

NCFI E-Bulletin - September 2009

What is care farming? Your views!

Thank you for the phenomenal response so far to the questionnaire I posted out asking for your thoughts on what care farming is really all about. It is of paramount importance to us that your views are represented and that care farming is advocated in a way that is recognised by all those who already consider themselves involved in it or wish to be.

After a week's holiday my post tray is positively bulging with feedback and opinions on such contentious statements as, "Any farm that welcomes visitors is essentially a care farm", or "A care farm is a commercial environment". If you've got strong opinions on statements like this and want your views represented then please do return the questionnaire. I've attached it to this email too, so you can fill it out electronically and return it to us that way.

If you'd prefer to print it off and post it, you can send it FREEPOST (no stamp required) to Debbie Wilcox, NCFI, c/o Harper Adams University College, FREEPOST NWW8123A, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8ZA.

We'd like to round up the results by the end of September and get back to you in October with the outcomes so you can see what others like you think of care farming.

NCFI Assistant Coordinator Post

Thanks to some much needed funding secured from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation we are now in a position to recruit a part-time Assistant Coordinator to move the National Care Farming Initiative forward and help deliver its work programme over the next 12 months. Full details and an application form are available here <http://www.harper-adams.ac.uk/staff/vacancies/vacancy.cfm?id=259> so if you're interested in helping to develop the care farming movement nationally do take a look at the details. If you'd like to have an informal chat with me, Debbie Wilcox, then do give me a ring on 01952 815335.

Updates from around the UK

So much is now happening all round the UK with individuals and groups putting on events, offering advice or just informally getting together that it's difficult to highlight them all! We will keep developing the microsite pages so in time you will have a contact in your area updating information about what is going on, but in the meantime, please bear with us. A small flavour of some activities are below:-

A meeting is taking place on Friday 18th September of the East Anglia Care Farmers Group. More details on this can be found on the East of England section of our website <http://www.ncfi.org.uk/eastengland/> or contact Martin Stearman on 01449 673331.

Care Farming West Midlands is proceeding apace since their successful bid for funding from the Regional Development Agency earlier in the year. To find out more about what they are up to and for details of their "starter pack" take a look at the West Midlands section of our website at <http://www.ncfi.org.uk/westmidlands/> or contact Jon Dover on 01905 622218.

Scotland has a strong and very enthusiastic steering group working hard at developing care farming. For more information you can look at the Scotland section on our website at <http://www.ncfi.org.uk/scotland/> or contact Martin Robb on carroglen@btinternet.com.

Following a successful seminar in Co. Leitrim in Ireland which was attended by a number of individuals from Northern Ireland there has been a lot of interest expressed in seeing care farming developing in N.Ireland which dates being suggested for a seminar or conference there. I'll keep you posted!

Let Nature Feed Your Senses!

LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) and the Sensory Trust have partnered up to deliver an exciting new project called "Let Nature Feed Your Senses", which is aimed at getting disengaged young people, disabled people and older people out onto farms and nature reserves, to encourage a lifelong love of nature through food and farming. The project team would love care farms to come forward as potential host sites as there is obviously so much cross over with the ethos of a care farm.

The farm needs to be an active farm with a strong environmental focus run by a farmer who is prepared to develop a long term relationship sharing the farm and his/her knowledge of nature with disabled and disengaged groups and individuals. We think this sounds right up a care farmer's street and there is the financial benefit of a payment of £100 - £150 (depending on group size) per visit.

To find out more please visit www.letnaturefeedyoursenses.org, or contact James Taylor at LEAF on 02476 413911 or email james.taylor@leafuk.org

Media

A number of interesting articles have come out over the summer on different projects and aspects of care farming or animal assisted therapy. I've linked to a selection of them below.

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/country-view/Healing-fields-help-ease-scars.5640566.jp>

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/health/article6798241.ece

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/animal-magic-how-a-farm-is-helping-autistic-children-1771003.html>

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2009/08/19/112392/risk-factor-using-animals-to-help-a-young-person-with-challenging.html>

CEVAS Training

We have developed, in conjunction with the Access To Farms partnership and the CEVAS programme, a course designed for prospective care farmers; you need to have undertaken CEVAS Part 1 training first as the 1 day care farming builds on the initial CEVAS course.

The next care farming module will be run on Tuesday 9th March 2010 and if you would like more details please contact Ian Egginton-Metters on 01373 302204 or email ian@fcfcg.co.uk

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You have received this email because your details are held on the database of the National Care Farming Initiative. If you no longer wish to receive updates or have your details held on the database, please email enquiries@ncfi.org.uk with your name and postcode with DELETE in the subject line.