

Accommodation shortage

Enough rooms until 2018. | p.4 |

Open access

Locking horns with Elsevier. | p.12 |

Party Calendar

All the parties on one poster. | p.16 |

RESOURCE ^[ENG]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 3 – 10 September 2015 – 10th Volume

**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**



Long live the King!

Guard of honour on Prince's Day. | p.24 |

>> SUSANNE + WAR CHILD

Susanne Laven, project leader publicity and recruitment, Corporate staff



'I pay for the food and have a nice evening'

She likes cooking and entertaining. And she thought it was time to start something new. To contribute to a better world. 'Because I am not very cheered by what's going on in the world.' So once a month, Susanne Laven cooks for a living room full of strangers. She provides the food and the diners' (seven max) contributions go to War Child. Fancy pulling up a chair next time? Check out www.warchild.nl/actie/suus-kookt-voor-war-child.

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344 MILLION

All Dutch trees have been counted.



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FRIES

I grew up in Zeeland Flanders. The bit of the Netherlands that really prefers to call itself Belgian. Most Saturdays I used to cycle to the Westerschelde estuary to look at boats or peer into the bucket of a shivering fisherman. A breath of fresh air on the dyke. En route I sometimes stopped in the village of Zaamslag. Because in an alley off the village square there was a *fritomatic*. Nailed to the wall of a house. Yellow with red letters. I would gaze at the machine in fascination, mouth watering. Every child's idea of heaven. I was never allowed to put a guilder into it. Maybe that is why it is etched in my memory: unsatisfied curiosity. A fries machine as a dream come true. This week one was presented on the campus. No smell, no sogginess, just crisp fries obtained via a touchscreen. Even the national news came to have a look. I went along the next day along with a dozen or so other curious souls. 'Can anyone tell us where the fries machine is?' We went in search. Old wine in new skins? Doesn't matter. A fries machine is many adults' idea of heaven too.

Edwin van Laar



>> **Smartphone detects illegal growth hormones. | p.9**

NO MORE ROOM SHORTAGES IN WAGENINGEN

- **Big increase in supply.**
- **No shortages before 2018.**

There will be no more room shortages in Wageningen for a while. Accommodation provider Idealis fears it may even have a slight surplus of student rooms over the next two years. After years of rising student numbers and room shortages in Wageningen, the university announced at the end of last year that 150 rooms intended for international student were unoccupied.

Idealis and the university offered these rooms to Dutch students still on the waiting list. In the end only 50 Dutch students took up the offer – 100 rooms remained vacant. ‘The accommodation problem did not seem to be that acute,’ concludes Idealis director Sylvie Deenen.

An update to the Wageningen accommodation market report of October 2014 by Idealis, Wageningen UR and Wageningen town council shows that there is now an accommodation surplus. In the report, they talk of ‘changed circumstances’ and forecast a surplus of about 500 rooms in Wageningen in the next two to three years.

There are reasons for this, says Deenen. Firstly there has been a big increase in the supply. Idealis completed the Bellostraat complex this



This student is moving his stuff to the new Javastraat complex.

spring, the university built student rooms in Computechion and the Javastraat complex was delivered this week. All in all more than 400 additional rooms. That number will double next year when Campus Plaza is complete.

While the supply is growing, the increase in the demand for rooms is tailing off. The number of international students was stable last year while the number of school leavers coming to Wageningen to study rose by only 1.5 percent, compared with 15 percent in previous years. The number of international students has grown again this year

while the increase in school leavers looks set to be 6 or 7 percent. But the double-digit increases of the last ten years seem to be over. In addition, a good 300 students will be leaving Wageningen as Van Hall Larenstein moves to Velp.

Even so, most first-years continue to look for a room in Wageningen, despite the abolition of student grants. There are no unoccupied rooms for international students at the moment and the waiting list last month with students actively looking for a room through Idealis was as long as last year, at about 900 students. Deenen says they will all get a

room in the next six months.

Idealis will not be building any new accommodation in the next few years now that there are no more acute problems. But according to the forecasts, there *will* be room shortages again from 2018.

R AS

There is now a film about the Javastraat on resource-online.nl

WAGENINGEN HAS CHEAP STUDENT ROOMS

- **Only Enschede is slightly cheaper.**
- **Amsterdam tops the lot.**

Student accommodation Wageningen is distinctly cheaper than rooms in other university towns, it seems from a comparison by investigative journalists at Journalism.nl, commissioned by Resource. Lots of new rooms are being built in nearly all university towns, but mainly in the form of relatively

pricey self-contained accommodation.

Wageningen and Enschede have the cheapest rooms of the nine university towns. Amsterdam is the most expensive.

The analysis also shows that room shortages are most acute in the big cities in the west and that a lot of new student accommodation has been built nationally. The increase has been mainly in the more costly self-contained accommodation, for which students can get a rent rebate. In total, 35,000 new

student units have been completed in the past five years. Several thousand units will be added over the next few years, but these will mostly be relatively high-priced rooms with their own kitchen.

Students renting a room in student houses have not been eligible for rent rebates since 1997 but students in self-contained accommodation can apply for such rebates. That makes the self-contained option often no more expensive, or even cheaper than a room in a student house. **R AS**

Average rent in university towns

	Corporations	Private sector
Enschede	288.71	298.75
Wageningen	332.52	297.60
Eindhoven	363.09	348.91
Utrecht	366.54	428.86
Groningen	366.92	367.58
Rotterdam	453	431.24
Nijmegen	474.81	383.20
Delft	485.24	358.44
Amsterdam	491.78	568.41

400 SOLAR PANELS ON SECOND SPORTS HALL

- **Helped by subsidy scheme.**
- **Roof of existing sports hall not strong enough.**

The new sports hall will have more than 400 solar panels installed on its roof. They will be able to produce up to 100,000 kWh a year — enough to supply the entire building with electricity. In November last year, energy coordinator Michiel Van der Wal managed to get a subsidy through the SDE+-scheme

that will enable the cost of the solar panels to be recouped in eight years. The government makes up the price per kWh generated to 13 cents, doing so for 15 years up to a maximum of 100,000 kWh per year. At present Wageningen UR buys electricity at about 4.5 cents per kWh, so the subsidy is 8.5 cents, explains Van der Wal.

In March, the Executive Board approved the construction of the hall, which is budgeted at 5.4 million euros. 'The tender process has let us keep

comfortably within that budget,' says Henri ten Klooster, head of De Bongerd Sports Centre. Then they had to wait and see whether the solar panels would be approved too. 'But we had always allowed for the possibility of solar panels on the roof in the design for the sports hall. If it hadn't worked out this time, we could have installed them at a later date,' says Ten Klooster. 'I'd wanted solar panels on the current sports hall for years but the roof isn't strong enough.' **KG**

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Premium sandals

There is fear of a rift. Staff of our DLO research institutes (Alterra, LEI etc.) still don't have a new CAO, so DLO staff salaries are starting to lag behind those of university staff. Some are fearful of a split between first-class (university) and second-class (DLO) staff.

I don't see the problem really. Don't assessments based on individual excellence, H indexes and tenure track amount to the same thing? By officially categorizing staff as first- and second-class, we can surely give that healthy competition an extra boost. So I've come up with an alternative strategic plan for Wageningen UR: the Wageningen dual ranking, with Premium Research (university) and an Economy Line (DLO).

Premium researchers get to do whatever they like; that might be the best thing for fundamental research. Economy researchers, however, focus entirely on contract research. Of course it must be clear who belongs in the Premium line and who is an Economy researcher. So I would bring in compulsory uniforms: Economy staff wear suits (handy for getting contracts) while Premium staff can carry on turning up in walking boots or sandals.

Economy workers don't need to do field work either, because all they need to do is acquisition and simple, cheap, computer simulations (again, good for profit margins). Literature studies might be allowed, but only if the literature is fairly unambiguous. Perhaps we could even develop a special search engine for academic literature for them: an application that filters out all those vague research results.

This is what most clients want anyway: one clear result and no further ado. Anyone who insists on more complexity can always upgrade to a premium study. **B**

Stijn van Gils (28) doet promotieonderzoek naar ecosysteemdiensten in de landbouw. Maandelijks beschrijft hij zijn worsteling met het systeem wetenschap.



in brief

>> QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT

Kamp satisfied with top sectors

DLO's research funds are being allocated by the top sectors in a transparent manner, concludes Henk Kamp, the minister for Economic Affairs, in a reply to questions in Parliament about the financing of research. The questions were prompted by the article 'In-crowd at work in the top sector' in Resource. According to the minister, the Agri & Food and Horticulture & Propagation Materials top sectors always have an open call to businesses to submit research proposals, and the criteria for evaluating the proposals are fixed in advance. In the Resource article, people involved in the process claim that the allocation of projects through the top sectors is not transparent and that well-informed market leaders are assigned the most projects while SMEs get a raw deal. The minister writes that this does not fit with what he sees. **AS**

More at www.resource-online.nl



>> WRONG

NSW registrations

There was an article in Resource No. 2 about the number of students registering for student societies. Some of the figures in that article got changed by mistake. Student society NSW Navigators actually had 51 students registering as candidate members for the society introduction stage: 23 people registered during AID week and another 28 during the open evenings. The article in question incorrectly stated that the society had recorded 60 registrations and that they expected 40 to eventually become members. NSW's Hans Dekker: 'This made it look as if a lot of people drop out during the introduction stage, but that's not the case'. **KG**

>> TALENT

Dolf Weijers out of the talent race

Dolf Weijers is not among the top 5 scientific talents in the Netherlands and Flanders. The plant researcher was on the shortlist of 25 nominees in August. The public voted last week and a jury including Melanie Peters, WUR alumna and director of the Rathenau Institute, also gave its verdict on the scientists. Weijers is professor by personal appointment in the Biochemistry chair group and was Teacher of the Year in 2013. He is a member of the Young Academy, co-organizer of Science Café Wageningen, and won prestigious Vici and ERC grants. **RR**

SIMON GROOT GETS MANSHOLT AWARD

- Prize money to Anne van der Ban Fund.
- Plea for applied research.

Simon Groot, who founded the large seed company East-West Seed group, has received the Mansholt Business Award. This happened at the opening of the academic year on 7 September. Groot created a flourishing company with a staff of 4000 and 12 research centres in south-east Asia.

