

# Norfolk Farm Education Link

Newsletter – Spring 2005

As I write this it still feels rather wintry, but the signs of spring are there in the countryside – new-born lambs and primroses! It is just the sun which seems to be missing! This term we hope that our host farms will be busy with groups of visiting students and that in schools, the incubators will be working hard to produce chicks to thrill everyone. If you haven't ever done either of these things, I would heartily recommend it to you. Don't forget that the Clan Trust sponsors our £50 travel grants for farm visits.

We hope that you find our twice-yearly newsletters informative. Up to now we have been able to use the internal school mail for delivery, but that will shortly become closed to us. We are therefore having to rethink our distribution methods. As we are in the 21st century, a sensible way forward would seem to be posting the newsletter on the NFEL web site (which we have been doing for the last few issues) and notifying you by e-mail that the next issue is available. We hope that you will give us a few moments of your time and send us your email address so that we can deliver to you, personally, in this way. Email us at [news@nfel.org.uk](mailto:news@nfel.org.uk). Thank you!

## Websites that might be of interest

### For primary schools

<http://home.freeuk.net/elloughton13/sfarm.htm> or  
[www.snaithprimary.eril.net/farmhou.htm](http://www.snaithprimary.eril.net/farmhou.htm)

Snayfwickby farm is a set of resources for Year 2/3 designed to stimulate discussion about a small English farm. Specific information is deliberately limited so that children are encouraged to use other sources.

You can take a look around the farm with three different characters ... each has a different point of view about life on the farm. By letting the mouse pointer hover over the scenes and the characters you can gain additional information. Children's directional skills will certainly be developed.

As children get to know the farm, they could be asked to draw a map of it.

The drag and drop activity will help them. Farms are full of smells and sounds. They can't manage the smells on the site, but Bella has some of the sounds. Children listen to the sounds and use the drop down menus to record ... these will print.



Life on the farm isn't always simple ... things do go wrong. What would you do if ... encourages children to think about 'disasters' ... use the drop down menu to select a situation and there is a text box for children to record their thoughts.

Well worth a visit – children would enjoy this as part of a farming topic.

[www.friendlyfarmclub.com](http://www.friendlyfarmclub.com)

This is the National Farmers' Union junior website.



### For middle/secondary schools

<http://www.greenhayes.com/>

This web site has comprehensive information about Greenhayes Farm in Cheshire. You can click on a field or building on a map of the farm and it brings up pictures and information about it. There is a page



about farming there in the 70's, and a seasonal journal (last updated January 2005). Part of the farm is covered by the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and you can find out how that affects the way each of the fields is farmed. There is much more too, and would be of value in supporting work on farming particularly encouraging students to research for themselves.

<http://www.openfarm.org.uk/intro.shtml>

Stitches Farm website is primarily aimed at Year 5 and 6 pupils. It has been around quite a long time and pages referring to a sponsored quiz in 2001 which was postponed because of Foot and Mouth are still there. But don't be put off, the main farm site is still as useful and through it children can visit the farm and research for themselves different aspects of farming without leaving the



## What's on offer

- Free visits to Norfolk Farms and trial use of Loan Boxes – see contacts. (Subsequent loans at very reasonable rates.)
- New programme of National Curriculum linked farm and countryside visits; and free teacher pre-visits and use of resources in the Schools Barn; Easton College Farm Information Pack on sale (modest price to cover photocopying costs) at Easton College
- The Women's Food and Farming Union offers free speakers for Primary Schools – contact Felicity Daniels on 01493 730338.
- Food and Farming Challenge (NEICG) is a free opportunity for schools to work with farming-linked industry – contact Roger Stanton on 01603 622991.
- Free visits to the Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) demonstration farm in Norfolk at Morley. To arrange a demonstration please contact Roly Puzey at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ, Tel: 024 7641 3911.



## Contacts

### Farm visits:

Marilyn Farnham-Smith 01603 471990  
[marilyn@nfel.org.uk](mailto:marilyn@nfel.org.uk)

### Easton College and Loan Boxes:

Moya Myerscough  
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## Acknowledgements

The Editor thanks all those who have given their time to contribute to this newsletter.

NFEL is particularly grateful to the farmers who welcome visitors to their farms.

Please send comments, articles, photographs and pictures resulting from farm visits to the editor at any time for inclusion in the next issue (by e-mail, if possible, to [su@nfel.org.uk](mailto:su@nfel.org.uk)).



