Climate change, loss of biodiversity, increased food production and many more; these are only some of the issues for which farmers, foresters, and land managers have a special responsibility. During the course of the CAP reform and many of Europe’s environmental initiatives, farmers have often been on the front line of actions to keep the countryside green and prosperous. To examine the positive role that farmers can play in increasing food production and taking care of biodiversity, we are dedicating part of our upcoming FFA to sustainable intensification and the important work that the RISE Foundation is doing to progress this idea.

However, farmers are not the only ones with a significant role to play in this debate. In 2014, we must start seeking reform of the entire food chain; from the processing industry, to supermarkets, and indeed Europe’s consumers. The European Commission currently estimates that 40% of food produced and sold in industrial countries is wasted at the supermarket and consumer level. If we are to be serious about reducing the impact of farming on the environment, everyone has to do their part.

The 90 million tonnes of food that are wasted every year in Europe should be a real wake-up call. If we could halve these numbers, our members could be producing more food for the people who really need it, and not merely for the garbage disposal. Just as consumers should be more conservative with precious resources, so too should supermarkets and retailers do their part, ensuring that consumer education is a key aspect of their business model. Not accepting fruit or vegetables that look imperfect, or setting premature sell-by dates on produce, are luxuries we simply can no longer support. Our members are doing their part and willing to do more; when will the rest of the food chain follow?

Thierry de l’ESCAILLE
Secretary General
Over one year ago, a Vice-President of the French Farmers’ think-tank SAF wrote an article in the French press in which he said “the future CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) could be the backbone of a great dynamic for sustainable productivity”. However the policy had to be “effective for the environment, feasible for farmers, and socially acceptable to civil society”.

Today countries throughout the European Union are putting in place measures to implement the new CAP at the national level. Time will tell if it is “effective for the environment, feasible for farmers, and socially acceptable to civil society”. What we know is that much effort has been put into “greening” of the CAP, with 30% of the direct payments to farmers (Pillar 1) as well as 30% of the payments for rural development (Pillar 2) to be used for rewarding farmers for measures to protect the environment.

An ecological model for agriculture

In France, the new draft law for agriculture, food and forestry goes beyond greening. It promotes the transition to an ecological model of agriculture. In future, farmers will have to meet the twin objectives of economic competitiveness and environmental performance. It is expected that 50 per cent of farms will be so transformed over the next 10 years.

As well as improving economic performance, this ecological model of agriculture (agro-ecology) seeks to optimize the management of natural resources, strengthen the resilience of farms, and encourage diversification and biodiversity.

Economic and Environmental Interest Groups (GIEE) will be created to accompany this transformation. These groups bring together farmers, researchers, advisors and others to make agriculture more innovative, competitive and ecological. By creating such groups, farmers will benefit from increases in agricultural support payments. This new law implies a change in strategic priorities for investment support. Future priorities could include incentives for:

- reducing or optimizing the consumption of farm inputs
- management of manure and slurry
- improving self-sufficiency on the farm and diversification of production systems
- enhancing organic nitrogen, particularly through anaerobic digestion
- improving the health status of livestock
- production of renewable energy, and
- optimisation of working conditions on livestock farms.

The greening of the CAP was generally well-received by the farming community in France. However the new farm bill reflects
not only CAP reform, but also the conclusions of the National Environmental Conference held late last year. The proposed road map for transition to eco-agriculture that came out of this conference is contested by farmers since it includes: more restrictions on the use of pesticides, taxation of fertilisers and fuel, and increased charges for water.

Farmers are also concerned about the escalation in administrative bureaucracy and regulations in agriculture, and are calling for simplification.

Eco-agriculture as a lever for competitiveness

Agro-ecology, if it is implemented correctly, has the possibility to be at the centre of the development of competitive, high-quality commodity chains that respond to the needs of consumers. One such initiative concerns the durum wheat sector in France.

In January 2013, farmers, plant breeders, cooperatives, industrialists, researchers and teachers came together to create a ‘Durum wheat platform’. This platform coordinates actions and creates synergies between the different skills of the participants to develop a centre of excellence based on research and innovation. Its work is based on agro-ecology for efficient agricultural production and eco-design in the development of products to meet consumer expectations.

Eco-agriculture, climate change and energy

Agriculture and forestry provide carbon sinks to mitigate climate change. They are also sources of renewable energy. Nevertheless, agriculture and forestry also contribute to the production of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Eco-agriculture seeks to manage the land in a way which maximizes mitigation and minimizes emissions.