Simon Groot worked in vegetable breeding at the plant breeding company Sluis & Groot. When the company was bought out in 1980 he started a new company, East-

West Seed, in south-east Asia. He developed vegetable seeds and sold them to small farmers in Indonesia, Thailand, India and the Philippines. East-West Seed is now a leading vegetable seed business in Asia and opened a branch in Africa recently too.

Groot has always sought collaboration with Wageningen UR in order to mobilize Dutch knowledge in the interests of small farmers in developing countries, said jury chair Jan Karel Mak of the University Fund Wageningen (UFW). He set up 12 research stations in south-east Asia, from which he shared knowledge with local horticulturalists. Through this open innovation he succeeded in develop-

ing seeds which were adapted to local conditions. He developed a tropical tomato variety, for example, which can be grown at altitudes of up to 1000 metres.

In his thank-you speech, Groot said he will donate the prize to the Anne van der Ban Fund, which offers grants to students from developing countries. He hopes this fund will offer a few grants to students from Myanmar, where his company recently went into business. He also had a warning for Wageningen UR: make sure the experimental stations for applied research stay intact; otherwise you will lose your strong position in expertise and innovation. The 'Mansholt



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

Business Award for sustainable entrepreneurship' is awarded one every three years. **AS**

EXPLORING NEW AVENUES

How do you develop innovative capacity? That is not easy to explain, it appeared on Monday at the opening of the academic year in Wageningen.

The theme of the opening was 'disruptive thinking', or new and surprising takes on things. The

main speaker was designer Daan Roosegaarde, the brain behind such innovations as solar-powered illuminated cycle paths and an urban smog vacuum cleaner. But all Roosegaarde really did was show his portfolio of successful products, which didn't really tell us anything about how he devel-

oped his innovations or the art of disruptive thinking.

So how do you arrive at and develop new insights and products which go against the grain? Gerlinde de Deijn did say something about this. A soil scientist, she embarked on a collaboration with photographer Wim van Egmond to study soil life. That collaboration came about because of a casual conversation about what she was working on with a colleague who then put her in touch with the photographer. 'So talk to each other and ask colleagues for advice; they'll be very willing to help you,' was her advice to the audience in Orion.

The importance of meeting with people who see things differently or come from another world was reflected in landscape architect Paul Roncken's story too. In his design he links landscape with machinery, he explained with reference to the design of a Zeeland polder with ponds for fish production. Roncken envisaged such encounters in Wageningen educa-

tion too, in the form of a university college in which students study a mix of all the Wageningen disciplines.

This was disruptive thinking in its purest form since a university college of that kind would turn the carefully constructed Wageningen education model upside down and seek to approach the choice of courses from a new starting point. It is also disruptive because Roncken's proposal is not readymade and attracts a lot of 'yes but' questions about its feasibility and implications. And it is precisely those 'yes but' questions that irritate Roosegaarde, we understood from his presentation, but which also make clear that the proposal could have disruptive or disadvantages sides to it.

All in all, the occasion was an exploration of new meetings of minds, and ways of colouring outside the lines or thinking out of the box. And rector Arthur Mol did his own out-of-the-box bit by opening the academic year on his saxophone. **AS**



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

APP SHARES TITBITS OF DIETARY INFO

- In dialogue on the smartphone.
- Creative experiment.

Hapsnapp is a new app which feeds its users interesting titbits of dietary information. The app was officially launched at the opening of the academic year and is intended as a creative way of entering into dialogue with the wider community.

Did you know, for instance, that the average Dutch person eats 60 kilos of bread a year? That tomatoes stored in the fridge lose their flavor? And that the humble onion is the second most widely eaten vegetable in the world? The new WUR app Hapsnapp has about 250 of these food facts up its sleeve, all based on Wageningen research. For a week they programme 'chats' with users, with every multiple

choice answer delivering new facts. Enthusiastic users can then find more information on in-depth blogs, or even come to the campus in person for the Food Camp which takes place in December.

Wageningen UR's aim is to use this app to get into a dialogue with the wider community. Louise Fresco was already emphasizing the importance of that in 2014. 'Wageningen inventions can only succeed if they tie in with what is important to society.'

'Hapsnapp is a creative approach to that kind of dialogue,' says Marc Lamers, director of Communication at Wageningen UR. 'And it gives you the opportunity to communicate with people on a one-to-one basis.' Lamers hopes Hapsnapp will provide information that people find relevant in their daily lives.

The app is expressly intended

as an experiment so Lamers is curious to see the results. 'We don't have a specific target group. Although it is quite likely that young people will be attracted to an app like this,' says Lamers. 'But I am very happy to be surprised.' Whatever the case, he hopes the app will be downloaded 10,000 times and that hundreds of people will attend the Food Camp in December. A social media campaign will be launched to achieve this. Flyers will invite people to download the app and it is possible to play live on tablets. **RR**

Hapsnapp can be downloaded from Google Play and Appstore.



'YOU GET PARTY POOPERS EVERYWHERE'



The fries machine was everywhere. Did you have a good week?

'Overwhelming, we could never have dreamt of this. I am still getting calls from four or five journalists every day.'

How did you feel about Pauw categorizing your machine as a useless invention?

'Well, that kind of news is news too. If I already had 100 machines, I could have got rid of them all this week. You get party poopers everywhere. I think one day a photo will turn up of Jeroen Pauw getting fries out of a machine.'

There was some serious criticism too. It is not an entirely new idea, for instance.

'We don't claim that at all, either. There have been dozens of initiatives and none of them have been successful. A machine must make tasty fries, it mustn't smell and it must be safe. Thanks to technical progress we think we have succeeded now.'

The machine has gone to Germany now for a TV programme. When is it coming back to campus?

'It will probably be here again from Thursday.' **RR**

Who? Bastiaan Roest, director of startup Caenator

What? Presented a fries machine to Wageningen UR president Louise Fresco this week

Why? This prototype will be tested on the campus in the coming weeks



FRIES SPECIAL

The company Caenator presented a fries machine on 2 September. Executive board president Louise Fresco was the first to taste the product. For one euro. Over the coming weeks, fries fans can come to the campus, where the prototype is being tested. (Read more on Resource-online.nl) **RR**

TWENTY TREES PER DUTCH PERSON

- Wageningen team calculates tree density.
- Our planet has 3.04 trillion trees.

Our country boasts 20 times more trees than residents. A total of 344 million trees. Anyone who thinks that is not enough and wants to emigrate has plenty of countries to choose from where the tree density is much higher. The Netherlands is not among the top hundred countries with the highest tree density, whether per resident or per square kilometre. This is clear from the first world tree density map. Forest researcher Geerten Hengeveld and Gert-Jan Nabuurs worked on Alterra's behalf on the map, which drew a lot of attention last week through Nature.

The researchers made their map in the basis of regression models and a vast number (430,000) of inventories of trees around the world. Professor Nabuurs (European forests) is responsible for most of those ground-based surveys. 'Between 2004 and 2007 I collected 150,000 surveys for Europe. The strength of our study is that we have brought together these sorts of databases worldwide.' Using regression analysis, this survey data was correlated with satellite records and information about land use, topography and climate. These relations provide the basis for estimates of tree density around the world.

The result of these calculations threw up some remarkable new data. Worldwide there are 3,040,288,194,283 trees of more than ten centimetres thick at chest height. That is 3040 billion. The Netherlands accounts for a third of a billion of them – very few, in other words. Russia has by far the most trees: one in five trees grows on Russian soil: 4461 per Russian citizen. After Russia come Canada and Brazil. But numbers

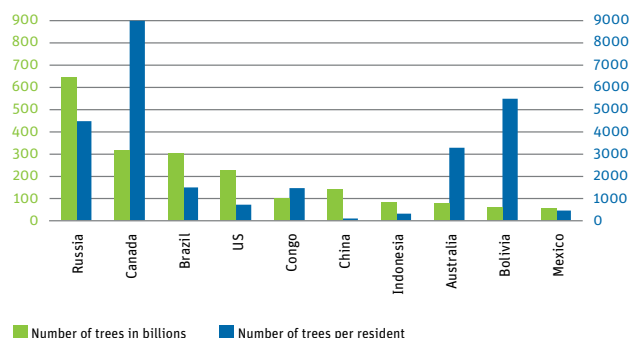


This specimen on the Veluwe is one of the 344 million trees in the country.

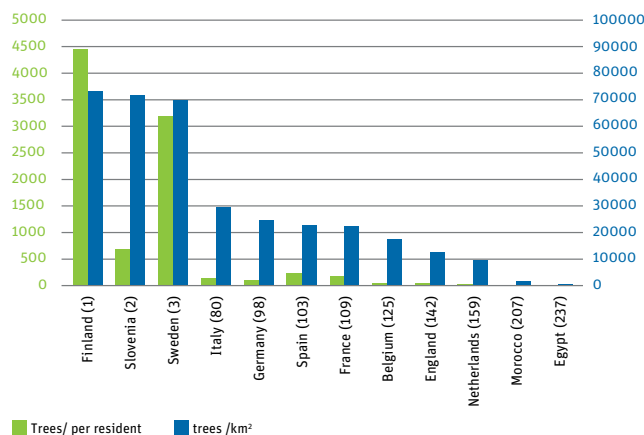
are not everything. The greatest density of trees is found in Europe. Finland is the country with the most trees per square metre: 72644. That just so happens to mean precisely the same number of trees per resident as in Russia: 4461.

According to the researchers there are 422 trees on our planet per human earth-dweller. That is ten times less than in Finland or Russia, but 20 times more than what we have to make do with in our country. The latest estimate comes out seven times higher than previous ones. This estimate was disputed, says Nabuurs, and was pretty rough. 'The nice thing about our work is that we now know so much more about the structure and dynamics of a forest. We know, for instance, how many cubic metres of wood there are in a forest, but that is not enough to be able to estimate the potential CO₂ storage capacity. The number of trees and the dynamics there tell you much more about the state of a forest.' **RK**

Countries with the most trees



Countries with the highest tree density per km² (list)



SMARTPHONE TRACKS DOWN ILLEGAL GROWTH HORMONES IN MILK

- **Hormone injections stimulate milk production.**
- **Inspectors to start testing soon.**

Wageningen researchers have demonstrated that you can track down illegal growth hormones in milk using a smartphone. In the near future inspectors will be able to see on the farm whether milk production is being boosted illegally. This was revealed in the journal *Plos ONE* by researchers from food safety institute Rikilt and their colleagues from Germany and the US.

