



## Workshop 1.2: **Care Farming: Challenges in innovations across the domains of agriculture and social care** – Defining and measuring care farming, and investigating its borders

Convenors: **Dorit Haubehofer, Marjolein Elings and Jan Hassink**

### **What care farming is**

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There are many definitions of care farming, mainly based on academic or external observation. In our paper we report the results of a study that set out to uncover a definition of care farming grounded in the perceptions and vocabulary of the community of interested parties established in the UK by the National Care Farming Initiative (NCFI). Our paper explores the differences and similarities amongst the perceptions of care farming of key sub-groups (e.g. care-farming practitioners and service-commissioners) and defines care farming for the purposes of the NCFI based on the study results.

### **The added value of care farms and effects on clients**

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In the Netherlands there are different inventory studies that describe the added value of care farms. At the moment the care farming sector is looking for proof of the effectiveness of care farms. Last year two effect studies have been presented. One investigated the effects for people with a psychiatric or drug-addict background, the other focused on demented elderly. In this workshop we would like to give an overview of the results found in the different studies. This forms a basis for discussion among the participants of the workshop. Do they recognize the results?

### **Rural Action Learning – Designed to promote competencies and strengthen participation. A study on the effectiveness of out-of-school learning on farms**

Johanna Schockemöhle

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The evaluation results show that Rural Action Learning promotes the identity formation and the acquisition of participatory competence of children, young people and adults, thus contributing effectively to their participation at regional level. A two-group pre-test and post-test design was used to evaluate the effectiveness of Rural Action Learning. Participants in learning activities were asked to complete a questionnaire before and after the activity in order to detect changes in the characteristics of regional identity and participatory competence. In addition, interviews with organizers of learning activities provided comprehensive data to identify driving factors on the success of these measures.



## Workshop 1.2: **Care Farming: Challenges in innovations across the domains of agriculture and social care – Aspects of care farming at the farm level**

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### **Care farming in Swiss farm households – Gender aspects in pluriactivity**

Hans Wydler and Miriam Gairing

Agroscope Reckenholz-Tänikon Research Station (ART), Switzerland

Within the concept of pluriactivity, we were interested in how care farming in Switzerland affects family, household and farm from a gender-related point of view. Aspects of a traditional distribution of role-concepts were found, like a higher investment of time and responsibility by women, male underestimation of the work-time invested by women and female emphasis on family integration. But aspects of change in role-concepts were also detected. The participation of men in care farming is remarkable, both sexes share the values and targets concerning care farming and they are also both highly involved in the relationship with the service-user.

### **Quality management and certification requirements for animal assisted education/therapy on Austrian farms**

Luisa Demattio, Christiane Gupta, Silke Scholl and Kornelia Zipper

Austrian Council for Agricultural Engineering and Rural Development (ÖKL), Austria

The ÖKL has devised a system for the certification of agricultural establishments offering animal assisted education/therapy (AAE/AAT) with team partners from socio-educational or therapeutic fields. The Austrian program for agricultural development 2007-2013 authorized national guidelines for quality control and federal funding. Quality management requires: subject-specific qualification of all team partners and specific examination of therapy animals, their appropriate maintenance and health care, and general safety measures. The agricultural chamber and the federal ministry, the social insurance institute and continued educational body for farmers, implement the necessary certification of agricultural establishments in co-operation with the ÖKL.

### **Care Farming in Austria – A spatial analysis of state of play and looking out on the near future**

Tatjana Fischer

University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Austria

Since 1996 “assisted living on farms for the elderly” has been established in Austria. This offer is being promoted to be income-generating. Current discussion still misses reflection of spatial aspects, although their impact on either success or failure is essential. This contribution points out the relevance of spatial aspects on “assisted living of the elderly” from the perspective of spatial planning and rural development. It also comprises uncertainties relating to the questions, if and where care farming gained more popularity among the elderly in the near future, and how the potential demander’s profile will look like.

### **Stabilizing a care farming project: Challenges and importance of supporters**

Renate Renner

University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Austria

Innovation always means combining old and new practices. In the case of care farming, this means that the daily necessities of the agricultural business need to be in accordance with clients’ needs. This paper focuses on “emotional stress” that was observed to possibly be a problem for care farmers when implementing the new practice. The attention is on from whom care farmers obtain certain forms of support, respectively, how they profit from being affiliated with a group of care farmers. In order to adapt this research, innovation theory is combined with a qualitative network approach.



## Workshop 1.2: **Care Farming: Challenges in innovations across the domains of agriculture and social care – Aspects of care farming at the regional, national, international level**

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### **Understanding the development of regional foundations of care farms in the Netherlands. Contributions from transition theory and institutional entrepreneurship**

Jan Hassink, John Grin and  
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Wageningen University, The Netherlands

We analysed the development of regional foundations of care farms in the Netherlands. The initiatives were analysed with a conceptual framework based on transition sciences and institutional entrepreneurship. The presence of a committed institutional entrepreneur with vision, strategic competences and leadership to develop alliances, institutional support and legitimacy in the agricultural and care sector is important for developing a successful regional foundation of care farms. History and culture of regions and organisations are important aspects to take into account.

### **From care to social movement: a case study of the Farmer-Veteran Coalition (USA)**

Eric Doidy

INRA, France

This paper presents an ethnographic investigation on an American movement founded by a group of organic farmers who took part in the recent anti-war protest, that seeks to help the veterans from Iraq or Afghanistan (some of them suffering from PTSD) with the idea that running an organic farm can be part of a healing process for them. The paper describes how the movement use very personal or private feelings and relationships to make a public statement. It shows how the actors draw a form of social criticism from such issues as “green care” or “agrotherapy”.

### **Regional platforms for green care farming in the Netherlands**

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and J. Francisca Caron-Flinterman

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With the increasing number of green care farms in the Netherlands the organization model for green care farmers shifted from a national support centre to regional platforms. We studied whether the diversity in roles of such regional platforms varying from client allocation and financial sourcing to just organizing farmers’ study groups affected regional development of green care farming. Results indicated that financial resources and farmers’ participation in networks differed among regional platforms while farmers within all regional platforms perceived problems with client occupancy.

### **Care farming as opportunity for knowledge systems, learning and collective action across Europe**

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Willem Brandenburg

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This paper deals with the topic of green care and several of its interventions, mainly care farming and animal-assisted interventions. It explains the corresponding terminology and definitions and examples of Austria and the Netherlands are described. Further, it focuses on the possibility of national and international cross-interventional exchange, what still hinders such exchange, and also the benefits of such an exchange: opportunities for knowledge systems, cross-interventional learning, and collective action. These developments could have a clear effect on the urban-rural relationship, the EU-intern collaboration, and the linkage of Eastern European countries to the rest of Europe.