



EDF - A club of farmers for farmers

EDF Congress 2012

27-29 June 2012

Hasselt, City of Taste

Belgium

Farming around the city



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**Dear EDF friends,
Dear guests,**

The European Dairy Farmers Club cordially invites you to participate in the annual EDF Congress, from 27 to 29 of June 2012, in Hasselt, Belgium.

Our main topic will be: **"Farming around the city"**.

This congress has been organized in close cooperation with the **EDF Belgian branch and its President Luc Reijnders, as well as the EDF scientific partner Boerenbond and its representative Jan Halewyck**. Luc and Jan have been heading the organisation committee for more than one year now.

I'm very grateful for their work and also for all the other people who have contributed to this event: management, scientific team, agribusiness partners and also farmers who supplied their data.

You must not miss this annual meeting!

- You will have access to a superb programme: 6 farm visits, plenary sessions with international speakers and farmer's presentations, workshop, the EDF general assembly, researchers and representatives from Boerenbond, Vti, LTO/PZ, EU commission, the dairyman project, etc.
- You will have access to the unique EDF farmer's network and you may "touch" the heart of our club: indeed, during 3 days you will be able to get in contact with 300 members from 20 different countries. Just join a table or a discussion round during a break with your drink (or with a good Belgian beer) and then, build your own vision, make contacts and friends, listen to the last opportunities and trends, find some new energy to develop your business ... and believe me, it's worth the effort!

Moreover, the congress takes place only one hour east of Brussels: if you draw a circle around Hasselt, you will see that the city is "in the centre of Europe" with easy access for most EU citizens.

Learn from the strengths and challenges of Belgian dairy farmers!

Here, about 10 000 dairy farmers produce 3.3 billion litres of milk. The average farm (mainly family businesses) produces 330 000 kg of milk per year with some 50 cows per farm, grazing in summer time. The milk production increased 10 % during the past 6 years; partly due to the change in the fat reference calculation. Flanders, in the North, with a Dutch speaking population, is a more intensively managed area where 60 % of the milk production takes place. Wallonia in the South, the French speaking area, is a more rural area where 60 % of the beef production takes place.

What are their main challenges?

- Milk price development is close to the up and down of the world market
- EU Nitrate directive, more a limiting factor in the North where producers are above 200 kg of nitrogen animal/ha.
- Land price and availability - competition with other agricultural sectors and expansion of the cities - (population density in Flanders is very high: 450 inhabitants per square km).
- 60% of the turn over of dairy products is exported.

And what are their strengths?

- Increasing labour productivity (a lot of fieldwork is done by contractors, 50% of the investment in dairy farms during the past two years are automatic milking systems).
- A good land productivity (a first cut of grass silage is common before maize in some areas).
- Short distances between the consumers and producers (low cost for milk collection), opportunities for a close relationship with the cities.

Let me finish by giving special attention to new potential members from Europe and all over the world: a very warm welcome and we are hope that our cooperation will be successful! I am looking forward to meeting you in Belgium!

Jean-François VERDENAL, EDF President





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Wednesday 27 June

Chairman:	Jacques Van Outryve
12:00 - 16:00 h	Registration
13:30 - 14:30 h	Press conference
14:30 - 14:45 h	Beginning of the Conference
	Welcome Adress Jean-François Verdenal, EDF President
14:45 - 14:55 h	Belgium for dummies Jacques Van Outryve, BB Journalist / EU Specialist
14:55 - 15:30 h	The Belgian Dairy sector: opportunities for growth Renaat Debergh, Belgian Dairy Industry Federation
15:30 - 16:30 h	Belgian dairy farmers view François Achten, representative of Flemish Dairy Farmers BB Stefaan Van Rumst, Dairy Farmer in Walloon
16:30 - 16:45 h	Belgium in cost of production figures Jan Halewyck, Belgian EDF STAR member
16:45 - 17:15 h	Coffee break
17:15 - 17:45 h	Farming around the city and how to handle from a farmers' union point of view Piet Vanthemsche, President Boerenbond
17:45 - 18:15 h	EU dairy package 1.000 days before the end of milk quota Hermanus Versteijlen / EU Commission
18:15 - 18:30 h	Question time Jacques Van Outryve, BB Journalist / EU Specialist
18:30 - 19:00 h	Spare time for checking in
19:30 h	Informal Belgian Dairy Dinner at the Cultural Centre



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Thursday 28 June

Chairman: Luc Reijnders

08:00 - 08:50 h **EDF cost of production 2012 - results**
Steffi Wille-Sonk, EDF e.V.

08:50 - 09:05 h **Coffee break**

09:05 - 11:00 h **Workshops**

1. Rednoproject (N sustainability), Cled Thomas
2. Dairymanproject (sustainability), Michel De Haan
3. Buying strategies / input project, Gaid Peton
4. Behaviorcode between dairies and dairy farmers / contractualisation / producers organisation, Boerenbond
5. Udderhealth / mastitis, M-team
6. COP intensive
7. COP intensive: "how to purchase farm inputs" IPC project
8. COP beginners intensive: what about your farm's return on investment"
9. COP workshop "Process costing for a better analysis of your farm's performance", Steffi Wille-Sonk
10. Workshop on farming around the city (bus tour)