The smartphone test does not directly show up growth hormones but spots changes in the body of a cow that has been treated with them. The animals make antibodies to the artificial growth hormones as well as producing more of the natural growth stimulator IGF-1. These substances can be identified in milk.

Researchers drip the milk onto a chip containing proteins which IGF-1 and antibodies stick to. They are then coloured with fluorescent substances. Then the researchers click the chip onto a holder on the smartphone and the camera measures how much fluorescence – and therefore hormone – there is.

Boosting milk production with artificial growth hormones has been forbidden in the EU since 2000. The treatment is not



dangerous for the consumer but causes health problems for the cows. Up to now hormone use has not been monitored in the Netherlands because no test was available. 'We know however that those preparations are traded in Europe,' says Saskia Sterk, growth enhancement expertise team leader at Rikilt. The end of milk quotas on 1 April this year is a further incentive to raise milk production.

Since last year Rikilt laboratories have been actively working on a test for illegal hormone use. The test is not finished yet. Given that it does not show the presence of hormones itself, this test does not count as conclusive evidence in a court of law, says Sterk. So Rikilt is working on a state-of-the-art test which does expose the hormone directly. This is a complex and expensive process, so it will only be used on suspect samples. Sterk thinks the first samples will be tested this autumn. Then it will become clear whether illegal hormones are being used in the Netherlands and if so, to what extent. **RR**



PHOTOS: RIKILT

VISION <<

'Closed chains are the solution'

Thousands of dairy and pig farmers demonstrated in Brussels this week against the low milk and meat prices. Wageningen UR sells milk and pigs too. For company manager Han Swinkels of the Pig Innovation Centre in Sterksel, low meat prices are not a big problem. His remedy: distinguish yourself with your market concepts.



Is your pig farm running at a loss?

'We are not like standard pig farms. We are a research farm and only half of our turnover comes from sales of pigs; the other half comes from research projects. And the drop in research questions coming in is more of a problem for us than the drop in pig prices.'

Why is that?

'We've got a lot of long-term agreements with suppliers and buyers. We have farmed out the manure processing and we pay a fixed price for the sale of manure. All our pigs are in VION Food Group's Good Farming Star programme. They are sold to supermarkets with one welfare star. That adds value, compensating a bit for the falling prices. And we have fixed agreements with our suppliers, which also creates a buffer for the falling prices.'

What is the solution?

'Pig farmers should distinguish themselves with market concepts, in closed chains so that they can make agreements with buyers about the profit margin distribution. The organic pork chain is a good example. There the supply is in proportion to the demand, there is good collaboration with buyers, and the price is a lot better. Closed chains with long-term agreements are the solution. You have to regulate the supply as a chain, because if the supply is too big someone will have to bear the losses and at the moment that is the pig farmers.'

Then there is not much point in demonstrating in Brussels?

'It draws attention to the problem. There is a surplus of pork in the EU and the EU cannot regulate that supply on an open market. Most lobbying organizations are not asking the government to intervene in that market, they are asking for tax cuts. Lower taxes can give them some space, but a better price would really get them somewhere. And those don't just come out of the blue. It took the organic pork sector at least ten years to achieve a good market position.' **AS**

BREEDING OUT SOLE ULCERATION COSTS TIME AND MILK

Dairy cows are suffering more and more from claw problems. Because these disorders have a hereditary element, you can combat them through breeding, says PhD candidate Dianne van der Spek. But it takes a very long time and comes at a price: less milk.

Mortellaro is a common culprit: a painful bacterial infection of the claw, which is also highly infectious. Or the cows get sole ulcers, a

painful infection of the hoof. 'If you don't do anything, the number of claw infections in the herd gradually increases,' says Van der Spek.

'You see that in practice too. They are already the third biggest expense for dairy farmers.'

Van der Spek got data on many Holstein cows whose hooves were trimmed regularly. The hoof trimmers assessed the health of the hooves. Van der Spek put these data alongside the genealogical data, enabling her to calculate the proportion of claw health status that was heritable. She found between 2 and 14 percent heritability for six major claw disorders. 'That is a low percentage. Environmental factors such as the feed and the shed floor have an effect on claw health too.'

Because of these low percentages, it is very time-consuming to improve claw health through genetics. 'If you only select for milk production, the percentage of cows with sole ulcers goes up by two percent every ten years. By selecting bulls that pass on less sole ulceration to their daughters, you can prevent an increase in sole ulceration, or even reduce the incidence of it.' And that is of interest to dairy farmers be-

cause claw disorders are a big expense as well as a welfare issue. So farmers are keen to do something about it. And that is possible because breeding companies already indicate how their bulls score on claw health.

But there is a price tag on selection for claw health: the cow produces less milk. If dairy farmers want to stop the rise in sole ulceration, their milk production will go down, to be precise by 1.92 kilos of milk protein per cow in ten years. To actually reduce the amount of sole ulceration would cost even more milk production.

But dairy farmers have another method of reducing claw diseases through breeding. They can also pick bulls whose daughters don't have to have their hooves trimmed so often. Van der Spek calculated a heritability level of nine percent for the need for hoof-trimming, which indicates that this need is genetically determined. A new breeding value for 'trimming status' has been established for bulls. **AS**



PHOTO: LOEIGOEKOEEN.NL

HOW DO PEOPLE MAKE THEIR AREA MORE SUSTAINABLE?

• Large EU project revolves around sustainable place shaping

Wageningen sociologists have bagged an 3.8 million euro EU project. They are going to train young researchers to research sustainable local development in Europe in a Marie Curie programme, part of the EU programme Horizon 2020.

The European programme Susplace, in which six universities work with seven non-academic partners, is all about 'sustainable place-shaping'. 'That is how people jointly give shape to their locality in a sustainable way,' explains

Ina Horlings of the Rural Sociology chair group. 'Take energy cooperatives, for instance, in which residents invest jointly in wind and solar energy. We want to find out how people organize and implement this in their localities.' Horlings coordinates the EU project together with her colleague Dirk Roep. Fifteen young researchers will study cases in six European countries in the next three years. They will look at energy cooperatives in the Netherlands, Scotland and Portugal. They will also study how local leaders take responsibility for local development. A third study will focus on policy: what strategies do managers and policymakers use to stimulate local develop-

ment? 'The government of Wales has explicitly included sustainable development in its policy and embedded it in the legislation. It supports networks of people seeking to put it into practice, it has subsidy funds and creates policy space for people to experiment. We are looking for more examples like that of successful policy development.'

The researchers work with the government of Wales, eco-villages in Finland, an audiovisual organization in Portugal, the Dutch sustainability cooperative EXCEPT and consultancy bureau Royal Haskoning/DHV. Gaining and exchanging knowledge is not the only objective, says Horlings. 'The

most important part of a Marie Curie project is the training programme. One component of this is a tough practical training in research skills. There are also courses in writing and communication. Mainly in Wageningen, but there will also be two courses in Wales and a summer school in Portugal. The EU project Susplace starts in October and the young researchers start in April 2016. **AS**

Read more about the Marie Curie project on resource-online.nl

Online there arose heated linguistic debate about the French fries machine on campus. Does it serve *friet* or *patat*? On our site you could also read an interesting debate about the selection of Master's students. Got an opinion? Join the discussion!

REACTIONS ON...



RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

WINNING WITH SEAWEED

Resource number 1 carried a leading article about the large-scale cultivation of seaweed at sea. In addition, we asked our readers for culinary ideas involving sea vegetables. And we got a whole heap of reactions.

Henriette Verstegen, for example, a first-year Plant Sciences student, would like to hold a sea-barbecue, complete with seaweed baguettes, sausages, burgers and salad. **Femna Roscher** in Education and Competence Studies can imagine making traditional Dutch mash, but then with seaweed (*zeewier*). Others think there are already enough tasty options. **Melanie Hensen**, for example, associates seaweed mainly with delicious Japanese food. Our mouths started to (sea) water when she told us about wakame with ginger, udon noodles and edamame beans. Other

readers could see opportunities for fusion. For **Arian Steenbruggen**, business unit manager in the Environmental Sciences Group, the briny and Mediterranean cuisines came together in the form of Tzatzwierki. Take strained yoghurt, freshly-squeezed garlic, finely chopped fresh mint, pepper, honey and, instead of cucumber, finely chopped seaweed. **Meike Siemonsma** introduces sea vegetables into traditional Dutch recipes. Think of potato croquettes filled with seaweed, or a savoury pancake with seaweed and cod. From **Roos Akkerman** we received a complete menu starting with creamy seaweed soup, followed by a seaweed salad and a quiche of 'haricots de la mer' and finishing up with seaweed bonbons. It was a difficult choice but finally the winner is **Chris van de Kreij**, Team leader Project Control in the Agrotechnology & Food Sciences Group (AFSG). He thought up a couple of funny recipes with clever names. For instance, he saw the potential of fish fingers that swap their animal content for seaweed. **Van de Kreij** thinks that Willem Brandenburg, the Wageningen sea-farming expert, could play a nice role here as Captain Igloo. But our true winner has to be *wiener schnitzel*, a variation on the traditional Austrian dish Wiener schnitzel. The happy winner will take part in a workshop on cooking with seaweed at Krommenhoeke farm in Zeeland.

says **PATAT**. And a long line of respondents agrees. **Gerben** explains why emotions are running high. Wageningen is close to the *patat-friet* border, which runs through Gelderland in the area between the rivers Maas and Waal. South of that the term *friet* or French fries is the correct term but Wageningen is actually in *patat* territory. Only poorly integrated people from the province of Brabant say *friet*. Luckily the machine itself is also the topic of discussion. This reveals that similar machines exist and respondents wonder whether the investment is a good one. **Hamburger** proposes that the university is harming its credibility by investing in a machine that encourages unhealthy behaviour. What's next, he wonders. 'A hamburger dispenser "made in Wageningen"'? **Anne** mainly doubts whether the dispenser can ever become more than a gadget. But she does want to try out the 'chip tap'. And she's not alone... in the days after the unveiling, there are long queues of curious people keen to try the dispenser-made *friet*, er *patat*. ③ RR

SEAWEED A LA WUR

CREAM OF SEAWEED SOUP

'CAPTAIN BRANDENBURG'
SEAWEED STICKS WITH
TZATZWEEDKI

WEEDNER SCHNITZEL

SEAWEED BONBON WITH
BLACKBERRY SAUCE



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The start-up Caenator has unveiled a French fries dispenser on the Wageningen campus. Unaided, the machine makes a portion of fries in two minutes.

