



Federation of WWOOF Organisations
Green Fish Resource Centre
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To whom it may concern

WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities in Organic Farms) and Iceland

I am writing to introduce World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) and its operation in Iceland.

Currently seven organic farms in your country are listed by our not for profit service (wwoofindependents.org).

We facilitate educational and cultural exchanges between host farmers and volunteers (or WWOOFers as they are affectionately known). The majority of our WWOOFers are new to farming, with enthusiasm and interest but no practical skills.

It is expected that the volunteers live with the host family and receive lodging and meals and thereby gain insight into the daily life of an Icelandic farmer. They will also be exposed to learning opportunities about the origins of their food, the importance of organic growing/sustainable agriculture and the need to support small scale local producers.

The intention is that they provide short term help in a labour intensive industry, but never replace paid workers. A key element of our programme is that there should be no monetary exchange between the host and volunteer. The fact that these individuals are volunteers means there is no formal contract and that either party can end the arrangement at any moment without consequence. They meet each other as equals. Most visits last typically from one to two weeks.

WWOOF was established in the UK in 1971 and since then has spread to more than 100 countries worldwide; there are now approximately 12,000 host farms and 80,000 registered volunteers. To find out more about WWOOF please visit our umbrella website at www.wwoof.net.

We believe that WWOOF contributes to each of the 17 goals set out in the UN's new Global Sustainable Development Agenda and is also serving to inspire the next generation of food growers.

Over the years we have seen many benefits for our members, most noticeably the longstanding friendships and relations that can be formed between people from different backgrounds and cultures; thereby contributing to greater peace and understanding between nations.

Your own people are welcome to use the WWOOF programme to travel the world and most often enter a country using a tourist VISA, though some nations have developed volunteering VISA's or entered other special arrangements to enable WWOOFers to visit.

We trust the information above will inform your position on WWOOF in Iceland so that arrangements can be made to enable host farms and volunteers to participate in our programme without fear of reprisal.

As a host, Eygló Björk Ólafsdóttir is currently our representative in Iceland. Should her discussions with you be successful we would hope to see WWOOF grow in Iceland, possibly with the establishment of its own national group thereby providing increased opportunities for eco tourism and networking in your country.

Should you wish to receive any further information about WWOOF, or the Federation of WWOOF Organisations (FoWO), please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Pearson". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped initial 'A' and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amanda Pearson
International Development Co-ordinator
FoWO