



NextFood has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 771738.



Funding: Horizon 2020, European Union

Call: Rural Renaissance – Fostering Innovation and Business Opportunities

Topic: RUR-13-2017 Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice

Grant agreement: No 771738

Duration: May 2018 to April 2022

Coordinator:

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<https://www.nextfood-project.eu/>



Nextfood - Educating the next generation of professionals in the agrifood system

Practice Abstract #23: FARM VISIT: How to open your farm to the students

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Didactic farm visits organised by UNISG have mutual benefits as for the students as for the farmers, and include constructive dialogue and knowledge sharing between students and farmers, practical experience, networking and building new relations. During well-organised farm visits, the farmers have a good opportunity to engage young people into farming activity (sometimes the students have several hands-on activities on farm), to promote his products, and to provide practical cases for learning.

Main Practical Recommendations:

The farmer should be able to introduce his/her farm and all related activities to a group of the students. This kind of activity requires farmer's knowledge in several fields such as Agronomy, Ecology, Natural Sciences, Food Technology and so on, as well as appropriate language skills. But even more important is the motivation and the passion for this kind of work and agriculture. In fact, the first point to share with visitors is: why am I farming? What does it mean for me? What is my philosophy of farming? In order to offer a good and efficient farm visits a good organisation is needed: time management, subdivision of the farm activities, a well-prepared walk into the farm. Also good organisation of farm visits should take in account seasonal differences in farm activity.