

STEUNPUNT  
*Groene Zorg*  
Quality issues  
on Social Farming



STEUNPUNT GROENE ZORG VZW, EEN INITIATIEF VAN BOERENBOND, GROEP KVLV EN CERA,  
SAMEN INVESTEREN IN WELVAART EN WELZIJN



## Support Center for Green Care

- Since 2004
- Private organisation
  
- Information
- Visiting new farms and screening
- Matching: demand and offer
- Support for the start up

## Green care in Flanders

- Institutional farms
- Wage earning care
- Social working grounds with agricultural and greenkeeping activities
- **Care farms**

## Care Farms

- Privately-owned agricultural or greenkeeping companies.
- Care through activation: participating in the activities that take place on the farm
- Many forms
- A broad range of vulnerable groups

## Support scheme care farms: Purpose

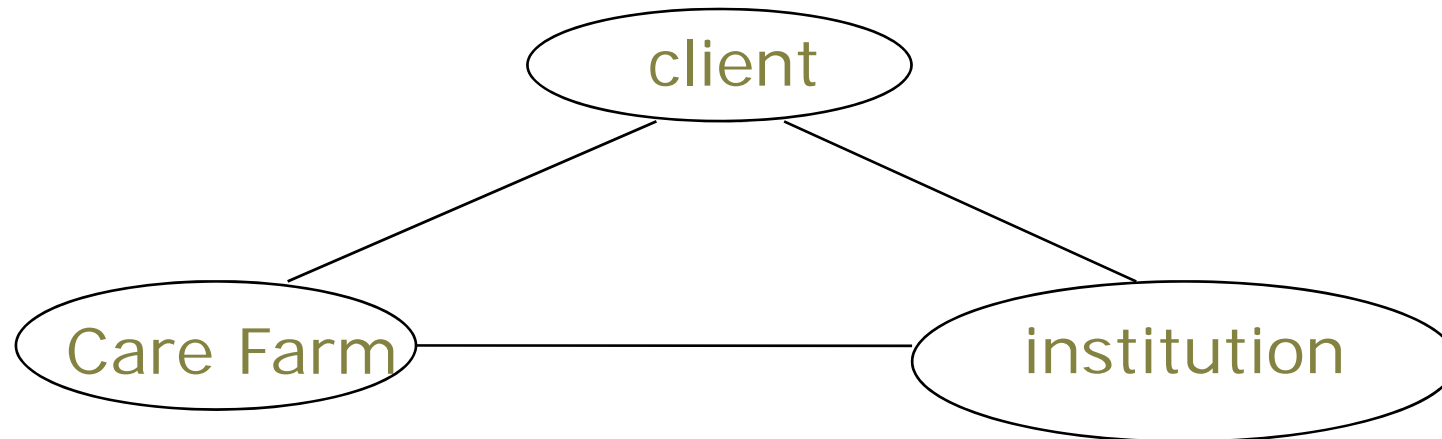
- Farmers can get financial support of maximum 40 Euro per day for supervision of one or more clients on the farm.
- This support is intentionally not related to the number of clients or to the intensity of the care.
- The support scheme is conceived as a reward for the time the farmer cannot put in his professional farming activities.

## Conditions: support scheme

- Agricultural or greenkeeping company as main or side installment.
- A Minimum of 50% of labor takes place at the company
- 35% of income coming from agricultural or greenkeeping products
- Third party liability insurance is required
- No quality standards for the financial support!

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## Care Farm contract



## Project plan

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## Institution

- only institutions recognised by the Flemish Government are qualified to apply to work with care farms in this support scheme support scheme.
- This ensures that the required quality standards are met.
- High-quality text-books about the health sector.



## Care farm contract

- Therefore, the support scheme is constructed around the care farm contract which is central. In the care farm this contract specifies the details of the farmer, the institution and the client; the possible tasks of the client; insurance details; clarifications noting mutual responsibilities; the monitoring of the client by the institution and a statement that the agreement is not an employment contract

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## Quality guide

- The Support Centre for Green Care has also developed a quality guide acting upon instructions from the department of agriculture. It sets out the ideal situation on a care farm and the ideal co-operation between the farm, the care organisation and service-user. The guide contains a general description of a quality care farm, testimonies by people involved and many practical tips.

## Quality standards of Steunpunt Groene Zorg

- How do we live up to quality expectations? Which quality standards do we use?
- screening the care farms
- Screening their potential candidates.
- Providing proper guidance and aid.

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## Care Farmer

- The farmer does not need to have specific skills to be a care farmer but “common sense” is important.
- Skills:
  - Patience, acceptance of one's flaws, rigidity, having the right expectations, willing to give people a fair chance
- Kind of company:
  - Every kind is a possible candidate
  - Depending on the company's sector certain groups of candidates will be less suited.
  - Different personalities: Going from the caring type to care farms that are well-capable of setting limits and rules.
- The entire family has to support the idea.
- The candidate care-farmer gets to decide for himself which kind of candidates he's willing to accept and at which times he'll be organising the activities.

## Questionnaire

- An entire list of questions regarding the client.
- the tasks for the client are described – what he/she is good at and likes/dislikes and what kind of tasks are to be avoided. Which approach is needed.
- Transportation possibilities
- Which days and and hours

## Conditions

- Client/patient has to be stable (no risks)
- Motivation is crucial
- Clear goals
- The guiding service has to be available during the visits at the care farm.
- Correct statute and insurance
- For minors: Parents/guardian or approval granted by the juvenile court.
- Age: 12 for daytime activities, 14 in case of overnight stay
- ...

## List of targets and goals

- The client is voluntarily at the farm. It is never to be considered as a kind of punishment.
- Goals can be various:
  - Peace and rest, Learning how to get to an agreement with another person, sticking to those agreements.
  - Learning skills
  - Replacement for school, filling in empty moments

## Quality at the farm

- The quality of the farm experience always remains the responsibility of the institution.
- This is judged by making visits to the farm on a regular basis and giving feedback to the farmer on how to deal with the service user.
- Clear and honest information: All required information needed to make it possible for the care farmer to correctly accommodate the client.



## Quality guide: starting points

1. A care farm can be a useful addition to the current offer in the health sector.
2. The surplus value of a care farm are the small-scale solutions and personal attention in a natural environment.
3. A care farm offers care/activities adapted to the possibilities, limitations and interests of the clients.
4. The individuality of both the care farm and the client are respected.
5. Diversity, just as creativity is important when looking for activities/solutions.

## Quality guide: starting points

6. Good cooperation between the care-providers, the client and the care farm is crucial. Said differently: Do they match up?
7. Loving to work with different kinds of people is the most important motivation for the care farmer.
8. Connecting with the people is important: Alternation of activities and normal human contact and encouraging clients to try new things.
9. The care-providers play an important part at being reachable for the care farmer and following the client's process.
10. The involvement of the client when going to the care farm is important, even when it's used as sanction.

## Quality is needed!

- Good registration, closer description
- Depending on whether the client needs more guidance and help.
- A good match of the 3 parties: Client, care-farmer, guide
- Extra value of the small-scaled solutions, personalized care, outside in the open.
- Applying certain principles instead of laying on and determining rules.



**Documents and more information**

[www.groenezorg.be](http://www.groenezorg.be)