

Norfolk Farm Education Link

Newsletter – Autumn 2002

During the last six months there have been many schools visiting farms for the first time and the use of the loan boxes has kept Marilyn enormously busy. When schools send in their reports to claim their travel grant, we are delighted to see photographs of the visit. Increasingly, we are being sent prints of digital photographs. If you have a digital photograph which you think is particularly good and appropriate for the newsletter, we would be glad if you could **email** it to the editor at su@linaria.co.uk. Please remember that the **Clan Trust** enables us to help schools with travel costs – ask about the **£50 transport grant** when you arrange a visit.

Ash (Organic) Farm, Bintree

Great Witchingham Primary School

The whole school devoted a week in May to studying the environment both locally and globally. Class 2's main focus had been plant and animal growth in science and so our visit to Ash Farm found the children primed and keen to learn from the experience.

These particular children are aware of intensive farming practice since many parents are Bernard Matthews employees and, perhaps because they are young (6 and 7 years), they have firm ideas about what makes animals happy.

Ash Farm was certainly a happy experience for the children. To be taken by tractor and trailer through farm tracks bordered by hedges and fields bright with new spring growth to see cows with a bull and two-day old calves in a meadow; a field of sows with huge litters of piglets playing like puppies and wild boar too, was unforgettable.

The kindness of Mr and Mrs van Beunigan made it easy for the children to ask lots of questions. At the final assembly of Environmental Week they showed the school just how much knowledge they had gained. **Sue Malt**

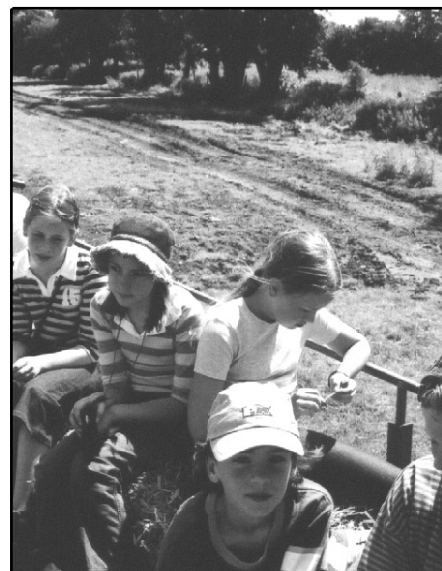
Park Farm, Swanton Morley

Avenue Middle School

On three consecutive days in June, classes of Year 6 pupils prepared to visit Park Farm. All the children were very excited, as for many of them it would be their first visit to a working farm and their first real experience of farm animals.

The first class enjoyed what must have been the hottest day of the year; the second class, the wettest and the third, something less memorable. Every group however, had a highly educational and fascinating experience. It is difficult to decide which aspects of the trips were the most talked about in the following days: possibly being taken around the farm by tractor and trailer; possibly seeing the unusual White Park cattle; possibly hearing John Carrick's numerous stories about farming traditions and practices. Or perhaps having lunch in the garden of Darby's pub, a perfect example of diversification. These and many more gave the pupils some understanding of life in the country; an insight into the responsibilities of farming but also a greater awareness of practical ways in which we can all do our part to look after our heritage and the countryside.

After the visit, the knowledge acquired was made good use of in individual



projects which formed part of the pupils' work. They were set the task of describing farm life through the eyes of an animal at Park Farm. Issues dealt with in these projects ranged from crops grown on the farm to arguments for and against genetic foods.

We would all like to thank John Carrick for three wonderful days and for his incredible body of knowledge that he shared with us. **Jane Dye**

What's on offer

- Free visits to **Norfolk Farms** and trial use of **Loan Boxes** – see contacts. (Subsequent loans at very reasonable rates.)
- Free **Special Activity Weeks** and farm visits to Easton College at very modest prices; and
- Free access to the **Food and Farming Resource Centre** at Easton College – ring **01603 731200** and ask for **Jane Deary**, Schools' Liaison Department to book an appointment.
- 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 **Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)** demonstration farms within Norfolk at Raveningham and Morley. To arrange a demonstration please contact **Roly Puzey** at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ, Tel: **024 7641 3911**.