The author is punished immediately for using the f-word. 'In the Netherlands the name is *patat*.'

PROPOSITION

'There is no better motivation to submit your PhD thesis than the start of a new job',

D. van der Spek, who graduates with a PhD on 11 September in Wageningen

Universities versus Elsevier

Dutch universities do not want to pay higher fees but they do want all their articles accessible to the public. Negotiations with publishing house Elsevier are still not going smoothly. A total rift would have far-reaching consequences.

text: Jolene Meijerink en Rob Ramaker / **illustration:** Geert-Jan Bruins



Dutch universities and publisher Elsevier have been at loggerheads for a year now. The universities want to see everybody having access to all academic articles from this country – ‘open access’ – by 2024. Currently these articles are only available to people with a subscription to Elsevier. If the papers became open access, Elsevier would lose that income. The universities say knowledge should be freely available. But as long as they are not prepared to pay extra for this, Elsevier does not agree. For Wageningen UR there is much at stake and time is running out, as the contract with Elsevier ends on 1 January.

The universities announced in July that they were considering a boycott of Elsevier. This would take place in three stages, said Gerard Meijer in the NRC newspaper in July. Meijer is chief negotiator for the universities and chair of the executive board of the Radboud University. Meijer’s first targetted researchers who worked as editors for one of the 2200 Elsevier journals. He would ask them to stop doing that work. If that had no effect, the next step would be to call on all researchers to stop peer-reviewing articles for the journals. And as a last resort, they would all stop sending in articles.

It is not easy to estimate how much this would hurt Elsevier. According to estimates by the Dutch universities’ association VSNU, there are 835 editors in the country, out of a total (according to Elsevier) of 17,500 editors around the world. Of these editors, 94 are from Wageningen UR. And inquiries suggest only half of them would be prepared to stop doing this work. In some institutions a higher proportion are prepared to do so. It would seem to be even harder to force a boycott of peer-reviewing or of publishing with Elsevier.

The Dutch boycott would not be the first protest Elsevier has faced either. In 2012, British mathematician Tim Gowers launched his petition The Cost of Knowledge. In it he protested against Elsevier’s high subscription fees. The annual report of 2014 reveals that in its academic activities Elsevier makes a profit of 37 cents (before tax) on every euro. Gowers’ petition was signed by 15,000 people. The mathematician is not satisfied with the effect it has had, as he writes in his blog. Apart from a couple of quick concessions from Elsevier, he does not see much substantial change.

In a response, Elsevier says it is absolutely not against open access. The company notes

too that things are moving in that direction. The publishing house is investing extensively in initiatives for ‘open’ research, says Philippe Terheggen, managing director of STM Journals at Elsevier. And 200 of their 2200 journals are already open access, while another 1600 are hybrids, which means that if the author pays for it, his papers are made open access.

Meanwhile Elsevier can see that Dutch universities want to make a much faster transition to open access. And the Netherlands expressly wants journals to be open access in their entirety; this has been dubbed ‘gold’ open access. In other countries, by contrast, there is still a lot of demand for access by subscription, says Terheggen. This is sometimes combined with ‘green’ open access, in which researchers are allowed to post a draft of the article on their own sites or in a database. ‘For the time being the UK and the Netherlands are the only countries opting for a transition to

The Netherlands wants journals accessible in their entirety: ‘gold’ open access.

gold open access. That means these countries will face additional costs,’ says Terheggen. ‘You pay as a country for making your own articles freely accessible to the rest of the world, whereas you would also like to retain access to articles from countries which are still working with subscriptions.’ He also points out that Elsevier invests a lot in online platforms from which millions of papers are downloaded every day.

Elsevier itself does not expect the disagreement to end in a total rift. ‘There is absolutely nothing to suggest that it won’t work out in the end,’ says Terheggen. ‘Both Elsevier and the VSNU eventually want to see a transition to open access.’ So he does not want to speculate about the consequences of a rift.

But those consequences would be far-reaching. Elsevier would be bound to lose some of its income. Universities are not allowed to say how much they pay Elsevier, but figures are starting to trickle in from abroad. In 2009, for instance, American universities paid between 400,000 and 2 million dollars per year. But it is not clear whether the Dutch situation is comparable. In any case, as a proportion of Elsevier’s total turnover - 7.2 billion euros (2014), the amount is negligible. The




negative publicity is far more damaging to the company, and could lead to similar campaigns in other countries.

Universities, and certainly Wageningen UR, are going to feel the effects much more strongly. Elsevier is by far the most powerful market player of all academic publishers. Between 2008 and 2014, about 25 percent of Dutch articles were published in an Elsevier journal, says John Janssen, senior contract manager at Surfmaket. He adds that this is probably an overestimate. Elsevier’s market share is even higher for researchers at Wageningen UR. The WUR library says 35 percent of the articles appear in Elsevier journals.

Wageningen researchers also read and cite a lot of articles in these journals. Of all the work they cite, 33 percent is in Elsevier journals. And the data from Surfmaket suggests that Wageningen researchers lead the field in downloading Elsevier articles. This probably has to do with the Wageningen focus on the natural sciences. After a rift they would have to buy these articles, ask the authors for them or go knocking at their fellow researchers’ doors. ‘The universities and Elsevier are dependent on each other,’ says Janssen, summing up the situation, ‘but the universities are more dependent on Elsevier than vice versa.’

Consultations between Elsevier and the VSNU resumed recently and all parties are optimistic about the prospects of coming to an agreement. Given the power relations, the question is whether the universities will get the outcome they want. Janssen believes that a partial deal is the best that can be expected. In the long term, however, the trend towards open access is unstoppable. **B**

PowerPoint exposes academic insecurity

A close-up portrait of a woman with short, curly brown hair and green eyes. She is wearing a dark jacket over a light blue shirt and a gold chain necklace. The background is blurred with blue and white light spots.

'Some people use PowerPoint for their own benefit and not for their audience.'

Researcher Brigitte Hertz

Why are academic PowerPoint presentations often so deadly dull and boring? Because of performance anxiety and poor skills, says researcher Brigitte Hertz. Academics too often use PowerPoint for their own benefit rather than for their audience.

text: Roelof Kleis / photo: Bram Belloni

You only have to walk into a conference or symposium and you'll find them: poor PowerPoint presentations. Scientists absorbed in their overfull slides and oblivious to their audience. Literally, since they are looking at the screen the whole time. And the whole thing is presented in barely comprehensible English. No doubt it is good science, but it is presented dreadfully. Why is this? Could it be the fault of PowerPoint? Brigitte Hertz has a very decided answer to that question, and expanded on it in her PhD thesis *Spotlight on the Presenter*, which she defended yesterday.

Hertz's answer to the question is a resounding no. The programme itself cannot be blamed for all those poor presentations. It's a question of the way scientists use PowerPoint. 'The main mistake people make is to use it primarily for themselves and not for their audience,' explains Hertz. 'They use PowerPoint to help them remember the structure of their presentation and the words they want to use. And that is not a good idea. If you want to give a presentation, your audience should be your starting point. How do you help the audience? How do you make sure you keep their attention, and that they follow what you are saying and preferably remember it too? Those are the three things you should do your best to achieve as a presenter. It is a sign of a professional attitude to put your audience first and not yourself.'

Hertz spent years studying the use of PowerPoint by researchers at academic conferences. Initially she asked for the Powerpoints from numerous conferences and studied the number of slides used and the number of words and images per slide. 'But that data turned out to be too static. The real point is what the presenters do with the slides. A presentation is a performance. The point is to get a complete picture of the slides and the behaviour of the presenter.' So she then filmed scientists too, studied their behaviour during their presentation and looked at the relations between that behaviour and the kinds of slides used. Pains-taking work.

The results of the various studies back up the oft-heard complaints about talks using PowerPoint. Yes, the average slide contains too


many words. Social scientists lead the field with as many as 50 words per slide, twice as many as PowerPoint gurus advise. And yes, too few images are used. You'll be lucky if there is one image every three slides (the speaker is probably a linguist). And yes again, presenters constantly turn towards their own slides: on average three times a minute. A lot more often when they use dynamic slides, where new elements continually 'fly in'. What is more, few of them announce or introduce their slides. All this not only makes for dull presentations but also for ineffective knowledge transfer.

But this is not PowerPoint's fault, asserts Hertz. It is down to the scientist's lack of skill. 'PowerPoint brings an extra variable onto the scene, and you have to do something with it. You have to direct the audience's attention but academics do not learn how to approach this rhetorically. I am quite shocked by that, really. There are loads of guides to PowerPoint but no one reads them.' Hertz calls PowerPoint a double-edged sword. 'Everybody uses the programme because it is so user-friendly. You can produce professional-looking slides in no time. That is the positive side. The negative side is that you take on quite a challenge in terms of the presentation skills and knowledge about audience responses that you actually need. People too easily assume they can do it. But they are using a tool without knowing what effect it has on the audience.'

PowerPoint is actually a tool suited to skilled and experienced presenters, in Hertz's view. But she wouldn't go so far as to forbid it for beginners. 'I would rather take a gentler approach. I don't want to send people onto the podium with their knees knocking. I don't want to deny them the support of PowerPoint.' Because many people really need that bit of support, as was clear from Hertz's many interviews with academics. PowerPoint owes much of its popularity to the fact that it provides a crutch for people with a fear of public speaking. But that is precisely the pitfall too, shows Hertz's study, because the greater the fear of speaking, the fuller the slides. In the worst case they are just chunks of text which are simply read aloud.

