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RESOURCE ^[ENG]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 4 – 24 September 2015 – 10th Volume



**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**


Where is all the ammonia?

A report provides clarity | **p.18**

>> PATRICK + DISC-JOCKEYING

Patrick Gravemaker, receptionist at Gaia/Lumen

'I get a kick out of getting people onto the dance floor'

Whatever you want, Patrick Gravemaker will play it. He's been disc-jockeying somewhere every weekend recently. From a wedding to an après-ski party. Or – in this photo – at the final party of the Heideweek in the market square in Ede. 'For 10,000 people, my biggest audience yet. Terrific.' That's what it's all about for Patrick: 'Giving as many people as possible a great night out.' His next gig is on 2 October: Oktoberfest, Museumplein Ede.  RK / Photo: Bert Vos

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GROWTH WITHOUT DEMAND

The Dutch dairy and pig industries have fallen on hard times. Because of extremely low prices the farmers are out of pocket on the production of milk and meat. They have now been allocated 30 million euros by the European Union. A cosmetic gesture.

The low prices have not come out of the blue. The supply is bigger than the demand. We already knew that dairy farmers started building extra cowsheds when the milk quotas ended. The number of dairy cows has grown in the past year from 1.57 to 1.64 million. Sixty thousand cows caused a big drop in prices. To my astonishment the number of pigs has grown in the past year too, from 12.24 to 12.58 million. For years pig farmers have been complaining that it was impossible to earn a decent living, and then 300,000 more pigs appear on the scene. Odd that the pig farmers take no notice of the faltering demand. Perhaps that 30 million should be spent on a course in Business Management?

Albert Sikkema

>> **Happy families among zebra finches | p.26**



REFUGEES TO BE HOUSED IN MAURITS BARRACKS, EDE

- Student premises suitable for emergency accommodation.
- Idealis is also investigating options.

Refugees will be moving into two of the four buildings that Wageningen University rents on the site of the Maurits barracks in Ede. The university has moved the international students who were living there to rooms in Wageningen and Bennekom. Ede will use the vacated buildings for emergency accommodation for refugees until the end of the year.

The municipality of Ede had initially asked the university for all four of the buildings on the site of the former barracks. The university rents the buildings for housing international students. The university's Student Services Centre had therefore been busy since Friday 18 September looking for alternative accommodation for the 60 or so residents. Removal vans

had been ordered to help residents move their things out of their rooms at the barracks and into their new homes. The university had said it would cover all costs. Jos van Kroonenburg at the Student Services Centre was confident that he would be able to find somewhere for all the students within two weeks.

On Tuesday afternoon, Van Kroonenburg got a phone call from his contact at Ede municipality. After reconsidering the matter, they now realized two buildings would be enough. 'That is 70 rooms and most have two beds. The Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers tells us that's enough for emergency accommodation,' says Henk Faas, the municipality's press officer. 'There is a much greater need for Asylum Seekers' Centres, but these buildings are explicitly intended as emergency housing. People will only spend a couple of days there at most.'

When Van Kroonenburg got



PHOTOS: EDWIN VAN LAAR

that phone call from the municipality, two buildings had already been vacated. 'Building 86 was already empty anyway and there were only four people left in Building 85. We were only using those two buildings to absorb peaks,' says Van Kroonenburg.

The 60 students in Buildings 9 and 10, who had only just learnt that their stay on the site of the former barracks was about to come to an abrupt end, now suddenly had to be told that they could stay put after all, for now. 'The students who had already got an offer of alternative accommodation can still take up that offer,' said Van Kroonenburg straight away. 'But we will stop looking for new accommodation for the other students who had not yet had

an offer, for now.' For now, because all of the students have to vacate the barracks by the end of November as that is when the rental contract expires. But that was known anyway.

In the meanwhile, Wageningen student accommodation provider Idealis is also talking to the municipality and other organizations about what it can do for the refugees. At present, only refugees who are also students are eligible for a room through Idealis. The accommodation provider has no rooms for refugees who are not studying, says spokesperson Corina van Dijk. 'But we are talking to the municipality and other parties to see what the options are for housing other refugees too,' says Van Dijk. **KG**



One of the students who was all set to move out was Marta Portell, a Biotechnology student from Spain. She has been offered a room in Hoeverstein. Of course the news that she would have to move out came as a surprise but she could appreciate that the barracks buildings should be used as emergency housing for refugees. That was basically the attitude of all the residents that *Resource* spoke to. In the end Marta decided to stay in Ede a little longer, so she can unpack her suitcase again now.

NO SURPRISES IN NATIONAL BUDGET

• Over 173 million euros for university.

There were no financial windfalls or setbacks for Wageningen UR in the national Budget Day announcements. As announced in previous years, the budget for the university will grow slightly while the DLO budget will fall. This is evident from the National Budget for the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Direct government funding for the university, which was 169.3 million euros last year, will rise to 173.5 million euros this year an increase of two percent plus compensation for inflation. The funding will rise by two percent a year every year until it reaches more than 180 million euros in 2017. Then the growth will tail off.

There are no surprises in the National Budget for DLO either. The available budget

for statutory research tasks and Knowledge Base research will fall from 77.3 million in 2014 to 76.1 million this year, and then continue to decline to reach just over 65 million in 2018. The total DLO budget is bigger than that. There is also funding for DLO through the top sectors, but that income is fixed. All in all, Wageningen UR is now facing the tail end of the cutbacks announced by Mark Rutte's Cabinet after the banking crisis in 2008. **AS**

© COLUMN | KEEES

A green old age

Farming is not just a way of earning a living; it's a way of life. If it's money you're after you'd be better off dealing in real estate or arms. Farmers' first love is their land, their animals, their crops and the nature



around. After that comes their income.

But there is a lot of pressure on farmers to be entrepreneurs. The life of the farmer is increasingly amputated; what is left is what is 'rational'.

After the second world war Sicco Mansholt transformed farmers into entrepreneurs. With the result that the number of farms in the Netherlands declined by an average of 15 per day between 1950 and 2014.

But luckily Sicco Mansholt loved life too, especially after he retired. The Club of Rome's Limits to Growth convinced him he had been wrong. His frustration was heard in the Mansholt theatre at Droevendaal: 'I allowed myself to be corrupted by capitalism.' Going green in your old age.

A few days earlier, the WUR gave the Mansholt Business Award to a seed-breeding company. The headline in Trouw newspaper read: 'Leave crop improvement to the experts'. Can't farmers do it? Another bit of life is taken from the farmers. Does that deserve a WUR prize?

Fortunately there is the European Mansholt Prize too. In 2007 it went to farmer Jan Huijgen for his tremendous 'dedication to multi-functional agriculture and the link between citizens and farmers'. Farming is a way of life for Jan. And he gets a prize for that.

Is the WUR too going truly green in its old age? **KEES**

Kees van Veluw (57) teaches Permaculture and is active in organic agriculture networks. His vision stems from his work with African farmers, his networks with Dutch farmers, his family life with his wife, three sons, dog and chickens.

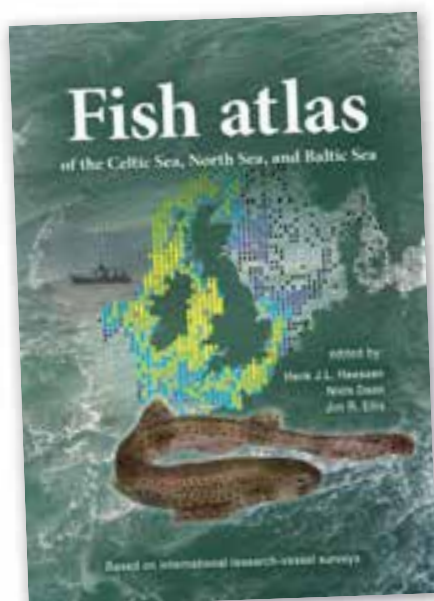


in brief

>> REFERENCE BOOK

Thick fish atlas

This week saw the launch in IJmuiden of the Fish Atlas of the Celtic Sea, North Sea and Baltic Sea. This reference book of over 570 pages describes 200 fish species. This is the first time so much data on these seas has been brought together. The book is the work of 31 researchers from 8 countries who worked on it for 40 years, casting their nets 72,000 times. The now retired senior researcher at Imares Henk Heessen worked on the project for many years. In the first place, the reference work is for marine ecologists but it is also of interest to politicians and lovers of the sea and of fish. **LvdN**



>> MEN/WOMEN

New mentoring programme

Wageningen UR has started on the next round of its mentoring programme for talented women. The participating scientists and mentors will start the coaching at the beginning of November. The mentoring programme pairs up mid-career researchers with an experienced colleague who acts as a coach. The pairs meet at least four times over six months to discuss topics of their own choosing. It is important that the mentor and 'mentee' do not work in the same department so they can talk uninhibitedly. In the next round workshops and networking events will be introduced as well. (Read more on resource-online.nl) **RR**

>> ENTREPRENEURSHIP

First graduate

Jacqueline Ulen was awarded her certificate on Friday 25 September. A student of Plant Sciences, she was the first to graduate from the Master's track in Entrepreneurship. This track, on offer since the academic year 2014-2015, sets out to ensure that young professionals are not just strong academically but are also equipped with a grasp of strategy, finance, marketing, internationalization and competition analysis. The track was the brainchild of Rabo bank executive and professor by special appointment Ruud Huirne. Huirne believes that many Wageningen students want to go into the business world but lack knowledge and skills in this area. **LvdN**

WAGENINGEN UR STILL NOT HAPPY WITH FUNDING FOR TEACHING

- Education funding per student has fallen in Wageningen.
- In 2012, university still received as much as technical universities.

Wageningen University gets as much funding as the technical universities, claims a government report that compares the funding of teaching by the ministries of Economic Affairs and Education. But that was in 2012, retorts Executive Board member Tijs Breukink. Since then, the university's direct government funding has lagged behind.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs

provided funding per student of 7,300 euros in 2014, comparable to the amount of just over 7,300 euros that the other universities received on average from the Ministry of Education, according to the government report drawn up by consultancy firm Panteia. Ten years ago, Wageningen University was getting 2000 euros per student more than the average for other universities. However student numbers have doubled over the past ten years at Wageningen while funding has barely grown at all. As a result, funding per student is now about level with the average.

