



Activity report of the European Consortium for Organic Animal Breeding: 2012

by Wytze Nauta, President and Anet Spengler, Secretary

Members:

By the end of 2012 Eco AB had 8 registered full members: organisations from the following countries: Norway, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, France, United Kingdom, Denmark and 2 associate members: “Forschungsinstitut für ökologische Tierzucht und Landnutzung (FIT)” and “University of Kassel”. Joannie Leroyer will not represent ITAB (France) any longer. Catherine Experton from ITAB will be her successor. All other representatives of the institutions stayed the same.

The board:

Board members are: Wytze Nauta (president), Anet Spengler (secretary), Joanne Conington, Peter Lovendahl, and Lotta Rydhmer.

Activities:

The 6th general meeting of Eco AB took place in Hamburg during the IFOAM /ISO FAR Animal Husbandry Conference. 7 people attended this meeting, 4 People were excused.

Eco-AB wrote a position paper on organic animal breeding. It was published in the conference proceedings of the IFOAM /ISO FAR conference in Hamburg. A great part of the work was done by Wytze Nauta. But also Joanne Conington, Peter Lovendahl, Lotta Rydhmer, and Anet Spengler contributed to it. No one has yet been paid for this work: It will be discussed during the next general meeting how much each contributing person will get. Several oral and poster contributions on organic animal breeding were made by Eco AB members at the IFOAM conference. During this conference the *IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance* IAHA was presented and Eco AB was asked to help organize a web-based platform to raise awareness of organic animal husbandry. Eco AB agreed to assist, but in 2012 there was no more activity in this subject.

Our planned Eco AB research project (questionnaires for organic farmers to get a picture on organic animal breeding in Europe) could not start, yet in 2012.

Finances:

The money of Eco-AB lies on an account at FiBL. Member organisations got invoices for their membership fee in 2010. The fee for full members is €400.00 per year. For associate members it is € 100.00 per year. We spent our money mainly for the rent of conference locations and some administrative work, but not for research or publications. The German tax office told us that we are not allowed to keep so much money without using it for activities following our purposes. This will be discussed at the next conference in 2013.

Website:

On the website: www.eco-ab.org we posted several publications of Eco AB members on organic animal breeding. There should be more to come.