It has therefore an important part to play in climate and energy policy. The Commission’s proposals for an EU Climate and Energy Framework package include:

- a reduction in GHG emissions by 40% below the 1990 level by 2030,
- an EU-wide binding target for renewable energy of at least 27%, and
- renewed ambitions for energy efficiency policies.

The Commission wants the EU to commit to the 40% reduction target as part of the international negotiations on a new UN Global Climate Agreement due to be concluded in Paris at the end of 2015. The Policy Group of ELO has given its support to the 40% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. Agro-ecology will play an important part in reaching this target in the agricultural sector.

Eco-agriculture and integrated landscape management

Agriculture is part of a complex rural landscape. Each landscape has its own socially-constructed, territorial identity. Today, this identity is not only agricultural. Rural societies have urban centres which are becoming the engines of development. Urbanization is taking over farm land, and this is a problem, but it is also crafting a new rural space consisting of rural/urban towns and small cities. New relations are emerging and new jobs are being created.

Thus the transition to an ecological model of agriculture in Europe is taking place within a broader context of territorial development. This is why the French farm bill is based on a process of co-construction with the regions, involving different sectors of production, to identify priorities. This integrated approach is important. Agricultural landscapes provide many benefits to society. However, different planning authorities usually treat each of these benefits as separate entities. Through an integrated approach to land and resource management, trade-offs between different sectors could be turned into synergies. This is the basis of the work of the international collaborative initiative called “EcoAgriculture Partners” based in Washington D.C.

From its activities over the last 10 years, Eco-Agriculture Partners has identified certain key factors for successful integrated landscape management. These are:

1. Recognise that people are the central elements of the landscape. Integrated landscape management requires long-term collaboration among land managers and stakeholders to achieve the multiple objectives of the landscape.

2. Secure land and property rights. This provides the incentive for land managers to invest time and money in new management practices.

3. Create the enabling conditions for local actors to craft strategies for self-developments, including: decentralized governance, policy coordination across sectors and across levels of government, market systems and incentives to support sustainable production and sourcing, and investment priorities and standards that reflect landscape goals.

These factors apply globally. Research in Latin America shows that in Brazil, for example, in spite of rapid economic development, 29% of the population is stuck in poverty traps with no development, no social inclusion and no environmental sustainability. There is no single causal factor for this, such as lack of good governance or education. Multiple factors are at play. Territorial approaches help to address multiple factors.

As population growth and economic development continue to place pressure on land and water resources throughout the world, transitioning to eco-agriculture makes sense. If land managers are involved in how this transition is done on the ground, the transition will happen.

To again quote from the article by ELO President and SAF Vice-President Christoph BÜREN one year ago: “There are farmers in Europe and France who live with their time, are responsive to the demands of society on the environment and food, and who are ready to respond to market signals… and they are many.”

David KING, Advisor to ELO and former Head of International Relations of SAF

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1 www.ecoagriculture.org
2 See also the position paper developed by SAF during its work cycle 2012-13 entitled “Agricultures et territoires, pour des synergies gagnantes” http://www.agriculteursdefrance.com/Upload/Travaux/Fic-1_1203.pdf
Established for the period of 2014-2019, the European Union has allowed a budget of €1.46 billion, indicating recognition of the significant impact of cultural and creative domains on Europe’s economy and society, as sources of jobs and growth. It represents a tremendous opportunity for heritage, as access to funds has been improved through a simplified call for tenders’ procedure. Of the total budgetary allocation, €170 million will be made available for 2014.

The European Historic Houses’ team had the opportunity to meet with a representative of the Directorate General for Culture, who explained that the simplified procedure was established to improve the chances of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and find a better balance of funding between small and big projects. As such, smaller organisations with fewer resources, both human and financial, will have an increased chance of having proposed projects selected than during previous call for tenders. It is interesting to note that no priority or quota will be given to specific countries, nor will there be priority for particular sectors. The selection of projects will depend entirely on their quality.

With regards to our members’ priorities, two calls seem best suited, the Cooperation Program and the Network Program. The Cooperation Program boasts a bigger budget of €38 million, distributed amongst approximately 100 projects. It encourages smaller associations to apply, as they will have a better chance of receiving funding than with the Network Program. In this Program, the European Commission will contribute up to 60% of small projects and up to 50% of big projects. Since less money will be dedicated to the Network Program, fewer projects will be selected, approximately 20. But, under this Program, recipients will receive a higher amount and the European Commission will fund up to 80% of the project. The Commission’s main focus under the Network Program will be the strengthening of competitiveness, and they wish to select at least one Network project from each subsector.

