

The academic field that bridges agriculture, nature and society.

Agroecology links practice and science in describing, analyzing, and managing complex agroecosystems. We focus on integrating ecology, agriculture, socio-economics, and culture with an ultimate goal of sustaining production, food security, community and environmental health.

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|---|
| What is Agroecology? | 1 |
| Current Agroecology Students at UMB:
Geir Lieblein, Tor Arvid Breland, Chuck Francis | 1 |
| Recruiting Students for Autumn 2008: Tor Arvid Breland, Geir Lieblein, Chuck Francis | 2 |
| Composer Award to Edvin Østergaard:
Chuck Francis | 2 |



Current Agroecology Students at UMB

Geir Lieblein, Tor Arvid Breland, Chuck Francis

The current courses in *Agroecology and Farming Systems* (PAE 302) and *Agroecology and Food Systems* (303) have 15 students from 9 countries. After a successful study of farming systems and scenarios for change on four farms, and multiple visits with the managers and their families, we are now launched into the course on food systems with case studies in three counties of Norway: Vestfold, Hedmark, and Buskerud. Readers of the newsletter are welcome to e-mail any of the current students if you have suggestions on classes in semesters two and three that you found especially valuable, or if you have thesis ideas for them. Here is the list with their countries, backgrounds, and e-mail addresses:

Alice Budai, Hungary/U.S.A., chemistry, aliceliz@gmail.com

Morgane Cadario, France, agronomy, mcadario@isara.fr

Charlotte Douche, France, agronomy & food industry, charlotte.douche@laposte.net

Giulio Giori, Italy, agricultural science and technology, giulg@student.umb.no

Liv Hatleli, Norway, plant sciences, liv.hatleli@student.umb.no

Trine Lund, Norway, development studies, lund_trine@yahoo.com

Cyprian Mwale, Malawi, crop science, cyprianmwale@yahoo.com

Lourdes Niehaus, Canada/Costa Rica, global resource systems, ticalula@hotmail.com

Cedric Oehler, France, agronomy, coehler@isara.fr

Kristin Pederson, USA, biology and environmental science, Kristin.pederson@gmail.com

Noémie Pennec, France, agronomy, npennecc@gmail.com

Benjamin Pointereau, France, agronomy, bpointereau@yahoo.fr

Sanne Radoor, Denmark, agriculture science, radoor@dsr.kvl.dk

Daniel Stout, UK, ecological engineering, KingofLard@hotmail.com

Line Tveiten, Norway, economics and resource management, ltveiten@hotmail.com

**AGROECOLOGY
MSC PROGRAM
UMB**

**Norwegian University of Life
Sciences (UMB)**

P.O Box 5003
N-1432 Ås
Norway

Tel: +47 64 96 50 00
Other: +47 64 96 56 44
Fax: +47 64 96 50 01
E-mail: postmottak@umb.no
www.umb.no



**The Student Information
Center**

Phone: +47 64 96 61 00
Email: opptak@umb.no/studie
www.umb.no/studie

**Nordic School of
Agroecology/Ecological
Agriculture**

Phone: +47 64 96 56 44
Email: geir.lieblein@umb.no
www.agroasis.org

Editor

Chuck Francis
E-mail: charf@umb.no
Kristin Pederson



AGROECOLOGY MASTER'S OF SCIENCE (UMB)

Recruiting Students for Autumn 2008

Tor Arvid Breland, Geir Lieblein, Chuck Francis

Application time is drawing near for the autumn agroecology courses next year at UMB in Norway. We anticipate an active and multinational student group visiting farms, pursuing interviews, and planning scenarios for farms and communities. Based on reading the learner documents prepared at the end of each course, we conclude that this practical and student-goal oriented, real world method of learning in agroecology is highly valuable in helping shape how people see the world and how they will choose to study and change it. In the past year the Canadian students reported at a meeting in Victoria, B.C. about the benefits of experiential learning in their thesis projects and future jobs. They mentioned that group work prepared them for careers where success depends on working in teams to bridge disciplines and to deal with complex questions where answers are uncertain and frequently changing. Each year, we have observed large growth from August to December in students' capacities in communication and facilitation skills, and in their confidence in exploring future food systems and how to achieve them. We urge each of you to encourage new students to apply for this agroecology MSc program in Norway, and to e-mail any of the faculty or former students if there are questions.

Composer Award to Edvin Østergaard

Chuck Francis

It was just announced that the Netherlands Radio Choirs 2007 award was presented to former UMB agroecology student Dr. Edvin Østergaard. His composition *The Two Moons* was selected from 135 submissions for this prestigious award. Edvin's music reflects the juxtaposition of science and art. One of the text sources is Leonardo da Vinci's astronomic observations, for example when he describes the heliocentric system: "The earth is not in the centre of the Sun's orbit nor at the centre of the universe, but in the centre of it's companion elements, and united with them." Whereas science strives for objective knowledge about the world, art seeks the personal impression of the world. The physicist insists on "This is *the* moon!", the poet on "This is *my* moon!". In the texts of Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), we find the artistic and the scientific dimensions united. Thus, *The Two Moons* is a dialogue between different insisting voices – voices which currently are separated by discipline borders, but which occasionally might resound together. Edvin studied composition at the Norwegian music high school in 1986-1988, and with composer Jan W. Morthenson in Stockholm in 1987-1990. He has also composed instrumental music, compositions for choirs, and music for theater. Agroecology students will remember his participation in the 1995 and 1996 PhD courses in Stange where we opened each morning session with a professionally led round of songs. Edvin completed his PhD degree in agroecology in 1998, and is currently a faculty member at UMB in the teacher training section.

