

Ferme Emmaüs Baudonne - France

Introduction



Ferme Emmaüs Baudonne, situated in Tarnos, is an agroecological farm that operates as part of the global Emmaüs Movement. With approximately 250 organizations from various parts of the world, the movement seeks to unite managers of establishments that are "helping the most excluded and tackling the

causes of poverty". This collective serves as a platform for sharing experiences, engaging in discussions, and fostering collaboration on diverse projects.

An objective of the Emmaüs movement is to establish a farm in every region in France. Ferme Baudonne, owned by "l'Organisme de gestion de la Ferme Emmaüs Baudonne," was established in 2020 and is situated in the coastal Southern part of the Nouvelle Aquitaine region. The farm operates under a "placement extérieur" arrangement, authorized by the French prison administration, which entails a fixed-term labour integration contract. Its purpose is to provide individuals who are nearing the end of their sentence with an opportunity to readjust and rebuild their lives before release.

Scale

Ferme Emmaüs Baudonne can accommodate twelve residents, which makes it a small-scale facility.

RESCALED-principles in practice:

- Small-scale
- Differentiated
- Community-integrated

Differentiation

Target group:

The target group at Emmaüs Baudonne is described as being made up of adult women (or people identifying as a woman) placed under house arrest. These are people sentenced to long prison terms (more than 5

years) who have shown a strong desire to embark on a new life project and whose links with the outside world, both family and social, have been completely severed. Residents must be eligible for the out-patient placement scheme, and have a sufficient residual sentence to spend at least six months on the farm before their release date. The farm does not accept residents with severe addiction problems or mental health disorders, as it is unable to provide adequate care for these residents.

Forms of security:

No special security measures are deployed at Emmaüs Baudonne Farm, but the facility manager is required to live on-site. The issue of security is, above all, a matter of atmosphere. This way the the balance of the facility is preserved. The staff strive to establish a strong relationship with the residents, based on trust. Security here is thus mostly a matter of relational security.



The facility aims to create a safe and respectful environment for everyone who lives on the farm, whether they are residents, employees or volunteers. Baudonne Farm is a living community where life is based on respect for cultural, political, religious and social

differences. To preserve the quality of life for everyone on the site, everyone at all times and in all places must adopt a correct and respectful attitude towards others. Physical or verbal violence holds consequences. The same applies to any disrespect whether it is toward people, equipment or rules. These sanctions include warnings, summonses by the SPIP (Service Pénitentiaire d'Insertion et de Probation), reminders of obligations by a judge, and a potential return to detention in prison. Violations of the rules are looked at on a case-by-case basis. Hence, the sanctions for the same act may not be the same for every resident.

Procedural security includes different internal rules to control visits and movement outside the facility. For example, the residents are not allowed to leave the property without authorization from the staff and they have to be accompanied by staff or a volunteer. There is no static security on the farm.

Activities:

As work is compulsory, each resident is offered a work integration contract lasting from a minimum of four months to a maximum of twenty-four months. Each resident works 26 hours a week in organic market gardening. The work is paid according to the French minimum wage (€11.07 per hour, from September 2022). This enables residents to pay the rent for their room, which costs €280 per month, as well as food and the use of the facilities provided.



In addition, the facility's staff and volunteers provide comprehensive, personalized support. In particular, this covers the management of daily life, social support, financial and household management, support in rebuilding family and social ties, and of course support in returning to work in the broadest sense of the term. The residents also take turns cooking together and running the house.

Community-integration

Location and architecture:

First impression of a visitor: "The facility is located on the edge of the municipality of Tarnos. It is reached by a long road lined with plane trees. On the road side, it is marked by a white church and leads to a large Landes farm-style building. The whole gives off an impression of welcome and quiet and generous countryside".

The farm is located in the commune of Tarnos, in the south of the Landes district in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, in France. It is a seaside town in the south-west of the district. Although it is an industrial town, it offers an unspoilt environment. With a surface area of 2,700 hectares, 75% of the municipal territory is made up of natural and agricultural areas, with the remainder being urban. The population of 12 914 (2020) is fairly young, with a large majority of working people.¹

The house, in its rural and forested setting, offers a comfortable home, with its outdoor and indoor facilities all contributing to a feeling of conviviality and sharing. The facility also comprises a primary school for 40 local children, contributing to that feeling through a shared space. Residents are housed in single rooms, most of which have their own bathrooms. The communal areas consist of a practical and cheerfully decorated dining room, kitchen and lounge. The result is a very homely atmosphere.

Interaction with the community:

¹Tarnos (Dax, Landes, France) - Population Statistics, Charts, Map, Location, Weather and Web Information. (2020). *City Population*. Retrieved June 26th, 2023, from https://www.citypopulation.de/en/france/landes/dax/40312__tarnos/

The farm is well accepted by and well-integrated into the community. The proof of this is that the town has offered the use of municipal land for its farming activities at more than friendly rates. There are several reasons for this tolerance: the site is that of a former religious institution where an Emmaüs community of homeless and reintegrated people used to live. This community is still active. This type of neighbourhood, where people are reintegrated into society, has long been known in Tarnos. What's more, the farm also houses an alternative school with around forty children from all over the neighbourhood.

Ferme Emmaüs

Baudonne

Founded: 2020

Capacity: 12

Security level: Low

Nearest city/town: Tarnos
(France)

Nature of interaction: Visited
by FARAPEJ (13/12/2022)

Every Thursday afternoon, locally grown seasonal vegetables are sold directly from the farm. The same applies every Saturday morning at the market in the nearby town. The facility also organizes two garage sales on the site, as well as an annual free concert for the summer annual music festival. Volunteers are heavily involved in many of the activities offered to Emmaüs Baudonne residents.

Publicity/ read more

- About Ferme Emmaüs Baudonne on their own website:

Ferme agro-écologique d'accueil de femmes sous main de justice. (n.d.). *Ferme Emmaüs Baudonne*.

Retrieved June 21th, 2023, from <https://www.fermeemmausbaudonne.fr/>

- About the Emmaüs movement on their own website:

Emmaüs International. (n.d.). *Emmaüs International*. Retrieved June 21th, 2023, from

<https://www.emmaus-international.org/en/>