Creative Europe is an opportunity for heritage and creative industries to achieve better recognition and obtain the financial means to carry out significant projects. Even though we can identify contemporary momentum in cultural heritage, with more and more Europeans noticing the need for the care and preservation of their heritage, the sector remains in dire
need of support from bodies such as the European institutions.

Notwithstanding the crucial financial assets provided by the new European Funds, other possibilities present themselves for heritage to gain some much needed visibility with civil society and politicians. European Heritage Days are a great tool for the public acknowledgement of renowned as well as lesser known sites, no matter their location or financial resources. Indeed, the European Heritage Days’ web-based Communications Portal allows heritage sites, local communities, organizers and volunteers to access network tools, be recognized, and “reach European audiences for their events and attract tourists to undiscovered destinations”.

Those projects developed as part of the European Heritage Days are not supported by Creative Europe and do not receive financial support. Nonetheless, they remain a meaningful platform for historic houses and heritage sites in remote regions to receive due recognition. It is important to see the different instances in Europe of culture and heritage being recognized as a vital part of the economy and of society. Whether this is through job creation, growth, or tourism, it highlights that Europe’s Cultural heritage cannot be cast aside as the financial, economic and social crises endure. Heritage, and for an undeniable part, historic houses, are pillars of Europe’s history and identity. Furthermore, we share the view with the European Commission that private historic houses are significant SMEs, officially recognised as having important economic, social and environmental impacts at the EU and local levels, create local jobs that cannot be outsourced. As such, we will be keeping track of future European funds emerging from DG Enterprise and Industries for SMEs, but also with regards to tourism. Indeed, historic houses remain one of the principal tourist attractions in Europe; they are unique in the world. Thus, the European Historic Houses Association welcomes the Creative Europe Program, as well as other programs available for culture, that help bring it back to the forefront of discussions and action.

We hope they will invigorate all stakeholders to take a stand and defend one of Europe’s most important historical assets.

Andréanne LAFRANCE, European Historic Houses

For more information, please visit these following links:

European Commission: www.ec.europa.eu
Creative Europe: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/index_en.htm
European Heritage Days: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/EHD/default_en.asp

1 http://www.europeanheritagedays.com/Home/Content-page.aspx?id=33da673f-1180-4d50-ab55-db80f6b13d15
Governments, NGOs, academia and the private sector are searching for long-term sustainable solutions to global food insecurity and for coping with future resource scarcity. One solution, which was first proposed by Jules PRETTY in the 1990s, and is backed by the Montpellier Panel, a high-level group of European and African experts in the fields of agriculture, trade, policy, and global development, is the concept of sustainable intensification.

At its heart, sustainable intensification is about sustainably producing more outputs on the same or less amounts of land. It has the inherent goal of producing more food with less impact on the environment. Food production is intensified whilst the natural resource base on which agriculture largely depends, such as water, is preserved, if not improved, for future generations. Whilst sustainable intensification aims at increasing yields, it also emphasises the importance of improved nutrition and higher net incomes, while simultaneously reducing the over-reliance on pesticides and fertilisers and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The elements of sustainable intensification as such are not new; it draws

How to sustainably produce more with less and trade better- 7th Forum for the Future of Agriculture 2014

Building on a rich six year history of frank and open debates around the future of agriculture, the annual Forum for Agriculture (FFA) returns to Brussels on Tuesday 1st April, 2014.

We are pleased to inform you that this year’s Opening statement will be delivered by Franz FISCHLER, FFA2014Chair, Chairman of the RISE Foundation; followed by the Opening Address of Pascal LAMY, Honorary President of Notre Europe – Jacques DELORS Institute, President of the Oxford Martin Commission for future generations; and, Olivier DE SCHUTTER, U.N Special Rapporteur on the Right to food. Key speakers from the European Commission include Karel DE GUCHT, Commissioner for trade, and Janez POTOCNIK, Commissioner for the Environment.

This year’s key discussion topics will be the future Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), between the European Union and the United States, and sustainable food production. FFA speakers and panelists will examine what these issues and others mean for the future of EU agricultural production, ecology and consumer’s well-being. International decision makers will seek to uncover how best to reconcile crop production with ecological preservation, and be ready to dive into policies that are shaping the imperative for food security in an environmentally sustainable way.

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on components and techniques of ecological and genetic intensification, within enabling environments of socio-economic intensification.

This process requires innovative and creative approaches. To help the poorest seize the potential of agriculture, we need to unleash as much appropriate innovation as possible. This requires academia, governments and the private sector, as well as farmers themselves, to work more strategically and holistically towards integrated solutions to the challenges we face. Innovation for sustainable intensification therefore essentially encompasses multiple dimensions: focusing on multiple benefits, engaging with multiple partners, utilising multiple approaches and working on multiple scales to ensure the benefits are fully realised.