The study of education funding was announced last year by the Cab-

inet after directors in the 'green' higher education sector (food, agriculture and nature) claimed that green education was getting less funding than other education institutions. Last year, the Ministry of Economic Affairs cut funding for green education. Following this, Panteia calculated the education funding from the two ministries over the past ten years. These calculations ought to reveal whether Wageningen University is suffering from the 'two percent rule', which states that direct government funding for Wageningen cannot increase by more than two percent a year.

Education Minister Jet Bussemaker and State Secretary Sharon

Dijkzema say the report shows no need to revise education funding by the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Wageningen University board member Tijs Breukink does see reason to abolish the two percent rule. If you compare Wageningen University with the technical universities, you see that teaching funding was about the same in 2012, says Breukink.

'But unfortunately the report doesn't cover the years after that, when the technical universities got extra money while Wageningen lagged behind. That is why we don't agree with the conclusion that the funding for our university was fine in 2014, because that is not what the facts show.' **AS**

NO CAMPUS RING ROAD, SAYS WAGENINGEN MUNICIPALITY

- Traffic problems to be solved by widening existing roads.
- In emergencies, vehicles can cross campus via bus lane.

There will be no campus ring road if Wageningen's mayor and aldermen have their way. The municipal executive has made a final decision to upgrade the existing roads.

That is the result of six months of talks on the two options for resolving the traffic jams on the roads around the campus. Wageningen's municipal executive thinks that widening Mansholtlaan and Nijenoordallee to two lanes in both directions plus additional measures for emergencies will be enough to solve the traffic problems. So there is no need for a new campus ring road.

The additional measures include providing access to the campus on the north side via Bornsesteeg and Kielekampsteeg. That route, currently used as a short cut, will be upgraded to the second official entrance to the campus. Cyclists will get a wide, segregated bicycle path alongside this road on Wageningen UR land. In the event of an emergency closing the surrounding roads, traffic can be diverted along the new

bus lane on campus. Traffic control staff will guide the traffic then.

The Executive Board of Wageningen UR is 'moderately positive', says spokesperson Simon Vink. 'We are pleased about the northern exit but disappointed that there will be no western exit.' The board has also expressed concerns about the crossing for cyclists and pedestrians from the Leeuwenborch to the campus.

It is hoped that the additional measures in the event of emergencies in particular will convince the province that a new ring road is not necessary. The province had not been sure about that, which was why Wageningen municipality had been given half a year last spring to back up its arguments. A project group (with the provincial authority, the municipality, Wageningen UR and local businesses) and a consultative group (representing Wageningen society) were set up.

That did not result in a unanimous recommendation from the two groups. So the decision to upgrade the existing roads remains controversial. The municipal council is expected to come up with a resolution on the matter at the end of next month. Then the provincial authority will have to come to a decision too. Mansholtlaan is a provincial road so the province has to pay for any changes. **RK**



PHOTO: CARINA NIEUWENWEG

MODEL FOR AMMONIA POLICY NOT PROPERLY RESEARCHED

- More data needed for well-founded assessment
- Dijkma's interpretation of study is positive

The review panel which has evaluated Dutch ammonia policy cannot properly assess the calculation model for the programmatic approach to nitrogen (PAS). That did not stop secretary of state Dijkma from describing the panel's recommendations on this model as positive.

The international review panel led by Briton Mark Sutton is positive about the ammonia model AERIUS, which the government uses to implement its ammonia policy, writes secretary of state Dijkma to the lower house of parliament. Yet the panel could

not properly assess that model due to 'insufficient information'.

The AERIUS model, which is partly based on Wageningen data, calculates ammonia emissions and deposition at the local level in the Netherlands. This data underpins the programmatic approach to nitrogen (PAS) on which the country's manure legislation is based. The international panel poses the question of whether the AERIUS model is scientifically sound. Its answer is: 'Yes, as far as the Panel can see, based on the information presented. However, insufficient information was provided on the technical basis of the AERIUS model, which should be subjected to ongoing research.' The secretary of state sent this report to the lower house on 8 September with a covering letter. In this let-

ter Dijkma said she was pleased with the positive evaluation of AERIUS.

The model is 'world-leading' thanks to its detailed farm-level information, but a thorough peer review study of the model is a top priority, says the panel. The panel also feels that to make the model more reliable, more data are needed about the local weather conditions and the actual behaviour of livestock farmers. Given this model's central role in the Dutch manure policy, additional research is called for in the panel's view. Dijkma and her colleague at the ministry of Infrastructure and Environ-



Secretary of State Dijkma is satisfied with ammonia report.

ment are giving thought to which of the panel's recommendations she will act upon.

It is important that the AERIUS model is properly tested and, if necessary, improved, says Wageningen ammonia researcher Gerard Velthof. 'You really need a detailed model like that if you want to hold farmers accountable for their ammonia emissions as farm level.' **AS**

Read more on pages 18-21

'IT DOESN'T LEAK PEAR JUICE'



What did your research in Randwijk focus on?

'We research the pear's cultivation and consumption qualities. Some of the things you test are productivity, vulnerability to disease, taste and shelf life. That can easily take ten years. We identify and describe the characteristics but we don't promote new varieties. That is done by the market organization, in this case Fruitmasters.'

Are you doing research on a lot of varieties?

'We have about 50 pear varieties in our orchards and about 80 apple varieties. This variety research is funded by a consortium of parties in the fruit chain. It is not often that a new pear variety is introduced – on average about once every ten years. A pear orchard has a lifespan of 25 to 30 years so the trees are not replaced very often.'

How important is the new variety Migo?

'The Conference pear is still the biggest pear variety because its productivity is high and it is well-adapted to our climate. The Migo could be a good addition. The most significant characteristic of this new variety is that it doesn't leak juice.' **AS**

Who? Gondy Heijerman, researcher at PPO Fruit in Randwijk

What? Told Radio 1 listeners about pear variety research

Why? Fruitmasters launched the new pear variety Migo on the Dutch market.

Science Cafe Wageningen

www.sciencecafe.wageningen.nl

Sports & nutrition

Prof. Maria Hopman (RU, WUR)
Prof. Luc van Loon (Maastricht University)

Thursday, September 24th

19:45 - live music

20:15 - Science

Café Loburg

FREE

ENTRANCE



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RESOURCE

AID AND TRADE DO NOT ALWAYS GO HAND IN HAND

- **Grain trade in Mali less tightly organized than was thought.**
- **Skills are crucial in trade partner.**

Inclusive trade, in which trade and development aid go hand in hand, is by no means always successful trade, says Ellen Mangnus in her thesis *Organising Trade*. Since Lili-ane Ploumen became Dutch minister of both aid and trade, the term 'inclusive trade' has been all the rage. A lot of funding currently goes to development projects which set up formal trade organizations such as cooperatives, sometimes together with import companies.

In practice, however, inclusive trade is by no means always successful trade, claims PhD holder candidate Ellen Mangnus. Mangnus works at the Royal Institute for the Tropics (KIT) and got her PhD in the Knowledge, Technology and Innovation chair group in Wageningen. For nine months she observed more than 100 farmers and traders in wheat and sesa-

me seed in southern Mali. She studied two cooperatives, both of which turned out to exist only on paper to a great extent. The sesame cooperative was set up by farmers in order to qualify for aid from the international organization IFDC.

'But that doesn't mean there is no cooperation,' says Mangnus. It just takes much more flexible and less formalized forms than many donors or governments have in mind. Farmers, for instance, turn out to be traders too, while some traders sometimes spend periods working on a plantation in Ivory Coast. Traders are also very selective in choosing their business partners, testing their skills out first. They start by giving them a small sum, perhaps 50 euros. If the partner comes back the next week with a profit, they get a slightly larger sum to go away with. Mangnus: 'Some grow bigger, while others carry on trading with 50 euros a week all their lives.'

Magnus still believes that helping poor farmers with their trading can contribute to combating poverty. 'There is a lot right with Dutch development aid. But



PHOTO: ELLEN MANGNUS

not everybody is an entrepreneur, as policymakers sometimes assume. Our interventions could be even better if we based them on taking a better look at the way existing trade is organized.'

Development organizations should focus less on establishing statutes and rules for organizations such as new cooperatives. What they should focus on is helping people acquire the skills that a good trader needs.

④ JT



GOOD DIET ESSENTIAL FOR TOP SPORTING PERFORMANCE

- **Diet rich in protein for faster, stronger and larger muscles.**

Our bodies require an optimum diet for optimum sporting performances. On Thursday 24 September, Science Café Wageningen will look at what that means.

'Sportsmen and women don't actually eat pasta non-stop,' says Jan Blokhuijsen, a speed skater in the Stressless team and winner of the silver medal in the five kilometres at the Sochi Winter Olympics. He refutes the cliché with a photo from a recent training camp in Utah. His plate contains ov-

en-baked salmon with sweet potatoes and beetroot, stir-fried vegetables and quinoa. When he isn't at training camp, Blokhuijsen makes sure that he has a varied diet, preferably with organic food.

A healthy, balanced diet is indeed the basis for (top-level) athletes, says Luc van Loon, professor of Exercise Physiology at Maastricht University. 'But for an optimum performance you have to ensure that the reserve tanks are full.' Athletes make sure that their muscles contain the maximum amount of carbohydrates by going on a special diet in the week before an important event. They also eat a light carbohydrate meal

three hours before a match or race so that glycogen stores in the liver are at the maximum. Even with this preparation, the body's carbohydrates still become depleted after 45 minutes. You therefore need to top them up during a long race with sport drinks, says Van Loon.

Athletes also need to watch their diet in order to get maximum benefit from training. 'For optimal recovery,' says Van Loon, 'you need to eat protein immediately after training.' Your body needs this to develop larger, stronger or faster muscles.

Blokhuijsen thinks a good diet is important for other reasons too.

He feels mentally stronger, for example, if he consumes enough beneficial fats and oils. He therefore tries to eat enough nuts. The speed skater also takes supplements that he gets from one of his sponsors and he tries to eat food that his body tolerates well. Although a good diet is essential in getting the best possible performance, Blokhuijsen warns that it should not be seen as a cure-all. 'Even if you go all out with your diet, you still need to train like mad,' he says. ④ RR

Science Café, 19.45 on Thursday 24 September in Café Loburg, Wageningen.

