

Dear reader,

It is a pleasure to announce the second workshop for junior researchers within the EU integrated project "Quality Low Input Food".

Towards animal oriented methods of rearing animals in organic production systems.

Training and Exchange workshop, 20-22 February 2006, Driebergen, the Netherlands

The aim of the two-days workshop is "to transfer both theoretical background knowledge and practical skills in using new approaches". Participants will be PhD students, junior scientists, or post-doctoral researchers. There is a maximum of 40 participants. A further introduction to the workshop can be found in the attached announcement.

During the workshop participants are given the opportunity to briefly present their own research work. Participants are kindly requested to inform us if they want to make use of this opportunity.

The Louis Bolk Instituut is a research institute for organic agriculture, nutrition and health. Knowledge and skills, gained and developed in 25 years of research in organic agriculture will be brought into the workshop. The programme focuses on both lectures and skill training. To the workshop team belong researchers from the Louis Bolk Institute, researchers from other QLIF partners and relevant research institutes working in the field of organic animal production.

We kindly request you to have a look around for colleagues who might be interested in participating. Feel free to send this announcement forward to colleagues and to related organisations.

Potential participants are kindly requested to pre-register through info@louisbolk.nl or Tel. +31 343 523860 before January 1, 2006.

Looking forward to your response,

Kind regards,

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Towards animal oriented methods of rearing animals in organic production systems.

**International Training and Exchange workshop
20-22 February 2006, Driebergen, the Netherlands**

Introduction

One of the foundations of organic animal production systems is that animals are kept in a more natural way. In terms of housing animals get more space, they have access to outside areas and are fed organic rations. This results in unique, farm-specific production systems with emphasis on animal welfare and product quality. In recent years it has become clear that strategies to rear replacement animals are getting more important. There is a public demand for more animal oriented, sustainable production systems. Farmers realize that rearing is the key to raise suitable animals that fit into their production system. Circumstances during the rearing period affect health, wellbeing and production, not only during the rearing period itself, but also during later life. In organic egg production and in organic milk production farmers realize that organic production requires organically sound rearing practices!

Goal

Getting familiar with animal oriented rearing strategies in dairy cattle and laying hens. Special attention will be paid to implications for practical system development and research.

When?

February 20-22, 2006

Where?

Louis Bolk Institute, Driebergen, The Netherlands

Costs

Euro 100,- per participant (travel, lodging and food excluded)

If you are interested please register with:

Louis Bolk Institute, Driebergen, The Netherlands: info@louisbolk.nl or Tel. +31 343 523860

Preliminary Programme

Monday 22 February

- 13.00 Arrival and registration
- 13.30 – 18.00 Plenary session
 - a. Introduction and presentation of participants research
 - b. Results and examples from ongoing research in The Netherlands
 - c. Contributions from subject specialists

Tuesday 23 February

- 09.00 – 13.00 Farm visit; alternative rearing systems; separate trips for dairy cattle and poultry
- 14.00 – 18.00 Implications for practical system development and research
 - a. Tackling bottlenecks in on farm research
 - b. Making an animal oriented approach quantitative: applied statistics

Wednesday 24 February

- 09.00 – 10.30 Animal health aspects in adapted rearing strategies: risks or benefits?
- 11.00 – 12.30 Exchanging experiences and findings: the next move
- Departure

Details on the final programme will appear in the course of November 2005.
For further details and information: Jan-Paul Wagenaar, Louis Bolk Institute

Bursaries for the first International QLIF Workshop.

For young scientists who have insufficient funds available for covering the total expenses for this workshop, ten bursaries are available. Five of these bursaries are reserved for junior scientists from EU and five for junior scientists from accession countries.

Criteria:

- Junior researcher, exceptional BSc or equivalent degree or relevant work or research experience in food production related disciplines.
- Less than 5 years work experience after first degree
- Interest in low input food production
- Little experience in low input food production
- Need for bursary must be described

Each bursary has a maximum of €760,- for registration fee and for other expenses (travel, hotel). Reimbursement will take place after sending in receipts of costs after the workshop by international bank transfer.

Information on where to obtain an application form will be provided soon.