### Royal Norfolk Show

29 & 30 June 2005 – School Trails

School trails, kindly sponsored by Norwich Union. School parties visiting the Royal Norfolk Show enjoy a discounted rate of £2.00 per school child – these fees can be reclaimed by returning completed school trails.



Trails are graded for different abilities – choose from the following:

#### Key Stage 1

- Citizenship – Care of the Countryside.
- Contrasting Habitats – Woodland & Lake
- Living & Growing – Reception & Nursery
- I-SPY – Animal Mini trails (Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Goats, Small Livestock, Alpacas)
- Beekeeping
- Machinery
- Materials for a Purpose

#### Key Stage 2

- Citizenship – Care of the Countryside
- Contrasting Habitats – Woodland & Lake
- Livestock trails – Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Goats, Small Livestock, Alpacas
- Beekeeping
- Machinery
- Materials for a Purpose
- Mathematics Trail
- Water is Life – RNAA Look & Learn Exhibition

#### Key Stage 3

- Citizenship – Care of the Countryside
- Machinery
- Mathematics Trail
- Science & Geography Trail

### Visit the Norfolk Showground

FREE of Charge throughout the year

Schools are invited to bring organised parties of children to use the Woodland and Conservation areas for educational activities.

- Guided Tours can be arranged
- Tree & Wildflower identification
- Contrasting Habitat trail available
- Hard roadway system for coach parking
- Toilet facilities

#### For entry forms/further information contact

Linda Rose,  
Education & Marketing Co-ordinator,  
Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association,  
Norfolk Showground, Dereham Road,  
Norwich NR5 0TT  
Tel: 01603 731966  
linda@royalnorfolkshow.co.uk  
www.royalnorfolkshow.co.uk  
Registered Charity N° 289581

### Heartsease First School

visit Easton College Farm

Three year 3 classes had very enjoyable and informative visits to Easton College. The children gained a lot from the experience. The following is an account by one pupil who participated in the visit.

I was very excited about the trip because I wanted to see the lambs. We soon arrived at the farm. I thought it looked very interesting. Then we went to the school barn to put all of our things on the tables in the barn. The group one went on the field and played a game called 'pow-wow'. What we had to do is, we had to turn out of the big circle and we had to find the different things on the field that we could see, smell, hear, taste and feel. After that we went to the stile and it was made of a tree trunk and it was over a fence. Then we went back to the barn and we wrote all of the things we could see, smell, hear, taste and feel. Next we came back outside over the stile, through the field, through the gate and ran across the other field to the great oak. After that I was feeling quite tired, but we had to see how many people we could fit round the oak tree and we fitted six people around it. Then we ran to see how wide the branches were and there wasn't enough people. Then we went to see if there were any creachers living in the tree but there was only 2 or 3. After that we went to the secret garden and saw the squirrels and we done a colour chart and I found 29 colours. Soon we went out and went to change our shoes and wash our hands. I thought, this morning was great now it's time for dinner I've got some lovely hot soup. After lunch we went through the foot dip and went to the other gate and we had to cross a road. Then we walked to the sheep and at the back of the pen there were the sheep that were going to have twin babies and at the front were the ones that were going to have 1 baby. After that we went inside and saw the triplets. Next we saw the pigs. I thought they stank and I asked a few questions.

## RESOURCES! RESOURCES! RESOURCES!

From Nursery, KS1 to KS4



TRY US!  
NFEL can help YOU!



Whether you need a farm link, an incubator with brooder, a mini farm, a food game, seed samples, model machinery, information on animal welfare, GM, world fair trade or story books with a non-fiction loan for Literacy ... we have resources linked to the National Curriculum to support your classroom teaching and learning.



For details of our extensive loans relating to farming, healthy eating and the environment please contact:

Moya Myerscough, Head of Schools Liaison, Easton College, Easton, Norwich, NR9 5DX  
Tel: 01603 731257 Fax 01603 741438 Email: moya@nfel.org.uk

Bookings now being taken for the coming year. Further details of the programme for each day available from Moya Myerscough, Head of Schools Liaison, Easton College, Easton, Norwich NR9 5DX. Tel: 01603 731257; Fax: 01603 741438; moya@nfel.org.uk;