LIESJE MOMMER GETS TO THE ROOT OF THE MATTER

- **New Personal Professorship at Plant Ecology.**
- **The more the species, the fewer the fungi.**

Root research can't claim a sexy image. Partly because it remains so hidden. Inevitably, subsurface life takes place underground, where it is, well, dark. Moreover, roots do tend to look rather similar. 'As root ecologists we have a problem,' says Liesje Mommer, the new personal professor at Plant Ecology. 'Above ground, plants are identified in a jiffy, but no so underground. Because down there they are all tangled up.'

As a postdoc in Nijmegen, she developed a DNA-analysis-based method for making sense of that root spaghetti. Armed with her new method, she moved to Wageningen, where she had previously completed her training as a biologist. 'At the time, a biodiversity experiment was underway in Wageningen,' says Mommer. 'It involved more than 100 plots in which eight species were being grown alongside one another in various mixes. It was the ideal test case for my method.'

In the test - and in many others elsewhere - it turned out that greater species diversity leads to greater productivity of the ecosys-

tem. It seems that different plant species spur each other on. 'The theory of subsurface plant-to-plant interactions contains two assumptions,' Mommer explains. 'Plants compete for water and nutrients and species differ in their needs in these respects. As a result, you would expect vegetation comprising a diversity of species to make fuller and more efficient use of the soil.'

Mommer's work showed that while more species does mean more roots, it does not involve any greater use of the soil. Last year, another step was taken in the quest for understanding why this is so in the form of a VIDI grant for research into the underground interaction between plants and fungi in natural grasslands. Mommer is now considering whether the accumulation of pathogenic fungi in species-poor vegetations may provide an alternative explanation. 'In species-rich vegetations, I'm losing sight of some of these pathogenic fungi.'

But how is that possible? Mommer now thinks that fungi seeking their preferred plant lose their way among all the various types of root. 'Lost in diversity' she calls it. 'There are so many signals, metabolic products and volatile substances being excreted by the roots that the fungi lose their way. Disentangling this complex world to arrive at a functional concept of biodiversity is the real challenge.' **RK**



FOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

VISION <<

'Invest 30 million in manure processing'



The Netherlands is getting 30 million euros in support for its dairy and pork industries from the European Union. How should the Dutch government use the money? To improve manure processing, says Wageningen economist Paul Berentsen.

The Netherlands is receiving this funding because dairy and pig farmers are currently getting very low prices for their milk and pigs. But the 30 million in support is not nearly enough to compensate for those low prices. 'Say you give it all to the dairy farmers,' says Berentsen. 'Then they get 0.3 cents per litre of milk, or about one twentieth of the difference between the current milk price and a price that covers costs.'

So what would be meaningful?

'It would be better to try to make the farmers more competitive. Here I am thinking of the environmental costs, which are higher in the Netherlands than elsewhere. Now that the government has established phosphate quotas we will probably get tradeable phosphate rights and the environmental costs will go up compared with abroad. To turn that handicap into an advantage, you need to invest in manure processing.'

So manure is a major cost?

'It is a cost now because we have too many nutrients in the Netherlands. And that shows up as a phosphate surplus. So invest in improving manure processing so you remove the phosphate surplus from the market and sell it abroad, perhaps. Then the production costs will go down for the livestock farmers.'

So is the answer to invest 30 million in manure processing factories?

'In the first place I have in mind improving manure processing techniques, which means research. Further reducing phosphorus levels in livestock feeds needs more research too, especially in the dairy industry, where the amount of phosphorus in feeds is way more than the animals need. In short, I would try to reduce the manure problem, and that would do far more for farmers than just handing out the money directly.' **AS**

(Meanwhile the government has decided to invest 10 million in manure processing. A further 10 million each will go to two programmes aiming respectively at a vital pig industry and a sustainable dairy chain.)

AANTAFEL! HELPS AGAINST CHILD OBESITY

- **Overweight among children on the increase.**
- **A challenge to reach the target group.**

Seriously overweight children between three and eight years old benefit from the treatment programme *AanTafel!* This is the conclusion Esther van Hoek defended at her PhD ceremony on Friday 18 September. The aim of the programme is to tackle child obesity early and prevent people from going on struggling with overweight and the accompanying health problems all their lives. The programme includes guidance for parents, physiotherapy and nutritional advice. It was developed together with Arieke Janse, paediatrician at the Gelderse Vallei hospital in Ede.

Among seven-year-olds today, 14 percent of boys and 19 percent of girls are overweight. Two to three percent of them suffer from obesity. In adult life they have raised risks of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Moreover, children get teased about their weight and it hampers their mobility. 'You sometimes see children of four or five having difficulty getting up the stairs,' says Van Hoek.

The aim of the programme was not to get children to lose weight, says Van Hoek. At such a young age, losing weight can actually be bad for their development. The aim was for participants' weight to remain stable while they grew in height. And that worked quite well. After a year the children's BMI, the ratio of height to weight, was closer to the Dutch average. Participants also proved to be eating less and to have

healthier blood test results. They did not, however, get any more exercise than before the programme.

Van Hoek got 32 seriously overweight children to participate in *AanTafel!* together with their parents. The parents shared experiences relating to child-rearing and food in group therapy sessions. The children got to take part in supervised exercise and had taste lessons in which they were introduced to healthy food. The parents could read up on this information online at home, and record their experiences. The entire programme was supervised by experts including psychologists, dieticians and physiotherapists.

The researchers ran up against all sorts of obstacles when setting up *AanTafel!* 'We know that child obesity is pretty common,' says paediatrician Arieke Janse, 'but it

still proved difficult to really reach people.' The approach needs parents who are open to it and motivated to change their lifestyle. Many of the children also came from lower socio-economic classes: a vulnerable group which often has other problems as well. 'Some people are going through debt rescheduling, for instance,' says Janse, 'and in that case overweight is not in the top ten of their problems.'

Janse hopes to bring *AanTafel!* closer to the target group in the coming years. By offering the programme in the neighbourhood instead of at the hospital. An experiment is already under way in Veenendaal. The paediatrician is also working on a 'maintenance programme' to help children and parents maintain their new lifestyle. 'A change like this is a slow process.' **RR**

FORMER INTERN WINS IG NOBEL PRIZE

- **Prize for studying the painfulness of bee stings.**
- **Bee researcher Blacquière: I'm not surprised.**

'Wow,' responds bee researcher Tjeerd Blacquière. He is genuinely highly enthusiastic about the news that his former intern has won an Ig Nobel. On the other hand, he is not at all surprised. 'We had high hopes. Michael is an extremely independent and free thinker.'

Michael Smith, a Panamanian American, interrupted his degree to do a year's internship in Wageningen. There he joined Blacquière's bee group. Smith carried out the award-winning study of bee stings at Cornell University in the US. Smith let himself be stung on numerous places on his body in order to establish which sites were most painful. He did this to himself under the supervision of a doc-

tor to avoid the medical ethics committee; the rules did not provide for experiments on one's own body.

According to Smith, bee stings on the nostril, the upper

lip and the penis are the most painful. On a scale of 1 to 10, they score 9.0, 8.7 and 7.3 respectively. The Ig Nobel Prizes are awarded annually for improbable research, scientific achievements

that first make people laugh and then make them think. According to Blacquière, it was Smith's dream to become the first person to win both Nobel Prizes: the real one and the Ig Nobel. **RR**



There has been discussion online about raising the FOS grant, the possible rift with publisher Elsevier and the overfull university. Got an opinion? Go online and join the discussion!

REACTIONS ON...



RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

GRANT GROUSES

Wageningen University and the Student Council just cannot see eye to eye on how much the FOS grant should go up by. The dispute has been going on so long now that the university is taking it to arbitration.

The Student Council wants more funding for students serving a year on a board. After all, they are no longer getting the basis grant. Students' reactions online are split. 'Had a board job myself,' writes **Student**, 'and got FOS for it which was exactly the same amount as the basic grant at the time. Why should it suddenly go up?' But a certain **o.t.bestuurslid** does support the Student Council's stand. Because half of the FOS grant will go straight to pay tuition fees, whereas fulltime board members can make very little use of university facilities for a year. So it is 'very reasonable' to compensate students who often work 70-hour weeks by raising the FOS.

BREAKING NEWS

Wageningen researchers do not seem worried about the idea of a clean break with academic publisher Elsevier. They think they would be able to get hold of articles they need even without access to Elsevier journals.

This came out of a survey the WUR library conducted among nearly 300 researchers. **Deelnemer enquête** was critical of the survey though. 'I am afraid that the positive outcome [...] is largely a result of the questions asked. We were not asked [...] whether we saw it as a problem, but only what we would do if it really did come to a boycott.' He does



in fact expect some problems when people need to look through a lot of literature quickly. **Enquête vergeten** gives us the dilemma facing researchers in a nutshell. He understands the standpoint of the VSNU, which is against the publishers earning so much. On the other hand, literature from Elsevier is very crucial to his work. And without it... 'It will be either very roundabout (through authors) or expensive for the department (me paying by credit card and claiming the expenses).

GROWING PAINS

It is time the university stopped advertising, writes blogger Jan-Willem Kortlever. The buildings are too full, the growth is too fast and the communication is infantile at times.

His blog has kicked up a lot of dust and been shared on twitter in other cities as well. He seems to strike a chord on resource-online too. 'It is not just the uni that can't cope with the growth,' writes **Ries**, 'Wageningen town can't cope with this growth either.' He give

the example of dangerous congestion around the Tart-horst shopping centre. And the waiting list for rooms is very long too. 'What I can tell you is that all Wageningers, myself included, are very proud of the university and its students...' Others share Jan-Willem's irritation about communication campaigns such as the WUR-wolf, the furry mascot of Wageningen University.

'Campaigns like that are too childish for words,' writes **docent**. 'We are not running a university for toddlers are we?' **Emma** admits the mascot made her laugh. But is a fluffy wolf really the best advertisement? **RR**

PROPOSITION

'The high number of participants at running events shows the importance of reaching personal goals instead of the will to win a race';

Esther van Hoek, who graduated with a PhD in Wageningen on 18 September

Wageningen's main stream

Deep in the Achterhoek region of the Netherlands flows one of the most measured and monitored streams in the world. Wageningen researchers and students have been frequent visitors to this stream for 50 years.

text en photos: Roelof Kleis

So here it is. The most researched and measured stream in the world. A phenomenon in the hydrology world, Roel Dijkma assures me. A teacher of hydrogeology, he is my guide this Monday afternoon. He comes here often; this is where for 30 years he taught Wageningen and Delft students how to take and interpret hydrological measurements.

