

A Year of Food and Farming in education

Key Facts

- The Year will run from September 2007 - July 2008.
- The Year is an industry-wide initiative, first proposed by Farming & Countryside Education (FACE) and supported by three government departments, the Royal Agricultural Society for England (RASE) and many other organisations.
- His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has kindly agreed to act as Patron for the initiative.

The Year links to key education agendas including:

- Introduction of the recommendations of the School Meals Review, from September 2006.
- Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto, launched 28 November 2006.
- Land-based and Environment Diploma, available September 2009.

It will contribute to the Government's Sustainable Farming & Food Strategy and the Healthy Schools Programme.

Target Audience

- Pupils and staff in all primary, special and secondary schools in England.
- The food, farming and countryside sectors.

Outcomes

The Year will help to reconnect young people with their food. It will result in:

- Improved understanding of the food chain and the role played by farming.
- Increased links between schools, farmers and food producers.
- Development of healthier lifestyles and good nutrition.
- An increased interest in careers in the food & farming industries.
- A greater appreciation of the importance of the countryside and environmental issues.

Types of Activity

The Year will encourage a wide range of local initiatives. A website will signpost opportunities and events, offer supporting resources and links to other initiatives. Projects in the Year might include:

- Development of curriculum materials and projects on food and farming.

- Visits to food and farming businesses.
- Exchanges of staff: short-term teacher secondments or job shadowing.
- Activities based around food retailers and restaurant businesses.
- Competitions.
- Growing activities: encouraging school kitchen gardens.
- Community projects.
- Debates on key issues.

National events will include three large 'Countryside in the Park' events, organised by Business in the Community and held in inner-city parks across England, in 2008.

Support from partners

- The Year is supported by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and the Department of Health.
- Government agencies such as the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and Natural England are working on the initiative.
- Many stakeholders are involved, including subject associations, teacher associations, and key food, farming and countryside sector bodies, e.g. National Farmers Union, Country Land & Business Association, Food and Drink Federation, National Association of Land-based Colleges, etc.
- Businesses working in the food, farming and countryside sectors including farmers, food processors, distributors and retailers, caterers and restaurants will also be involved.