Topic

Social resilience

# Re-educate and inform the (young) public about farming - "Fro de Bauer" (ask the farmer) -

# Background

There are many preconceptions circulating about modern agriculture. To dispel these, a group of Luxembourg's rural youth and young farmers took the initiative of communicating the facts with objective articles and engaging in active public relations work.



#### What exactly is it about?

"Fro de Bauer" was a LEADER project from 2018-2020 in cooperation with Leader Eisléck,
Lëtzebuerg West and Müllerthal. The project aimed to raise awareness in primary schools (Cycle 4). The main objective was to reintroduce children to agriculture and its processes. Since 1
October 2020, a convention between the Ministry of Agriculture and "Fro de Bauer" has come into force, which should enable all pupils in the appropriate age group to participate in the project.

#### Who manages and implements the project?

The project is organised by the "Lëtzebuerger Landjugend a Jongbaueren asbl" in collaboration with the "Fro de Bauer" working group. In 2018, a specialist (education assistant) was hired to intervene in the classes. In 2023, 2 additional specialists were hired to expand and enhance the concept.

#### Methodology

# A. <u>School classes and teaching staff - school system with 3 terms:</u> <u>1st term:</u>

- Mind map to find out the level of knowledge of the individual pupils in the field of agriculture.
- After the mind map, go into more detail about milk production and meat production.
- Finally, give the pupils a homework assignment to create a "seasonal calendar" of the fruit and vegetables that grow in Luxembourg over the course of the year. The aim of this task is to make the children aware that various fruits such as persimmons and bananas are not grown in Luxembourg.



#### 2nd term:

Focus on pig and chicken production. It is important to explain that become a variety of different production methods, for example the sow and the fattening pig or the laying hen and the broiler chicken. To Encourage the children to work independently, they have the task of carrying out internet research and answering the questions asked. The various arable crops and the machinery they require are also discussed.

#### 3rd term:

Correct the "seasonal calendar", which had to be filled in throughout the year, with the pupils. As they have already been working on regional fruit and vegetables during the school year, they are now given the task of assigning various international fruits to their respective countries. It is important that the children know which foods come from Luxembourg. To help them, we introduce them to a range of Luxembourg producers and labels, using video material in collaboration with the producers. To help the pupils visualize all the information they have gathered over the year, we finish with a visit to a farm in their region. For the classes that cannot participate in a field trip, we offer them the opportunity to take a virtual visit through our VR glasses (virtual reality).

#### **B.** General:

- Information stand at the agricultural fair (FAE), ESD (education for sustainable development) & farm in the city

- Campaign with large awareness-raising posters
- Further training for teaching staff



### Material

- Images from the farmer's daily working life help us to clarify critical issues and related questions.
- Feed, ear tags and a farm diary
- To explain the difference between a dairy cow and the beef cow, we use the brochure "Our Agriculture" where pictures of the different of the different breeds are included. The



children have to correct the column themselves.

#### Aims

- inform young people about current and regional food production methods and livestock farming systems
- inform them about the associated restrictions and challenges
- educate them about consumer responsibility by taking into account the influence of buyer behavior on the market
- sensitize them in the respectful handling of food
- motivate them to use available resources responsibly
- encourage them to develop a critical attitude towards public opinion
- draw their attention to the positive effects of farmers' interventions on the designed landscape

#### Contact

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## Assessment of the method



#### Quote from a farmer:

"The response to the campaigns and school visits is very high and extremely positive! The farmer is portrayed as realistically as possible and using state-of-the-art technology, which helps us to move away from the image of the "picture book farm"."



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