

RAPPORT!



Yorkshire Agricultural Society Newsletter from the Education Department **ISSUE 6 WINTER 2011**

RAPPORT is brought to you by the Education Department of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, best known as the organiser of the annual Great Yorkshire Show and its autumn event, Countryside Live.

The Society has an ongoing programme of raising awareness amongst young people and teachers of the important role British farmers play in putting the food on our tables and caring for the countryside. The Education Department spearheads this work.

Making your classroom ten times bigger!

This year has been extremely successful in terms of bringing an ever increasing number of children and teachers to the Great Yorkshire Showground to learn more about countryside and the environment.



Enjoying the School Garden

Much of the Education Department's work is devoted to seeking out, organising and offering new and exciting experiences away from the classroom and most of it, out of doors.

The showground is a tremendous resource – which is free to teachers – and we would be delighted to share it with even more educationalists and children, as part of our goal to increase understanding and awareness of rural life.

For most young people, learning outside the classroom is not only a great adventure but an essential part of their development. Our courses introduce teachers to a wide range of topics and activities – Outdoor Music, Outdoor Mathematics and Outdoor Science are just three to mention.

Other courses include: Creating a School Garden, Maintaining a School Garden, What to Sow and When to Grow, Working with Living Willow, Ponds for Primary Schools, Orienteering for Primary Schools and Teaching Trees. All can be instantly transferred into school and incorporated into the curriculum.

Our courses are only part of what we do – many of the workshops for Countryside Days (for primary schools) and Countryside Careers (for secondary schools) are outdoors with a wide range of hands on activities – from bushcraft to coopering!

Complementing this is The Discovery Zone at the Great Yorkshire Show which is one of the most popular areas of what is England's premier agricultural show.

Event Calendar

2012

26 January 2012

Farmhouse Breakfast

Invited local primary school joins us for workshops and breakfast.

13-14 June 2012

Countryside Days

Target Audience: Key Stage 2 (7 – 11 years)

10-12 July 2012

Discovery Zone at the Great Yorkshire Show

Target Audience: Early Years upwards

9 October 2012

Countryside Careers

Target Audience: Key Stage 3, 4, 5 (11 – 18 years)

20 – 21 October 2012

Country Crafts Experience at Countryside Live

Target Audience: Families of all ages

Throughout the year:

Short Courses for teachers

Schools using the Great Yorkshire Showground

Facilities at the

Showground...

- A small, enclosed wood
- A classroom
- Three ponds – one with dipping platforms
- Pond equipment
- A primary school orienteering course
- 100 acres of green space
- Toilets and hand washing facilities
- Tea/coffee making facilities
- Parking Space



Teachers may find a pre-visit to the showground useful when planning a school visit. For more information, please contact the Education Department. The showground has been risk assessed.

New Short Courses

Looking back, most of our courses covered gardening related topics, but these are now enhanced by the addition of:

- Craft related courses - everything from willow weaving and felt making to land art and silk painting. For 2012 we are including Weaving and related fabric crafts.
- Outdoor Mathematics, Outdoor Science, The Concept of Forest Schools and Outdoor Music, and a second Outdoor Science course

And for future - an Outdoor Song and Story Writing course inspired by nature is planned. New ideas for courses are always welcome.

All are **free** one day courses and take place at the Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate. They run from 9.45 am until around 3.00pm, and include lunch and refreshments.

Further details for dates and courses can be found in the Event's Calendar on the Society's website: www.yas.co.uk



Countryside Days & Countryside Live 2011

Good weather and exciting hands-on activities at these two important events helped contribute to their success. At Countryside Live in October, hundreds of youngsters enjoyed the Country Crafts Pavilion which was literally buzzing over the whole weekend. Earlier in June, some 6,000 children from Yorkshire and Humber primary schools attended the hugely popular Countryside Days.

Each year we have a large core of well-established workshops but also a sprinkling of new exciting ones to ensure that what we offer is always interesting and with sound educational links.

One of the most popular sections is the Farm Animal Arena where children have the opportunity to see, hear about and touch the animals. To ensure that this is always part of Countryside Days, it is important that we all work together to ensure everyone's safety, particularly from any E.coli infection. It is vital that children wash their hands after touching the animals or even after being in or near the animal enclosures. Please help us to ensure this happens – there are hand washing facilities available.



DIARY DATES: Dates for Countryside Days 2012 are Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 June and on Thursday 22 March, a half day preparation event will be held to help teachers make the most of the actual event.

Countryside Careers

Now in its fifth year, this continues to grow both in size and in the range of careers represented. The aim is to highlight the broad range of career paths available in the rural sector, and we were delighted to welcome around 1,200 young people to the showground.

This year we had a greater emphasis on the dairy element of farming with Arla Foods and Wensleydale Creamery attending. Elsewhere, Yorkshire Saddlery Repairs showed the unusual activity of taking a saddle to pieces and reconstructing it.



An insight into land agency and surveying was available with Carter Jonas and Smiths Gore, and plumbing and stonemasonry workshops were provided by staff from York Minster.

An invitation: Each year a number of students attend accompanied by parents rather than with their school and these individual requests have increased. We would be delighted if more wished to do this and so please do not hesitate to get in touch for further information.

Discovery Zone at the...

GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

The Discovery Zone continues to thrive and develop proving hugely popular with "having a go" very much the ethos. The Demonstration School Garden is now well established and a super addition to the area. Within the healthy living section, a range of sports were showcased, including volleyball, table tennis, canoeing and triathlon – all of which were complemented by the healthy eating area.

Two large tipis formed the centrepiece for a new area – the Youth Zone where youngsters could call in to 'chill out' or take part in a number of activities. Additional interest was added by two dance groups who both performed over the three days.

Science City York transformed the Innovation Centre into The Green Factory showing the diversity of plants, in producing a wide range of materials and products. Doubtless the two 'green men' who greeted visitors and encouraged them to walk into the Pavilion will be remembered by many!

Farmhouse Breakfast

Encouraging youngsters to enjoy a healthy British breakfast is the remit of the popular Farmhouse Breakfast event which will again be held at Pavilions of Harrogate in January.

As part of a national initiative, on 26 January pupils from Oatlands Junior School, Harrogate will enjoy food-related workshops followed by a substantial breakfast.



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