On closer scrutiny it is no more than a tiny rivulet. The Hupselse Beek gets its name from the settlement of Hupsel between Groenlo and Eibergen, a stone's throw from the German border. We are here to celebrate a special anniversary. Wageningen has been studying this stream for exactly half a century. Which is precisely the age of the Hydrology and Quantitative Water Management chair group where Dijkma works.

LITTLE STREAM

The Hupselse Beek is part of the catchment of the Berkel, which flows into the IJssel at Zutphen. Research focusses on the stream's catchment, an area of 6.5 km². It all started with an extreme drought year in 1959, says Dijkma. 'It was so dry that there was no way the Pleistocene sandy soils could provide enough water for livestock and crops. Grass died off and maize stopped growing. Livestock was even transported to the west of the country because there was nothing for it to eat.'

The drought led to an increased interest in hydrology. The province of Gelderland wanted to know how much water agriculture really needed. Dijkma: 'Drought was acknowledged

as a cost for the first time. The Leerinkbeek project was set up in collaboration with Rijkswaterstaat and the regional water authority; it was completed in 1965.' Meanwhile Unesco launched the International Hydrological Decade in 1964, and a network of experimental stream catchments was designated to provide a boost for research. In the Netherlands the Hupselse Beek was chosen and Wageningen got involved through the then Laboratory for Hydraulics and Drainage at Duivendaal.

There is no question of drought today though. Just as Dijkma turns the white WUR

The volume of water in the stream rose from 4 to 5000 litres per second in one day. A hydrologist's dream.

bus into Professor Casimir road, it starts raining heavily. The dirt road fills up with puddles in no time. The source of the Hupselse Beek is somewhere off to the right in the maize. The water collects in a small drain. We have just visited the meteorological institute KNMI's Hupsel weather station. With 22 mm of rain this is the wettest place in the country, as we can see later on the weather data map on the KNMI's website.

LAYER OF CLAY

'The Hupselse Beek is a typical example of a catchment in the higher-lying parts of the



Netherlands,' says Professor Remko Uijlenhoet (Hydrology and Quantitative Water Management) the next day in his office in Lumen.

'Which means the sandy soil in the east and south of the country.' The catchment is quite well drained: the altitude ranges goes from 35 to 22 metres above NAP ['normal Amsterdam water level']. 'Hupsel is an interesting choice because there is a poorly draining layer of clay underneath the catchment which pretty much closes off what's below it,' adds Uijlenhoet. 'That make it possible to monitor water volumes, as very little water drains away.' The stream and its catchment have been intensively monitored since 1965. 'This was the first catchment in the world where all the components of the water balance were measured,' claims Uijlenhoet confidently. 'The whole hydrological process from rainfall to drainage. We now know which route the water takes and how substances dissolved in it are distributed.'

The stream can cope with today's rainfall



easily. The rain causes a marginal peak in runoff, as the website of the Rijn and IJssel water authority shows. But this is nothing compared to what happened here five years ago on 26 and 27 August 2010. Extreme quantities of rain fell in the eastern Netherlands on those days and flooded parts of the Hupselse Beek catchment. The KNMI's weather station in Hupsel registered 16 mm of rain in 24 hours. According to statistics this happens less than once in a thousand years at any given spot. The runoff from the stream rose within one day from 4 to 5000 litres per second. A lucky day for hydrologists. For the


first time it was possible to study in detail how the catchment reacts to a flash flood of this kind.

Over the years several hydrologists have received doctorates for studies of the Hupselse Beek. The latest was Claudia Brauwer, who developed a runoff model for rainwater and got her PhD last year. The model, with which the chair group is taking the market by storm, is called Walrus: the Wageningen Lowland Runoff Simulator. The model maps the whole journey from rainfall to runoff and is already being used by five water authorities and a couple of big consultancy firms, says Brauer.

BIKES ON THE ROOF

Halfway through the Hupsel field trip Dijksema parks the bus at 't Eibernest campsite, which has for years been the base camp for field work courses in Hydrology, Water Quality and Meteorology. A popular outing for 70-80 students every year. 'About 50 from the BSc in Soil, Water and Atmosphere, and the rest come from other programmes or from elsewhere. Delft, for example, or VHL uni-

versity of applied sciences. Students really look forward to this course. Of course that is partly because of the social side of it.' By that he means a week in the holiday houses at 't Eibernest. The house rules have already had to expand to three sides of A4. You have to do something if you don't want to be taking bicycles off the roofs all the time. Be that as it may, the field work course won an Excellent Education Award last year.

But Hupsel research is not in full flood on its fiftieth anniversary. In fact the stream of research is running a bit dry at the moment. 'Hupsel needs a new boost,' thinks Uijlenhoet. 'In the 1970s and 80s a lot of measurements were taken of evaporation. In the 1990s the emphasis was on water quality. The measurements that are still taken now are limited to routine work by the water authority and the KNMI. Dutch hydrology organizations are keen to make it a well-monitored research area again. But that requires money and that is a problem.' 





THE STUDIO AS LABORATORY

The renowned designer Adriaan Geuze is helping give the Wageningen Landscape Architecture programme an upgrade. Students are getting a new studio and real assignments. 'I am in my element here.'

text: Rob Ramaker / **photos:** Guy Ackermans

It is the first week of the academic year and on the top floor of the Forum 23 new Master's students of Landscape Architecture and Planning are listening to their teacher, renowned landscape architect Adriaan Geuze. Only three weeks ago, Geuze was a guest on the Dutch TV programme *Zomergasten*, spending three hours talking enthusiastically about his profession. Now the designer explains in clear English what will be expected of the students during the 'Master Studio' in the weeks to come. Amongst other things, the students – half of them from Asia – will create a design independently.

Wageningen University appointed Geuze as professor by special appointment in 2012. His brief was to breathe new life into landscape architecture as a design discipline. He himself studied in Wageningen and went on to start the studio West 8 with which he has won international acclaim. Among his designs are those of the Jubilee Gardens in London, Governors Island in New York and the Schouwburgplein in Rotterdam.

The spanking new studio on the fifth and sixth floors of the Forum is another one of Geuze's designs. 'There was a pressing need for that space.' Around him, students bend over maps. A studio is to a Landscape Architecture



student what a laboratory is to a student of Molecular Life Sciences. Three years ago Landscape Architecture did not have such a 'laboratory'; students worked in ordinary classrooms or at home. 'But what you want is precisely that students collaborate on an assignment and meet each other here.'

HANGING UP DRAWINGS

So the new studio is not just window dressing, says Geuze during a guided tour. It is a necessity for getting the best designs out of students. When VHL Applied Sciences University vacated the space, the walls of the old classrooms were taken down to create one large space on each

This new approach shows students their work is taken seriously.

floor. In the studio every student gets a mobile pinboard on which to hang up their numerous sketches to give a good overview. 'Then students can give each other feedback, pose questions and learn from each other,' says Geuze. 'What is more, teachers see the work developing and can follow a student's learning curve.' The pinboards are in the wrong place at the moment, he comments. By putting them between the pillars you create walls. 'Like that you still end up with small spaces. It needs to be one big space.'

The new setup is intended to make clear to students that their work is taken seriously. 'Drawings come into their own this way,' says Geuze, 'which doesn't happen when they lie on tables covered in crumbs and coffee cups. On a music course you won't be made to practise in a room with poor acoustics either, will you? That wouldn't do justice to the music.' To present their work the students will soon push their

pinboards to the new presentation room, complete with a platform.

Geuze thinks students should work as much as possible on real assignments, at least during the Master Studios. 'I want to strengthen the programme's reputation for design.' So in the coming weeks the students will work on an assignment Geuze acquired for Wageningen UR. They will design a 'countryside': a place where city dwellers can go to get away from the pressures of urban life. The location is in Midden-Delfland, a green belt hemmed in by The Hague and Rotterdam and at risk from urban expansion. The aim is to make it a useful and attractive area for city dwellers, which means good cycle routes between the city centres and the green space, and attractions for day trippers. 'That could mean cafes, pancake houses and shops,' says Geuze. He can count on the enthusiasm of the mayor of Rotterdam Aboutaleb, who is already talking about the Central Park of the Randstad. 'Fantastic,' says Geuze.

CENTRAL PARK

There is also a small grant for the project from the ministry of Economic Affairs. Nothing spectacular, but enough to send the students on a field trip and to make good quality prints of their designs. And a mini-symposium will be held at which students will present their work to people from the nature management service Staatsbosbeheer, civil servants from the local municipalities and the Midden-Delfland association.

Of course, being part of a Master's degree, the design project needs an academic element. The students are studying to what extent a green inter-urban environment improves the quality of life in cities. For inspiration for creating pleasant 'countryside', Geuze looks to the seventeenth century, an era when wealthy citizens built country estates to relax at. A long line of such country houses can still be seen

along the Vecht river north of Utrecht. For inspiration the students are going to work in pairs on reconstructing a garden of one of these historic country houses. It varies to what extent the original designs of these gardens have been preserved and documented. The task helps the students to 'learn to look,' says Geuze.

