

Documentation Exchange and networking meeting with stakeholders from agricultural education and training in North Rhine-Westphalia

Title of the event: Low-emission and species-appropriate animal husbandry? Anchoring synergies in agricultural education

Date & Place: 20.11.2020 from 10 am - 1 pm - Online Workshop

Participants: see list in the appendix

External moderator: Richard Häusler, stratum gGmbH

1. Welcome of the hosts

Brigitte Wenzel from the Rhineland Agricultural Association (RLV) welcomed the participants and briefly introduced the association. More information: <https://www.rlv.de/>.

Lara Schmidt from Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH) presented the main objectives and contents of the EU-funded Clean Air Farming project. [Presentation](#).

2. Networking and getting to know each other

For a short round of introductions, participants were asked to position themselves virtually on the following questions: a) how much will agriculture (let) change? and b) how much can I contribute to an improvement?



A project by:

3. Animal welfare and reduction of emissions - a contradiction?

3.1 Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Prof. Dr Steffi Wiedemann, Professor for Farm animal science and environmental impacts: "Animal welfare and emission control - how do they go together?"

Presentation: <https://owncloud.duh.de/index.php/s/vcsvYjg1bkZk7AT>

Feedback from the audience:

In the subsequent discussion, the agricultural size of 7% of GHG was questioned, among other things. The figure included neither the carbon sequestration of grassland nor the emissions of fodder imports.

In response to the question "The share of GHGs caused by agriculture is often given a higher figure in the media. How is this the case?", the IPCC report from 2019

Mention: https://www.de-ipcc.de/media/content/SRCCL-SPM_de_barrierefrei.pdf,
S. 8

On the question of the differences in GHG emissions between conventional and organic animal husbandry, Prof. Wiedemann gave the following figures: In organic production, one kg of milk has an average of 983 g CO₂ equivalents, in conventional production 1,047 g CO₂ equivalents - organic farming does not reduce emissions per se, it depends strongly on the individual case.

3.2 Rheinischer Landwirtschaftsverband, Dr. Bernd Lüttgens, Deputy Managing Director: Tension between immission control: Challenge for animal welfare and structural development

Presentation: <https://owncloud.duh.de/index.php/s/dQmL1hS4dxizUBI>

Feedback from the audience:

Mr Weyermann pointed out that since autumn the BLE has been funding barn and barn replacement buildings for the early implementation of the stricter Animal Welfare and Farm Animal Husbandry Ordinance in the area of sow husbandry. The funds are available for 2020 and 2021, but the timing is not practicable. In particular, the requirement of an existing building permit as a prerequisite for the funding application leads to considerable time delays. The programme is therefore hardly usable for sow farmers who are willing to convert.

Christine Hellerström from DUH points out that, according to the BMEL, the revision of the building law with exemption clauses for animal welfare stables in the TA-Luft is on its way.

Mr. Lüttgens points out that these go nowhere. He is of the opinion that agriculture should be part of the general land use instead of dividing it into protection and use areas.

The participants also pointed out that methane emissions could also be reduced by using feed additives such as herbs, linseed oil and algae protein.

4. Panel discussion "What does agricultural education and training need to be fit for the future?"

With **Christian Wucherpfennig**, head of the technical college in Haus Riswick, **Bernhard Wagner**, head of the agricultural department at the vocational college in Kleve, **Christian Deselaers**, training advisor for the profession of farmer at the LWK NRW, **Ole Grohn** from the technical college in Kleve and **Johann Dobler**, organic technical college in Kleve.

Ole Grohn points out that everything that comes from politics is not taken into account by the farmers.

is generally rejected. For small farms in particular, many requirements are not economically feasible. The better way to bring about change is through the LWK or the professional colleague. Farmers want to act in a self-determined way and make changes of their own accord.

Christian Wucherpfennig confirms the statement and adds that the topics of animal welfare and environmental protection have now arrived.

When asked about the implementation of animal welfare and environmental protection, Ole Grohn replies that the will to change is present in many, but the obstacles to conversion are usually too high.

Johann Dobler explains the view of organic farmers: they would have more proximity and exchange with consumers, new farm concepts can be implemented close to the customer.

Bernhard Wagner confirms that emission protection topics are already anchored in the curricula and that no external impetus is needed here. New scientific data and findings are integrated into the lessons, especially through the experiments at Haus Riswick; the curriculum is general, but the colleagues integrate the topic of emissions. However, the data has to be obtained or updated by the teachers themselves - therefore, it is important to have up-to-date, reliable data.

Christian Wucherpfennig emphasises the advantageous proximity to Haus Riswick and the interest of the teachers in new topics. He points out that the technical schools generally have more freedom than the vocational schools.

This is confirmed by Johannes Dobler, who hardly came into contact with the topic of emissions at vocational school, but now does at technical college. Many organic farmers would also attend conferences with good speakers on various topics, such as emissions.

Mr Brettschneider from the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training points out that the level of knowledge naturally develops further when the trainees work in practice after their training.

Christian Wucherpfennig emphasises the importance of lifelong learning and the significance of further and advanced training, e.g. by the LWK. The consultations also take place at a high level.