The intriguing thing about all this is that academics have very clear ideas about what makes a good presentation. Hertz: 'If I ask

about that, the same features always come out. The speaker should be relaxed, and have vision and a sense of humour. Then I ask, do you put that into your own presentation? No, that is much too scary because so-and-so is in the audience, and people might ask questions, and I want to come across as serious. There is a big contrast between what people like to hear themselves and what they think they ought to do when they are delivering a presentation themselves.' Hertz puts this discrepancy down to the fundamental insecurity academics suffer from. 'Presentation is a stressful thing because of the culture of science. In science you make a claim and it stands until someone else says it's not true. So every time you present your ideas you are waiting for someone to undermine them. Scientists are brought up to be tremendously critical. They look for the errors. Is the methodology good enough, are the results valid, is the sample representative? Facing that, just try to stay relaxed, let alone funny! Fear of public speaking is a very basic fear.'

So PowerPoint offers an anxious presenter something to hide behind, in a sense. But that does not lead to a really good presentation. To get that, says Hertz, you really have to work on the way you actually present the material. This should be done during university programmes, and preferably even earlier. 'In America children learn presentation skills from kindergarten on. I think that's important. It is also increasingly important for scientists so they can spread their ideas effectively. Not just amongst themselves but also to a wider audience. And it is perfectly possible. Fortunately I do also come across scientists who are very good presenters. Whose use of PowerPoint really adds something to the presentation. Who use nice pictures and change them without you noticing. Who don't even look at the screen.' 

See Brigitte Hertz's film on Resource-online for tips, tricks and pitfalls in using PowerPoint.

RESOURCE

PARTY CALENDAR

2015

(part two)

DESIGNED FOR THE TOILET DOOR
IN YOUR STUDENT HOUSE

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Open Party @ Ceres
- 11 IxESN pub crawl in the centre of Wageningen
- 12 Villa Bloem street party, starts 19.00
- 15 Dutch Night @ The Bunker
- 16 Food Film Festival @ Orion
- 17 Open Party @ KSV Franciscus, theme: 7 Sins
- 17 Open Party Mercurius @ Het Gat, theme: The Smurfs
- 18 Latin Party @ The Spot (Orion), starts 22.00
- 24 Open Party Unitas @ Junushoff, theme: Premiere of the Year
- 24 Open Party @ Argo, theme: Rocking and rowing
- 25 Nachtboter @ De Wilde Wereld, starts 20.00
- 26 80s Party @ Cafe Loburg

OCTOBER

- 1 Popronde Festival in the centre of Wageningen, from 21.30 till late, organized by Popcultuur Wageningen
- 3 Opening Party @ THUIS (Stationsstraat 32), from 11.00 till 23.30
- 3 Swing Night @ Hof van Wageningen
- 3 Octoberfest SHOUT @ De Wilde Wereld
- 6 Animals Day Party @ The Bunker
- 12 IxESN Weekly drinks @ Villa Bloem
- 28 Quiet Is The New Loud @ BBLTHK, 21.00 Acoustic concert organized by Popcultuur Wageningen
- 29 Open Party @ Ceres

NOVEMBER

- 4 Palm Intocht @ Wageningen town centre, from 18.00 till 4.00
- 5 Room Service @ various student houses
- 5 Open Party @ Unitas
- 6 Bergrace by Night After Party @ Junushoff
- 7 Black Light District Party SHOUT @ De Wilde Wereld
- 12 Open Party @ KSV Franciscus
- 19 Open party @ SSR-W
- 25 Quiet Is The New Loud @ BBLTHK, starts 21.00
- 26 Open Party @ Unitas

DECEMBER

- 3 Serious Request @ SSR-W
- 17 Open party @ Ceres
- 31 New Year's Eve Parties all over town
- 16 Open feest 7Sins @ KSV, 23.00 uur
- 25 Batavierenfeest @ campus UT Twente
- 28 Oranjebal @ SSR-W, 3 euro

JANUARY 2016

- 7 Open party @ SSR-W
- 14 Open Party @ KSV Franciscus
- 21 Open Party @ Ceres



This calendar was made by Resource
and Wageningen Uitgaans Promoties.
Many more parties and details
about these gigs can be found on
www.wageningenup.nl.



Dairy Campus takes shape

Dairy Campus Leeuwarden is really starting to take shape now. The national expertise and innovation centre for the dairy industry is currently completing two sheds for about 250 cows, as well as a new milking shed. The sheds are expected to be ready in December.

text: Albert Sikkema / **photo:** Dairy Campus



The new sheds contain several units in which innovative research is done in collaboration with companies in the dairy sector, Livestock Research and education. In the new environmental shed, for example, research is done on whether a floor affects ammonia emissions. The feed research shed boasts feeding troughs which can register each individual cow's eating habits and behaviour. One of the things which can then be measured is the impact of the feed on the cow's milk production. Next year another two innovative sheds will go up at the Dairy Campus, each housing 60 cows. The cows which are now still at the Waiboerhoeve dairy farm in Lelystad will be transferred to Leeuwarden in stages. This will create a dairy farm with a total herd of 550 cows. A mega-farm, admits Dairy Campus spokesperson Nelleke Meindersma. 'But it is really a concentration of research and practical learning facilities.' The current shed on the

Dairy Campus, formerly experimental farm Nij Bosma Zathe, houses 180 cows. In future this shed will be used for hands-on classes.

The expansion has advantages for the implementation of innovative research, explains Meindersma. 'Because of the regulations and the amount of space available in the

The Dairy Campus attracts about 10,000 visitors a year.

Netherlands it is not easy for dairy farmers to expand. So there is a need for innovation in the field of livestock, pasturing, animal health, sensor technology and manure processing.' A grazing study with a large number of cows is currently under way. 'The aim is to gain more knowledge so as to make optimal use of a lot for grazing.'

As well as the new sheds, there will also be a

new reception area. About 10,000 people visit the Dairy Campus every year. Meindersma: 'It should be a meeting place and a living lab for companies and knowledge institutions.'

The building and the implementation represent an investment of about 40 million over a period of ten years, which also covers an innovation and education programme. Twelve research programmes have been launched since the start of the innovation programme in March last year. The companies working on these programmes can be refunded for some of the costs from a special innovation fund. One example is an ongoing study backed by this fund which measures the effect of fertilizer with air bubbles on ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions. The education programme consists of three posts at Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences focussing on the development and communication of knowledge on a profitable and sustainable dairy industry. 

Minister Bussemaker in the classroom

‘We haven’t made unreasonable demands’



Students haven't lost the basic grant for no reason, asserts minister Bussemaker. She is going all out to spend the millions the measure has freed up wisely. 'I want to be able to look students in the eye.'

text: Petra Vissers en Bas Belleman (HOP) / **photo:** Freek van den Bergh

Thousands of first-years are now embarking on their degree programmes, many of them leaving home for the first time. What is Minister of Education Jet Bussemaker's message to them? 'In a bit I will have all sorts of wise words about taking out loans and having to pay them back later,' she laughs. 'But first I want to say to students: seize the opportunities you get with both hands. Do take a look at student societies, study associations and sports clubs as well... Your student years are a formative period.'

And what are your wise words about student loans?

'Go about it thoughtfully, and weigh things up for yourself. The loan and supplementary grant are intended for your studies, not for going on nice holidays. Students can also get part-time jobs. Working in a catering outlet can be fun and sociable, but you can also look for work that is related to your studies. And don't forget to apply for funding in any case, because then you get a student card for public transport.'

Abolishing the basic grant for Master's and Bachelor's students has been Bussemaker's main achievement. Opponents warned that fewer high school students would go on to higher education, but for now there seem to be as many first-years as last year. Bussemaker: 'I always said: there could be a little dip in the number of applications, but that will right itself. I am pleased that there doesn't even seem to be a dip.'

One in the eye for your critics?

'Everyone must draw their own conclusions, but I do feel vindicated. We haven't made any unreasonable demands on young people. New students will have felt fed up about it, and I can understand that. But this is a big step forwards; we can now invest up to one billion euros more in higher education.'

Universities are sceptical of that amount. They say it is much lower.

'The money that is freed up by the introduction of the student loan is up to one billion euros. That is quite simply the case; we have put it all in the tables. I understand that universities want even more money and therefore question the amount. But that's it. We want to come to good agreements about how the money is spent. I want to be able to look students in the eye later.'

The sum of one billion includes a cut of 200 million on the public transport card for students. Will you manage that?

'I am assuming we will. There are educational institutions where you could fire a cannon after four o'clock without disturbing anyone because everyone's gone home. That is a pity, especially if you calculate the costs of those buildings are. So we say: give some thought to a better distribution. That also makes the public transport card cheaper, and we can spend that money on higher education too.'

Bussemaker had not yet won the battle of the basic grant when conflict flared up. The University of Amsterdam's Maagdenhuis was occupied for weeks, attracting a lot of media attention.

What was your response to the occupation?

'I tried to understand what the campaigners wanted, but it was not that easy to get a sense of that. I wanted to go along to the Maagdenhuis, for example, but only if there would be some preparation for that and no pushing and shoving at the door. In the end I didn't go there during the occupation. They just couldn't agree on it. There was always somebody who was against me coming or against the subject we wanted to discuss.'

'I did recognize the undercurrent in the protest: teachers who no longer felt like the owners of their programme, and students who think there is too much emphasis on quantitative results. But what you shouldn't forget is that the protests did not resonate in many parts of the country. I asked students at the Radboud University but the grievances hardly rang any bells for them. Only two German students there had criticisms.'


Have the protests in Amsterdam influenced your plans?

'I haven't changed anything because of the protests. Much of it was already in the pipeline and I am too autonomous to then suddenly change all sorts of things. But I do recognize some problems, so I felt confirmed in that.'

Such as?

'Take the vast number of temporary contracts in academia. In some areas that has really gone too far. We are trying to do something about that. Education should be more highly valued in universities and in applied science universities I want the research groups to be more involved in education.'

According to critics, in your proposed legislation on participation you have not listened at all to the call for democratization.

'I read an angry piece by the Socialist Party. They want students to elect executive boards. If you really want to send institutions down the drain, that's what you should do. There are very complex processes involved, especially in large institutions. People with wild ideas like that should look around abroad. There are universities in England where students hardly have any say and are very content – and the other way around. The perfect system just doesn't exist.' 

