to the needs of people with a learning disability to provide them with a good quality environment whilst teaching social and work skills to facilitate each person’s choice of living and personal growth.

2.4. National Care Farming Initiative – United Kingdom

1. Contact details:

E-mail: enquiries@ncfi.org.uk

Website: www.ncfi.org.uk

2. Short description of the case study:



The National Care Farming Initiative (NCFI) is a networking organisation developed to raise the profile and support the development of Social Farming in the UK. NCFI organises conferences and events and brings Social Farmers and their supporters together. It also undertakes and commissions research and works at getting Social Farming on the government agenda.

3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Advocacy
- Networking
- Policy Advice
- Support

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | Existing and prospective Social Farmers |
| Purpose: | <p>NCFI aims to provide the following activities:</p> <p>Networking and advice: delivering advice and support by and to practitioners, sharing of good practice, developing a long-term infrastructure determined by - and that meets the needs of - practitioners, and increasing access to information and good practices.</p> <p>Policy development: effecting change in government and its agencies, and other purchasers of care services, and to develop standards in the delivery of care on the ground</p> <p>Advocacy: providing representation within the major sectors that will benefit from Social Farming, in European research, and between referrers and providers of services.</p> |
| What activities are involved? | The NCFI delivers conferences, workshops, open days, networking, promotion, support, dissemination of research & information, website and a directory of Social Farms. |
| Who started the project/activity? | Four partner organisations set up the network - Harper Adams University College, The Arthur Rank Centre, the Interdisciplinary Centre for Environment & Society at the University of Essex and the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens. |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | A groundbreaking exploratory conference in March 2005. |

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| Does anyone else support the initiative? | A variety of organisations have provided funding for NCFI since early 2006. Initial support came from Scottish & Newcastle Plc and Natural England. More recent grant funding has been received from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. |
| When was the initiative first started? | Early 2006 |
| What is the current status? | Consultation is currently underway to develop a sustainable, independent long-term support organisation for Social Farming in the UK. |
| Number of clients: | There is no membership; however our supporters number nearly 900. 125 of these are practising Social Farms. |
| Geographical coverage: | The United Kingdom |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

N/A

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | Funding has been received from a variety of charitable organisations. At present the majority of funding comes from Harper Adams University College and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. |
| What is the size of the budget? | £96,000 a year of which £50,000 is provided in-kind by the partner organisations |
| Has funding been applied for and <i>not</i> received? | No |

7. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

NCFI objectives include:

1. Encouraging and providing a range of networking opportunities for practitioners and purchasers of services
2. Making available existing information and guidance, and determining further appropriate guidance requirements
3. Assessing the options for the medium term structure, and funding, for the network
4. Collecting and presenting evidence of the physical, mental, social and economic benefits of Social Farming, and commissioning research
5. Influencing the development of enabling policies to create an environment in which Social Farming can flourish.

8. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | Numbers of known Social Farms are growing and practitioners, who were originally isolated and unrecognised, now have a strong network of peers and are gaining credibility at government level for the work they undertake. |
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| Strengths: | Bringing Social Farmers together, raising awareness of their work and disseminating information through the NCFI website. |
| Weaknesses: | The organisation is not currently independent and has no membership structure meaning that it is not entirely accountable to its core stakeholders |
| Wider Benefits: | NCFI has been able to commission baseline research and recommendations into Social Farming in the UK, raised the profile and understanding of the sector across the UK, developed a pilot training course and helped enable a receptive environment for autonomous regional and country groups to flourish. |

9. Future prospects and sustainability:

It is expected that NCFI will develop into an independent organisation in 2011 and be accountable to its members. The four partners remain committed to being involved (if required) and funding is secured until 2012. Longer term financial sustainability still needs to be determined however, as do wider issues which could impact on the sector such as training, brokerage and quality assurance.

10. RDP Links:

It is probably inappropriate for NCFI to access core funding from RDP. NCFI has undertaken work however, with the RDPE Network, looking at where Social Farming has been supported under RDPE.

11. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

There is much goodwill and support to see Social Farming develop as an identifiable sector in the UK, but many key challenges remain, including further engagement of the agriculture, health, education and social care sectors, quality standards on the farms, the parameters in which a national support centre can (and should) operate and how to fund it sustainably in the long term.

2.5. Clinks farm – United Kingdom

1. Contact details:

E-mail: Doeke.Dobma@clinkscarefarm.org

Website: www.clinkscarefarm.org

2. Short description of the case study:

Clinks farm is a small farm that provides opportunities for people with mental health and other behavioural problems to reconnect with nature and their communities - which in turn offers them a pathway towards recovery, progression and social inclusion.



3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Clinks
- Norfolk
- Mental and physical health problems
- Horticulture
- Norfolk County Council

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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|---|---|
| Main target group: | People with mental health problems and dementia. |
| Purpose: | To create employment opportunities for those facing barriers in the open labour market due to their disability or mental health. |
| What activities are involved? | Tending vegetables and looking after animals |
| Who started the project/activity? | Doeke Dobma, the owner |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | Doeke's sister works in health and social care in Holland, where Care Farms are more common, and she gave Doeke the idea to start the activity. He also has a background of working in social issues - around 10 years ago he had a job which consisted of promoting social enterprises for the Shaw Trust. |
| Does anyone else support the initiative? | Clinks is tenant farm of Norfolk County Council, who also has a contributing and supportive role. |

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| When was the initiative first started? | 2010 |
| What is the current status? | Newly set-up, on-going. |
| Number of clients: | Less than 10 |
| Number of days per client per week: | 2 days per week |
| Geographical coverage: | Norfolk |
| Other relevant details: | Doeke's wider goals are to show farmers and public sector agencies that anyone with disabilities, emotional or social problems can improve their physical and mental health by working on a Social Farm. |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

N/A

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | Much of the work has been self-funded to date, but some funding is received through direct client payments. |
| Has funding been applied for and <i>not</i> received? | Yes – from various sources over the years. |

7. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

Doeke describes himself as “really passionate about Social Farming”, and believes it is beginning to make more sense to people in the UK.

8. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | Sotterley Farm is a Social Farm that Doeke has been running since 2008 in neighbouring Suffolk which supports up to 20 people. This farm has got six people back into paid employment. It was also a finalist in the Health & Social Care Awards in 2009. |
| Strengths: | Doeke is one of the most well-informed and active Social Farm operators in the UK, in terms of funding opportunities – and through active networking, lobbying and hard work he is on the verge of securing several bids from different sources. |
| Weaknesses: | See Prospects and sustainability, below |

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| Wider Benefits: | Doeke has spent considerable time trying to raise interest in Social Farming in the wider community - by holding seminars, running a road show, and making visits to farmers' markets. Indeed, to persuade public sector agencies he once took 12 commissioners on a 5-day visit to Holland. Says Doeke: "Health and social care officers got really excited – it provided a practical model of how Social Farming would work." |
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9. Future prospects and sustainability:

Although Doeke is on the verge of securing several funding bids, he says attending networking and other events, to keep himself informed and to lobby on behalf of his interests, is a 'lengthy and time consuming process.' Completing application forms also has its challenges - he says there is a lack of robust data to show the need for and benefits of Social Farming in the UK, so he has to draw on European experience. He is also critical of the time taken for bids to be appraised: he says this year's crops were planted, but he was still waiting to hear on funding decisions.

10. RDP Links:

Until recently, Doeke was not really aware of the wider RDP programme - until informed about it during a piece of NCFI research. However, he has long been aware of the local Leader programme. Indeed, he successfully lobbied to get the formation of Social Farms and social enterprises as one of the goals of his Local Action Group's Development Plan. As a result, he is now on the verge of securing a £50,000 grant to bid to build a 'log cabin' for use by the clients.

11. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

Doeke offers three areas of advice for actual and potential Social Farmers:

- The farmer must have a passion to go into Social Farming. He says it is not a 'gold mine' – rather, it requires time, patience, a willingness to make mistakes, and a commitment to helping improve the lives of those disadvantaged.
- *"Be prepared to fit in with other people's agendas"*. Some health and social care practitioners he encountered viewed Social Farms as like the farms that were once attached to psychiatric hospitals, of which they have negative opinions. Doeke got them to see Social Farming from a different perspective, furthering their agendas of 'valuing people' and 'promoting social inclusion'.
- Finally, work with regulatory agencies rather than against them - that way they will be supportive and adopt a relatively relaxed approach to potentially thorny issues such as health and safety.

2.6. Ticwood Care Farm – United Kingdom

1. Contact details:

E-mail: edwarddug@zen.co.uk

Website: n.a.

2. Short description of the case study:

Ticwood is a four hundred acre beef and sheep farm that provides educational and other learning opportunities to people otherwise at risk: primarily prolific offenders, and children with physical or learning disabilities.



3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Shropshire
- West Midlands
- Educational visits
- Offenders
- Children with physical disabilities
- Children with learning disabilities
- Learning opportunities
- City and Guilds.

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | The farm hosts educational visits from a broad range of clients, in particular prolific offenders and children with physical and or learning disabilities. |
| Purpose: | To provide learning opportunities for people with learning disabilities, and to prevent them from getting institutionalised. |
| What activities are involved? | The Social Farm offers an unusually wide range of activities, spread around the main farm. These include gardening, animal husbandry, woodland management, coppicing, sensory and fossil trails, a forest school and a wheelchair woodland walk. <i>"Diversity is our strength,"</i> says Edward. <i>"If people do not like gardening, then there is the space and opportunity for them to do something else."</i> |
| Who started the project/activity? | Edward and Anna Dugdale. |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | Edward has a background in providing supported living for adults with learning disabilities. Anna trained in both forest school leadership and life coaching, and has a special interest in helping children finding their vocation. |

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| Does anyone else support the initiative? | The two owners together with a gardener and a farm manager, who also work on the main farm, are working on the care farm. |
| When was the initiative first started? | 2005 |
| What is the current status? | On-going |
| Number of clients: | Total of approx 150-175 client days each week |
| Number of days per client per week: | Prolific offenders - groups of 5, three times per week; Children with physical and learning disabilities - six classes of 8-10, two or three times per week; Several other ad hoc groups, e.g. badly behaved young children - 3-10 per session, a couple of times per week. |
| Geographical coverage: | Most clients come from Shropshire, and from within the West Midlands region. |
| Other relevant details: | Some of what the farm provides fits directly into the school curriculum, e.g. 7 schoolchildren are doing a City and Guilds course in Horticulture. But part of what Tickwood delivers requires thinking 'outside the box.' Explains Edward, <i>"It's about saying, 'Let's go and try something and see if it gets people excited', and if it works we will go off in that direction. One size doesn't fit all – you have to give people different experiences."</i> |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

The project takes place on the family's 400acre beef and sheep farm, and its 270 acres of woodland. The latter provides a wide range of opportunities for activities with clients.

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | Edward's time is provided on a voluntary basis. He receives some funding from the Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme, but no other RDP funding, and some clients' expenses are paid for by various charitable trusts. |
| What is the size of the budget? | N/A |
| Has funding been applied for and <i>not</i> received? | Over the years Edward has tried to secure EU and other funding, e.g. for conversion of a redundant farm house into a support centre for difficult children - but his attempts have been unsuccessful. |

7. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

N/A

8. Results of the project/activity:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Direct Results: | Usage of the farm by pupils from Severndale School – who travel 20 miles each way to visit - has doubled. Parents and visitors speak about the benefits to children and others. <i>"You can see the impact as students grow and change,"</i> says Edward. He recounts the change in one boy, who, during 10 years at Severndale, never expressed an interest and rarely spoke. But at the farm he has slowly started to talk, first asking if he could push a wheelbarrow and recently holding a detailed 15minute conversation. |
| Strengths: | Edward's commitment is one of Social Farm's driving forces. <i>"To do care farming you have to be driven by emotion - and to be persistent,"</i> he says. <i>"Never let the 'red tape' stop you from doing something you believe in."</i> |
| Weaknesses: | All of Edward's work is entirely voluntary – he receives no payment. Getting organisations to recognise the value of the work, and pay for it, has been hard and threatens the farm's sustainability. Arranging supervision and transport of the children are other challenges. |
| Wider Benefits: | In addition to the benefits of being outside, in the fresh air, plus doing and learning about new and interesting things, Edwards says the 'feel-good factor' to the clients has multiplied over time. |

9. Future prospects and sustainability:

The Social Farm continues to host and build on a range of client groups, and in the future it hopes to develop a respite home for children with learning disabilities. But while Edward's commitment is unquestionable, he has been unable to secure support from his local council - and financial viability is a big problem. *"We are not sustainable,"* says Edward. *"The model we are trying to develop is to get projects off the ground and then, after a few years, hope they will persuade and generate enough interest among client organisations for them to take on the funding."*

10. RDP Links:

Edward has investigated RDPE funding, but he feels it is geared towards larger applications rather than individual farmers. He also feels that 40% funding is not big enough to get big projects established, and arranging and administering match funding from different sources is "a nightmare". Having investigated all aspects of the programme he feels an application through Leader will give him the best opportunities.

11. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

See Strengths, Weaknesses and Future Prospects, above

2.7. Carlshead Farm – United Kingdom

1. Contact details:

E-mail: gareth@carlshead.co.uk

Website: www.carlshead.co.uk

2. Short description of the case study:

Carlshead farm is a 500 acre mixed farm that has converted some of its sheep barns into fully equipped classrooms, an IT room, art room and other facilities for a Social Farm.



3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Yorkshire
- Young people
- Learning and/or behavioural difficulties
- Training
- Personal development
- Animal and horse care
- Mechanics
- Fishing
- Art projects
- Green woodworking – horticulture
- Employment

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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|---------------------------|---|
| Main target group: | Young people aged 14-16 with learning and/or behavioural difficulties, some of who may also have special needs - there is a 50-50 split, male-female. They have been excluded or are at risk of being excluded from mainstream schools, and are referred by the Local Education Authority. |
| Purpose: | The farm aims to give young people genuine job prospects, grounded in real practical skills. <i>"They like it here and they enjoy it,"</i> says Gareth. <i>"It's been a long time since some of them enjoyed themselves – and once you have that you can start teaching them things."</i> He adds: <i>"I hope most of them have been inspired into the satisfaction of work, earning and having a job – because they have no clue about that when they arrive."</i> |

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| What activities are involved? | The students are offered a broad range of alternative education opportunities including animal and horse care, mechanics, fishing, art projects, green woodworking and horticulture. There is a strong emphasis on personal development, and the students work towards courses accredited with the Open College Network, that provide GCSE equivalent points. |
| Who started the project/activity? | The Gaunt family. |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | Farm diversification was one driver for the Gaunt family, but Gareth also has a strong social interest. He read about Social Farming in mainland Europe and became impressed how in Scandinavia, for example, Social Farms are used to help children with behavioural and other issues. <i>"We have some big problems in UK society, and Social Farming really appealed to me"</i> he says. |
| Does anyone else support the initiative? | The farm has three full-time and four part-time staff. In addition to Gareth, there are three other Gaunt family members on the company board. |
| When was the initiative first started? | 2004 |
| What is the current status? | On-going |
| Number of clients: | 8 people, divided in two groups of 4 |
| Number of days per client per week: | Approx. 20-30 client days per week |
| Working/care hours for each client per day: | 5 hours per day |
| Geographical coverage: | Yorkshire |
| Other relevant details: | The Gaunts took out a £450,000 loan to establish suitable premises etc. A mentor, employed by Education Leeds, oversees student discipline and counseling – in addition to much of the associated paperwork. <i>"It leaves us to do what we are best at"</i> says Gareth. |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

See 'What activities are involved', above

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | Currently, funding is entirely from the Local Education Authority. |
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| What is the size of the budget? | Annual turnover is around £150,000 per year |
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7. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

The Social Farm was set up to help diversify the Gaunts’ main farming business. The two operations are well integrated and are run by the same family members - but are legally and financially separate. Gareth does not use formal teachers to support the students. Instead he uses people he describes as ‘highly motivated self-starters’ – who do not feel threatened by the students, but who can communicate well, have the energy to cope with them, and can inspire them. Using people like this, says Gareth, ensures that the teaching experience is more akin to an apprenticeship than a classroom.

8. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | Gareth is confident of the benefits his farm provides, saying: <i>“It teaches the young people life skills, and it broadens their horizons, so that they have a bigger view of what they could do in life...They come out much more rounded and confident – they have fun.”</i> |
| Strengths: | The LEA pays £20 per hour for each student. With eight students per day, five days per week, Gareth says the Social Farm is viable. |
| Weaknesses: | Although Gareth has a good support from someone at the LEA who he says <i>“really understands and believes in what we do, and gives us a lot of support”</i> , he worries about the potential consequences of relying on this one person. Funding pressures over the next few years could mean a reduction or termination in LEA referrals, says Gareth. <i>“We might get the carpet pulled from underneath us – I don’t know.”</i> He also does not have a written contract for the work he does. |
| Wider Benefits: | The Social Farm has also brought benefits to the Gaunts’ main farm. It has helped with farm’s diversification, and there is now much more vibrancy to the place. Says Gareth <i>“Parts of the farm that were never used before, such as the woodlands, are now used all the time. And there are now lots of staff around the place, rather than just one farmer, as before - the whole place is buzzing.”</i> |

9. Future prospects and sustainability:

The overall project has been entirely self-funded, apart from a small Rural Enterprise Scheme grant received after starting up. However, Gareth says the care farm should be paying £50,000-£60,000 pa for his management time and rent of premises, but at the moment can only afford around £20,000. *“I would love to be able to make a little bit of a profit to invest in new courses and equipment, but so far that has not been possible”* he says.

To improve Carlshead’s viability and profitability, Gareth would like to increase student numbers to 12 per day - diversifying to new client groups such as people with Asperger’s Syndrome, special needs or mental health problems.

Another plan is to set up a city based café, with links to a rare breed pigs care farm. He thinks this will provide his client with *“a far better working environment and job satisfaction”* than the mainstream jobs normally expected of them.



10. RDP Links:

Gareth has a good knowledge of European and other funding regimes but is critical of the programme's features. As he points out, it typically covers only around 40% of costs, requires match funding (which cannot be from the public sector), and the money is short term. The latter may work for start-up businesses, but his clients need continuity.

11. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

Gareth offers two tips for other or potential Social Farmers:

- First, make sure that the enterprise is run as a business and not a charity, trying to make a good financial return. He says: "*A lot of Social Farms are really underpaid for what they do and spend their lives chasing grants... If we are going to persuade other farmers to go into the sector, we have to show them they can take some money from it – and by diversifying they can keep their farm going.*"
- *You do not need to 'go big,'* is his second advice. Pointing to other farmers, he says, "*We have all got a toilet, a kitchen and other facilities... it can be as simple as that.*"

2.8. Future Roots – United Kingdom

1. Contact details:

E-mail: info@futureroots.net

Website: www.futureroots.net

2. Short description of the case study:

Future roots is a 30acre livestock farm including Simmental cattle, sheep, goats, chickens and pigs, which also has horticulture and other features, used by disadvantaged groups and other members of the community.