Free

Contacts

Loan Boxes and Farm visits:

Marilyn Farnham-Smith 01603 471990
marilynfs@cwcom.net

Easton College:

Jane Deary 01603 731200

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 (to the address on the back page – by e-mail if possible).

Easton College Farm

Sprowston First School

We visited Easton College on 24th June as part of our science work with growing plants and learning about animals.

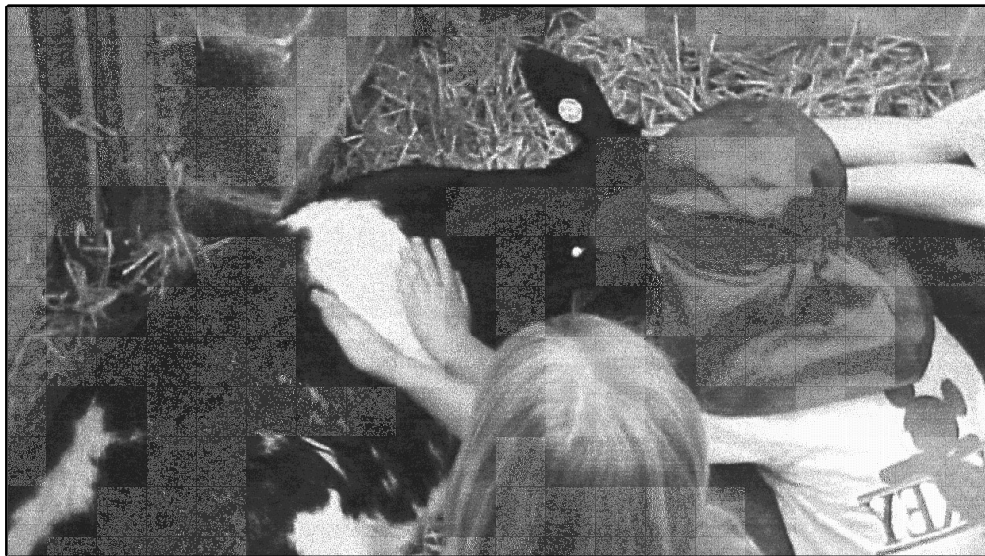
On arrival we were warmly greeted by Stella and Charlie who then took us round the farm in two groups. The children were thrilled to be so close to the sheep and chickens and some were able to touch them too. They also had the chance to stroke a five day old calf which they did with great care and gentleness.

The highlight of our visit, though, was the birth of a calf while we were there. We could see the hooves coming further out with each contraction but we had to leave her to it as it was lunchtime!

After lunch we did some mirror walking and matching leaves to trees. It was almost time to go home and we still didn't know if the cow had had her calf. The bus driver very willingly gave us a lift back to the farm and there the children were able to see the newly born calf.

The children greatly enjoyed their day and learnt a lot. They were very excited about the calf being born and had a lot to say and ask about the event.

Miss Sheila Martin



Matching leaves with trees

Events at Norfolk Showground

Linda Rose

01603 731966

linda@royalnorfolkshow.co.uk

www.royalnorfolkshow.co.uk

Schools Art Competition 2003

The Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association Schools Art Competition sponsored by the **Clan Trust** will be titled **Norfolk Farming in style** with five age group categories from Reception to Year 10.

Entries should not exceed max A3 or be three-dimensional. First prize for each age group category will receive £100 for the school and £30 for the child and the runners-up in each category will receive £75 for the school and £10 for the child. Look out for entry forms through the schools post or contact Linda (see above).

- Entries close 28 March 2003.
- Artwork will be displayed at the Spring Fling children's event on Wednesday 16 April 2003 (see details below).
- Winning pictures will be on display in the education marquee at the Royal Norfolk Show on 25 & 26 June 2003.
- Prize giving at the Show.