JET BUSSEMAKER

Jet Bussemaker (b.1961) has been minister of Education, Culture and Science for the Labour Party in the second Rutte cabinet, since 2012. She studied Political Science at the University of Amsterdam, and got her doctorate there too. She then worked as a lecturer and researcher at the UvA and the VU Amsterdam, as well as for the government. In 2011 and 2012 she was rector of Amsterdam University of Applied Science.

NO TRUCK WITH THE 'SIX STUDENT'?

The University of Leiden set the cat among the pigeons last year when it announced that students with a bare pass (a six) would no longer be admitted to its Master's programme in Political Science. Seven minimum, even for their own Bachelor's students. The reason given is that this will raise the standard of the programme. But some see it as a disguised budget cut. Meanwhile the VU University Amsterdam and the Rotterdam School of Management have started selecting too. Should Wageningen join them in turning away students with a six average?

text: Carina Nieuwenweg / illustration: Henk van Ruitenbeek

Bram van Driel



Second-year student of Nutrition and Health

I think the advantage of this plan is that there is more point in aiming for good grades. Now you only have to pass your courses to get a Bachelor's degree and be accepted on a Master's programme. If this is introduced in Wageningen, there should be at least one Wageningen Master's you can get into with a pass degree. That way you get a system in which getting good grades gives you more choice. That appeals to me. **I do wonder though if it's a good idea to have Master's programmes at different levels.** In principle a Master's stands for academic ability. How do you explain the differences to businesses? They want to know where they stand, too.

Wilko van Loon



Programme director Molecular Life Sciences

I can understand why you would require at least a seven for students coming from other kinds of first degree courses where they have taken a different set of courses to the stand-

ard Bachelor's. Then you give the better students the biggest chance of doing well on the Master's. **But if you decide to really start selecting you should do so as early as possible in the Bachelor's phase.** It would be ridiculous for students to hear only after their Bachelor's that they are less suited to the subject they chose. That is a waste of their time. If they have got their Bachelor's they should get access to the Master's. After all, you want to make clear that your own Bachelor's is good enough.

Sonja Isken



Programme director Biotechnology

In my view it's simple. If you say a group of students are not up to a Master's while they have obtained a Bachelor's degree intended to precede that Master's, then the Bachelor's degree is too easy. Obviously you don't think your own Bachelor's degree is good enough. In that case **you should work on the Bachelor's programme until you are sure that even a 'six' is good enough for the Master's.** That is the way to maintain quality in education, not by requiring a minimum grade. A requirement of that kind is only appropriate for people joining from other, unrelated, Bachelor's programmes.



Joshua Dijksman



Assistant professor at Physical Chemistry and Soft Matter

For neither student nor university is it desirable for students to choose degree subjects they won't be able to get much further with. But whether you can solve that with a minimum requirement based on a grade, remains to be seen of course. Not all students follow a straight line; in an academic context you need space for that. **A seven strikes me as a very arbitrary threshold which allows little space for individual variations among students.** If the university starts implementing such a rule, I think some allowance should be made for individual differences.

Raoul Frijns



Fifth-year Molecular Life Sciences

I don't think it's a good idea to set minimum average grades for Master's programmes. Wageningen UR has many specialist programmes and the majority of the students don't come to the university just for a BSc. **If you can't take the specific follow-on MSc, you are**

suddenly stuck and you'll have to go in a totally different direction. What is more, you never know how someone ended up with their grade average. Did someone who needed 20 resits to end up with a seven average really do better than someone who passed every course first time with a 6.5?

Ivanna Colijn



Third-year Food Technology

I am against rejecting 'six culture students'. Certainly in Wageningen it is quite normal to be involved in committees at student societies, study associations or sports clubs alongside your studies. An active student life is time-consuming but you also learn a lot of skills which come in handy in the course of your career. **I can imagine how your studies go on the back burner when you are spending a lot of time on a big committee or board.** If the university decides to turn away 'six culture students' from an MSc programme, more students will opt to concentrate on their studies instead of taking part in extra-curricular activities. I would consider that a great shame, and I also question whether it will produce better future employees. ¹⁸

'I get sentimental when I smell the gunpowder'

They drink Dutch juniper gin and occasionally fire semi-automatic weapons: the members of the Transvaal student militia form an illustrious company within Ceres, the student society. 'We are not strange or secretive. But it's fun to keep up that image a bit.'

text: Linda van der Nat / **photo:** Sven Menschel and Transvaal/Ceres

This coming Prince's Day, 15 September, 11 Wageningen students will line the route taken by the Golden Carriage carrying Willem-Alexander and Maxima from Palace Noordeinde to the Binnenhof.

These students are members of the Wageningen student militia named Transvaal, and they will form the guard of honour for the Royal Procession. Dressed to the nines, in a stiffly starched, baking hot uniform and wearing a hat, they will stand for hours waiting for the Golden Carriage. 'Sometimes if it is sunny, students faint,' tells Luc Meerkerk, Transvaal's secretary. 'Last year a student in the Rotterdam student militia had to throw up. But it is so cool to see the king and queen riding past just two metres away from you.'

It is one of the highlights of the year for the Wageningen student militia. At the march-past on 5 May they also stand along the route forming a guard of honour, and on 4 May they stand among the colonels and generals of the Dutch army on the Grebbe mountain and they lay a wreath at the war memorial. Every year a group of them - carrying packs weighing 10 kilos - walks the route for military personnel in the Nijmegen Four-Day March. In addition, there is always a lot of enthusiasm for the gun training, which is organized by the Ministry of Defence, and - since recently - Transvaal board members undergo some of the initiation rituals for new army recruits.

The bond with Defence is indeed strong, says Stef Heijink, president of Transvaal. This alliance can be traced back to Prince Bernhard, who brought renewed vigour to the student militias in the Netherlands after the Second World War. 'Transvaal was founded in 1900 by students who felt moved by the plight of the Boers in South Africa,' says Stef. 'Little is known of the early years, but it is clear that the society was dwindling away until Prince Bernhard took the student militias under his wing after WWII.' In 1947 he became the patron of the Wageningen student militia.

Despite the attention paid to the history and traditions of the society, Transvaal's current members don't exude an air of military fanaticism. Their mini-club at Ceres is richly decorated with not only German Mauser rifles, street name signs and other military paraphernalia, but also empty juniper gin bottles ('the officers' drink at the Ministry of Defence'), and it smells of stale beer. On the committee table stands an ashtray of cigarette ends. 'We have "a thing" with the Ministry of Defence, but we never lose sight of the student-like aspect,' says Luc. 'Traditions and regularly having a drink, I suppose you could say that's what we're about. If the two can go hand in hand, then we've hit the jackpot.'





Transvaal is known for its main activity: shooting. The armed forces offer Transvaal members gun training with the semiautomatic weapons used by the army. Every year 36 members take the course: first theory, then shooting using a simulator, finally shooting with live ammunition. 'The moment that a firearm like that is put in your hands is very special,' says

'Traditions and regularly having a drink, I suppose you could say that's what we're about'.

Luc. 'When you go and shoot together, you get up especially early on a Saturday to go to the firing range,' says Stef. 'When I fire my first shot and I smell the gunpowder fumes, I even get a little sentimental.'

But the impression that Transvaal consists of a gang of trigger-happy students is incorrect, says Stef. 'We're seen as being a bit iffy. But we aren't strange or secretive. It's just that there's fun to be had in maintaining that image to some extent. And we do want to remain a little bit exclusive.'

In contrast to the other student militias in the Netherlands, Transvaal is primarily a social society. 'I joined because of the cool activities and because there's a real group feeling,' says Stef, 'not because I hoped to have a career at the Ministry of Defence. At the other student militias, by contrast, a lot of members do join the armed forces.' Nevertheless, the army finds it contacts with Transvaal valuable, believes Luc. 'The army is always interested in highly-educated people. And there's no study programme in Wageningen that isn't interesting to the armed forces. We know about land and water management, road building, policy ... It is a big pool to fish in. At the end of the day, there may not be that many students who join the army, but the investment certainly pays off.'

Transvaal is a male bastion. Of the 90 members, just 20 are women and the ladies are barred from holding an executive position. Don't they think that is a little old-fashioned? 'I think it's natural it should be like that, it's never been otherwise,' says Stef. 'After all, it's a man's world, isn't it? There's a lot of macho behaviour between the student militias. We are one of the few student militias that women can join.' A woman on the board is indeed a topic of discussion within the society, says Luc. 'It is

always difficult to make any change to traditions in the society. But it may happen.'

In any event, on this year's 'third Tuesday in September' women will be part of the guard of honour for the Royal Procession. Stef and Luc will be there too. For Stef it will be the first time; Luc took part last year. 'From the ADO Den Haag stadium, where we get changed every year, we and the other Dutch student militias were driven under police escort to the Malieveld. That was really great. And that's only the start.' **R**





MELTING ICE

The polar ice is melting. But there is hope. Scottish scientists have found a way of getting ice(cream) to melt more slowly. They do this by adding the protein BsIA. The new ice cream contains fewer calories as well. This could help solve two of the big problems of our time: obesity and climate change. Hurrah for science!

BLUE

Sad people don't see colours as well. The effect is considerable in the blue-green spectrum, state researchers at the American University of Rochester. So there is a physiological basis for 'feeling blue', say the researchers. And unrequited love makes the world look greyer.

MEOW

Cats are not looking for a sense of security from their owners, British behavioural scientists at the University of Lincoln have shown. Unlike dogs, for whom that does apply. The reason, according to the researchers, is that cats are lone hunters by nature. A cat is not dependent. Anyone else would do in your place. Cats do have commitment issues.

ME

Men cite their own work in academic articles more often than women do – by half as much again, in fact. This finding comes from research at Stanford University. Moreover, the tendency to cite yourself has increased since more women went into science. Citation scores determine your academic status. According to this study, there is only one conclusion: citing yourself is just a form of jostling for position.

Elite athlete Nadine Visser can plan her study programme

Athlete Nadine Visser has just returned from the athletics World Championships in Beijing and is resuming her degree in Health and Nutrition at Wageningen. In China she came eighth in the heptathlon and was part of the Dutch relay team in the 4 x 100 metres. In Wageningen she can easily combine elite sport with studying, she says. Her next major objective is the Olympic Games in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro.