3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Dorset
- Livestock
- Horticulture
- Community
- Challenged/disadvantaged young people
- Access to countryside
- Age, disability and opportunity

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| Main target group: | Primarily young people who are challenged or disadvantaged, but the farm also provides opportunities for those who are not able to access the countryside through their age, disability or opportunity. |
| Purpose: | Julie and her team use the Social Farm to work with young people with autism, ADHD, Aspergers, and behavioural problems to enable them to develop a better understanding of the countryside and greater self-awareness. They focus on tailoring individual activities to help people learn practical skills, team working and how to better cope with life and personal relationships. Says Julie: " <i>They may not want to be a farmer, but they all learn employability and life skills that farmers have to have to survive.</i> " |
| What activities are involved? | All the Social Farm's programmes are designed around what people need, and the farm is adapted for this. For example, both the small and large animals have been halter trained - even the cows - so that children can work with them one on one. The horticultural activities provide the young people with the |

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| | <p>opportunity to learn how food is produced and to feel what it is like to nurture something – they love eating the tomatoes and peas from the greenhouse. The farm also has a river and small lake, which are used for canoeing and fishing activities.</p> |
| Who started the project/activity? | <p>The Social Farm was started by Julie Plumley, with the support of her partner James O'Brien</p> |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | <p>Julie has a farming background and has had a career in social services. These experiences convinced her that the farming environment was able to offer a range of therapeutic activity which would support the development of clients and the community. She wanted to address an issue she had witnessed during her time as a social worker. <i>"People were totally disconnected from the countryside and found it boring,"</i> she says. <i>"Nobody had climbed a tree or walked through rivers, or experienced being hot, cold or tired – it wasn't just the children, it was whole families. Nobody teaches them about the countryside or farming – they stay on computers all day. I wanted them to experience what I was lucky enough to have, and help them use those experiences to develop themselves and their life skills."</i></p> |
| Does anyone else support the initiative? | <p>The farm employs an additional member of staff full time and there are several volunteers who provide support all year round. More recently, with the support of LEADER funding, the farm has been working with the Local Authorities to secure Service Level Agreements to deliver on-going support work on behalf of the Councils Social Services department.</p> |
| When was the initiative first started? | <p>2008</p> |
| What is the current status? | <p>On-going</p> |
| Number of clients: | <p>Around 50-80 attend each week</p> |
| Number of days per client per week: | <p>This varies depending on the client's needs. Some attend a ½ day session a week and others attend up to 5 days a week. Julie is aware that clients can become dependent on the farm and so ensures no client is with them for too long.</p> |
| Working/care hours for each client per day: | <p>The farm runs two sessions a day of three hours per session. Some clients will attend both sessions and some only one.</p> |
| Geographical coverage: | <p>Dorset / South West</p> |
| Other relevant details: | <p>Julie has a background in mental health and social work. In 2007-08 she ran 'Farming 4 Life', a social enterprise that ran as a successful pilot for Future Roots. Other staff are experienced youth workers.</p> |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

See Activities, above.

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | Future Roots has been successful in attracting funding from their local LEADER Programme. After working closely with the Local Action Group and its staff they secured a grant of £128,600 to cover capital start up costs, Julie’s salary during the start up period and to establish a soups and smoothies social enterprise managed and run by the young people involved with the farm. This initial start up support has enabled Future Roots to apply for additional funding, and the Social Farm has now also attracted in a variety of educational grants, Service Level Agreements with Social Services, and Natural England’s Let Nature Feed Your Senses. (The latter is a stepping-stone to securing HLS money for educational visits, and is available to a limited number of care farms in England.) |
| What is the size of the budget? | The grant from LEADER totalled £128,600 |
| Has funding been applied for and <i>not</i> received? | Julie had previously applied for RDP funding through the mainstream funds under Measure 311, but was unsuccessful. |

7. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

Julie and her colleague’s background in social work and youth work influence the Future Roots approach – respecting people’s differences, offering equal opportunities, and believing that everyone can learn in the right environment. She describes the approach as ‘person-centered’, i.e. flexible for whoever wants to come. She says: “*We have developed programmes for those who are anxious, angry, scared, want to learn ... whatever their level, age and ability, we cater for them.*”

To ensure the Social Farm is embedded in the local community, and to help develop understanding of the conditions Future Roots clients suffer from Julie also includes members of the wider community in her training team. Local people who are skilled in traditional rural crafts deliver training to the young people on the farm, and the clients travel to other farms where the farmers carry out demonstrations of particular farming of countryside management techniques.

8. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | The benefits of the Social Farm are evident from several different perspectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents of children with Asperger’s have written to say: ‘<i>This is fantastic – I have seen my children happy for the first time</i>’, and ‘<i>All that they talk about is going back to the farm.</i>’ • Teachers attribute the positive changes in the young people’s behaviour and attitude to their time on the care farm • Young people say they enjoy coming, even if they did not look forward to it at the start. They have gained qualifications and talk of the difference Future Roots has made to them. |
| Strengths: | Julie’s farming, mental health and social work background, plus her motivation, undoubtedly help. In addition, all the Social Farms programmes are designed around what people need – and the farm is adapted for this. Future Roots is |

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| | also a working farm so the clients are able to participate in all elements of agricultural and horticultural practice. |
| Weaknesses: | <p>Like other UK Social Farms finance has been a major challenge. <i>"The money side of things has been awful,"</i> says Julie, <i>"A care farm was my dream for over 10 years, so we didn't want to wait any longer – we pushed the boat out and went ahead on our own, building up the farm and the project. We would have been better off if we had waited and looked for help from grants."</i></p> <p>Julie has also found it hard to trust other people to do things on the Social Farm, some of who may possess skills she lacks. She says that in the beginning she took on all aspects of the farm – everything from farmer, project co-ordinator and promoter to administrative worker and cleaner. <i>"I wanted to do everything myself. It got so big so quickly that it was really tiring,"</i> she says.</p> <p>Planning has also not been easy – it took a year to get planning permission to convert a barn, and these delays impact on the development of the Farm and the services it can offer.</p> |
| Wider Benefits: | <p>Julie believes most young people do not know what being part of a community is, or how to work together. However, she says that when they leave Future Roots they have developed qualities and skills that they will need in work or at home - even basic skills like using a hammer safely, and being able to manage their anger.</p> |

9. Future prospects and sustainability:

Future Roots is developing a new enterprise for young people, 'Soups and Smoothies for Schools' which will create products that the children will grow, produce and sell themselves. This will teach the young people a range of skills along the whole food supply chain, and help them learn the entrepreneurial skills required for a successful farm diversification.