Topic	Key Stage	When and approx duration	Max numbers	Cost/child
Farm Tour Guided walking tour of the college livestock units – sheep, pigs, poultry, dairy and fallow deer	1, 2, 3, 4	All year ½ day (2 hrs)	40 + adults	£1.50
Norfolk Farming and Food Guided walking tour of the college livestock units and activities in the Schools Barn centred on farm produce and the food we eat	1, 2	All year Full day (4 hrs)	40 + adults	£2.00
Easton Countryside in Autumn & Winter Caring for animals in the autumn and winter. What's in the poultry unit (Oct–Dec)? Meet a tree! Tree seed collecting, leaf shapes and bark rubbing	1, 2	Oct–Feb Full day (4 hrs)	40 + adults	£2.00
Introduction to Habitats at Easton Observing, surveying and recording. Pond life, minibeasts, red squirrels, dormice, harvest mice and fallow deer. Woods and hedgerows	2	Sept–Oct & Mar–July Full day (4 hrs)	30 + adults	£2.00
Living and Growing How do plants and animals grow? Young animals on the farm and seed sowing	1 science	Mar–May Full day (4 hrs)	30 + adults	£2.00
Habitat fun Pond dipping, minibeast hunting and exploring the Dell conservation area	1, 2	Sept–Oct & Mar–July ½ day (2 hrs)	30 + adults	£1.50
Use the Schools Barn resources for your own follow-up work. Free half day if following a Farm Tour or Habitat Fun. Otherwise £1.00 per child.	All	All year	40 + adults	(£1.00)
Dairy Special Guided walking tour of the college farm ending at the dairy unit to watch milking	1, 2, 3, 4	All year 1.30–4.15	15 (minibus group)	£1.50
Study visits for older students Biology, geography, rural studies fieldwork. Subject to Easton staff availability	older students	½ day (2 hrs)	Teaching group	£1.50
How does your school garden grow? Introducing children to the fun of looking after their school gardens. Plans and plants, tools and skills	1, 2, 3, 4	Feb–July Full day (4 hrs)	15 (minibus group)	£2.00

### Browick Road Infant School

#### visit Easton College Farm

Three classes of year 2 children visited Easton College farm, and all agreed that it was one of the best visits that they had ever had. Everything was well organised and the people guiding them round the farm gave the children just the right amount of information. The walk, barn, activities and location were great. The children learnt a lot and had fun.

### Easton College Farm

Yesterday we went to Easton College Farm. I liked Charlie, he showed us round the cows. First the cows went mad, running about. A cow called Jackie nearly ate my arm! Secondly we went to the partridge pen, I learnt that partridges need food, water, air and warmth to survive. We saw lots of piglets fighting over food. Charlie told us that piglets have to leave their mum soon because they cannot survive on just their mum's milk. We saw some deer, most of the does were hiding at the back while the buck was coming up close. I thought a fawn was born. We got to feed the buck, his antlers were fuzzy and one of them had a hole in it. The cows get milked 2 times a day, 4 o'clock in the morning and 4 o'clock in the afternoon. I learnt that Silage is made from sweet corn, leaves and sugar beet. After lunch we had a quiz and a game to do for fun, we made Snap dragons about farms and animals. That was the best trip ever!

Emily

### Easton college farm

One of the things I learnt is that cows can produce 40 litres of milk a day. I liked when the cows knocked the gate down and went into another field. I learnt that poultry is birds like chickens and turkeys. I liked feeding the buck. He wasn't as shy as the other deer. I learnt that milk has to be 3 degrees centigrade. Silage and corn equals milk. I liked watching the pheasants. A female pig is called a sow and some of the sows had some piglets. Whilst we were looking at the ewes Lisa said, she wanted the ewes to have twins but they actually had triplets. And some of the triplets were moved because, the ewes couldn't produce enough milk for all of the triplets. Whilst we were in the barn I learnt how to make a snap dragon and it was great fun. And I also learnt what crops are made into, like barley can be made into different juices and all different things for different crops made into many other things. I had a wonderful day at Easton college farm.

Christopher

# NFEL

www.nfel.org.uk

Norfolk Farm Education Link (NFEL) is a sub committee of Norfolk Education Industry and Commerce Group (NEICG) which aims to promote business awareness and education for students in schools and colleges in and around Norfolk. It is a charity governed by a group of Trustees who are prominent local business people.

Registered Charity N° 284518



## NFEL Aims

- To promote an appreciation of the relevance of farming in society;
- To assist teachers to establish a network within farming and allied industries;
- To enable children to study the complexities of modern farming;
- To facilitate the understanding of life in the countryside;
- To provide opportunities for those working in agriculture to have a better understanding of education today and discover how the needs of Society are best met within the constraints of our present education system; and
- To establish links with other national and local organisations which share similar aims.