As current figures show, innovation and research pays off. According to BERTINI & GLICKMAN (2013) agricultural research currently reduces the number of poor by 2.3 million or 0.8% annually; VON BRAUN and DIAZ-BONILLA (2008) found that a doubling in investment in public agricultural research in Sub-Saharan Africa would increase growth in agricultural output from 0.5 to 1.1% and reduce poverty by 282 million people.

A successful example of innovation in sustainable intensification includes the orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP); the Tainung variety in Kenya yields three times the potential of current varieties, it is drought tolerant and quicker to mature. Only 125g of the OFSP provide primary school children with over twice the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A. But innovation for sustainable intensification is not only essential in developing countries. It is of equal importance and urgency to the industrialised countries, including Europe. Whilst an aim of sustainable intensification in developing countries is to pull the poor out poverty and to enhance overall economic development, the importance of sustainable intensification in Europe amid a changing climate revolves around the necessity to preserve and possibly enhance the availability and quality of natural resources. Further, shifts, volatility and global pressures on agriculture in Europe bring the concept and the approaches of sustainable intensification to the forefront of European agricultural development and policy making.

Under the ecological approach to sustainable intensification, precision farming can double the amount of nutrients absorbed by plants and reduce polluting run-off. The challenge is therefore to apply fertilisers in amounts that are not damaging to the environment and at the same time are not too costly for the farmers. In Zimbabwe less than 5% of farmers commonly use fertiliser as prices are far beyond what even the wealthiest farmers are capable of affording. An approach that has been developed by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics throughout the 1990s in Africa, initially used simulation models to show that doses of fertiliser of only nine kilograms per hectare could be very productive. This was later confirmed by the UK Department for International Development and the European Commission in field trials where farmers applied small amounts of fertiliser measured using a soda bottle cap amounting to approximately 4.5mg of ammonium for every three plants. In maize fields, fertilisers are applied directly to holes before the seeds are planted; this technique equates to using only four kilograms per hectare of phosphorus, the key limiting nutrient, significantly less than used for example in Europe and the US, but nonetheless very effective. This so-called ‘Micro-dosing’ has considerably contributed to the food security of poor farmers in particular in drought-prone regions in Africa, by adding an estimated additional 70,000 tons of grain.

Precision farming in Europe and the US is carried out by using GPS controlled machinery to apply fertiliser precisely and accurately where needed. A report by Research & Markets found that the growth of the precision farming market is estimated to reach US$3.72 million by 2018. The major drivers are the potentials for augmenting yield and profitability, energy and cost saving, coupled with government assistance. The US is currently the market leader and has been enjoying the highest growth rate globally.

Although the practices may change, the drivers for sustainable intensification are equally important in developing countries and in Europe and the US.

Gordon CONWAY
Katrin GLATZEL
Agriculture for Impact

REFERENCES:
The LIFE+ 3WATER Closing Conference: Results and Lessons Learned

After five years of planning and hard work, the partners of the LIFE+ 3WATER project delivered their results and lessons learned to a packed audience at the University Foundation in Brussels on the 10th of December.

Cooperation between the public and private partners was one of the most highlighted themes of the day, with all parties stating that the new cooperative model between private landowners, communities, NGOs and all other partners was one of the most rewarding aspects of the conference. As Thierry de l’ESCAILLE, ELO Secretary-General pointed out, referring to the past situation of conflict between these parties: “We have moved from a time of conflict to cooperation, and recognized that all partners have an important role to play in the project area.”

This sentiment was echoed in the keynote speech delivered by Bert VANHOLEN, Director of the Agency for Nature and Forests (ANB) for the Belgian province of Limburg, who expressed his support for the involvement of Flemish landowners in this and other projects in the past years. “The project area is unrecognizable from five years ago” he enthused, pointing to the results of all the hard work that went on.

These results were based on 3WATER’s ‘Triple-E’ philosophy of Economy, Ecology, and Education, where all three elements are held together in balance to ensure that the development of the region is both environmentally and economically sustainable. This philosophy was also widely hailed during the conference, with many of the participants noting the necessity of continuing to make the area economically attractive to ensure future support. As private landowner Claude de VILLENFAGNE noted during his presentation in the first session “without the revenue from the economy, there are no subsidies for the ecology, and all of this would be useless without education to make people understand the value of the area.” This was echoed by Guido PIROTTE of the Community of Zonhoven, who noted that it was the fish breeding in local ponds that was originally responsible for the volumes of water in the project as well as its notable biodiversity.

