

Farm

Focus on Spring • Issue 16



Farm Manager's Introduction



Hello and welcome to the Spring edition of the Farm quarterly update with all our news down here at the Farm. We've some great funding news, new activities developing and of course it wouldn't be Spring without our new arrivals. Read on to find out more. **Chris Pounds – Farm Manger**

The Big Green Challenge



OUR IDEA IS SIMPLE: 60 STEPS TO 60% REDUCTION IN CARBON EMISSIONS, WHICH MEANS THAT TO ACHIEVE A 60% REDUCTION OVERALL, WE ONLY HAVE TO ACHIEVE A 1% REDUCTION IN EACH AREA WE HAVE IDENTIFIED.

At Hackney City farm we are committed to reducing our impact on the environment, and helping people from the local community to reduce their own carbon footprint. We have realised that there isn't a one hit wonder solution to solve climate change. Instead we have found that commitment across the board in all aspects of our work does make an enormous difference.

Lots of people and lots of small actions add up to one big change. So our idea is to have 60 small ideas to make one big change of at least 60 % reduction in our community impact. If each action achieves just 1% reduction in carbon emissions then we have reached our target.

This is just a starting point for us. Our community starts in the Farm itself and we plan to become an environmental improvement centre implementing all our 60 BIG ideas for carbon reduction. But we can't do this without the help of our local community and we will be offering training, learning and volunteering opportunities in all aspects of the greening of the Farm.

Keep an eye on the notice boards at the Farm and on our website for more information on how to join the campaign.

Spring Lambs

Spring is traditionally the time of new life and it's no different at the Farm. We have three lambs so far and are still waiting on **Shirley the Dorset Horn** to lamb. All lambs and ewes are healthy and looking good.



Lambs are born at this time of year so that they have the best chance of survival – summer coming up and winter a long way off. This goes for most other animals too, as well as chickens and ducks.

Also, farmers will plan to get their ewes 'in lamb' (pregnant) at a particular time so that they know when the lambs should be born. This makes it easier to plan the farming year – they know when to get the sheep in and can help with the lambing if anything goes wrong. If they've over a hundred sheep, good husbandry like this is a must!

Our lambs will stay at the Farm and eventually rejoin Chris's herd in Kent. Whilst they're here, come and enjoy them and watch them gambolling around.



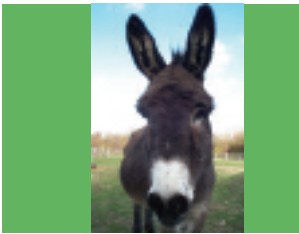
Workshopping with schools

The Farm has just launched some new workshops for schools in the borough.

The workshops are aimed primarily at Primary School children – inspiring them to get interested in the natural world through mini-beast trails, an introduction to the chicken lifecycle and a practical workshop about growing food.

The workshops cost £75 and last for 2 hours. We can only cater for 25 children at one time. If you are interested in finding out more, or want to book a school visit, then pop into the farm office or email: roisin@hacknecityfarm.co.uk

Following on from last year, we are working with **Haggerston's local Secondary School**. The girls are undertaking a healthy eating project and helping to build a raised herb bed and willow dome. We are also working with the students from the **Bridge Academy's Green Team (above)** who have been coming to the farm to find inspiration for their new growing area.



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A living community resource

Spring • the season for • asparagus • rosemary • cherries
 strawberries • duck • cockles • parsley • rhubarb • spinach



The mini-farmers group has been running for about 18 months now. Gradually it has become a real success and now involves six to ten children ranging from ages 8-12. Mini farmers club does a range of different tasks every Saturday:

- Mucking out the animals
- Learning more about the environment
- Learning about gardening: sowing seeds and growing vegetables.
- Getting hands on experience with animals
- Learning more about agriculture
- Experiencing team work

If you would like to join our mini farmers group, please email: Farm@hackneycityfarm.co.uk or grab Bronwen for a chat.

FARM NEWS

Our interactive display board, funded by HCVS, is now working in our café. We can use the films to keep visitors up to date with changes at the Farm, activities and general information and history. It has proved hugely popular, the only down side being you occasionally walk into the café to a sea of heads all pointing in one direction!

Music and Movement classes for 0 to 2 year olds has moved to Tuesdays from 11am until 11.45. Antonia is now running the group as Hatty has gone to have her new baby.

LILI courses. There are still places on some of the environmental courses. From learning about kitchen gardening, to keeping chickens, to biodiesel, find out more and book through this site:

http://www.lowimpact.org/venues_hackney.htm

Big big thank you to **Charlie and Geoff**, our new maintenance volunteers. They're help has been amazing and made a massive difference to the Farm already. If anyone wants to come and volunteer to do maintenance tasks around the Farm please let us know.

Contact Roisin at: roisin@hackneycityfarm.co.uk

We need a photocopier. If anyone knows where there might be one going spare, please let us know! farm@hackneycityfarm.co.uk



FUNDING

We are delighted to have received grants from the **Jack Petchey Foundation** and the **HDH Wills Fund**.

Jack Petchey is a huge supporter of projects for young people right across East London and has previously funded our own B2E programme. We have been offered funding for 3 years to develop our schools and education programme. **HDH Wills**, another previous supporter of the Farm, has provided another substantial grant to develop our environmental projects; these include a herb growing project and a new cycle powered environmental information unit – "The pedal purveyor of planet saving propaganda!" **Many thanks to both of these funders and watch out for more news on these exciting projects.**

The Observer 2008 Food Awards.

Congratulations to Frizzante; runners up for the **'best breakfast in London'** award. Fantastic news! Well done to all the Frizzante team.

Starting from May, the second Sunday of each month will be the **Frizzante café film club**. Check www.frizzanteltd.co.uk for details.



veggie wonders

NOW IS THE TIME TO START OFF LOTS OF SEEDLINGS ON YOUR WINDOWSILL AT HOME. IT'S A GREAT TIME TO SOW LETTUCE, TOMATOES, PEPPERS AND AUBERGINES INDOORS. OUTSIDE YOU CAN PLANT POTATOES, BEANS, ONIONS AND CARROTS, IT'S ALSO A GOOD TIME FOR HARDY SPINACH, CHARD AND ROCKET...SOON YOU'LL BE GROWING ALL YOUR OWN SALADS!

JOHANNA, ONE OF OUR MINI FARMERS, IS SOWING SEEDS FOR THE NEW CHILDREN'S ORGANIC GARDEN HERE AT THE FARM.