## NFEL members represent

- Norfolk Farmers;
- Norfolk Schools;
- Country Landowners Association;
- Easton College;
- Norfolk Education Committee;
- Norfolk Rural Life Museum;
- Eastern Counties Newspapers;
- National Farmers' Union;
- Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association;
- Women's Food and Farming Union; and
- NEICG.

Ken Leggett (Chairman)

## NFEL Newsletter

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### Additional Copies from

Ken Leggett: 01603 408823

## News from Easton College

### How does your (school) garden grow?

Many Norfolk schools are transforming their school grounds and gardens. The DfES Growing Schools programme, Healthy Schools, sustainability and citizenship programmes are all challenging schools to return to developing and using the outdoor classroom.

There is a great deal of support available within the county and at Easton College we are now offering a day visit programme to help groups of children develop gardening skills. This is in addition to the popular farm tours, Food and farming, Living and growing and Habitat days that are already part of our programme.

Our own garden – behind the Schools Barn – is undergoing a mini transformation and we are working hard to provide a wildlife friendly garden which will include plots of farm crops, a demonstration four course rotation vegetable plot, butterfly and bee border and sensory border. As with any garden it takes time to develop and we hope that visiting school groups will help us with the work.

## Curriculum loan collection

The generous gift of additional incubators and brooders from Bernard Matthews have enabled us to meet all requests for these loans this spring – they are more popular than ever. We do recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment as the demand seems to increase every term.

The curriculum collections are now available in smaller project packs as well as the full collections for each key stage. Details available from us at Easton College.

College has made a larger storage room available for the NFEL collection and provided special shelving and the necessary software to record the items as a part of the college resources collection. We are most grateful for this generous support. Ruth Cannon will be spending a lot of time this year entering each item onto the library catalogue but will feel the benefit of the system when she checks items in and out with a scanner rather than manually.

## A HUGE thank-you!

The NFEL Committee would like to express their sincere gratitude to all the local organisations and businesses, which provide NFEL with funds and resources to support schools. Our special thanks go to The Clan Trust, which has provided annual transport grants for school farm visits, the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association for regular funding of curriculum materials, Mr Bernard Matthews for donating a large number of incubators and brooders, Easton College for the storage space and staff who administer and monitor the loans and the many local farmers who have tirelessly but willingly hosted school visits and farm days over the years.

We are indebted to you all

– thank you.

## Corpusty Primary school

### visit Stody Estate

This was our third visit to Stody: a wonderful resource right on our doorstep. The visit was timed to enhance our Key Stage One 'Food and Farming' topic and also for the bluebell walk - always one of the highlights of the trip.

Through visiting the farm the children were able to relate what they had learnt in school about farming to the day-to-day running of a working farm. The farm walk, led by John the farm manager, took us through woods and meadows and past fields with pigs, Aberdeen Angus cows, and sheep. The children also learnt about the crops growing on the farm and the associated food. They were most impressed with the variety and scale of the farm machinery and talked about the tractor and trailer ride for days afterwards.

Even though our children live in the heart of the countryside, a visit such as this will be, for many, perhaps their only experience of a real farm. So not only is this a very popular, informative and enjoyable visit, it also gives children and adults alike an important insight into their own environment.

Anne Bursnell

## Fred Nicholson School

### visit Park Farm, Swanton Morley

A group of year 10 pupils enjoyed an exciting afternoon looking around John Carrick's farm at Swanton Morley in October. Mr Carrick was very welcoming to our small group, many of whom had never visited a farm before. We looked at the tools in the converted barn, and the animals in the fields – including some rare breeds and very friendly cattle.

It was great fun sitting on the straw bales in the trailer and getting stuck in the mud. Ruby the dog wanted to play stones and the Springer was hunting for rabbits.

We had a very enjoyable afternoon and returned to school with an invitation to go back and complete some wildlife conservation.

Veronica Kemp

## Have you sent us your email address yet?

As outlined in the editorial on page 1, our normal method of delivering this newsletter is shortly to close. To keep in touch we'd like you to provide us with your e-mail address – just email it to:

**news@nfel.org.uk**

We will then notify you when the next issue is available and all you will have to do is follow the link to the current edition. At the moment, we publish twice a year.

We promise not to disclose your email address to third parties. If you change your mind and no longer wish to be kept informed about NFEL, either email us again or contact the editor.