Ecology and education were the main drivers of the third session, where ABO consultant Simon AMELINCKX provided a first glimpse at the results of the environmental monitoring, demonstrating that the project had given rare species like the bittern and tree frog better chances in the project area. With over 2000 male tree frogs estimated to live in the new ponds created by the projects, and an expansion of the bittern population, which can now breed safely on reed islands, these important species have been given new opportunities. Beyond these species, he noted that the restoration of heather areas has already demonstrated that “certain typical species were making a comeback.”

Education was highlighted during the presentation of Ilse IDELER, Director of the Regional Landscape Lage Kempen, whose agency is responsible for many of the educational outreach aspects of the project. “The main objective of the educational aspects was to demonstrate the value of local biodiversity and cultural land use in the region” she noted, emphasizing that it was crucial to reach out to children and young people to make them understand the importance of their regional biodiversity.

Part of the project’s results is an educational package for schools in the region, this will ensure that the area and the project will continue to be seen and explained to future generations.
A special place was reserved in the program for Edgar KESTELOOT, who looked back at the history of biodiversity conservation in Belgium. Now at 92 years of age, he is one of the founding members of WWF Belgium and former Head of department for Ecology and Nature Conservation at the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels. During an expanded lecture, he noted the many differences between the early days of nature conservation, where “one used to only speak about rare or endangered species” and the current situation where the whole ecosystem is considered. Furthermore, he noted the very positive and “dynamic” input from Europe through programs like LIFE+. His extended presentation was one of the highlights of the conference, with both speakers and guests noting that it was an honour to have someone of his experience give his considered thoughts.

The second half of the conference was dedicated to the involvement of private landowners in Natura 2000 areas and conservation efforts in general. In the first of two panels, the landowners of the 3WATER project were given the chance to talk about the successes and obstacles of the project. One of the repeated concerns from the landowners’ perspective was the complex procedures and long waits for funding. For landowners with a limited budget, this often means that they cannot properly participate in LIFE+ projects. Looking on the positive side, the landowners noted the immensely improved relations, especially with the nature organisations in the area. The project “has certainly gone a very long way towards creating friendly relationships”, according to Eric SMEETS, landowner and president of the association of landowners in the region. Overall, they felt that the project had both built trust and reduced scepticism.

The last session discussed the future participation of private landowners. A presentation by Fran IGOE of the DuHallow LIFE+ project offered guests an Irish perspective on a public-private partnership towards nature conservation. With many farmers signed up as part of a large project to restore the quality and flow of a local river, Dr. IGOE noted the importance of good relations and clear contracts between all partners. Local farmer Marc GOVAERT demonstrated his own efforts to increase biodiversity on his terrain and noted his commitment to the “3E” approach to farming.

The final speech of the day was delivered by Natalie PAUWELS, Member of Cabinet for DG ENVI Commissioner Potocnik, who had visited the project area shortly before making her presentation. According to her “the 3WATER project truly exemplifies what Natura 2000 stands for: an integrative approach that combines economic and social growth, and works with and for local people”. Furthermore, she noted with satisfaction that private landowners had proven to be “just as successful” at managing land as public or non-governmental organisations.

The very positive message and contribution of Ms. PAUWELS may have closed the conference, but, as all the partners noted, the work and conservation on the 3WATER project area will continue after the conference and indeed long after the end of the project itself.

Robert de GRAEFF, ELO
Loic della FAILLE, ELO

This project is supported by the European Commission Directorate General Environment under the LIFE+ Nature programme (Grant Agreement N° LIFE08 NAT/B/000036)
HERCULES Kick Off Event

Since the end of the last year, the European Landowners Organization (ELO) has been involved with a new study under the European Commission’s Seventh Framework Programme.

Entitled “Sustainable Futures for Europe’s Heritage in Cultural Landscapes: Tools for Understanding, Managing, and Protecting Landscape Function and Values” (HERCULES), the project seeks to empower public and private actors to protect and sustainably manage cultural landscapes that possess significant cultural, socio-economic, historical, natural and archaeological value, at a local, national and Pan-European level. The project will collaborate with 13 partners from European universities, SMEs, NGOs and research institutes to develop a holistic approach that will incorporate diverse stakeholder perspectives to appropriately address landscape changes. While the adoption of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) has attracted much attention from the sciences, policy makers and the general public on the issue of heritage in cultural landscapes, more needs to be done.