The farm is also looking to secure funding to convert an agricultural building into learning space as they currently have more demand than they can accommodate. There has been a great deal of interest in the provision of services for older people suffering from dementia, particularly for those who come from a rural or farming background. Additional indoor space is required before this new set of clients can be accommodated. Julie and her team would also like to access further training in social enterprise development. This would help build on recent training staff have undertaken in areas such as food hygiene, health & safety, and first aid (The CEVAS course – described below - will be taken soon.)

10. RDP Links:

Julie's unsuccessful application for RDP funding has given her negative views of the Programme. She feels there was a lack of face-to-face support, and that the application process was time-consuming. She also felt contact organisations lacked knowledge of socially orientated projects such as hers, and that as a result she was passed between different contacts and organisations.

Despite this experience, she then applied for LEADER funding. She feels that the local nature of this Programme meant she could work with the LAG staff to develop her ideas, receive support with the application process and help build understanding amongst LAG members of what a Social Farm is and



what Future Roots in particular could deliver. She has also been impressed with the valuable support she has continued to receive in helping her manage the grant and deliver the LEADER funded project.

11. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

Julie offers three advices to other Social Farmers:

- Check first if any help or grant support is available. In her view, the bureaucracy of grants puts people off, but there are lots of opportunities and people that will help, time and patience are needed to find the right grant and the right support for you.
- She also suggests that Social Farms should consider developing several opportunities, not just a specific activity, and to establish contacts with other farmers involved in the sector to develop joint working.
- Finally, she recommends people consider doing the Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme (CEVAS), which she says can provide help in preparing farm visits and working with children and schools.

3. Case studies of Social Farming as a Recognised System of Social Care

3.1. Implementing a High Quality Intermediate Service for Care Farms in the provinces of Limburg and Antwerp – Belgium Flanders

1. Contact details:

Flemish Support Centre for Green Care, Remylaan 4b, 3018 Wijkmaal, Belgium.

Contact person (Antwerp province): Willem Rombaut.

E-mail: willem.rombaut@boerenbond.be,

Tel: 0032-16-286128

Contact person (Limburg province): Hilde Wexckhuysen

E-mail: hweckhuysen@kvlv.be , Tel: 0032-16-244922

2. Short description of the case study:



The project has been initiated by the Flemish Support Centre for Green Care ('Steunpunt Groene Zorg'), which has existed since January 2004 and aims to promote "green care" - the integration of care for a broad range of vulnerable social groups with agriculture or horticulture in Flanders. The aim of this project is to improve the quality of green care provided in the Flemish Province of Limburg and Antwerp through the provision of training for farmers who are managing "Social Farms".

3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Agriculture
- Disadvantaged people
- Healthcare
- Social inclusion
- Under-privileged people

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | Farmers who offer these green care services or wish to start this activity in the provinces of Limburg and Antwerp. |
| Purpose: | To support the further expansion and improved quality of green care provided in the Flemish Provinces of Antwerp and Limburg. |
| What activities are involved? | Training and services provided by the rural skills Centre range from courses focusing on how Green Carers can use horses therapeutically, to other aspects of Social Farming such as horticulture or involving animals in counselling techniques for children and young people. The courses provide information about holistic care issues as well as share knowledge about the needs of |

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| | <p>specialised target groups.</p> <p>In addition training covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical information about legislation; • comparative analysis of different types of Green Care organisational set-ups; • financing opportunities; • insurance requirements; • quality care and partnership procedures for working with professional healthcare institutions. <p>Further support is provided for all new Social Farms during their start-up phase in order to ensure a consistently high quality of client care.</p> |
| Who started the project/activity? | The Flemish Support Centre. |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | To improve the quality of green care services offered by the farms. |
| When was the initiative first started? | This specific training project started in 2008, but the Flemish Support Centre was established in 2004 and has implemented other projects in the framework of the 2000-2006 RDP. |
| What is the current status? | Ongoing |
| Geographical coverage: | Flanders provinces of Limburg and Antwerp |

5. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | Private and public funding, both national and EU. |
| What is the size of the budget? | <p>Province of Limburg - total budget € 33,890, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • € 6,608 EAFRD – measure 331 training and information of the RDP of Flanders 2007/2013; • € 15,420 national public funds • € 11,862 private funds. <p>Province of Antwerp - total budget € 45,565, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • € 8,885 EAFRD - measure 331 training and information of the RDP of Flanders 2007-2013; • € 20,732 national public funds; • € 15,948 private funds. |

6. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

A Quality Guide for Care Workers has been produced and a network of 'Green Care ambassadors' is being established to help encourage more farmers to diversify into social services.

7. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | <p>The training courses have enhanced both the general quality of green care provided in both provinces and the ability of individual farmers to deal with new situations and challenges that may be confronted during the day-to-day management of their Social Farm.</p> <p>Furthermore the promotion of the green care concept through the organisation of vocational training activities, press meetings and publications has stimulated an increase in the number of Social Farms, participating institutions and co-operation contracts between institutions and Social Farms.</p> |
| Strengths: | Improvement of farmers' skills in implementing green care projects, and the associated improvements in the quality of the service offered. |
| Weaknesses: | Uncertainty of funding. |
| Wider Benefits: | <p>The implementation of this project has stimulated coordination and cooperation between the RDP's Managing Authority with key stakeholders such as Government Ministries responsible for healthcare, welfare and education. In addition NGOs and farmers' groups have also been actively involved in developing the Flanders Green Care network, which holds useful demonstration value for other rural areas around Europe that are interested in identifying new sustainable economic diversification products and services.</p> |

8. RDP Links:

The project is co-financed by measure 331 of the RDP of Flanders 2007-2013

9. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

The training of farmers is essential to secure the provision of high quality care for clients. This training should ideally be part of the on-going development and promotion of the green care concept in Flanders. Networking is a very important aspect of establishing, expanding and improving the quality of green care facilities at a local and provincial level. It is also important to follow-up and continue coaching all new Social Farmers during their start-up phase

3.2. Capodarco farm - Italy

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| 1. Contact details: | Agricoltura Capodarco Cooperativa Sociale, Via del Grottino 00046 Grottaferrata (RM) Lazio. Website: www.agricolturacapodarco.it |
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2. Short description of the case study:

"Agricultural Capodarco" is a farm run by a social cooperative¹ for labour integration that is an enterprise which aims to integrate disadvantaged people into the labour market. It was started around 30 years ago by some members of a Christian inspired community in the area of "Roman Castles", close to the city of Rome. The farm has progressively reinforced links within the local area, answering several needs and requests expressed by local health and social services or directly by families. Agriculture activity has also been developed including conversion to organic and the certification of products.