Mr. Lambers from the DBV notes that the framework curricula of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs are deliberately relatively open. One has to be careful that teachers are not demotivated by too many guidelines from above. It is more important to have a good supply of competences and materials and the willingness to learn and change.

Overall, it could be observed that the actors are relatively motivated

Question: Does the learning about emission reduction also lead to implementation in practice?

Bernhard Wagner sees the schools as providing impulses and preparing a technical foundation, while the subsequent farm advisory service has more influence on the implementation in the farm.

Ole Grohn is of the opinion that the vocational schools and, to a greater extent, the technical schools can definitely contribute to nudging agriculture in the right direction, as these are topics that are fit for the future. What is important is the current status.

One participant pleads for a stronger focus on quality rather than efficiency and on creative marketing.

Mr. Lüttgens raises the question of system boundaries - consumer products could be assessed as sustainable according to their emissions - it is also about technological issues, such as exhaust air filters, changed husbandry systems, emission reduction, energy input for filtering out ammonia emissions.

Question: What role do marketing, distribution channels of products play?

Christian Wucherpfennig notes that the conventional sector has little influence on market and economic policy in contrast to the organic sector, which has more exchange with buyers. In general, the topic of emission reduction is a cross-cutting issue in schools, covered both in specialist planning law and in other subject lessons, and promotes systemic, whole-farm thinking

Christian Dobler confirms the proximity to customers and customer education in the organic sector, speaks of versatile marketing concepts and smaller farm structures. At the technical college, he says, they dealt with topics such as the pig toilet, but also direct marketing, producer prices.

Ole Grohn is also interested in ecological issues and animal welfare and criticises the politically supported dairy cattle building boom and "expansion mania".

One discussant adds that emission reduction and animal welfare are now MUST topics due to social pressure.

Question: What is the attitude of agriculture towards NGOs like DUH?

Lüttgens thinks dialogue is good and important - with all environmental associations and would like to see a willingness to compromise from all sides. Together we should reflect on what agriculture has already achieved, which solutions to the problems are seen and which are achievable. Planning security and reliability are crucial for agriculture.

Ms Wenzel underlines the opinion of Mr Lüttgens, she feels that the cooperation is enriching, that many impulses come from the environmental associations, but she would like to see less pressure, as otherwise the farmers feel they are being bullied. Voluntariness and self-determination are important.

Küskens from the RLV believes that farmers are constantly educating themselves, through further education and training and through trade journals. He sees the main problem of emission-reduced agriculture, among other environmental requirements, in the lack of pricing - the market plays an important role.

Christian Wucherpfennig emphasises that there are also school subjects such as communication with practical exercises on consumer talks or also within the framework of vocational preparation courses by vocational school students for high school students.

Mr. Lambers presents the discussion on the future of agricultural education at federal level - communicative competence and professional awareness are important keywords here. An improvement of the nationwide coordination would be necessary. He points out that education is not an indoctrination process, but gives the pupils important contents, suggestions as a basis for their own decisions.

Question: The European "Farm to Fork" strategy foresees 25% organic farming by 2030. What contribution can education make here?

One discussant stated that there has been a nationwide project in dialogue with farmers' associations, ministries and vocational schools for 4-5 years on the question of how organic farming can be integrated into training. More information: <https://www.oeko-komp.de/projekte/berufliche-bildung-brd/>

Question: Is the continuation of the dialogue / regional workshops desired?

Lüttgens reiterates the value of dialogue and believes it can contribute to finding solutions to the transformation process

Hubert Koll from the DBV also emphasises the high importance of exchange and pleads with NGOs not to make demands that cannot be met. Farmers and non-farmers must cooperate on a realistic level. He appeals to the farmers to

more time, as economic constraints, such as lease contracts, have to be taken into account. The discourse is valuable, and staying power is necessary.

At the end of the workshop, Lara Schmidt from DUH referred to the continuation of the dialogue discussions on the topic of low-emission agriculture in vocational training - also in other federal states - and to the final conference planned for autumn 2021, probably at Haus Riswick in Kleve.

List of participants (only those who have given consent for the data to be passed on)

Name	Institution
Andreas Deyer	Farmer
Bernd Dr. Lüttgens	RLV
Bernhard Wagner	Kleve Vocational College
Brigitte Wenzel	RLV
Carola Wedde-Voß	Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia
Carolina Wackerhagen	Lake Constance Foundation
Caroline Labonte	Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia
Christian Deselaers	Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia
Christian Wucherpennig	Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia
Dr Christine Friedrich	Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia
Dr Edina Hickl	Karlsruhe District Office
Elena Scherber	Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia
Dr Franz Weyermann	Rhineland Agricultural Association e.V.
Franz-Josef Stork	Experimental and Training Centre Agriculture Haus Riswick
Gabi Fiedler	German Environmental Aid
Dr Horst Cielejewski	Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia
Hubert Koll	STADT UND LAND e.V. in NRW
Johann Dobler	Eco-pupils Haus Riswick
Lara Schmidt	German Environmental Aid
Markus Bretschneider	Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)
Michel Tin Man	Chamber of Agriculture North Rhine-Westphalia
Richard Häusler	Moderator
Steffi Wiedemann	Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences
Ole Grohn	Pupils at Haus Riswick
Tina Wurster	District Office Hohenlohekreis