The Master's in Landscape Architecture and Planning sometimes struggles with a tension between beautiful designs and academic depth, as the programme director admitted to Resource last June. Geuze reacts with slight irritation to questions about this tension. In his view, these things go hand in hand. Which means the Master Studio delivers not just designs but also a book of reconstructions of historic country estates. 'Research-based designing and design-related research,' is how he puts it. And Wageningen remains the perfect place to learn this profession. 'There is a long tradition at the university of design which combines several disciplines – water, soil and vegetation studies.' He recalls one particular student who needed highly specialist knowledge about things like vegetation species and drainage for a design project in the Krimpenerwaard. 'All three of the experts needed for that project were 100 metres from my office. Isn't that fantastic?' asks Geuze. 'I am in my element here.' ®

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FOOD AND FILM

Fair soup. Served from one of the two food trucks at the Food Film Festival held on Wednesday 16 September in and around Orion. The first edition in Wageningen and with a serious theme: the importance of good plant seeds for the world food supply. A documentary about the seed vault on Spitsbergen was followed by a debate, with a contribution from a representative of Monsanto. That caused a bit of a stir, as you might expect. There was also a lighter fringe programme for festival guests, with workshops on making seed bombs and energy bars, beer tasting and cooking with sprouted seeds.  **KG** / Photo: Remo Wormmeester



Ammonia gap calls for new investment

The Netherlands leads the global field when it comes to reducing ammonia emissions in agriculture. And yet an 'ammonia gap' has been identified. The models used to calculate the emission and deposition of ammonia are no longer state-of-the-art, says British ammonia expert Mark Sutton, who studied the Dutch ammonia policy. His advice: the Dutch government needs to invest anew in ammonia research.

text: Albert Sikkema / **photo:** fotobureau FPS

The Dutch ammonia policy is effective, but not as effective as many Dutch researchers have calculated it to be over the years, says Mark Sutton, professor at the British Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. Since 1993 ammonia emissions in the Netherlands have gone down not by 70 percent but by 50 percent, reckons Sutton. But even that is a unique achievement in the world, says Europe's leading ammonia expert. The reduction is due to the use of slurry injection in the Netherlands. 'That approach is effective, without a doubt.'

Sutton subjected the Dutch ammonia policy to close scrutiny this summer, as chair of an international review panel. The impetus for the study came from ongoing discussions as to whether the measuring method and calculation model for ammonia emissions were sound. The model, developed by the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) using research data from Wageningen UR and the RIVM, does not accord with another RIVM model for determining ammonia concentrations in the air. While the first model showed a steep drop in ammonia emissions in agriculture, the drop in ammonia concentrations in the air was much smaller, according to the second model. So there was an 'ammonia gap'. This was fuel to the fire of persistent resistance to slurry injection

from a number of livestock farmers. The Sutton panel's task was to find out how the ammonia gap came about and who was right about it.

TAN FACTOR

Ammonia is a complex and rather elusive compound. It makes its first appearance as nitrogen in livestock feeds or grass, changes into ammonium in the manure and then partially evaporates to form ammonia gas. Most ammonia comes from livestock, which is why Wageningen researchers such as Jan Huijsmans (Plant Research International) work on ammonia measurements from manure and Gerard Velthof (Alterra) works on modelling for ammonia emissions. Velthof also coordinates the committee which developed the emissions model.

How do the scientists calculate ammonia emissions? To get an idea, here's a crash course on ammonia and the NEMA model. You take the number of cows in the Netherlands and the annual quantity of feed per cow. That feed gets converted into ammonium in the manure: the 'TAN factor'. The number of cows multiplied by the TAN factor gives the amount of ammonium coming from dairy farms.

For part of the year the cows stay in the cowshed. There, depending on the type of shed, some of the ammonium evaporates to form ammonia. The rest of the ammonium stays in the manure. That manure is stored



Mark Sutton



in the manure cellar, where it gives off ammonia, and then it is spread on the land. During spreading a bit more of the nitrogen evaporates in the form of ammonia. Also, some of the ammonium is absorbed by the crop and some of the manure is exported or processed. The same steps can be followed for pastured cows and for all the pigs, chickens and beef calves in the Netherlands.

There are emission factors for each of these steps: the percentage of ammonium that goes into the air in the form of ammonia. To determine these emission factors, the researchers take measurements. For each shed type, for example, they look at the amount of ammonia that ends up in the environment. They also find out how much ammonia an air filter gets rid of. Then they can calculate the ammonia emissions per animal for each shed type, with and without an air filter. The researchers have calculated the emission factors for manure-spreading too. When the manure is spread on the surface on grassland, the emissions factor is 74 percent (74 percent of the ammonium goes into the air, 26 percent is absorbed by the crop). When slurry injection is used, the emission factor is only 16 percent, research has shown. This method was made compulsory in the Netherlands in 1993.

MEASUREMENT TOWERS

Thanks to manure injection methods, the emission

model shows, ammonia emissions have gone down dramatically since 1993. But that dramatic drop in ammonia emissions does not tie in with the ammonia concentrations measured in the air every year by the RIVM, using measurement towers in the Netherlands. These measurements only show a limited reduction in the ammonia concentration in the air, and in the last few years it has even been going up.

So something is wrong. Is the calculation model sound? Are all the assumptions or data the model is

The drop in ammonia emissions is smaller in reality

based correct? And have the data from the ammonia measurement towers been upscaled accurately? These questions were put to Sutton. Before the summer vacation, the British ammonia expert invited the Wageningen UR and RIVM researchers and several other Dutch ammonia experts to Utrecht to look for the reason for the ammonia gap. In his review, which came out on 8 September, he sketches the most likely reasons for the gap between the lower emissions and the higher concentrations.



According to Sutton, the drop in ammonia emissions since 1990 is probably smaller than has been claimed. In 1990, cows excreted an awful lot of ammonium. They ingested a lot of nitrogen because of the heavy use of fertilizer in those days, all of it spread on the surface. According to the emission model, that meant high ammonia emissions per cow. But this calculation was based on an emission factor of 74 percent, whereas the actual emission factor must have been much lower, as

The Dutch have lost their headstart

some of the manure was spread in the winter, and less ammonium evaporates at lower temperatures. So ammonia emissions in the early nineteen nineties were overestimated, Sutton believes. By how much is not clear. That is something Jan Huijsmans (PRI) is now trying to estimate, so that the emission model can be adjusted. Along with cold weather, rain reduces ammonia emissions too. So the task is to include weather conditions in the emission model.

A second reason for emissions not having gone down as fast as the Wageningen models indicate lies in the behaviour of farmers. Until recently the emission model worked on the assumption that an air filter in the shed reduced emissions considerably. But what if the filter is not switched on? A study in North Brabant in 2009 showed that some livestock farmers do not switch on the air filter at the right time, perhaps to save on energy. This factor is now included in the model. A similar correction is needed for the spreading of manure on the land, concludes Sutton. In their responses to the Dutch agricultural survey, nearly all the farmers say they use a slurry injector, while in practice many farmers and companies use a 'trailing shoe applicator', especially on peat soils. The emission factor of a slurry injector, which puts the manure 5 centimetres into the ground, is lower than that of the trailing shoe applicator, which lays the manure in strips on the surface. On that point too, says Sutton, the data fed into the emission model needs correcting.

EXTRA GOVERNMENT FUNDING

By contrast, the ammonia concentration in the air is overestimated in the RIVM's deposition model, says Sutton. Here he points out the interaction in the atmos-

phere between ammonia and the gases SO₂ and NO_x. Because atmospheric levels of these pollutants have gone down in the last 20 years, ammonia stays in the air longer. The RIVM deposition model should be corrected for that effect, says Sutton. And he thinks the margins of error in this model are too big. That is partly because the RIVM only has six measurement towers, so the measurements are not representative of the farming sector. 'The OPS model is not state-of-the-art; the RIVM has to improve it,' concludes the panel chair.

When all is said and done, the Dutch policy has been successful in cutting ammonia emissions, concludes

Other countries are starting to invest now

Sutton. In fact the Netherlands is a global frontrunner in this field. But he also notes that the Dutch government is now neglecting ammonia research. If Dutch ammonia policy wants stay in the lead, there will have to be some serious investment in research, asserts Sutton. In the nineteen nineties the Dutch government invested in measurements and model development, but then it cut back on spending. It has therefore lost its headstart, says Sutton, just when other countries want to start investing in measures to cut ammonia emissions. And Sutton knows what he is talking about, as chair of an international nitrogen panel and coordinator of a European research programme on ammonia.

In his report, Sutton describes his panel as 'very concerned' about the closing of two RIVM measurement towers for measuring ammonia concentrations, and says he is 'very surprised' that RIVM researchers are not doing any studies of the atmospheric interactions with ammonia. He notes uncertainties in the Wageningen emission model which could easily be solved with further research. He mentions for example that the Integrated Horizontal Flux method for determining ammonia emissions, used by Wageningen UR, overestimates emissions by 0-20 per cent and that new research data is needed in several areas. 'In the nineteen nineties the Netherlands invested millions of euros a year in research; those were the days,' says Sutton. 'If you want to regain your leading role, it will take new investments on that kind of scale.'

State Secretary Dijksma of Economic Affairs, for whom the advice is intended, will now consult her colleague at the ministry of Infrastructure and Environment as to which of the panel's recommendations she is going to adopt. The crucial question is likely to be: who is going to pay for that? Her letter to the Lower House of Parliament lacks any sense of urgency and drive. She says she is happy about the panel's 'positive evaluation' of the ammonia model AERIUS used by the government in the implementation of ammonia legislation on livestock farms. This is a very rose-tinted interpretation of Sutton's report, which actually says the model is OK 'as far as the

panel can see,' but adds, 'However, insufficient information was provided on the technical basis of the AERIUS model, which should be subjected to ongoing review.' In other words: we don't know because the ministry hasn't provided enough data. More research needed. And why is that research needed? Sutton: 'The Dutch government needs to restore confidence.' ⁶

SLURRY INJECTION WORKS

Low-emission manure application is a good way of lowering ammonia emissions, claims Mark Sutton on the basis of his Review on the scientific underpinning of calculations of ammonia emission and deposition in the Netherlands. He points to a recent publication by Wageningen researchers in Soil Use and Management. They show that slurry injection not only considerably reduces ammonia emissions but also improves nitrogen absorption by grass, compared with spreading the manure on the surface. Moreover, they write, slurry injectors do not necessarily cause soil compaction, as some farmers have feared.

Slurry injection is often seen as an extra cost for farmers for the sake of the environment, says Sutton, but it is also a way of dealing with manure efficiently. By using slurry injection you save on artificial fertilizer. He knows an English livestock farmer who has bought a 'Dutch' slurry injector, without any pressure from British legislation. It is economically viable because he won't have to buy any more artificial fertilizer, says Sutton.



