Designing equine education for rural innovation: The Big Picture and some missing details

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 Traditional equine education focuses on the horse

 But equine enterprises sit withing a changing rural development sector The focus upon on good horsemanship, ethology, nutrition management, breeding, training and stable keeping is as important as ever.

 However, there is an increasing need for acknowledgement that the sector sits within a set of rapidly changing rural development practices across Europe.

rural development contexts...

- EU 'second pillar'
- Agri-environment
- Acknowledgement that there is more to rural development than simply agriculture
- Support for farm multifunctionality

rural development contexts...

- Increasing reach of urbanisation
- Movement towards consumption of the countryside itself, in addition to the goods it produces
 - -i.e. Social forestry
 - Health, well being and nature
 - Paying for aesthetics
 - -Local supply chains and embeddedness

the equine sector...

Offers increased opportunities for consumers

And therefore,

Offers increased opportunities for service providers

The equine sector....

- Offers to consumers:
 - healthy active recreation
 - Access and close contact with nature
 - A challenging and progressive learning-based activity
 - Ineffible contact with non-human beings in partnership
 - Physical health and mental well-being benefits

the equine sector...

- Offers providers:
 - Regular (daily, weekly, monthly) markets
 - On-farm activities
 - Synergies with existing farm products (feed, bedding), supply chains (large animal vets, farm supply outlets), farmer expertise.
 - A spend which goes directly to the farm economy
 - Opportunities for farm family members to participate in farm economy

developing existing farm assets

Asset-based rural development (ABRD)

Material assets AND Intangible assets

Finding new value in existing or old assets!

Public goods and private goods

 Allows enterpreneurs to both take advantage of high value pubic goods (scenery, landscape, existing paths)

 And, contribute to the maintenance of those public goods

Whilst making a private profit

which farms, which farmers?

- 80/20 rule
 - Upland farms
 - Small family farms
 - Peri-urban farms
 - Farms too far from markets located in areas of nature beauty able to attract consumers to the location

Equine enterprises and rural development for the 21st century

 Equine activities can add profitability to otherwise marginal farming enterprises

 Equine activities can offer a reason for the younger generation to remain on the family farm

 Equine activities provide activities in existing cultural landscapes which keep them vital and which retain traditional cultural landscape values

Høgskulen for Landbruk og Bygdenæringar

- Cooperatively owned University College
- «Kunskap for Utvikling»
- BA Bygdeutvikling
 - Nyskaping
 - På Skttejakt
 - Økonomie
 - Handlingskompetance

AND

- Addresses the new opportunities and challenges in the equine sector
- Helps our students deliver sustainable and satisfying participation in an ever-growing rural sector.
- Provides students with the vision to make choices about how they participate in the equine economy
- Promotes good business practice and entrepreneurship

 Doesn't focus on traditional equine education topics – in Norway, many students study this at the videregående level.

 Provides a broad overview of the sector, including new developments and challenges

- Full-time one year bachelorgrad course
- Six learning units
 - 1. New Equine Landscapes
 - 2. The Human-horse relationship
 - 3. History and heritage of the horse
 - 4. Equine assisted education and therapy
 - 5. Equine tourism
 - 6: Prosjekt Oppgava

1: New Equine Landscapes

- a: The New Horse-Based Enterprises

 transforming the rural economy and landscape
- b:Rural Development and Horses
 -opportunities to develop new horse-based activities
 -developing existing assets for new equine businesses
- c: Land-use and Planning

 multifunctional land-use, challenges and opportunities
 - -conversion of farms and farm buildings.

2: The Human-Horse Relationship

- -a: shared worlds, partnership, ways of knowing
- -b: from the human perspective,
- c: from the horse perspective (new ethologies of cooperation)

3: History and Heritage of the Horse

-a: the horse in prehistoric Norway

 b: modern transitions – Work Horse to Hobby Horse

4: Equine Assisted Education and Therapy

-a: History & Types of EAT/L

b: EAT/L Requirements (patients, horses, staff, facilities)

-c: EAT/L Activities



- -a: native breed tourism
- -b: trekking and other activities
- -c: regulation and other issues

6. Prosjekt oppgave

- Project based business proposal
- Feedback as if a real proposal
- Considering both challenges and opportunities
- Fieldwork based, idea based

course format

- samlings basert
 - Three 8 hour meetings per month (Th, Fri, Sat)
 - Ten months
- Plus customized online learning environment in Moodle
 - Multi/media resources, wikis, links, embedded video
 - Discussion forums (participation mark)

Equine Research Network (EqRN)

- International network of equine researchers
 - Over 95 members in 14 countries
 - Wide range of themes and interests
- Provided sample of existing equine education programmes
- Provided readings and expert guest lectureres

www.eqrn.net

kunskapp for utvikling

Delivering in Jæren

- highest density of horse population in Norway
- Close to wealthy urban population of Stavanger
- Featuring many small to medium scale farms requiring off farm work
- Existing cultural heritage of horse activities
- Existing assets including bridal paths

kunskapp for utvikling

Students from all over Norway

- They will apply what they learn to the particular situations of their own location
- i.e. Native breed tourism
 - Fjordhest, Nordlandshest, Lyngshest
- -i.e Bergen, Trondheim, Trøms, Oslo

Horse education for the 21st century!

Tusen takk!

www.hlb.no

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