

# Care farming in the UK: The importance of networks



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# Introduction

- The NCFI – short history
- The importance of networks
- Regional initiatives
- NCFI website: a resource for our network



# What is Care Farming?

## NCFI definition:

- Care farming is the therapeutic use of farming practices.

### Care farms:

- Utilise the whole or part of a farm.
- Provide a supervised, structured programme of farming-related activities,
- Provide services on a regular basis for participants
- Are commissioned to provide care farming services by referral agencies.



# National Care Farming Initiative (UK)

## Our mission:

*Provide a voice and supportive services for care farmers, to inspire decision makers and to develop policies and actions that will support care farming in the UK.*

## MOA between 4 partner organisations

- Arthur Rank Centre/ RASE
- The Fed (Federation of City farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG))
- Harper Adams University College
- University of Essex

*NCFI operates with and on behalf of our Network of care farmers, supporters and interested parties*



# History of NCFI

- First Care Farming Conference November 2005
- Development of a National Care Farming Network
- Build up evidence base – Stage 1 Research a scoping study of care farming in the UK
- 2nd Care Farming Conference spring 2007
- Practitioners steering group set up
- Much consultation as to how the care farming movement should proceed
- 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference September 2010
- Care farming is on the map, 800+ people in the network, increased political interest and interest from commissioners
- Now going forward into a new phase, where the NCFI will be run **by** care farmers **for** care farmers



# The importance of networks for care farming in the UK

- Networks of the 4 partner organisations
- Links with the EU social farming networks
  - CoP Farming for Health
  - COST 866 Green care in Agriculture
  - SoFar project
- Development of a UK wide network of practitioners, supporters, commissioners etc
- Formation of regional/ country networks

# The formation of regional groups and networks

- Development of various regional / country groupings
  - Care Farming Scotland
  - Care Farming West Midlands
  - East Anglia Care Farming
  - South West group in progress
  - Welsh group starting
- Dynamic, groups have evolved naturally
- They all vary in approach
- Some are formal groups others are informal
- There is no 'right' way to go
- Our diversity is our strength – must avoid pushing everyone into the same model
- What works in one area/ country may not work in another



# NCFI Website: a resource for the UK network

- The development of a national website has provided a valuable resource for:
  - Care farmers
  - Those interested in finding out more about care farming
  - Potential clients or commissioners
  - Regional groups

<http://www.ncfi.org.uk/>



# National Care Farming Initiative

Growing People's Potential



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### Related Links

- [Help: Interactive map](#)
- [Help: Drop down boxes](#)
- [UK care farm map](#)

### Your Local Pages

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- [Northern Ireland](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [London](#)
- [Northwest](#)
- [Yorkshire](#)
- [East Midlands](#)
- [East of England](#)

## Care Farms registered with NCFI(UK)

Want a full list of care farms in your local region? Simply click in the area of the UK you wish to search on the map below. A new page will then open with an regional map for you to explore. (For more details see [here](#)).

Alternatively, get a list of farms by selecting a region using the first box below. Use the second box to select a specific county. (For more detailed help on using the boxes, [click here](#)).

■ UK and Northern Ireland

Select a region

reset





Peoples Potential  
combining care of the land with care of people

Eastern Home

# Eastern England

## Welcome to the East of England site of the National Care Farming Initiative.

Here you will find information and news about care farming in the Eastern region. This site is regularly updated with information of interest to anyone involved or hoping to become involved in care farming in the East of England.

To search for details of specific care farms in the Eastern region, please use the interactive map below.

East of England - Region Map

■ UK and Northern Ireland

### Eastern contact

If you want to add any information, events or news specifically for the East of England care farming community, or want to make a comment on the site, then please use the form on the Contact Us page. In due course we will provide a contact name and separate email address for you to use.



# Care Farming SCOTLAND

SHARE

## CARE FARMING SCOTLAND IS GO! Launch event 'exceeds expectations'



The launch of Care Farming Scotland at Ingliston on 19 May has been hailed as a great success by Steering Group Chair Martin Robb, who said that it had met and even exceeded the group's expectations.

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Links

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http://www.ncfi.org.uk/westmidlands/

# National Care Farming Initiative

- West Midlands Home
- Commissioners
- Farmers
- News
- Resources



## West Midlands

**Welcome to Care Farming West Midland's (CFWM) home on the internet. Depending on your interest in care farming, please see some of the different tabs you can click on.**

CFWM has been set up to create new and different opportunities for people to get involved with farms, normal farming activities, supportive people and the natural environment. Many people find these opportunities very helpful to improve their health, well being, fitness, skills and social activities.

People who use care farms (farm helpers) can come from a variety of backgrounds. Some may need some support to recover from mental health problems, some will have a learning disability, others will benefit from care and structure to overcome substance

West Midlands - Region Map



CFWM  
Unit 5  
Top Ba  
Holt  
Worce

# Challenges of regional networks

- How to best link to the UK National Organisation?
- Different roles? Provide different services?
- Regional groups have developed in different ways
- Where a regional group has not emerged naturally, private consultants have stepped in to fill the gap

***Thank you***

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