Spring Fling

Wednesday 16 April 2003 – A fun learning experience for children (aged 4–12) during the school holidays. Discover more about Food, Farming and the Countryside. An adult must accompany children. Most stands undercover. Woodland Walk. Details will be advertised in the press and on our website www.royalnorfolkshow.co.uk

Royal Norfolk Show

Wed & Thurs, 25 & 26 June 2003 – Join in our school trails and learn more about food, farming and the countryside. Several school trails to choose from with cross-curricular themes for KS 1 & 2. School parties enjoy a discounted rate of £2 per school child. These fees can be reclaimed by returning completed school trails.

Teachers – join our team to set KS 3 trail questions please contact Felicity Daniels, Assistant Head Steward, **01493 730338**.

Easton College Habitats Activity Day

Thurlton Primary School

We went pond dipping. I found a water snail and enjoyed watching the water scorpion. I caught a tadpole and it felt all squidgy. We also went down the Dell and learned about animal habitats and found some deer hair. I saw a frog in the pond down the Dell. It was really interesting. When we walked about looking in the mirrors so we could see the treetops, I saw a woodpecker and also heard it. When I went to look for minibeasts Haydn and I found 6 slugs slithering about under some bark. We all had a walk around the pond and pretended we were little insects crawling across the wall. When we were down in the woodland we had to close our eyes and feel all of the things around us. I especially liked the pond dipping. **Lauren**

25.6.02 Isabelle

Our visit to Easton College
I liked it when we got to
stroke the baby calf and the
one being born. And the hens
kept going cluck cluck and the
ramps hid behind a bush
ramps are daddy sheep
there were 50 woss and
100 lambs.

Isabelle, Sprowston First School

Visit to Stody Estate, near Holt in North Norfolk

Corpusty Primary School

Our trip on the 7th May was almost two years to the day since our last one. Forty KS1 children eagerly boarded the coach to take us on the four mile journey to the beautiful setting of Stody Farm. We were looking forward to seeing, first hand, a day in the life of a working farm.

I am still struck by the lack of knowledge and general awareness of some of our county children about farming and the countryside. This year's particular surprise were the cries of 'yuk' and 'what's that?' when we came across fresh cow pats in the meadow. Discussion with reception children the next day revealed that this was Alice's favourite bit!

For some, the favourite bit was the HUGE combine with computer programmable steering; others were particularly fascinated with the high speed, high-tech CAT tractor planting carrots at a fantastic pace.

The livestock we saw included cattle, pigs and a horse - all in their fields but close enough to watch, whilst listening to,

and asking questions of John, our guide. The trout in the reservoir didn't feel inclined to come up to feed as they had done on our previous visit but, whilst watching, the children learnt about irrigation and fish farming.

The day had dawned grey and cloudy so John had arranged straw bales in a barn for the children to eat lunch. This was another fun experience for the children although it turned out to be unnecessary as the clouds cleared giving us a warm and sunny day. Great weather for another great trip and we now have forty young children with a better understanding of farming in our part of the world.

Mrs A Burnnell

Stody Estate Welcomes Schools

Ross Hadow, Farm Manager

01263 860572

StodyEstate@farmline.com

Farm Enterprises include Cattle, Sheep, Outdoor Pigs (young pigs all year), one horse, potatoes, sugar beet, carrots, peas, daffodils, cereals, forestry, and trout. The estate is very scenic, and includes meadows beside the River Glaven. The farm is in a Countryside Stewardship Scheme, and wildlife is abundant. There are picnic areas, ample parking for buses, toilets, and an indoor room in case of bad weather. Fully escorted visits. Assistance with transport and visit material may be available through NFEL (see contacts on page 1) or contact direct.

NFEL Resources for Loan

Marilyn Farnham-Smith **01603 471990** (evenings) marilynfs@cwcom.net

Hire one of our **mini incubators and brooders** and bring your topic to life!

Hire Charges:

Incubator £5

Brooder £5

Support your life cycles topic and hatch your own chicks at school!