'I'm now in my third year of studying, but because I have a lot of - often planned - delays, I have just completed my first year and a few second-year courses. This academic year I will be taking a course only in the first two periods so that I can prepare for the Olympic Games,' says the 20-year-old athlete. 'I spend time on my sport almost every day. In the mornings and afternoons I train at Papendal in Arnhem, which doesn't leave much time to travel to Wageningen for my studies. That time is available on Wednesday, my rest day. And if I have a mandatory seminar in Wageningen, my trainer is happy to shift the training session. But because being at the university takes a lot of energy, I prefer

to go there as little as possible and I do mostly home study. In any case, I always study the lecture slides at home. I recently got a car and that's really great. Now it's easier for me to get from Papendal to the university. By public transport it takes an hour longer.'

She is very enthusiastic about the 'elite sport scheme' at the university. 'I don't think Wageningen has any particular scheme on paper for elite athletes, but in my opinion they make better provisions for them than universities that do. Together with the study advisor, I have put my own programme together, which courses I am taking and when. I don't need to achieve a certain number of ECTS and I can take an extra year to complete my de-

gree. This gives me great peace of mind; it is not a good thing if a study programme creates stress. What's more, most lecturers are happy to help me come up with solutions whenever I can't attend lessons - provided I explain my situation in good time before the start of the course. So everything suits me really well at the university.'

She looks back on the athletics World Championships with satisfaction. 'The first day of the heptathlon went very well, with a good time in the hurdles: just four hundredths of a second outside the Dutch record. And a personal best in the high jump (1.80 metre). On the second day, the long jump was very disappointing and in the javelin too I lost a lot of points. Ultimately, I came eighth and I am very happy with that.'

She almost won a medal in the 4x100 m women's relay. 'We had a fabulous team and could have got a medal, but unfortunately the last handover went badly.' **AS**



Nadine Visser during the heptathlon at the athletics World Championships in Beijing.

PHOTO: ERIK VAN LEEUWEN

EPISODE 56 - MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

Text
Simone
Rijlaarsdam

Derk

Filippo

Bianca

Vera

Willem-Jan
Vecino

The story so far: Willem-Jan is busy getting his life in order. Having visited his study advisor, he has now been persuaded by Vera to join her for some exercise.

Student fat

Bzzz, Bzzz, Bzzz. Willem-Jan's alarm clock had been ringing for 15 minutes. Why, he thought, did I promise to go with her early in the morning? At that, the door flew open and Vera appeared. 'Come on, get up. Grab your swimming trunks, we're leaving in two minutes.' In a flash, she was gone again.

After a few problems getting going, they were standing under the showers at the Bongerd. Vera was explaining her swimming programme to Willem-Jan and looking at him encouragingly. 'You did bring your goggles, didn't you?' she asked. 'Veer, I've only just opened my eyes, do you mind if I wake up first?' he said.

'You'll wake up while you're swimming. You do want to lose those kilos of student fat, don't you?' Vera prodded Willem-Jan's beer belly and pushed him playfully in the direction of the swimming pool.

Even at that time of the morning, it was busy in the pool. As well as students, elderly men and women were swimming lengths. At the Bongerd, the four lanes nearest the showers are always reserved for slow swimmers. On the other side are the fast lanes. 'Hey, look at that man there on the side of the pool. Trunks like those pulled up over a fat stomach is not a good look,' sniggered Willem-Jan. 'But I bet he enjoyed his time as a student way back when.' Vera glared at him. In her opinion, you just didn't say things like that. It was impressive enough that he was taking exercise in his twilight years.

'And he's got a swim ring. As if his stomach isn't buoyant enough!'



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

Their half-hour swim was almost over. Vera did a stint of back stroke in the last five minutes, while Willem-Jan stuck to what he had learned at school. He found front crawl tiring enough and despite his repeated urging, Vera didn't want to cut their session short and go to the sauna.

This feels good, another four lengths to go, thought Vera meanwhile. But without noticing it, she had started to drift across her lane. With a bump, she collided with the man wearing the swim ring. At once he started thrashing wildly in the water, inadvertently pushing Vera beneath the surface. Now the swim ring was bobbing in the water and the old man watched despairingly as it floated away. Vera surfaced, spluttering.

'Sorry sir, I didn't realize. Are you alright?' She quickly grabbed the float and gave it back.

'Watch where you are going, young lady!' the man snapped angrily when he had recovered.

Vera beat a hasty retreat.

'Come on Willem-Jan, let's go to the sauna,' said a beetroot-red Vera from the side of the pool. Laughing, Willem-Jan was only too happy to oblige.

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

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>> PARTIES

The best parties according to Wageningen Uitgaans Promotie. Check www.wageningenup.nl for all parties.

**WAGENINGEN - IXESN: PUB CRAWL**

Friday 11 September from 21:00 to 05:00

International Exchange Erasmus Student Network (IXESN) is holding a pub crawl in Wageningen. A perfect way for new international students to get to know Wageningen's many pubs. If you have been in Wageningen for longer, this is a fun way to get to know the new cohort of international students.

VILLA BLOEM - 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY STREET PARTY

Saturday 12 September from 19:00 to 02:00

Villa Bloem, a charming little cafe in a side street off the market square is ten years old. The guys here know how to throw a retro party.

They are celebrating their birthday with a gig by electro-pop duo CUT_ and a South African braai (barbecue). Now just keep your fingers crossed for good weather. Of course, you can stay inside the cafe, but it will soon fill up.

HET GAT - MERCURIUS: OPEN PARTY; THE SMURFS!

Thursday 17 September from 22:00 to 03:00

The new academic year brings new boards at the societies. Study association Mercurius is not limiting its celebration of the change of board members to an internal party, but is inviting everyone to come and celebrate in Het Gat cafe. The idea is that everyone comes in blue because the theme is the Smurfs. **B**

>> THE WORKS

'NO ONE PREPARES YOU FOR COMING HOME'

Who? Bonnie van Dongen, MSc Health and Society

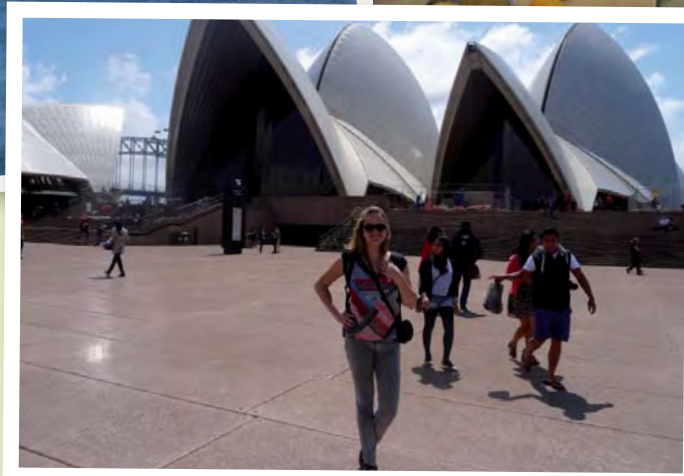
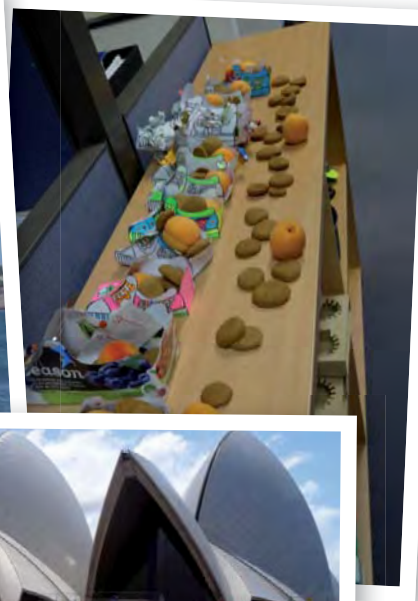
What? Four-month internship at the Priority Research Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition at the University of Newcastle

Where? Newcastle, Australia

'I'm really proud of myself for having the guts to do this on my own. I'll admit, before I went there were moments when I wondered whether I could do it. But you learn so much that benefits both your academic career and your personal development. It really boosts your self-confidence. Now if I find something daunting, I say to myself: come on, you've been to Australia on your own! And to think that I almost couldn't do the internship because there were all sorts of problems with arranging my visa.'

'I did an internship at a research centre that had previously conducted a lifestyle programme among boys of a lower social class. You see, boys in lower social classes have a higher risk of having an unhealthy lifestyle and of being overweight. They drink a lot of energy drinks and have more screen time than boys in a higher socio-economic class. I studied whether their behaviour had changed. It turned out that these boys had more skills to behave in a healthy way and that their sense of responsibility had increased.'

'There was a lot of office work, which made helping with programmes in the field even more enjoyable. Then, for instance, I was allowed to measure and weigh pupils. On those occasions, I sometimes spent whole days sitting in the car with colleagues, going to a school, but that wasn't bad because my colleagues were really nice and interested people.'



'The stereotype of Australians is that they are very laidback, and that's true. Dutch working hours are much more rigid. In the afternoon, Australians go off surfing or whatever. Dutch efficiency is great but sometimes it isn't good to get too het up about things. Sometimes it makes sense to go home at about 4 o'clock, to rest and start the next day refreshed. When I was back home, I found it very difficult to feel that Dutch efficiency again, and at the same time I was keen to hang on to the relaxed attitude of the Australians. People here never stop working. It was more of an effort to come back than to go away for the internship. But then, no one prepares you for coming home. If there is an appealing PhD place available in Australia, I will certainly consider it. It's just a pity it is so far away.' **B MvdH**



PHOTO: FAMILY BUSINESS / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

MEANWHILE IN... <<

Meanwhile in... Serbia

In the news: The great stream of refugees fleeing the war in Syria are crossing Hungary, Macedonia and Serbia

Commentary by Maja Tišma, Master's student of Leisure, Tourism and Environment.

'Serbia is experiencing big groups of refugees who pass through cities such as Novi Sad and Belgrade. They are in a bad way. The refugees spend the night in parks, under bridges or just on the street. They often lack blankets and sleeping bags and there isn't much food or water either. There are no facilities for these people.