11:00 - 19:00 h **Farm visits**

20:00 h **Belgian Dinner at Radisson Blu Hotel**

Friday 29 June

Chairman: Luc Reijnders

08:00 - 09:25 h **EDF General assembly (EDF members only)**

09:25 - 09:45 h **Coffee break**

09:45 - 10:00 h **Milk Price Comparison** Willem Koops

10:00 - 10:30 h **An economist's view on CAP reform 14 - 19**
Prof. Dr. Folkhard Isermeyer, vTI Braunschweig

10:30 - 11:00 h **The export conundrum**
Jack Baines, Eucolait

11:00 - 19:00 h **Farm visits**

20:00 h **Gala Dinner at Cultural Centre, official End of 2012 Congress**

Saturday 30 June

**Optional visit on to the farm of Stefan & Daniëlle
Van Rumst in Chimay**

General Information:

1. **Convention venue:**
Cultuurcentrum Hasselt, Kunstlaan 5, 3500 Hasselt, Belgium, www.ccha.be
2. **Congress office:**
Dieter Mirbach
European Dairy Farmers, c/o German Agriculture Society (DLG)
Eschborner Landstrasse 122, 60489 Frankfurt, Germany
Phone: +49 69 24788 312 Fax: +49 69 24788 114
E-Mail: D.Mirbach@dlg.org Website: www.dairyfarmer.net
3. **EDF 2012 Conference coordinator on behalf of EDF:**
Jan Halewyck, Diksmuidsesteenweg 406, 8800 Roeselare, Belgium
Phone: +32 476999172 Fax: +32 51260389
E-Mail: jan.halewyck@boerenbond.be
4. **Language:**
The working language of the annual meeting will be English.
5. **Insurance:**
Please note that the organizers do not provide any insurance for EDF 2012 conference delegates.
6. **VISA:**
Visitors from EU-member states and the Shengen countries do not require an entry visum for Belgium. Congress delegates from non-EU-member states are kindly requested to contact the local Belgian Embassy to check whether they need an entry visa for visiting Belgium or check http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/services_abroad/Visa_for_Belgium/
7. **Registration fee / registration:**
Conference attendance fees are listed on the registration form "CONFERENCE REGISTRATION", attached to this invitation. All delegates are kindly requested to fill in the registration form and to return it by fax or post or as .pdf attachment by E-Mail to the EDF office in Frankfurt am Main before 10 May 2012. Please see point 2 of this booklet for correct address details. For online registration go to: http://www.dairyfarmer.net/reg_cong2012.html
8. **Cancellation:**
For cancellation before 20 May 2012: a charge of 20% of the conference fee will apply; for cancellation before 31 May 2012 it will be 60% of the conference fee. No refund for cancellation after 1 June 2012.
9. **Methods of payment:**
After we receive your registration form we will send you an invoice/confirmation. Payment is possible either by credit card (please use the enclosed form to provide us with your credit card details including your card verification number) or by money transfer via international bank transaction. Please use IBAN and BIC/ SWIFT code for bank transaction; this will reduce costs and it is available from almost every European bank. Your invoice must be paid 30 days **before** the official conference opening. Delegates with amounts outstanding will be asked to pay cash in EURO (€) at the registration desk. Credit card payment (VISA / MasterCard / Maestro) is also possible.

General Information:

10. Policy agreement:

By registering for the conference you agree that photos of you may be taken and may be published in any kind of EDF context.

11. Accommodation:

Delegates have to book their own accommodation. The EDF 2012 conference fee does **not** include accommodation costs. Hotel rooms have been reserved for delegates of the EDF Congress, and must be booked no later than Thursday 10 May. **Please see form enclosed.** Hotels are within walking distance of the congress venue, max .10 min. walk. There will be no bus transfers from and to hotels. Due to the start of the Tour de France the number of rooms is limited, please share rooms whenever possible.

Radisson Blu Hotel

Torenplein 8
3500 Hasselt, Belgium
www.hasselt.radissonblu.com

Hotel Hassotel

Sint-Jozefsstraat 2-10
3500 Hasselt, Belgium
www.hassotel.be

12. Transport



By plane:

EDF 2012 delegates should make their own travel arrangement to the congress venue. Shuttle service from the airports will **not** be provided.

Brussels National Airport

Take the train from the airport which leaves every 17 resp. 39 minutes past every hour. The train ride takes 1h20min. On Saturday the train leaves at 1 minute past every hour from Hasselt. Travel time is 1h20min with one change.

Other options are Eindhoven (76 km): <http://www.eindhovenairport.com/>

Maastricht Aachen airport (50 km): <http://www.maa.nl/en-us>

Charleroi Brussels south (125 km): <http://www.charleroi-airport.com/en/brussels-south-charleroi-airport/index.html>. No direct public transport available.

By train:

The congress centre is a 20 min. walk from the Hasselt railway station. There will be a minibuss shuttle on the opening day of the congress starting at 9 AM; public transportation in Hasselt is free.

By car:

Leave the E313 (Antwerpen-Liège) at junction 28 Hasselt Zuid and continue on N80 direction Hasselt until you turn right on the R70. After 500 meter take the Kunstlaan at your right. The free parking area at the back of the cultural centre will be reserved on 27 June for congress delegates. Leave your car there for the entire duration of the congress.



EDF - A club of farmers for farmers

EDF congress sponsors:



EDF main agribusiness partners:



GEA Farm Technologies

EDF agribusiness partners:



accountants en
adviseurs



— innovators in agriculture —



More EDF partners:

AGROVISION B.V., Deventer, NL
Interpuls, Albinea, IT
INVIVO NSA, Vannes, FR
Boehringer Ingelheim, Ingelheim, D
Lemmer-Fullwood, Lohmar, D