Now, it is a multifunctional farm that includes disabled and socially excluded people as employees, trainers or volunteers engaged in occupational therapeutic activities. "Agricultural Capodarco" offers didactic activities for schools, a farm-restaurant and a food shop, equipped picnic and recreational areas, meeting facilities and initiatives concerning diverse social topics and issues, music concerts and parties open to all. These activities are part of a new concept of "social agro-tourism" that the farm is promoting.

The farm has become known and is used not only by disadvantaged people or the social sector, but also by communities from all around Rome.

3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Psychiatric patients
- Mental and physical disabled people
- Trained occupational therapist
- Disadvantaged people employ
- Integrated project
- Link with Local health agency, private farmers and local other subjects

¹ According to Italian law a cooperative could be "Social" due to two different criteria: a) it supplies socio-sanitary and/or educational services; b) its members belong to disadvantaged categories (such as disabled persons, prisoners drug addicted and so on). Capodarco was born as a B Type social cooperative with the aim to include disadvantaged people in the labour market but, at the same time, it supplies many social services.

- Regional and national network

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | The farm focuses on mentally and physical disabled people, psychiatric patients, former drug-addicts and former prisoners. |
| Purpose: | The aim of the activity is to promote the social inclusion of disadvantaged people, and to improve the quality of life of the local community. |
| What activities are involved? | <p>The cooperative involves people with physical or learning difficulties as workers and/or in occupational rehabilitative activities. Training activities are carried out in cooperation with local administrations and are partially funded through ESF.</p> <p>The farms production is highly diversified including organic vegetables, poultry, rabbits, daily production of over 1,000 eggs, honey from 200 beehives, olive oil from 13 hectares of olive trees and quality branded wine from the 5 hectare vineyard. The cooperative sells its own products direct, plus a wide spectrum of other organic labelled food products, in their farm shop "Capodarco Bio".</p> <p>The onsite restaurant offers a menu based on food produced on the farm. It provides special facilities to accommodate disabled persons and aims at having a "social" nature (e.g. hosting groups).</p> <p>More recently the cooperative has created a separate commercial society named "bio-solidale distribuzione" that is developing an organic food distribution enterprise. This was started through the delivering of the farms produce in to food shops in the city and surrounding areas of Rome.</p> |
| Who started the project/activity? | Don Franco Monterubbianesi, a catholic priest, found the Capodarco Community in the 1970s. In 1978 the community was created in Grottaferrata (Rome) and started agricultural activity with a group of disadvantaged people. |
| What was the inspiration or motivation? | The main motivations were to create a community based on equity, social justice and cohesion, and to create an economically sustainable farm which was also socially and ecologically responsible. |
| Does anyone else support the initiative? | The co-operative has received some support from local institutions, like the local Health Agency, for some special activities with disadvantaged people. Training activities are partially financed through the ESF, and some farm investments through the RDP. |
| When was the initiative first started? | 1978 |
| What is the current status? | The cooperative is always developing new activities. |
| Number of clients: | Eight disadvantaged people are members of the Co-operative, thirty clients are involved in several activities having been referred by local institutions, and ten people are involved as trainees and/or in occupational rehabilitative activities |
| Number of days per client per week: | 5 days per client per week |

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| Working/care hours for each client per day: | Sometimes a full day, sometimes half day for clients |
| Geographical coverage: | The area around Rome |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used

The farm has 4 hectares of land with a restaurant, a shop, offices and space for organising training activities, wine cellar, open space for educational activities with children and other people, open space for poultry, horticultural greenhouses, and accommodation. The farm rents a further 6 hectares of land with a vineyard and 15 hectares of olive groves.

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | <p>The Community benefits from fiscal advantages for disabled people being involved as workers. For people involved in occupational rehabilitative activities the community receives funds from the local Health Agency and the Municipality. Training activities are partially funded through ESF. In addition the community has received funding from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007-2013 RDPs • 2000-2006 RDPs • ESF 2000-2006 and 2007-2013 <p>Other initiatives are delivered with specific funding.</p> |
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7. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

N/A

8. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | An agreement with local institutions has been reached to improve the welfare system in the area. Thirty clients are successfully involved in the activity, and the Community is positively integrated into the local area. |
| Wider Benefits: | <p>The farm has progressively reinforced links within the local area, answering the diverse needs and requests of local socio-health services or directly by families. The cooperative is also integrated in multiple networks together with key stakeholders in both the social and agricultural sectors, at local, regional and national levels, including actors from public institutions and civil society organisations.</p> <p>In particular the cooperative is connected to an emerging <i>social farming network</i> in the region of Latium and works actively to promote the concepts and practices of Social Farming.</p> |

9. Future prospects and sustainability:

The co-operative is developing new activity in agreement with local institutions and farms with RDP funding.



10. RDP Links:

The Community has received funding in the previous period under the RDP 2000-2006 of Latium and has applied for funding under the RDP 2007-2013 of Latium but this has not yet been received.

3.3. Fattoria Casa Mia - Italy

1. Contact details:

Soc. Agricola di Zampini e Alberini, Via Cà Vignega 1, 37026, Ospedaletto di Pescantina (VR) Veneto Region.
 E-mail: giovanni.zampini@gmail.com
 Website: <http://www.fattoriacasamia.com/>

3. Short description of the case study:

The rural nursery at "Fattoria Casa Mia" can look after a maximum of 18 children, guaranteeing a service from 7.30 to 16.00. The clients can choose to use the service for the entire week, or a few days, either full time or just in the morning.



3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Innovation
- high quality service
- efficiency

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | Children |
| Purpose: | To deliver on farm child care |
| What activities are involved? | The farm, established in 2007, is a multifunctional enterprise consisting of 3 hectares with a peach orchard. It offers services to families, and dedicates part of its activities to welcoming school children who can learn about the day to day running of an agricultural holding and develop a greater respect and understanding for the environment. |
| Who started the project/activity? | The owners started the activities with children in 2007. In 2009 the farm was recognised as rural nursery by the Veneto region. |

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| What was the inspiration or motivation? | To find an additional source of income for the farm, and to offer facilities which were needed in the area. |
| Does anyone else support the initiative? | No |
| When was the initiative first started? | 2007 |
| What is the current status? | On-going |
| Number of clients: | 18 |
| Number of days per client per week: | 5 |
| Working/care hours for each client per day: | Average 8. Some clients stay only in the morning. |
| Geographical coverage: | Rural area in the province of Verona, north of Italy. |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

N/A

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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|--|---|
| What is the main source of funding? | Private and public funding were utilised including Measure 311: "Diversification into non agricultural activities" of the 2007-2013 RDP of the Veneto region. |
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7. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

N/A

8. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | The number of applications using the child care service is increasing, reaching 50 in the last year. This underlines the demand in the area for this type of service. |
| Strengths: | The farm has stimulated the creation of similar initiatives in other areas, both because of the types of services provided and of the quality standards fulfilled. |
| Weaknesses: | Some problems to have been encountered claiming the VAT allowance as a Social Farm. |
| Wider Benefits: | The creation of similar initiatives in other areas is perceived as one of the main benefits as they improve the level of services offered to rural people and so increase the quality of life. |



9. Future prospects and sustainability:

This farm will be self sufficient when funding ends.

