



Call for EVS volunteers in the Netherlands!

EVS project at Biological Farm De Beekhoeve

We are looking for 2 motivated volunteers between the ages of 18 and 30, interesting in getting to know the Dutch culture, nature and rural life! Are you interested? Then read more about this EVS project for 12 months at the biological Farm at [De Beekhoeve](#)

Duration project: 1 june 2012 – 1 june 2013 (12 months)

Contact person: Davinia Croes, evs@siw.nl.

Location: Kamerik, the Netherlands

NOTE: This project as already been approved by our National Agency.

Volunteer profile:

- Preferably female
- Good English communicative skills, and you're prepared to learn Dutch
- A good physical condition
- Interested in country side and farming
- Studious and motivated to work at the farm
- You have to be willing and able to get up (very) early
- Not too privacy sensitive, you do live together with a family
- Willing to work hard, you sometimes make long days
- Prepared to work now and then on Saturday or Sunday
- Affinity with biological farming, nature, and ecologically responsible life
- Showing initiative yourself

Description of the project:

Working hours:

In total you will work 32 hours a week and have 2 days off each week.

The days; the daily structure is not led by the clock but by the animals that are milked at 06:30 in the morning and 17:30 in the evening. Notwithstanding, there is more time for lunch, breakfast, and the preparation of the common biological meal. On average, the working days are no longer than 8 hours per day. Occasionally, the days are longer (for instance at harvest time) but will be compensated in days.

Project activities:

- Daily farming activities like feeding the cows and chickens, cleaning the stables, fetching the cows. Depending on the season, various activities, in summer more work outside, in winter in the stable amidst the cattle and for instance sawing wood.
- Basic activities; activities in the pastures, kitchen garden, keeping the yard clean, sawing wood, pruning. Assisting when groups are visiting the farm, and maintenance and cleaning of reception rooms.
- Depending on motivation, personal interest, and independent functioning as demonstrated by the volunteer, EVS persons can learn how to milk, visit trade shows, thinking along with the development of the farm, assisting volunteers at cooperating days, maintaining regular contacts at the farm, etc.



- Once you master the Dutch language, it opens up possibilities to activities like promotion of the farm and selling farming products, accompanying groups or showing them around, standing at fairs, communication and activities like organizing the open days.
- Experience learns that persons need 1 – 2 months to get acquainted with the farm, the family, the daily structure and the new living environment by means of the daily activities. We strive for people to take on certain activities independently, like making yoghurt or butter, assisting at cheese making, mowing the pastures, developing the kitchen garden and the yard, organizing activities like the open days, and visiting days for civilians. We appreciate it when people become part of this farm and place. We are looking for own initiative in the activities at and around the farm.

Living and working environment:

In this project you live and work together with the family with 4 children in the age between 1 and 9 year, at the farm. On working days, once a day there is a meal together. Breakfast and lunch can be eaten in your own quarters. The food is predominantly biological and the products of the farm, like meat, cheese, milk, and the vegetables of the season, are made available to the volunteers. Kamerik is a village with 3000 inhabitants at 5 km distance of the farm. Because you live and work in the family, you are expected to take part in the household.

Leisure time:

Kamerik is a village with 3000 inhabitants and lies at a 5 km distance. At 10 km distance is the small town of Woerden with 50,000 inhabitants. A bicycle will be available to the volunteers. In Kamerik, there are several sport clubs and a youth club. In the area, several cultural activities take place. In the summer months, parties for and by youngsters are organized in tents or barns.

What you will learn at this project:

- Living ecological friendly, healthy food and environment
- Care and responsibility for animals and environment
- Observing and signalling of animal behaviour
- Self discipline, independency, proactive acting, leadership and managing people
- Working with motivation
- The Dutch language, you will get Dutch lessons.
- The farm and nature are a good environment to get nearer to yourself
- Learning to make contacts in the local community
- Personal development; working orderly and structured, improvising, solving problems, insight in your own functioning within the total, working in a practical manner
- Difference between cultures, between countries, but also city and country side
- And other competences the volunteer wants to learn.

How to apply:

Please send us your motivation letter and CV by email: evs@siw.nl. The deadline is April 15th 2012.