BOARD WORK GRANT MUST GO UP

The Student Council wants the Student Financial Assistance (FOS) for a board year raised from 289 to 370 euros per month. A student cannot manage on less than that. The university has offered a maximum of 320 per month. The Student Council and the Executive Board are at loggerheads on this point. Is the university's offer generous enough?

text: Koen Guiking en Linda van der Nat / photo: Sven Menschel

Lara Potma



MSc Leisure, Tourism & Environment

'It is already getting more expensive to be a student, without the basic grant. Instead of higher remuneration for a board job, the Student Council should make a fist for more funding to keep universities accessible for everyone. **A board year is an 'extra' anyway and the education itself is more important.** I think the Student Council can count themselves lucky that the university is making any concessions and is even offering more than the basic grant. There are plenty of ways of gaining formative experience which cost less time and money than a board year. I had a part-time job at AIESEC, for instance, and I went abroad as a way of further developing my capacities.'

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Rolf van der Vleugel



BSc Environmental Sciences

'If it gets difficult to find students willing to take on those board jobs, then the remuneration should go up. **I think the university's offer is good, but at the same time I would urge the Student Council to try for even more money.** I'm on the board of the tennis club Walhalla. I haven't had to have an extension, but I do sacrifice some spare time of course. As a board we get six months of FOS, which we had to divide between five of us. That's enough

I think the university's offer is good, but at the same time I would urge the Student Council to try for even more money. I'm on the board of the tennis club Walhalla. I haven't had to have an extension, but I do sacrifice some spare time of course. As a board we get six months of FOS, which we had to divide between five of us. That's enough

for me. My girlfriend is on the basketball association board and they get nothing at all.'

Nienke van der Kolk



MSc Biotechnology

'I have never done a board year myself. I have come from an applied sciences first degree and it is less of an issue at those universities. I think it's not a bad idea for the university to facilitate formative experiences like

this for students. Students need the chance to contribute to something that is important to them. The amount they are asking for, 370 euros, doesn't even strike me as extravagant, given that students serving on a board cannot work as well. **There is no point in my doing a board year now, but I wouldn't be put off by the money.** Of course I don't know what other students' financial situation is like, so I can understand the Student Council aiming high.'

Tobias Elzerman



BSc Biology

'With the current system being scrapped there is scope for the Student Council to negotiate. It is a shame they haven't got what they wanted, but once there is an agreement about an amount it often works out in the end. **Board work is good for your CV and you learn a lot from it, so there are always people willing to**

Board work is good for your CV and you learn a lot from it, so there are always people willing to



Consultations on the FOS between the Executive Board and 23 student organizations (21 May 2015)

do a board year. It is a conscious choice. The amount the university is now offering, 320 euros, is already more than students were getting at first. Now students get 286 euros and they manage on that don't they? I got one month's remuneration for a year's work when I spent a year on the board of the korfbal association. I thought that was very reasonable as we didn't get anything at first.'

Kinga Corbet



MSc Forest and Nature Management

'You don't do a board year for the money but for the experience and because it's fun. It is a formative experience and that is something the university ought to stimulate. When I was on the board of the study association I got one and a half months' FOS for six months on the board. That was not at all in proportion to the amount of work I put into it but it was nice to get some remuneration. **A board year is not a part-time job.** If that is your attitude you should do something else instead. I don't think 370 euros is an awful lot of money. It wouldn't put me off but I can imagine why some students would opt to give

priority to their studies because they cannot afford the extra time they will need if they take a year off for board work. That would be a pity because everyone should have the opportunity to do it.'

Bas Ooteman



MSc Food Technology

Chair of Wageningen rowing club Argo

'Both parties have a point if you ask me. I can see why the Student Council doesn't think 320 euros is enough because everything is more expensive now that students have to take out a loan. **The people most affected are those on fulltime boards who have to pay tuition for an extra year.** On the other hand the university says the FOS funds only stretch to a certain amount and I get that too. As an association we have budgets too and at some point the money's finished. I've still got a grant myself but if I had to take out a loan it wouldn't put me off serving on a board. **A board year is an investment in yourself, and you can't put a price tag on that.** It is a bootcamp for experience which there aren't many other ways of getting at our age.'

Soil-drilling championship must grow


Study Association Pyrus wants to expand the annual soil-drilling championships. The organizers want this muddy event to attract many more students and teachers.

text: Twan van der Slikke, Linda van der Nat, Iris Keizer / **photos:** Guy Ackermans

The next soil-drilling championships, which is organized by the study association of Soil, Water and Atmosphere, will take place on 8 October. On a field behind the Haarweg, hundreds of students and a handful of teachers will plunge their drills into the soil with the aim of getting down to 1.20 meters as fast as they can. Taking part in the soil-drilling championships is an unforgettable experience, say organizers Marianne Bosman and Michael Methorst of study association Pyrus. Michael: 'Three hundred students rolling around in the mud: that is the charm of the soil-drilling championships.' Marianne adds: 'The number of participants has grown every year but the concept has stayed the same. We think we can make more of it.'

There is a big publicity campaign this year aiming at getting a full pool of teachers involved as well as more students on other programmes. Marianne: 'People are under the incorrect impression that the soil-drilling championships are only for students of Soil, Water and Atmos-

phere, but the event is open to everyone.' And, says Michael, no experience of soil-drilling is required. 'Last year there was a team of international students who had never even clapped eyes on a soil drill.'

The first soil-drilling championships were organized by Soil Science teacher Gert Peek 17 years ago. Last year 60 teams took part. 'We want to go beat that this year.' They certainly got some positive initial reactions from students on their recruiting drive among potential participants. 'That was at drinks parties, so you never know whether people will have forgotten all about it the next day, but some teams were formed straightaway.' 

WANT TO JOIN IN?
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at www.pyrusbwa.nl/grondboren

GERT PEEK INITIATOR AND CHIEF REFEREE FOR YEARS

'It all started during field work in Gaasterland back in 1979. We were doing fieldwork by day and we didn't really have an evening programme. Then just for fun we tried to see who could drill the deepest into the soil. Students against each other; three, four, five metres, deeper and deeper. At some point I offered a prize: anyone who beat the record got a crate of beer. Of course each group wanted to beat the previous groups record. Then you have to add more drill stings, because they are one metre long. When you take the drill out of the ground you have to disconnect all those drill stings. Eventually it turned into a full evening's programme. In 1982 the record reached 11.05 metres. That took at least three hours, to drill 11 metres and to keep on connecting and disconnecting drill stings. And all for a crate of beer! After 1982 we started going to a different place for the field work. That was not such a suitable location for drilling deep. What you need for that is boulder clay, nice stiff material which sticks to the drill. So the tradition disappeared. Then in 1992, before their first jubilee, the students of Pyrus (the

study association of Soil, Water & Atmosphere, ed.) came up to me and said, 'Sir, you held those drilling competitions in the past.

What if we did that again now on the Wageningen hill, for our jubilee celebration?' This time the contest was to see who could drill the deepest in five minutes.

They picked it up again in 1998 and from then on it was not a question of who could drill deepest but who could drill to 1.20 metres the fastest. And that is how soil-drilling grew from a diversion during field trips to the annual Student Soil-drilling Championships.

We've seen the event change in the course of the years. It started out a bit smaller-scale but

extremely serious.

'By heck, I want to win!' People were really fanatical. That has changed gradually. Now a lot of students just come along for the fun of it. It is jolly, there is beer and good food; it's a nice night out. Some even come in carnival outfits! I like it; it's not dull and serious. Three years ago it rained cats and dogs. That adds to the fun. No one cares anymore, they get so filthy. It is one big playground with people slipping and sliding all over the place. It's a fantastic event.'



RYAN TEULING (TEACHER OF HYDROLOGY), ONETIME PARTICIPANT AND REFEREE.

'I still vividly remember the first time I took part. The drilling location was along the new canal and the weather was terrible. The ground was half puddles. It was pitch dark too, and we didn't have enough light. If somebody stood in front of the lamp you couldn't see a thing. It was a bit chaotic but there was a great atmosphere. It really is a unique event. There you are, all together in a meadow, drilling holes and barbecuing, and the weather might be lousy. It's not everyone's cup of tea. Teams come from Utrecht, Delft and Amsterdam too. The team from Delft arrives in a 'company car' all dressed up in suits. And they make their presence felt. Irritating in some ways but fun as well. Sometimes they try to sabo-

tage the generator. A recurring theme is arguing with the referees. That's all part of the game really. The competition is over when the handle of the drill touches the surface. But the ground is never completely flat of course. Sometimes someone stops drilling just too soon, and the referee disqualifies that attempt. It is a combination of strength and technique. You need to have done it a few times before you really know the ins and outs of soil-drilling. It doesn't usually go too well the first time. Either you apply too much force or you want to go on drilling too long, which doesn't help you go any deeper. If you are taking part for the first time a practice session is not a bad idea.'



Video with tips from
soil-drilling champions?
Look on resource-online.nl



PORN (1)

Is watching internet porn bad for your mental health? No, say researchers from Case Western Reserve University in the US. Porn itself doesn't harm you mentally, but the idea of being a porn addict. This came out of a study of porn watchers. The idea that you are doing something others disapprove of causes stress. Let alone the chances of being caught at it.

PORN (2)

The researchers also did their bit towards alleviating that mental distress. The objects of their study were 269 students (most of them men) from three (anonymous) universities, who had indicated in a questionnaire that they watched porn. The students got credits for their participation. Wonder how you justify those credits at home.

TRUE LOVE

Love is OK from an evolutionary angle, suggests German research on zebra finches (Max Planck Institute for Ornithology). The number of surviving chicks was 37 percent higher among pairs which had chosen each other than among pairs in 'arranged marriages'. The females in particular do not try as hard to make a go of it if they were forced together. So there is an evolutionary advantage to true love. Make use of that.

**SPECS**

Playing out of doors helps against shortsightedness, shows a study by the Chinese Sun Yat-sen University. In urban areas of China 80-90 percent of secondary school students are short-sighted. Many of the Chinese students on our campus wear specs too. Playing outside for 40 minutes a day at primary school is enough to reduce shortsightedness by one quarter. Sadly it only works preventively: playing out on the campus won't enable you to discard your specs.

Wageningen student wants to be in K3

Food Technology student Pippi-Lotte Maessen has auditioned for the new K3 (a Flemish/Dutch girl band). She can be seen in the SBS6 TV show *K3 zoekt K3*. The second-year student signed up as a joke but has now left 5900 candidates behind.