10. RDP Links:

Some of the infrastructure developed has been part funded from Measure 311 of the 2007-2013 RDP.

In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

The rural nursery guarantees a diverse learning experience including agricultural, the environment and psycho-pedagogical learning. The farm is a best practice example of alternative child care options.

3.4. Farming Oasis “Baugiano”, The Youth Milk Shop - Italy

1. Contact details:

E-mail: info@baugiano.it

Website: www.baugiano.it

2. Short description of the case study:

The Baugiano Farming Oasis was created in 1999 following the granting of an EU Rural Development contribution for the establishment of Young Farmers. In 2005 a number of Social Farming activities began to be developed that eventually flourished into 24 different teaching and training projects covering archaeology, rural life (eg. how to make bread), environment and rural traditions. These have been attended by roughly 12,000 children per year. Through the organisation of tours, hikes and other Oasis-based events, particularly during the summer, weekends and other holidays, the Farming Oasis has gathered together a community of 400+ families, many of which attend regularly. Short-term accommodation is provided in themed bedrooms, where the themes appeal to children (Pinocchio, Peter Pan) as well as adults (Leonardo, Dante, Boccaccio).

The farm houses a series of different initiatives including the Toy Factory which is a laboratory where traditional rural toys are reconstructed and produced by the disabled staff for exhibition and sale. Children are also encouraged to assemble the toys as well as play with them. A Neolithic site, complete with likenesses of prehistoric animals has been reconstructed on the farm for use in the applied sessions of the archaeology themed courses. A “Nature-Path” inside the forest has also been constructed, leading from a small zoo to a picnic area with a small theatre, where shows are hosted during the summer.

In 2006, an EU Rural Development grant (Measure 9.2) contributed to the renovation of parts of the Oasis infrastructure. Besides the occasional hiring of independent expertise to design and carry out some of the activities, the Farming Oasis employs 3 disabled workers and collaborates with local Health Agencies, the local Town Council, media agencies and a University. The farm produces enough products for its own use, for use in the social and formative activities, and to supply the cafeterias of local schools which are subsidised by the Council to purchase farmers’ market products. What remains is sold in a small farm shop however it is sold quickly as demand is always significantly higher than supply. Because of the Oasis’s recreational, as well as formative orientation, the owner prides herself on the farm being an alternative *“not to restaurants, but to shopping malls”* and to some extent also amusement parks.

The last project launched “La latteria dei ragazzi” (the Youth Milk Shop), benefited from an 18,000 euro grant from EAFRD Measure 311 of the RDP for the Tuscany region. The project is targeted at children between 11 and 16 years of age, hailing from several Italian provinces. The project idea came from a summer holiday experience, during which the young people learned how to make yoghurt and decided to establish a small yoghurt business themselves. The Tuscany regional Association of Breeders (ARA – Associazione Regionale Allevatori) granted four of the girls involved in the project a Diploma in Milking. The Youth Milk Shop produces 2,400 pots of yoghurt a month which

are marked "Prodotto Italiano Campagna Amica" (Italian product – Friendly Countryside) and distributed to the cafeterias of local schools.

3. Some key words to describe the case study:

- Organic farming
- Social inclusion
- Disadvantaged people
- Young people
- Energy efficiency
- Youth social enterprise

4. Practical details of the social farming project/activity:

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| Main target group: | The Farming Oasis activities are targeted at children, families and schools. |
| Purpose: | The Baugiano Farming Oasis aims to " <i>nurture future generations</i> ". Its goal is to communicate understanding and disseminate knowledge, awareness and a sense of responsibility in order to educate young people to understand and enjoy an ethical and sustainable agriculture. According to Farming Oasis the best way for children and young people to learn is through hands on experience, especially when that experience is entertaining and rewarding. |
| What activities are involved? | <p>The Baugiano Social Farming activities are mainly of three types:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employment of young people with special needs: the Oasis currently employs four young people with special needs, three of them were employed following an agreement with the Humanitas cooperative (active in the provinces of Florence, Prato and Pistoia) and the local Health Agency of Pistoia (ASL); they take care of the animals and work in the Milk Shop. The fourth is part of the Baugiano core staff and works as a kitchen assistant. 2. Support to families through the provision of opportunities to learn, get acquainted with, and experience the benefits of the land, the landscape, the countryside, and rural life: families are offered the chance to spend time together with their children in a healthy, relaxed, formative and recreational environment. Parents are encouraged to interact with their children instead of "dropping" them in a separate space within the farm. 3. Teaching and training activities for schools: these are many and varied however within this context, the Youth Milk Shop in particular consists of the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Milk Day: a one-day event where young people teach families how milk is produced and processed. • The Milking Training Course: 15 practical lessons aimed at obtaining the Regional Association of Breeders' Diploma in Milking. • The Youth Milk Shop's "White Bar": open during the weekends, from March till July, managed by the Youth Milk Shop's young people. • Training course in cooking and pastry making: 10 practical lessons aimed at learning how to produce the products sold at the "White Bar". • The Entrepreneurs Week: a one week event held in July aimed at developing entrepreneurial skills. |