Roots of Norfolk at Gressenhall

Colly Mudie, Education Officer

01362 869256

colly.mudie.mus@norfolk.gov.uk

It has been a very successful season at Gressenhall. We are delighted to have welcomed so many children to our traditional working farm.

During the school summer holidays we have had an action-packed programme of children's activities around themes of Bugs and Beasties and Fun on the Farm. Families have enjoyed story-telling, treasure trails, cart rides and a whole host of different activities relating to rural life today and in the past. Farm Explorer Packs have proved popular with children.

Our special schools events in the summer term have included a Second World War event and Victorian Days. It is always special to see children in costume working on the land with our heavy horses on these days.

Future attractions at the museum include

- Schools events during September, October and November plus Victorian Christmas event aimed at KS2 in early December
- Under 5s room – new this season for pre-school groups
- Apple Day – Sunday 20th October. A celebration of the great English Apple
- October half-term – lots of family activities on the farm.

Comprehensive Loan Boxes

Food, Farming and Countryside Resources worth more than

£1200

for your school!



Hire Charges:

The hire is **Free** to all schools for the first loan period of half a term. This will allow teachers to assess their worth and to evaluate resources should they wish to buy in their own copies of the materials.

All subsequent loans will incur a hire charge to help cover the administration cost and updating of materials as follows:

Per half term: £25

Per week: £5

Book now to avoid disappointment 2002–05

Delivery of Loan Boxes and Incubators

If you are unable to collect and return loans to Norwich the delivery/collection charges each way are:

£5 within Norwich Ring Road

£10 up to ten miles radius of Norwich Ring Road

£15 anywhere else in Norfolk

NFEL

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 No. 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; Women's Food and Farming Union; and NEICG.

Ken Leggett (Chairman)

NFEL Newsletter

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Food and Farming Challenge

Roger Stanton **01603 622991** rogerstanton@neicg.freeserve.co.uk

This year's regional winners of the Food and Farming Challenge, organised by Roger Stanton of NEICG, was Aylsham High School. The challenge involved designing a new product for a fast food restaurant, and was set by McDonald's of Boundary Road, Norwich. The students from Aylsham High School did considerable research, including visits to the restaurant and experimenting in the kitchen. The final product was a new pastie main dish and dessert called 'McSurf'.

Aylsham teacher, Maxine Blocksidge said that they were thrilled to have won, particularly as the pupils were fully motivated and the work had fitted into many curriculum areas. McDonald's Challenge Setter, Kevin Read, felt the

students had promoted the restaurant in a first class way and had been a friendly and appreciative group of students with whom it had been a pleasure to work.

Roger Stanton was delighted with the overall standard of entries and is looking forward to Aylsham High School taking part in the National Finals. The Chairman of Judges, David Papworth, said the standard of all the entries was higher than he had seen before and only one point separated Aylsham from the runners up.

Work was displayed at Stand 46 during the Royal Norfolk Show.

Any school requiring details of the Food and Farming Challenge, which is held annually, should contact Roger Stanton.

Raveningham Hall Farm

Southtown First School

Thirty-six excited children set out on a Thursday morning for a complete change of scenery and a break from school routine. They looked out of the windows of the coach and watched as their familiar town surroundings were left behind, to be replaced by fields and countryside.

On arrival at the farm we were shown the wood yard, where the children saw the process of whole tree trunks being made into stakes, for use on the farm. We moved on to the farm machinery shed and were impressed by the sheer size of the combine harvester and its accessories.

The herb and vegetable gardens by the Hall itself provided opportunities for the children to see food actually growing, and the realisation that their chips and crisps

started life growing underground as potatoes.

After a welcome picnic lunch we were taken on a walk through the woods by two expert woodsmen, who demonstrated their skills at splitting wood and hurdle making. They patiently answered questions and shared their knowledge of every aspect of woodland management.

One of the highlights of the day was the ride in ALF, an ex-army truck, which had the children shrieking with delight as they bounced up and down over the farm tracks.

We returned to school a little weary and muddy, but full of chatter about the new experiences of the day, and hopefully with an insight into life on a working farm.

Liz Kitchener