Singers Kristel, Karin and Josje are pulling out and are talent-spotting to find suitable successors. Pippi-Lotte let her friends and sister twist her arm to give it a try. 'When my sister brought it up I thought, I'll sign up and see how far I get. It was more as a joke, really, but I was one of the 800 girls out of the 6000 who were invited for the first round. In the end I was even one of the 100 girls who got to sing for the jury.'

While not exactly a fan of the girl band, Pippi-Lotte does enjoy their music. 'It cheers me up. I don't listen to their songs every day but I have always liked them. Otherwise I certainly wouldn't have auditioned.' The auditions took place before the summer

holidays. Each singer had to convince not only K3 but also a jury of children, fathers, mothers and grandparents. 'I wasn't nervous until I had to go on. The audience was much closer than I had expected and I heard them asking each other, 'Shall we let her go through?'

In the end she got through to the next round. She got the children and their fathers on her side very quickly but it was only at the end of the chorus of 'Heyah Mama' that the grandparents were convinced. The moment when the door opened to the professional jury felt like a dream, says Pippi-Lotte. 'All the lights and cameras, it was totally overwhelming. I really wondered where I was.'



The jury soon asked about her name, but Pippi-Lotte had seen that coming. 'People had been talking about that all day.' The jury was not entirely positive. And the 19-year-old student sees what they meant when they said she could do with a bit more oomph. 'I saw how I was hobbling up and down, so I get why they said that.' But the jury still thought Pippi-Lotte was good enough to go through to the bootcamp. How she has fared there we'll hear sometime in the near future. **LvdN**

(K3 zoekt K3 is on SBS6 on Friday night)



Argo narrowly missed medal in student championships

The ladies of student rowing club Argo did not manage to bag a medal at the students' European Cup for rowing in Hannover. The women's coxless pair came fourth, the lightweight women's four came fifth.

For Nynke Groot Koerkamp and Tessa van Hateren, the women's coxless pair, it was an

incredibly exciting race. 'At the two thirds mark numbers 2,3 and 4 were still neck and neck,' says Nynke. In the end the pair just missed a medal but 'for Tessa and me it was a lovely end to our competition rowing period'.

The lightweight women rowed against stiff competition

so they had little chance of coming in higher than fifth place. But Argo can be proud of the first-year rowers, says Nynke. 'It is a good bit of international experience to have under their belts in their future careers. They did themselves proud, so that bodes well for their season as second-year rowers.' **LvdN**

EPISODE 57 - MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

Text
Rob
Ramaker

The story so far: Derk hasn't had many serious relationships with boys yet since he came out. Thank goodness for sport.

Grebbeberg

It was the first Shout get-together of the year and suntanned girls and boys were telling each other all about their holidays. Derk's mind was on something else entirely when Jelle, a boy he vaguely knew, came up to him. And before he knew it, Derk was banging on about his annoying doctor yet again.

'So the guy didn't take his eyes off his screen, didn't really want to examine me and then suddenly declared: you've got runner's knee, two months' rest. Incredible or what?'

Jelle frowned. 'Was he wrong then?'

'That's not the point!' said Derk. 'The point is how offhand he was. I mean, my whole marathon dream is shattered. I could weep.'

Jelle ran his hands through his hair.

'And couldn't he help you?'

Derk sniffed. 'He said I should just take up swimming or cycling.' Jelle's face brightened up.

'You should try coming for a bike ride. Once you've got over your disappointment, you'll really enjoy it. And I promise to take it gently.' Derk thawed a bit. Was he being flirted with now?

One week later Derk waited - with a borrowed bike - at the Haarweg. In the distance he saw an eager looking Jelle come out in a cycling helmet.

'Raring to go?' asked Jelle, giving Derk an enthusiastic hug. For the first few kilometres in the direction of the Grebbe-



ILLUSTRATIONS: KIM PETERSE

berg, Derk had no trouble keeping up. He did lose the rhythm sometimes, which made him feel as if his legs were getting tied in knots. His 'leader' looked around every now and then and gave him a thumbs-up. After about ten kilometres Derk's feet were moving in a nice flow. He began to get the same sort of high he got from running and he overtook Jelle. On the way back along the dyke Jelle had a hard time keeping up. Out of the corner of his eye Derk saw that Jelle was determined not to be beaten; he kept pushing himself to catch up again. When Wageningen came in view, Jelle suddenly braked and got off his bike. Derk turned around and watched his companion hurl his bike onto the ground and throw up in the field. When Derk got off, Jelle was leaning against a post. Derk went and sat next to him. Jelle put his head on Derk's shoulder.

'Really nice, we must do this more often,' said Derk. Jelle laughed and coughed. 'Not, not this,' he said with a wink, and took Derk's hand.

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

Status before studying

Universities are discussing whether they can do something for refugees, says Simon Vink, spokesperson for Wageningen UR's executive board. Vink is responding to the petition 'Give refugees opportunities for personal development and the prospect of a meaningful stay'.

This petition, launched by an ex-teacher at the University of Am-

sterdam, is a plea for a prompt expansion of the possibilities for refugees to continue pursuing their academic careers as students or guest researchers.

'As long as people do not have official status, it is difficult,' says Vink. 'But as soon as we can make a useful contribution we will do so, of course.' He hints that the chances of this are slim. 'The academic year has begun so the first opportunity to start is in

January. And then only the Master's programmes are in English. And of course the refugee's education to date needs to be of a standard that means it makes sense to continue in the Netherlands.'

Vink emphasizes that people with refugee status are already able to study in the Netherlands. At present, he says, there are eight students studying in Wageningen through the Foundation

for Refugee Students UAF. Vink: 'In our system they are simply students; we don't register students as refugees.' As well as the eight UAF students there could well be other refugee students registered at the university.

As for refugee scientists, it is not easy to offer them work, indicates Vink. 'You have to take it case by case. There are a lot of rules and regulations you have to deal with.' **KG**

>> PARTIES

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

**ARGO - ROCK 'N ROW**

Thursday 24 September from 23:00 to 05:00

Argo doesn't often host open parties but when it does, it pulls out all the stops.

Besides their sport, rowers know a thing or two about how to drink beer and throw a party. The theme of the party on 24 September is Rock 'n Row, and entrance is free.

CAFÉ DANIELS - THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN'S RIDE 2015

Sunday 27 September from 12:00 to 20:00

This is not the kind of party you've come to expect from us, but it's certainly worthwhile. Lots of live music, tough guys and girls on roaring motorbikes, and it's part of a global event raising funds for a charity. Wageningen has already raised over 1700 euros for the battle against prostate cancer, more than cities like Utrecht, Maastricht and

Eindhoven. Come to this great event and support a good cause. A win-win situation.

WAGENINGEN - POPPRONDE

Thursday 1 October from 20:30 to 04:00

The travelling music festival Poppronde is coming to Wageningen again this year. You can enjoy live music and good beers in 13 different pubs in the town centre. Entrance to all the concerts is free. As soon as the programme is ready there will be more information about it on www.wageningenup.nl.

The best parties in 2015!?

Download the WageningenUP/Resource WC door poster on Resource-online.nl.

>> THE WORKS

'I WENT "SIGHTSEEING" WITH MY SUPERVISOR'S FAMILY'

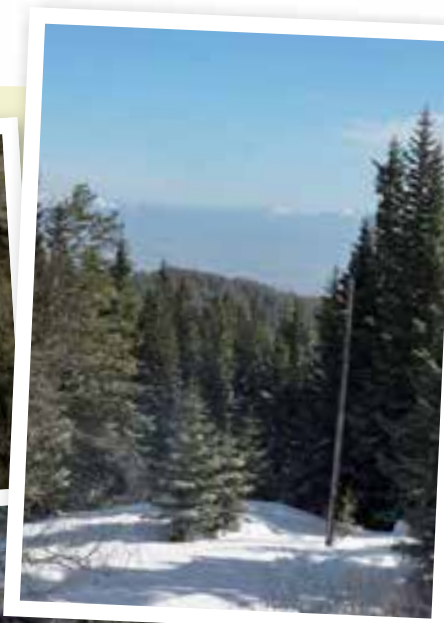
Who? Arlon Tillmans, Master's student of Biology and Climate Studies

What? Fieldwork for her thesis on winter photosynthesis in *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots pine)

Where? Sophia, Bulgaria

'I started my fieldwork in the Netherlands, but after coming across a study done in Bulgaria, I decided to go there. This enabled me to expand and improve my research. Also, Bulgaria always has severe winters and that is important for my research question: is there any photosynthesis activity in *Pinus sylvestris* in the winter? I spent four weeks in total at the University of Forestry in Sophia. I measured photosynthesis levels using a system that regulates leaf temperature and adds varying concentrations of CO₂ to the leaf. You can then make a curve and eventually calculate the photosynthesis capacity. Since little research has been done at low leaf temperatures, I worked in the winter. The winter fieldwork was lovely; sometimes there was a lot of snow lying but I never got too cold through my thick winter clothes. I spent about two weeks doing fieldwork, taking measurements of a tree by day, and I spent the other two weeks organizing and analysing the data.

The researchers at the university in Bulgaria were very friendly and helpful and helped me a lot. They were very interested, too, as they are doing research on this species of pine as well. I really enjoyed my time



there. The supervisors at the university took me out to local restaurants a lot and my supervisor even invited me home to dinner with his family.

It was a good experience to work with other researchers. I stayed in a hostel so I met a lot of travellers from other countries. That meant there was always something nice to do after work, like eating together and having a chat, or exploring the city. So I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Bulgaria. I would do it again without hesitation, and I didn't for one moment regret it or have any doubts.'



MEANWHILE IN... <<

Meanwhile in... Chile

In the news: Chile was struck last week by a very strong earthquake, 8.3 on the Richter Scale. At least ten people were killed and more than a million people were evacuated.

Commentary by Sebastián Decap Swinburn, MSc student of Animal Sciences.

'There was talk of nothing else in Chile for the past week. News programmes broadcast nonstop about the earthquake and the papers were full of it too. Fortunately all my family are fine. My aunt's kiosk was reduced to rubble though. It was a little stall from which she sold food. Luckily there is only material damage and nobody I know was injured.

