

# AIMA Newsletter 1, 2025

## Jan/Feb 2025



ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONALE  
DES MUSÉES  
D'AGRICULTURE

### Content

About this Newsletter.....	2
Membership Renewal Notice.....	2
AIMA Social Media Channels and Activities .....	2
AIMA Lectures 2025 – Info and Call for Participation .....	3
News from our members .....	5

## About this Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends of AIMA,  
we welcome you to the new year with this innovative newsletter. As an organization, we have decided to tighten up the frequency of our traditional newsletters and report more closely on our activities as an organization as well as those of our members. This newsletter will now be published every other month and report on current topics and conferences. It is important that we are also informed by you about activities that may be relevant to the newsletter.

**If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter or draw our attention to events, simply send an e-mail to:**

[membership@agriculturalmuseums.org](mailto:membership@agriculturalmuseums.org)

Please also indicate whether you are already a member of AIMA or would like to subscribe as an external subscriber.

In any case, we look forward to the dialog with you!

Claus Kropp, President of AIMA

## Membership Renewal Notice

To all members,

We would like to take this opportunity to ask you whether you have already renewed your membership for 2025. It is important for us to keep the membership list up to date and of course it can happen that a contribution is forgotten. That is why we are sending you this friendly reminder to check your current status and, if necessary, renew your membership by transferring the fee.

You can find information on registering and renewing your membership at any time at

<https://www.agriculturalmuseums.org/join-aima/>

*Please do not forget to clearly state the name of the person or institution concerned when making the transfer so that we can clearly allocate the amount.*

## AIMA Social Media Channels and Activities

Due to the politicization of the social media channel X (formerly Twitter), the AIMA Executive Committee has decided to discontinue using the existing AIMA X account until further notice.

Regardless of this, the Instagram account will continue to exist for the time being and can still be reached at <https://www.instagram.com/agriculturalmuseums/>

In this context, we would like to point out that we are urgently looking for interested people who would like to get actively involved in AIMA's social media work! If you are interested, please contact us at:

[agriculturemuseums.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:agriculturemuseums.secretary@gmail.com)

## AIMA Lectures 2025 – Info and Call for Participation

### **AIMA Lecture 'World Bee Day', May 20<sup>th</sup> 2025**

#### ***Bees at the Heart of Agriculture: Sustaining Food, Biodiversity, and Heritage***

Did you know that one-third of the food we eat depends on the work of bees and other pollinators? Bees are essential to agriculture, playing a vital role in crop pollination, supporting biodiversity, and ensuring ecosystem resilience. Traditionally, beekeepers have moved their hives with the seasons—placing them in orchards, fields, pastures, and even buckwheat fields—not only to maximize honey yields but also to optimize the pollination of food crops.

The relationship between agriculture and beekeeping has always been, and continues to be, a partnership of mutual benefit. Farmers rely on bees for higher yields, while beekeepers depend on diverse floral landscapes to sustain healthy colonies and produce varied honey crops. Today, innovative collaborations are showcasing how we can strengthen the synergy between nature and food systems. Join us **on World Bee Day, May 20<sup>th</sup>**, for a dynamic panel discussion with experts in cultural heritage, apiculture, and agriculture. Together, we'll explore how bees and beekeepers have shaped food production, tackle modern challenges, and celebrate inspiring examples of cooperation worldwide.

The lecture will be organised by Barbara Sosič, Slovene Ethnographic Museum, Ljubljana. If you wish to participate or require additional information, please contact Barbara Sosič at [barbara.sosic@etno.muzej.si](mailto:barbara.sosic@etno.muzej.si)

### **AIMA Lecture 'World Food Day', October 16<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Agricultural museums, living history farms, and all who preserve trades, traditions and lifeways tied to farming play a vital but often invisible role in the battle against world hunger -- a battle led by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Every year since 1979, the UNFAO has called upon people everywhere to join the fight through World Food Day, an international day of awareness and action held on October 16 -- the anniversary the organization's founding in 1945. In its most recent annual report on the state of world food insecurity, it cites the compelling facts that in 2024, 733 million people faced starvation and 2.8 billion were malnourished ... as human and natural ecosystems continued to be impacted by war, climate change, and global crises in energy, population growth and economic instability.

To raise awareness of the contributions we make and stand to stand to make as a community, AIMA is calling upon its members, supporters and followers to join its World Food Day Lecture on Thursday, October 16, when speakers from around the world will lead discussions about the work of museums, and the role of public history,

in the fight against global hunger and malnutrition.