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| <p>Who started the project/activity?</p> | <p>The Youth Milk Shop project was born during a summer holiday in the Baugiano Farming Oasis during which the young people learned how to manage a farm, tend to animals and harvest crops. They joined in food preparation activities, learned how to make yoghurt, and decided to establish a small yoghurt business themselves. The Baugiano Farming Oasis provided them with the necessary infrastructure, skills and knowledge to establish the "Youth Milk Shop" Association. The project also benefited from the support of the Farmers Association Coldiretti of Pistoia. The Coldiretti officers taught the young people about the current problems in agriculture, the importance of quality in agro products and the strengths and benefits of farmers' markets.</p> |
| <p>What was the inspiration or motivation?</p> | <p>The young women and men taking part in that summer holiday were already visiting the Oasis on a regular basis, joining in several recreational and formative activities. Establishing a yoghurt production business was an opportunity for them to bring their interaction with the oasis to the next level. They could "settle" in the farm, making their presence even more regular. It was a chance for them to take responsibility and a chance for the Baugiano owner to trust them. In the past, a similar relationship would have been established between grandparents and grandchildren; indeed, the owner of the farm intends to recreate the exchange of knowledge and experience that she herself had with her grandparents. Something the farm owner would like to call "farmerization" (where "to farmerize" means "to make someone a farmer"). Nowadays it is harder to pass this kind of knowledge and enthusiasm on to one's own children, therefore it is essential to find new, innovative ways to build communication with the next generation.</p> |
| <p>Does anyone else support the initiative?</p> | <p>Coldiretti - both at the national and provincial levels.</p> |
| <p>When was the initiative first started?</p> | <p>The Baugiano Farming Oasis itself was started in 1999, following the granting of an EU Rural Development contribution for the establishment of Young Farmers. Social Farming activities began in 2005, and The Youth Milk Shop project was initiated in the summer of 2010.</p> |
| <p>What is the current status?</p> | <p>The activities are ongoing, further developments are planned and currently the farm is self sustaining.</p> |
| <p>Number of clients:</p> | <p>The farms Social Farming activity including the Youth Milk Shop works with 12,000 children per year and 400+ families.</p> |
| <p>Working/care hours for each client per day:</p> | <p>On average, each client participates 2 days per week for an average of 3 hours</p> |
| <p>Geographical coverage:</p> | <p>There are different levels for different activities - National, Regional (Tuscany), the Pistoia Province, and the countryside surrounding Quarrata</p> |

5. Details of any agricultural/horticultural resources used:

The farm produces milk and organic products, such as honey, vegetables, extra-virgin olive oil "Toscana IGP Montalbano bio" (PGI - Protected Geographical Indication); ancient wheat Verna Bio. The revenue from the direct sale of agricultural products accounts for only 10% of overall farm

income, however there is strong evidence that the demand for recreational and formative services provided by the farm, which account for 40% of income, would not be as strong if the farm stopped producing food. In other words, the agricultural products are used to raise awareness of the farm and encourage demand for the farms other services. Food production therefore is important not because of its intrinsic value but because of its derivative value; food production is a “tangible” commodity around which a number of “intangible” services are created, and most importantly demanded.

6. Financial aspects of the project/activity:

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| What is the main source of funding? | <p>The farm received RDP funding in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1999 - the equivalent of about € 20,000 for the establishment of young farmers. • 2006 - RDP 2000-2006 Tuscany region, measure 9.2: € 35,000 for the renovation of infrastructure. It was about 35% of total expenditure, the rest being private funding. • 2010 - RDP 2007-2013 Tuscany region, measure 311: € 18,000 EAFRD funding for the Youth Milk Shop. It was 25% of a total € 72,000 investments, the rest being private funding. |
| What is the size of the budget? | 100,000 € |

7. Other important aspects of the project/activity:

The project has ongoing collaborations with local Health Agencies, the local Town Council, University and media agencies.

8. Results of the project/activity:

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| Direct Results: | <p>The results so far are better than expected. As previously mentioned, the Farming Oasis has developed 24 different teaching and training projects attended by a community of 400+ families and 12,000 children per year.</p> <p>The Youth Milk Shop is managed by about 20 children between 11 and 16 years of age, producing 2,400 yoghurt pots per month that are distributed to the cafeterias of local schools. The yoghurt has been marked “Prodotto Italiano Campagna Amica” (Italian product – Friendly Countryside).</p> <p>Since December 2010, the Youth Milk Shop has joined two weekly “Campagna Amica” markets in the Pistoia Province, and the opening of the self-managed “White Bar” is planned for March 2011. The White Bar aims at being a recreational and cultural spot as well as a “company store”.</p> |
| Strengths: | <p>It is rewarding for children to produce something using their own hands – something that is tangible and good on so many levels, for the palate, for others to use, and because it is a chance for them to collaborate with their peers and build something together.</p> |
| Weaknesses: | <p>It is difficult to balance the Milk Shop time demands with other commitments the young people have. It can also be difficult to convey the “seriousness” of the topics tackled - the fact that it’s fun but it’s not a game.</p> |

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| Wider Benefits: | The young people's attitudes have certainly changed in that they feel they are now the owners of the land, the business, and the products. Anyone else witnessing this process can also "buy" into the idea and appreciate what the project is doing. |
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9. Future prospects and sustainability:

The future prospects of the Youth Milk Shop will depend on the young people themselves, on what they learn, on their bond with the countryside, on their ability to be entrepreneurs. New funding might be needed for new developments – but the current state of activities and infrastructure is self-sufficient. A full evaluation is planned at the end of 2011, a positive financial balance is expected and all revenues will be reinvested in the project. Being a member of the Youth Milk Shop is free to all who participate, this includes the milking and cooking courses. The people contributing are reimbursed in kind with meals and accommodation for two days, and yoghurt and cheese to take away. But what they really get in return for their work is a fun weekend among friends and in the countryside - Baugiano has basically become their second home.

The aim is to foster the birth of new farmers, new agricultural entrepreneurs. The Oasis aims to function as an agricultural school and provide youngsters with rational reasons as well as emotional to become farmers.

10. RDP Links:

Funding has been granted in the current programming cycle (EAFRD 2007-2013) under Measure 311; plus in past programming period (2000-2006) under measure 9.2; and in 1994-1999 for the establishment of young farmers.

11. In conclusion - lessons to pass on:

Ordinary School provides young people with the theoretical and technical knowledge necessary to become qualified for a job. Baugiano, on the other hand, wants to give them a taste of what it feels like to be an entrepreneur, to go through the risks and dreams associated with entrepreneurship. Baugiano takes care of aspects that traditional school neglects like entrepreneurial skills and capacities, self-sufficiency and independency, self-esteem and assertiveness, and marketing. Baugiano wants to make sure that young people feel that they can do the job, whatever job that is. What is presented is not just a product or a training course but a way of life, where economy is not separated from other spheres of life. By managing a bar they get to experience the real thing, instead of studying or reading about how a business is managed. It is a practical, not just theoretical, demonstration that the countryside far from being boring and obsolete can be creative, young, innovative, fun, useful and productive. For a farmer who does not have their own children to pass farming knowledge and passion on to, it is extremely rewarding and satisfying to see young people interested in activities that so many of their peers consider heavy or dirty. It just makes everything, all the sacrifices, immediately meaningful and worthwhile. Just one glance at these young milkers, and one knows one is doing the right thing.