The notion of cultural landscapes employed throughout the study, is defined as “spatial representations of complex interactions between human activities and ideas, social structures and physical features”. The current state of cultural landscapes stems from the constantly changing interaction of people with their natural surroundings over sustained periods of time. As such, the project will have to consider the ways in which cultural landscapes change over time and what factors engender such change in different regions of Europe.

HERCULES will start by assessing and synthesizing the existing knowledge on the dynamics, drivers, patterns and outcomes of cultural landscapes and the transformations they are subjected to. This will be done to enable the development of management tools for landscape observation and modelling, in order to shed some light on the opportunities and threats relating to cultural landscapes. The HERCULES project will then provide a strong and unified vision of “pathways” toward protecting heritage in cultural landscapes, which will provide policy makers and practitioners with up to date information to guide effective decision making.

The insights, technologies and strategies developed throughout the project will be rigorously applied in five to six regional case studies, selected to ensure a balanced representation of environmental and land use gradients within Europe. The case studies will, therefore, represent diverse European cultural landscapes, ranging from outstanding “flagship” to “ordinary” landscapes. They will also engage local organizations that deal exclusively with the type of landscape involved in the respective study. Furthermore, the case studies will seek to apply their findings to both large and small scale landowners and land users, including those under the umbrella of the ELO.

The ELO will be responsible for developing and executing a communication and stakeholder engagement strategy in order to ensure that the study’s findings are translated into effective policies at the local, national and EU level. In order to do so, the ELO will be producing various digital and printed communication tools. Upon completion, the study’s findings will be incorporated into a set of landscape policy recommendations at EU level, which will be presented at a final conference, organized by the ELO.

On the 2nd and 3rd of December of last year, the ELO hosted the first Kick-Off meeting of the HERCULES project in Brussels. The aim of the meeting was to give the participants of this three year project an opportunity to introduce themselves to one another and to facilitate an exchange of ideas on various “Work Packages”. Additionally, a representative of the European Commission gave some insight into what the Seventh Framework Programme had envisioned in terms of cultural heritage research and how the funding was structured. While the first meeting of the HERCULES project was a great success, there is much to do over the coming three years.

We will keep you updated as the project progresses.

Julianna NAGY, ELO
DEUTZ-FAHR always designs its products by carefully considering tomorrow’s challenges. This view allows the manufacturer to offer a full line range with contemporary style, high levels of comfort, modern powerful engines and forward thinking features. Combined with advanced precision farming systems and low operating costs, the result is to make DEUTZ-FAHR the perfect partner to increase the profitability of your business. This philosophy has led DEUTZ-FAHR to develop a new production site that will provide high safety standards, efficiency, respect for the environment, test drive area, large training facilities, museum, showroom and much more: welcome to DEUTZ-FAHR LAND.

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The use of original lubricants and coolants is recommended.
The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) is calling for a Global Summit: “Hunters United Against Wildlife Crime”

Hunters of the world will gather at the 2014 General Assembly of the CIC in Milan, Italy, for a historic World Summit on the 24th of April.

The Summit is organized as an urgent response by hunters all over the world, who are concerned by the new dimensions that wildlife crime (poaching and illegal trade of wildlife) is taking, including an increase in the prevalence of organized crime. This new face of wildlife crime requires an overhaul of the current management actions. Together, hunters as a united force are able to substantially support enforcement efforts against wildlife crime at all levels. Hence, the Summit will connect and bring together the leaders of hunting and wildlife crime enforcement agencies, each sharing the objective of stopping wildlife crime.

CIC Team
www.cicmilan2014.com

2nd Stakeholder Workshop on EU Action on Large Carnivores

The 2nd Stakeholder Workshop on EU Action on Large Carnivores took place on the 5th of December, 2013. The meeting sought to deal with cross-boundary issues to ensure that large carnivore populations are managed sustainably in the future. The workshop was opened and chaired by Pia BUCCELLA, the current Director for Natural Capital of the Directorate General for the Environment, at the European Commission. In expressing the Commission’s commitment to the large carnivore debate, Mrs. BUCCELLA introduced a new proposal for an EU wide platform that would promote an exchange of ideas on the draft species action plans.

The Swedish delegation of Wildlife Estates has offered to take the lead and coordinate stakeholder meetings in the Swedish region. Amongst others, green NGOs and researchers emphasized the need for further funding to allow more research that can establish DNA databases; follow migration patterns; and, examine predation behaviour. Finally, the need to revise the Habitats Directive was also stressed. However, the Commission responded clearly to this, stating that “there is no possibility for a new directive, but we can discuss and address the existing problems under the current directive”.

The discussion was thus driven towards the outstanding question of whether it was still appropriate to continue in the direction of conservation measures, or whether the time had come to consider coexistence measures, which take into account social, economic and cultural aspects.