There are many people helping the refugees. The government encourages that too. Friends of mine are distributing water and food in the city. Sleeping bags, blankets and old clothes are being collected. Serbia is not part of the EUR so there are border controls. Refugees want to reach Hungary (which is EU). Many are travelling without passports and they have to find the way themselves, which they usually do with their mobile phones. They travel on public transport, so trains and buses are extremely full.

Because of the large number of refugees the towns are getting dirtier. The presence of so many people living on the street sometimes creates tensions. You can feel that a lot more than, say, a year ago. People say there is a lot more theft and that women out alone get called after. And Serbia already had a lot of homeless people. We haven't got our own affairs in order. So our country cannot cope with such a large number of refugees.

What we are seeing now is the first wave of refugees. These are wealthy people fleeing their homeland. A second wave of poor people is still to come. I don't know what is to be done, it is terrible. The whole of Europe will have to collaborate to help these people and reduce the problems in eastern Europe.' **® LdP**

Science Cafe Wageningen

www.sciencecafewageningen.nl

Sports & nutrition

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Prof. Luc van Loon (Maastricht University)

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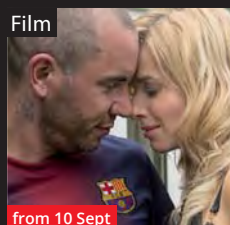
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Derek Pan studied at Wageningen but is back in China now. His short films about his experience there can be watched on resource-online.nl

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Kijk op de website van de Volksuniversiteit: <http://www5.volksuniversiteit.nl/wageningen> of kom naar de inschrijfdag in de Bibliotheek Wageningen op zaterdag, 5 september om 11.30, daar zijn ook docenten van de talencursussen aanwezig.

classifieds

Emmaus Regenboog extends opening hours

In order to offer more scope for a quiet nose around the shop, from now on we will be open on Wednesdays from 10 to 2 p.m. and on Saturdays from 12 to 4 p.m. That's two hours more shopping fun a week! You'll find we have everything in the way of items cast off by a wealthy society, such as furniture, equipment, books, clothing, curiosities and household goods. Location: Herenstraat 9, Wageningen.

[HTTP://EMMAUSWAGENINGEN.NL/](http://emmauswageningen.nl/)

Retro-bike for sale: racing bike Gazelle Champion Mondial from 1977

In good condition, size 58–59, colour ivory, 10 gears, tyres, Reynolds 513 frame, Sugino crank set, Weinmann brakes, etc. Info: Bas Blok, 06-47081972

Wageningen45 seeks volunteers

For various projects, we are looking for volunteers to help with organization. Throughout the year, the Dutch National Committee for the Commemoration of Capitulations 1945 (Wageningen45) holds numerous activities: educational school projects, various kinds of lectures, the Liberation event in Wageningen and more.

INFO: [WWW.WAGENINGEN45.NL](http://www.wageningen45.nl)

agenda

Sunday 13 September, 16:30–19:00 JAZZ JAM SESSION IN DE ZAAIER CAFE

Keyboards, bass (guitars) and drums are provided, as well as a small sound installation for singers and instruments that need amplification. Everyone is welcome, experienced and novice musicians alike. Or you can just come along and listen.

[WWW.JAZZINWAGENINGEN.NL](http://www.jazzinwageningen.nl)

Saturday 19 September, 12:00 to 16:00

ANNUAL FAIR EMMAUS REGENBOOG

The cheery annual fair that so many people look forward to, with dozens of market stalls offering special items collected over the course of the year. Venue: Herenstraat 9, Wageningen

Thursday 10 to Wednesday 23 September incl.

FILMS FOR STUDENTS

Movie W, Wageningen's art-house cinema, is showing: Citizenfour, a political docu-thriller about Edward Snowden; Menino, an enchanting animated film about a country boy who goes in search of his father in the big city; Kurai Kurai, a psychological journey through the steppe (high grasslands) of Kyrgyzstan; Geronimo, a vibrant drama about emotions boiling over among young people who use music and dance as their release; Schneider vs. Bax, the latest film by Alex van Warmerdam, a wry (polder)western.

[WWW.MOVIE-W.NL](http://www.movie-w.nl)

Wednesday 23 September, 13:30–20:00

SYMPOSIUM BY THE STUDY ASSOCIATION THE CATTLE FARMERS: 'CATTLE FARMING EXAMINED. AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT' (IN DUTCH)

From milking by hand to a fully automated milking robot and from 'simple farmer' to 'agricultural business owner'. Since the Second World War cattle farming has been developing at a rapid pace. The symposium outlines current developments in cattle farming and discusses the road to the future as seen from the perspective of the cattle farmer, trade and industry, politics and science. Deadline for enrolling: 16 September.

[WWW.NZVNET.NL](http://www.nzvnet.nl)

Saturday 26 September from 14:00 & Sunday 27 September from 10:00 DUTCH YOUTH ASSOCIATION FOR NATURE STUDIES (NJN) CELEBRATES ITS 95TH ANNIVERSARY

The weekend will involve various activities based around the VHL University of Applied Sciences in Velp, such as a symposium on Saturday called 'Adventuring into Nature', music and children's activities. On Sunday, you can take an excursion every hour during 'Nature Every Hour'. Admission is free for young people aged 11 to 25 years incl.

CHECK OUT THE FULL PROGRAMME OF FESTIVITIES AT [WWW.NJN.NL/SYMPIOSIUM](http://www.njn.nl/symposium)

Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 October TWO DAY WORKSHOP 'URBAN AGRICULTURE - THE NEXT FRONTIER'

If you're keen to engage in a workshop on urban agriculture and the intersection of food and urban planning, join the Wageningen workshop.

[HTTP://WWW.ISOCARP2015.ORG/THEMES/WAGENINGEN](http://www.isocarp2015.org/themes/wageningen) OR CONTACT HELENA AT: [HHEYNING@XS4ALL.NL](mailto:hheyning@xs4all.nl)

Thursday 5 November, 13:00-22:30 NZV ANNIVERSARY 'THE CATTLE FARMER IN THE WORLD'

To mark its 85th birthday, the Dutch Zootechnics Association (NZV) is holding a symposium focusing on the key role of the animal scientist in addressing world issues. There will be debates on such topics as food security and smallholders vs. production for the market. The afternoon concludes with a networking drinks and buffet event. Venue: Hotel de Wageningse Berg, Gen. Foulkesweg 96.

ENROLMENT AND INFO: [WWW.NZVNET.NL](http://www.nzvnet.nl)

Deadline for submissions: one week before publication date (max. 75 words)
Email: resource@wur.nl

colophon

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Address

Akkermaalsbos 14, 6708 WB Wageningen (Nexus, Building 117, bode 31).
POBox 409 6700 AK Wageningen.
Secretariat: Thea Kuijpers,
resource@wur.nl, 0317 484020
Website: www.resource-online.nl
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Editorial staff

- Edwin van Laar (editor-in-chief)
edwin.vanlaar@wur.nl, 0317 482997
- Roelof Kleis (ecology, social sciences, economy),
roelof.kleis@wur.nl, 0317 481721
- Koen Guiking (web editor)
koen.guiking@wur.nl, 0317 488190
- Linda van der Nat (students, education)
linda.vandernat@wur.nl, 0317 481725
- Rob Ramaker (nutrition, fisheries),
rob.ramaker@wur.nl, 0317 481709
- Albert Sikkema (plant sciences, animal sciences, organization)
albert.sikkema@wur.nl, 0317 481724

Freelance journalists

Romy Appelman, Jeroen Bok, Alexandra Branderhorst, Stijn van Gils, ir. Yvonne de Hilster, Milou van der Horst, Amy Jansen, Nicole Janssen, Iris Keizer, Jan-Willem Kortlever, Sander de Kraker, Carina Nieuwenweg, ir. Rik Nijland, Kim Peterse, Camilla Ponte, Lucas du Pré, Simone Rijlaarsdam, Mary Shrestha, ir. Joris Tielens, Kees van Velu, Veronika Wehner, Hoger Onderwijs Persbureau

Design

Geert-Jan Bruins

Photography

Guy Ackermans, Sven Menschel, Aart-Jan van de Glind

Illustrations

Guido de Groot, Studio Lakmoes, Kim Peterse, Henk van Ruitenbeek

Translators

Clare McGregor, Susie Day, Clare Wilkinson

Printer

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Editorial board

ir. Martijn de Groot (chair), prof. Anton Haverkort, ir. Tia Hermans, ir. Marianne Heselmans, dr. ir. Patrick Jansen, Anneloes Reinders, Simone Ritzer, dr. Margit van Wessel. redactieraad.resource@wur.nl

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Advertising

External: Bureau van Vliet, T 023-5714745
m.dewit@bureauvanvliet.com
Internal (reduced rate): Thea Kuijpers,
resource@wur.nl. T 0317 484020

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>>>TYPICAL DUTCH




ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEK

Dutch design: the toilet

When we arrive in a new country and intend to study and live there for a while, some of us will pay attention to a fairly important and essential item: the toilet.

Toilets in the Netherlands are unique. First, we have to pay to use a public toilet in the Netherlands. In some countries, the use of public toilets is free because these countries consider it as a natural human need. I found it interesting when my friend bought food at a fast food restaurant in the Netherlands and they gave a kind of voucher for using the toilet. In my country, we have 'pay toilets' as well, but this kind of voucher is new to some of us, and so is paying into a machine instead of giving cash to the person in charge. Secondly, the Dutch toilet, which does not use much water, turns out to be a different shape. The reason for its unusual design is interesting. If we want to identify any diseases we may be suffering from, the shelf in a Dutch toilet makes it easier to examine our faeces or urine, or to take a specimen for analysis.

Toilet design may be a simple thing, but when I think of the purpose behind it, I get the impression that the Dutch pay attention to detail. No doubt there are many other unique features of this country that will be interesting to learn about.  **Riana Wulandari, MSc student of Food Safety, from Indonesia**

If we want to identify any diseases we may suffer from, the shelf in a Dutch toilet makes it easier

Do you have a nice anecdote about your experience of going Dutch? Send it in! Describe an encounter with Dutch culture in detail and comment on it briefly. 300 words max. Send it to resource@wur.nl and earn twenty-five euro and Dutch candy.