Persons interested in learning more about the program, providing a presentation or roundtable session, or assisting with program logistics are encouraged to contact Pete Watson at [pwatson@howellfarm.org](mailto:pwatson@howellfarm.org) or at Howell Living History Farm, 101 Hunter Rd., Titusville, New Jersey, 07901, USA.

### **AIMA Lecture `World Soil Day`, December 5<sup>th</sup> 2025**

The World Day of Soil, December 5, is an occasion to draw attention to the importance of soil and to advocate for its sustainable management. The Earth's soils are a critical piece of the natural systems on which life depends. Paraphrasing the words of Dr Maria C Hernandez-Soriano: "life on earth depends on a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains."

For most of history, soil has been taken for granted as an inexhaustible resource. We are beginning to realize that soil is actually limited in both quantity and quality. Less than 30% of the earth is land, and of that, only about 14% is suitable for agriculture (producing food, fibre and other human needs). An even smaller percentage of Earth's land is arable, that is, able to grow annual plants like cereals and vegetables that humans can eat. With human population at 8.2 billion, there is an estimated 0.5 acres of arable land (0.2 hectares or about 2000 m<sup>2</sup>) per person on earth currently. Topsoil is not only limited but also fragile. Human activities can damage its structure and degrade its ability to support the normal biodiversity, making it unsuitable for plant growth. It has been estimated that industrial agriculture practices lead to the loss of a pound of topsoil for every bushel of corn produced (according to Bruno Basso, soil scientist at Michigan State University).

If current trends continue, by 2050 the earth's topsoils could be further reduced to 10% of their pre-industrial levels, at the same time that global human population would reach 9.6 billion.

These statistics are grim, but a key idea is this: The "current trends" are under human control. With increased awareness of the problematic reality, humans could choose to change the ways in which we interact with the land. This is happening in many places around the world and the changes could gather momentum. There are many ways in which to be involved!

If you would like to contribute or participate or if you would like to suggest a possible keynote contributor, please contact Barbara Corson ([hooftales@msn.com](mailto:hooftales@msn.com))

### **Possible AIMA lecture on 'Sustainable Transport'**

World Sustainable Transport Day is on 26 November. Sustainable transport — with its objectives of universal access, enhanced safety, reduced environmental and climate impact, improved resilience, and greater efficiency — is central to sustainable development. Transport has always been an integral part of farming and the food chain. Historically, most on-farm transport and the movement of farm inputs and outputs was based on human energy and animal power, as well as some water-based transport. Agricultural museums and living history farms have many displays relating to animal-drawn carts and wagons, pack transport and human-transport (e.g., baskets and shoulder yokes). Bicycles and tricycles are also sustainable modes of transport, and some can be seen in agricultural museums. Animal power and cycles are still important in many farming systems. Fossil-fuelled machinery has been

central to many farming systems since the industrial revolution, but climate-related sustainability strategies are promoting the decarbonisation of farming (and the agricultural food chains) and a move to electrical-powered machinery (and the early battery-powered tractors will be in the agricultural museums of the future).

It has been suggested that we have an on-line AIMA lecture (or seminar) relating to 'Sustainable transport in farming: past, present and future'. It would be good to have contributions from AIMA members and other experts so we could have a one-hour session on key issues relating to sustainable transport in agriculture. If you would like to contribute or participate or if you would like to suggest a possible keynote contributor, please contact Paul Starkey ([p.h.starkey@reading.ac.uk](mailto:p.h.starkey@reading.ac.uk))

## News from our members



In 2021, the Museum of English Rural Life (The MERL) at the University of Reading, UK hosted the AIMA Congress. At that time, owing to Covid restrictions, Congress was online. Now that it is safe to travel once more, The MERL is welcoming both AIMA and the UK based Rural Museums Network members to see the museum, hear about recent developments addressing environment sustainability, colonialism, and reinterpreting our collections to include more diverse rural and urban communities. We shall also welcome other UK speakers from the Rural Museums Network.



The Meeting takes place **9th-11th May 2025** with more details to follow. There are no delegate charges and we can advise on local hotels.  
Reading is on the London underground system now and only 30 minutes away via train.



[\\*Call extended\\* Call for papers: Workshop on Living Heritage, ecological sustainability and climate action - News](#)

Do you have suggestions for the newsletter? Please do not hesitate to contact us under [membership@agriculturalmuseums.org](mailto:membership@agriculturalmuseums.org)