

Growing Care Farming Regional Network News - Yorkshire and Humberside, December 2019

Welcome

In this, our final newsletter for 2019 we would like to keep it brief! We would quickly like to thank everyone who attended our Going Live event in November at Askham Bryan College. We have been digesting and writing up all the learning and priorities from this event and the research undertaken from September to November and will be able to share this with you all in January.

There are just a few exciting dates and events to pencil into your diaries for 2020. All that remains is to wish you, your colleagues, service users and families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. The Growing Care Farming team have now finished for Christmas, but we will return to work refreshed and raring to go on 6th January 2020!

Upcoming training and event dates

Managing Volunteers - 16th January in Newcastle

I am aware that quite a number of care farms make use of volunteers to support their service delivery, so I wanted to highlight this special training event run by SF&G and sponsored by Dobies, which is taking place on **Thursday 16th January** at Scotswood Garden in Newcastle.

The training will explore the principles of good volunteer management including recruitment, volunteer policies, training and retaining volunteers particularly when the bad weather sets in and your garden or farm may not be looking it's best. There will also be the chance to ask questions and networking opportunities.

Delegates will enjoy a tour of Scotswood Garden and hear about how they are successfully working with volunteers in all seasons. Social Farms and Gardens will also share our Year Round Planner, helping you decide what to plant/do/plan throughout the year. Training is open to all members of Social Farms and Gardens. If you are not already a member, [join here](#) - it's free and there are lots of benefits including 40% off seeds from Dobies.

Booking details here - [SF&G Managing Volunteers Training 16th January 2020.](#)

February Funding workshop

Back in October at the Yorkshire & Humber care farming network meeting it was highlighted that a number of care farmers or prospective care farmers would be interested in a themed meeting to cover funding. This interest was also echoed at the Going Live event in November, where a number of the tables fed back from the workshops a desire to find out more about a variety of different types of funding - both for places and for wider care farm development and investment.

If this interests you why not register to attend our **free funding themed event on Tuesday 11th February 2020**? We are currently arranging the venue but hope to hold this event in the Sheffield area. Once the booking process for this event is set up in January we will contact you all.

Face to Face Care Farming Training courses set for February 2020 - Keep the dates!

The courses we have been developing in partnership with Thrive are currently being beta tested with our network of existing care farmers and code assessors. These courses are designed to give prospective, and existing care farmers who wish to diversify and support a new client group, an opportunity to attend hands on training tailored to working with service users with a particular defined need.

Due to the fact that this first round of courses running in February 2020 will be piloted with the learners we are able to offer GCF contacts the courses for free over this period. In future these courses will become charged for at a discounted rate.

The booking process again will be set up in the new year, however if you wish to save note the dates for your diary they are below;

Care Farming for Mental Health - **Monday 17th February**

Care Farming for Learning Disability and ASD - **Tuesday 18th February**

Care Farming: Developing Alternative Provision - **Wednesday 26th February**

Nurturing Young People with anxiety and depression through Care Farming - **Thursday 27th February**

The venues for these courses are yet to be confirmed, but we are hoping to hold them in the Leeds area. Full details of how to book your place/s will be forwarded in January.

Want to find out more about care farming?

As a response to feedback from both prospective care farmers and commissioners the GCF team will be hosting a **Care Farming Awareness Day on Wednesday 11th March 2020**. The event, which will be held at a venue in the Thirsk area, will be aimed at these audiences and will showcase a number of care farms and their work, demonstrating good practice and outcomes and providing further information on the Code of Practice.

The afternoon session, which will be aimed at the prospectives only, will address some of the key questions and concerns about how to go about setting up a care farm, including health and safety, insurance, safeguarding, etc.

Full details of how to book your place will also be circulated in January.

Other News

Nominations for the Social Farms and Gardens awards open on 8th January - Get nominating!

As part of the celebrations for Social Farms and Gardens 40th anniversary year we will be opening nominations for series of anniversary awards from 8th January. The awards will recognise the wonderful work of organisations UK wide. Award categories will include;

- School farm
- Best response to Climate Change
- Making a difference to life
- Best innovative project
- Best use of social media
- Best youth involvement.

The winners will receive their awards at a special event at the House of Lords in May. Do help us to celebrate the work of others by nominating a worthy organisation in January.



Find out more or keep in touch with the Growing Care Farming team -
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