Juliana NAGY, ELO
Maximilian SEILERN UND ASPANG, ELO
www.wildlife-estates.eu

“RURBAN Sustainable Rural-Urban Partnerships”

RURBAN is a preparatory action agreed by the European Parliament in 2010 and managed by the European Commission. On the 28th of January, 2014, the ELO participated in its closing seminar, organised jointly by the URBAN Intergroup and the European Commission. The purpose of the seminar was to present its results to the European institutions and to discuss how the benefits of rural-urban partnerships can be fully taken into account in the 2014-2020 programming period of cohesion and rural development policy.

During the introductory session, Walter DEFFAA, Director-General of Regional and Urban Policy, and Jerzy PLEWA, Director-General of Agriculture and Rural Development, underlined the very good cooperation between DG REGIO and DG AGRI on rural-urban partnerships. They stressed the fact that the coinciding starting point of the new programming period 2014-2020 and the closing of the RURBAN preparatory action can be a drive for the strengthening of the urban-rural cooperation on the ground. Moreover, they underlined that the results of the RURBAN preparatory action had already had an impact on the funds’ regulations for the 2014-2020 programming period.

In conclusion, Jan OLBRYCHT, President of the URBAN Intergroup, asked the European Commission to check urban-rural partnerships while analyzing partnership agreements. “Let’s use European money to put people work together in urban and rural territories [sic.]”, he added.

Source: http://urban-intergroup.eu/page/3/
A new Hunting Show in Lille France, May 2014

Between May 16th and May 19th 2014, the Saison de Chasse will assemble game hunting leaders in the prestigious Grand Palais of Lille. The Saison de Chasse is an exhibition focused on the 348,000 hunters in the region between Antwerp and Paris.

The Saison de Chasse will provide a forum for a wide range of extremely qualified suppliers to interact and respond to any hunting and gaming concerns, including hunting territories; firearms & optical; hunters’ hounds & territory equipment; the art of living, etc.

It will also highlight a variety of themes, which demonstrate the place of hunting in our society, specifically hounds, gastronomy, photography, art and fashion.

The Saison de Chasse is put on by truly seasoned hunters, whose experience in event organization promises to deliver a quality experience, which exceeds expectations.

The website can be viewed at: www.saisondechasse.net, To buy your tickets now at a discounted rate simply go online!

May 16th to May 19th 2014
4 days to:
➢ Discover the proposals of targeted suppliers;
➢ Explore other aspects of hunting, through exhibitions, demonstrations and shows;
➢ Share your passion for hunting in the exhibition’s specifically tailored meeting places:
  ◦ the Pub, a restaurant opened to every visitor
  ◦ the Ring, a podium for demonstrations
  ◦ the Cercle, the VIP lounge with exclusive services.

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www.facebook.com/salonsaisondechasse
Second Edition of the Forum for Countryside Entrepreneurship

The second Forum for Countryside Entrepreneurship was held, once again in Brussels, on the 31st January 2014. Participation was numerous and enthusiastic from YFCS members and the event saw many other young people expressing an interest in the organization.

The conference was held in the beautiful Duras Castle, bringing together a wide array of entrepreneurs and providing the ideal ground for a lively and interesting debate. The day was organized according to two main panels: the first, focused on ways of improving the daily management of existing rural enterprises; the second, provided useful information and inspiration to those planning a new rural business venture.

Speakers included the Rothschild Group, AGRILAND, young entrepreneurs (some of whom are already YFCS members), with an exceptional contribution from Dr. Rudolf STROHMEIER – Deputy Director General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission. Inspiring presentations covered topics ranging from how to optimize the management of family assets (Rothschild Group); to innovative concepts for forest management (Callwood); to the importance of strong networks for both new and existing businesses (Reseau Beleev); and finally to the opportunities provided for start-ups by crowd funding (MyMicroInvest).

The forum ended with the presentation of the new FAMIGRO Award for young rural entrepreneurs, made possible thanks to the generous contribution of Mr Karl GROTenFELT. This award will be granted in support of one winning business concept, which is to be announced during the next YFCS General Assembly in Portugal, September 2014. Applications for this award should be submitted no later than the 1st of June 2014.

We very much look forward to seeing you at the next YFCS event, which can be followed-up on Facebook, or on the YFCS Trusted Network.

Francesco KINSKY DAL BORGO  
Secretary General  
Young Friends of the Countryside - YFCS  
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The Young Friends of the Countryside (YFCS) is a European Not-For-Profit Association which aims to educate and create a network for future land managers between the age of 20 and 35 years. Founded in 2006, today the organisation counts over 240 members spread across 15 European countries. What the members of this network share in common is a passion for topics related to landownership, the European countryside, land management and rural entrepreneurship.

