

CaRE in the Countryside at Harper Adams



Centre for Rural Innovation
at Harper Adams University College



PROJECT SUMMARY

IN ADDITION to its academic mission, Harper Adams University College fosters networks and other mutual support arrangements enabling people in rural areas to develop sustainable livelihoods for themselves.

CaRE (Care & Rural Enterprise) promotes collaborative or social enterprises providing educational, health or welfare services on farms and elsewhere in the countryside. CaRE was initially set up in January 2002, and arose out of the Marches Farm Enterprise Programme (mfep), which demonstrated a number of areas where on-farm-but-non-farm businesses could readily use existing facilities.

The first initiative is designed to take advantage of the health benefits associated with rural tranquillity. It brings together like-minded individuals to exchange advice and experiences in setting up and promoting accommodation suitable for short breaks in the countryside for people with special or particular needs.

Since 2002, this national directory has been set up, and networking events, seminars and conferences have been run to highlight the capacity that rural accommodation providers can offer to people requiring a bespoke short break.

In 2005, a further development began in collaboration with external partners (The Bulmer Foundation, the Arthur Rank Centre and the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens). This is the National Care Farming Initiative (UK) which supports the development of farms as venues for education, health and welfare services for people with a range of specialist or particular needs, and the potential for deep, lasting and sustainable healthcare development through engaging with nature, the land and in particular the farming communities of the UK. The providers of these services often feel isolated and lack both the benefits of collaborative action (e.g. marketing, training, service access etc.), mutual support and political impact and the National Care Farming Initiative (UK) and the Network within that aims to address this.

As a key ingredient in the project's contribution to rural development, research projects are undertaken and reported on and with these as a base it is intended that further new social enterprise developments will take place, thus ensuring continuing growth and success of the CaRE project.

For more information on CaRE log onto www.careinthecountryside.net



KEY FACTS:

Lead Group: Business Clubs

Key Theme: Rural Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise

Contract Value: £125k p/a

Project Leader: Debbie Wilcox

Project Duration: Ongoing

Sponsor/Client: HEFCE/Countryside Agency/
Commercial Sponsorship



Centre for Rural Innovation

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Accessing the research and consultancy work at Harper Adams University College

The main purpose of the Centre is the sharing of knowledge to support innovation in the rural economy by:

- the provision of technical research services and business consultancy
- making our facilities available to support the needs of businesses
- supporting business networking
- the development of new technologies
- providing training programmes and work-based qualifications to businesses and individuals

www.cfri.co.uk

The website is designed to allow you to interpret the range of research and consultancy work undertaken using seven key Themes:

- Rural Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise
- Innovation for Sustainable Farming
- Food Chain Safety
- Linking Urban and Rural Economies and Communities
- Sustainable Technology and the Rural Economy
- Rural Advisors and Agencies
- Rural Professional Practice

General enquiries

To enquire about research, consultancy and training services at Harper Adams University College please contact Dr Andy Brooks:

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