Nature is hitting us hard this year. There was a landslide in the north and a volcano erupted in the south. And now this severe earthquake. The damage has been relatively limited. Chile is prepared for earthquakes. We have an 'earthquake culture'. Buildings are reinforced, people know what they should do, and in schools children are taught 'what to do if there is an earthquake'. As a precaution against a tsunami the entire coastline was evacuated.

But this was a severe earthquake even by Chilean standards. I have only experienced minor earthquakes. I was in Australia when the big earthquake of 2010 happened (8.8 on the Richter Scale and 800 dead). At that time it was impossible to contact family and friends because of power cuts.

I only know about the strongest earthquake in human history from stories. That was in 1960, an earthquake of 9.5 on the Richter Scale. The whole earth convulsed and it was almost impossible to stay standing up. That was a huge catastrophe.

But we are used to minor earthquakes in Chile. We just have to live with them. Just like the Dutch have to live with rain.' ® LdP

APPZ

Apps come in all varieties. Useful, innovative, exciting, amusing and completely pointless. Hundreds of new ones come out every week. Resource picked out a few that stand out, and of course we are open to suggestions. Email your find to tip.resource@wur.nl



POCKET!

Seen something interesting on the internet but no time to read it now, and you don't want 1000 open tabs? Store articles, websites, recipes and films in this app so you can look at them later on any gadget (and offline too) on the sofa over a cup of tea.



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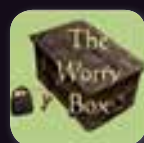


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Film



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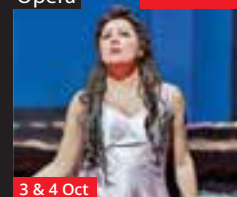
29 Sept 19.30u

**Roger Waters
- The Wall**

MUSIC DOCUMENTARY
WITH PINK FLOYD

Opera

ON SCREEN



3 & 4 Oct

**Il Trovatore
- Verdi**

METROPOLITAN OPERA
LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN

Single to China!

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

(QUICK SEARCH TERM: VLOG)

RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL



Classifieds

Agromisa is looking for a Young Ambassador & Student Organizer (volunteer)

Agromisa is a non-profit organization in Wageningen. It supports small-scale farmers and organizations by providing them with practical information on sustainable agriculture. The ambassador (student or recent graduate) will function as a contact person for Agromisa within the student community, and as an intermediary between students, NGOs and private companies.

INFO: WWW.AGROMISA.ORG OR CONTACT JANWIL-LEM.LIEBRAND@GMAIL.COM / 06-26288075

Wanted: students to collaborate on thesis project

I am a Wageningen student working on my Master's thesis, and I am looking for students with health problems or disabilities, who may or may not require additional services here at Wageningen University because of various kinds of difficulty; I would like to interview some of these students about their lives and academic experiences. If you are in-

terested, or know someone who may be interested please 'spread the word' and contact me at myriam.del-lolio@wur.nl

Wanted: carpool from The Hague/Voorburg/Zoetermeer area

Who could I carpool with to the university on certain days? Preferably a non-smoker. I live in Zoetermeer and don't drive.

Contact: Diana 06-1745685 / feyagria13@hotmail.com

Call for Papers: 'Disclosing Sustainability: The Transformative Power of Transparency?'

Submit your abstract before 15th October if you would like to take part in this international conference organized by the Environmental Policy Group at Wageningen University. The conference will be held in Wageningen, 24-25 June 2016.

MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING CONFERENCE THEMES AND KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: WWW.TRANSPARENCYENP2016.COM

Innovation challenge Smart and Healthy City

Students are entrepreneurs have been challenged to come up with

ideas for a healthy city. These could be ideas for cleaner, quieter transport, for instance, or for reducing air or noise pollution. The six most innovative ideas out of all the entries will get publicity. Three entries will be awarded a sum of 10 to 15 thousand euros for further development of the idea. This innovation challenge is being run by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment. Deadline for submissions: 30 October.

WWW.RIJKSOVERHEID.NL/DOE-MEE/LOPENDE-PROJECTEN/INNOVATIECHALLENGE-SLIMME-EN-GEZONDE-STAAD

Sign up for the Rijk Zwaan Experience on 11 November (event in Dutch)

Vegetable breeding company Rijk Zwaan in De Lier is offering a number of students the chance to experience what it is like to work for a breeding company. There will be presentations and guided tours, and in teams you will apply your knowledge and ideas to a range of cases. Email your CV, photo and motivation by 11 October to experience@rijk-zwaan.nl

INFO: WWW.RIJKZWAAN.NL

Free surgery for students with RSI/CANS symptoms

At this surgery you'll get answers to your questions about your arm, neck and shoulder symptoms and how to treat and prevent them (rest, exercises, working posture, the use of ergonomic hardware and software, sport, therapy etc.) This walk-in surgery is held every Thursday afternoon from 17.00 to 18.00. Location: Praktijk Oefentherapie Karin Vaessen, Kolkakkerweg 2 in Wageningen.

WWW.BETERBEWEGEN.NL

agenda

Thursday 24 September to Wednesday 7 October

FILMS FOR STUDENTS

At Movie W film house: *Kurai Kurai*, a mythical journey over the steppes of Kirgistan; *Geronimo*, a sizzling French love story with music and dance to let off steam; *Schneider versus Bax*, a wry Dutch 'polder Western' with an idiosyncratic murder scenario. *Taxi Teheran*, in which a taxi drive symbolizes the situation in Iran; *In Grazia di Dio*, a feel-good film about three women in financial

difficulties; Mining Sacred Worlds Festival, four documentaries about nature areas in danger.

WWW.MOVIE-W.NL

24 September, 16.00 – 20.15

SKOV – 5TH SEMINAR: 'EU AND NETHERLANDS POLICY IN SUB SAHARAN AFRICA. REFUGEES, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY'

Several recognised speakers (also a representative of PAX) will contribute. SKOV, the Study Circle for Development Issues, is cooperating with the student associations Nji Sri and Ipso Facto to organize a series of seminars on agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Participation, including aperitif, is free of charge. Venue: Leeuwenborch, room C63.

WWW.KLV.NL

Saturday 26 September from 14.00 & Sunday 27 September from 10.00

DUTCH YOUTH NATURE ORGANIZATION NJN CELEBRATES ITS 95TH ANNIVERSARY

This weekend around Van Hall-Larenstein University of Applied Sciences in Velp, various activities will be organized such as a symposium on Saturday 'Adventure in Nature', music and children's activities. On Sunday there are hourly excursions, 'Elk Uur Natuur'. Free entrance for young people aged 11 to 25. Check out the complete festival programme on www.njn.nl/symposium

Wednesday 30 September, 19.30-21.30

KLV IMPULSE – IS THE EMPEROR WEARING ANY CLOTHES? WHAT'S THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AGENDA

GOT IN STORE FOR WAGENINGEN?

The first meeting of this new event focussing on current affairs will be all about the National Science Agenda. The invitation to the public to submit questions met with unexpected success, with 11,700 questions coming in. The results will only be announced in November but now we'll start by sketching the scientific agenda with two speakers (Louise Vet and Ernst van den Ende). Location: Impulse, building 115. Entrance is free.

INFO AND REGISTER: WWW.KLV.NL

Thursday 1 October from 20.30 POPRONDE IN WAGENINGEN

The biggest travelling music festival in the Netherlands is going to 39 towns this year, including Wageningen where there will be gigs by Moon tapes, Jeanne Rouwendaal and The Brahms, among others. Singer/songwriters, rappers, rockers and producers: the Popronde doesn't stick to just one kind of music. This year for the first time there will be performances in THUIS, the new creative meeting place in Wageningen town centre. All the concerts are free.

FOR THE FULL PROGRAMME: WWW.POPCULTUUR-WAGENINGEN.NL

Thursday 8 October 18.00

SOIL-DRILLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

We will start with a delicious barbecue at which everyone can eat their fill. Then the real contest starts. The idea is simple: your team sees how fast it can drill down to 1.20 metres underground. After the competition, straight on to the International Club where the party starts at around

23.00 hours! Location for the soil-drilling: the field behind the Haarweg/ Binnenveld.

WWW.PYRUSBWA.NL

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.

WWW.ISOCARP2015.ORG/THEMES/WAGENINGEN OR CONTACT HELENA AT: HHEYNING@XS4ALL.NL

Thursday 5 November, 9.00 - 19.30 PE&RC DAY 2015: ONE'S WASTE... ANOTHER'S TREASURE?

The annual symposium is organized by the PhD council of the Graduate School Production Ecology and Resource Conservation (PE&RC). Each PE&RC-day deals with a challenging, cutting-edge topic and is meant for scientists, young and old, who can meet each other and exchange their views on the topic. In this year's event, we will look at anthropogenic waste through the lens of an ecosystem, presenting innovative ways of managing waste through recycling or upcycling. Venue: Hotel de Nieuwe Wereld, Marijkeweg 5, Wageningen

INFO AND REGISTRATION: WWW.PE-RC.NL/PD2015

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

colophon

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>>TYPICAL DUTCH




ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

Working hours

I knew that the Dutch were organized and punctual, but what shocked me was that they are so prompt about their working hours. Almost all offices and shops close at exactly 6 pm. It took me a couple of months to get used to that.

In Russia almost everybody works and goes shopping until nine or ten o'clock in the evening. Moreover, we have '24-hour shops'. It was a weird and unusual feeling to go to the city or a grocery store to buy some food for dinner around 8 pm and find everything was closed. How is that? I could not understand why shops would close THAT early, exactly at the time people return from work or school. When was I supposed to buy my food?

I have learnt to plan my shopping at weekends or in the early mornings if lectures only started in the afternoon. So that problem was solved and I adapted. But soon I encountered another issue with Dutch people ending their working day at 6 pm. They cannot be reached by phone after that! I am used to free communication by phone ANY time of the day: whether it is 9 am or 9 pm. I will always pick up and answer any questions and I know anyone I call will do the same. Dutch people are different. After 6 pm it is their 'private time'. They cannot be reached for work-related matters anymore.

On the one hand that is weird for me as a foreigner, but on further consideration, the Dutch do not stress themselves when they come home and they can enjoy the rest of the day with their family and friends. What a happy nation!  **Maria Starodubrovskaya from Russia**

I will pick up my phone any time. Dutch people are different. After six pm it is their private time.

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.