The aims of the YFCS are:
• To raise awareness amongst its members about European environmental policies, European rural business opportunities, and estates & historic houses’ inheritance and management processes;  
• To promote educational philanthropy in the countryside;  
• To leverage our members’ innovative countryside management related experiences;  
• To represent and channel the YFCS voice at the EU level through the European Landowners Organization;  
• To provide information and assistance to its members regarding management and legal issues concerning the countryside and rural businesses.
A family story

For decades, some large families have been able to develop business activities based on intergenerational, family values. At a first glance, such businesses may seem relatively straightforward, but in fact the family dynamic is much more complex than it seems.

Every family business is characterised by the interactions that exist between its shareholders, the family, and society. Each is uniquely defined by the particular organization and division of family activities, as well as on the personalities of those involved. Common interests exist, but so do a number of tensions. The key to success lies in the right balance between the interests of each family member within the framework of professional management, responsible ownership and harmonious family dynamics.

Achieving this involves numerous challenges. From the perspective of the family, the protection of assets, successful property transfer, and, to a certain extent, the possibility of a non-confiscatory taxation make up the ingredients for a balanced, family strategy.

The protection of assets very often arises from the desire to keep heritage from third parties, but can also serve to protect it from family members, for instance in cases of divorce, which may otherwise result in the break up or transfer of the estate.

Robust governance established in a family charter and shareholder agreement should prevent this and allow precise definition of the composition and nature of the leadership, participation in various activities, as well as those decisions that will be put to majority voting. These mechanisms ensure the durability of family business through control of family activities and by guaranteeing that the necessary funds and resources are available for future growth. This type of governance is completed by the selection of an appropriate company structure, which suits and is adapted to the particular distribution of operational activities amongst the family, as well as to the family itself.

Thus constituted, this protected heritage can be transferred, sooner or later, to the next generation. Yet, one of the major pitfalls with this pattern has been the increasing ‘internationalisation’ of the family. Very often the patriarch resides in one country, while his children, for various professional reasons, may reside in another. The lack of harmonization between national and international legislation as regards taxation of transferred property dispersed between countries presents a real problem in such situations. In addition to this, civil aspects can serve as a source of conflict and compound the problem. Successful transmission in these circumstances requires forward thinking, anticipation of all eventualities, and should revolve around an in-depth analysis of civil and fiscal legislations in the countries involved.

In the end, the future development of family activities and businesses, especially in the international context, requires an in-depth analysis of tax consequences. The State’s sovereignty in fiscal matters calls for some reflection on how chosen taxation may displace undergone taxation. Nevertheless, the whole thinking on the matter must be fully coherent with the particular entrepreneurial activities and economic reality of the family business, and have a solid foundation in the legislation and regulation of the country involved, as well as international standards.

To summarise, the solidity of the family business model rests on achieving a delicate balance between the operating forces of the family, the shareholders, and society. This is fundamental, particularly in lieu of today’s fragile economy, and ultimately depends on the family business having a robust governance structure at its disposal, devoted to the proper development of all its activities.

Olivier WIBRATTE, Rothschild Group
Lairds, Land and Sustainability
Scottish Perspectives on Upland Management

Edited by Jayne GLASS, Martin PRICE, Charles WARREN and Alister SCOTT


A wide-ranging study of how different landownership models deliver sustainability in Scotland’s upland areas

Scotland is at the heart of modern, sustainable upland management. Large estates cover vast areas of the uplands, with a long, complex and emotive history of ownership and use.

In recent decades, the Scottish uplands have increasingly been the arena for passionate debates over large-scale land management issues. Crucially, what kinds of ownership and management will best deliver sustainable futures for upland environments and communities?

Although the globally unique dominance of private ownership remains a distinctive characteristic of Scotland’s uplands, increasing numbers of estates are now owned by environmental NGOs and local communities, especially since the Land Reform (Scotland) Act of 2003. A decade after the passage of this landmark Act, this book synthesises research carried out on a diverse range of upland estates by the Centre for Mountain Studies at Perth College, University of the Highlands and Islands. The findings from privately-owned estates as well as those owned by communities, charities and conservation groups will prove enlightening and relevant to upland managers, policy makers, and researchers across Britain and Europe.

With the Scottish Government promoting a vision of environmental sustainability, and with the new diversity of ownerships and management now appearing, this timely and topical book investigates the implications of these different types of land ownership for sustainable upland management.

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