

PARTICIPANTS

Farmer x Boer



Bennett Konesni

27 years old

From New York

Farmer on Shelter Island. New York

Quote: "I can't wait to see the farm where Ivo works. Maybe I can bring some agrarian music to the fields of Texel!"

About Bennett Konesni

Bennett Konesni is the farmer and director of Sylvester Manor, the 243-acre former plantation that has been in his family since 1651, for 15 generations. Bennett spends most days in the field, planting, cultivating and harvesting produce for his tight-knit island community. He also runs the business end of the operation, which uses natural methods of farming, focusing on creating clean, fair food. In addition to farming, Bennett's passions lay with agrarian music, including work songs and traditional banjo. Along with singing occasionally in the fields, Bennett plays dances and concerts and teaches workshops. Bennett hopes to develop the farm into a place where people can come experience and learn about the history and culture of food in the fields, in the kitchen and at the table.



Ivo de Bode

32 years old

From Texel

Farmer and Cheese Maker on farm "de Waddel", Texel.

Quote: "Being a historian makes that I am very interested in the history of New York, particularly in the traces that still remain from its Dutch past."

About Ivo de Bode

Ivo de Bode is a dairy farmer on the Dutch Island of Texel. He crafts traditional "Texel" style sheep's milk cheese. The farm, which originates from 1625 and has recently been renovated, is located on a beautiful nature preserve. In addition to being a dedicated cheese farmer, Ivo is an avid historian who is very interested in the historical connection between New York and the Netherlands, especially the connection with Texel. And a connection there is: Henry Hudson stopped briefly at the island 400 years ago, before continuing his voyage to the new world. Coincidentally, the pedigree of the very first sheep raised on Sylvester Manor in New York, dates far back, to the island of Texel!

PARTICIPANTS**Midwife x Verloskundige**

Rochelle Lipshutz
49 years old
From New York
Midwife in New York City

Quote: "I look forward to meeting with the midwives from Amsterdam and hope to learn a great deal from the Dutch perspective on healthcare."

About Rochelle Lipshutz

Rochelle Lipshutz attended nursing school at the State University of New York. During her internship in Israel, a strike by in-vitro fertilization doctors, has turned out to be a life-changing experience. Originally scheduled to do an internship at the IVF-unit, Rochelle wound up at the Labor and Delivery Unit with the midwives. It was love at first sight so Rochelle returned to the US to attend midwifery school. After completing her studies, Rochelle joined an inner city hospital in the Bronx. Three years and three hundred births later, Rochelle transferred to the Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan, where she is currently the Director of the Service.



Ilona van der Vloed
45 years old
From Amsterdam
Midwife in Geboortecentrum (Birth Center), Amsterdam

Quote: "After a long night, witnessing the miracle of birth, I realize that I am a very privileged person."

About Ilona van der Vloed

Ilona knew from very early on what she wanted to be when she grew up. Where her classmates were fantasizing about becoming a firefighter, teacher or nurse, Ilona from the age of four, was sure she wanted to become a midwife. For many years now, Ilona has been working at the renowned Birth Center in Amsterdam. She is very interested in finding out about the different point of view between the Netherlands and the United States, where home birthing is still a controversial issue. She is also looking forward to the visit by her New York colleague. Ilona welcomes her to experience regular office visits, being on a 24 hour shift, and work with a "kraamverzorgster" (maternity care help), a service quite unusual for women in the United States.

PARTICIPANTS**Teacher x Leraar****Michael Parrish****35 years old****From New York**

Third grade teacher at PS 89 in New York City

Quote: "There is something amazing about walking streets that have been part of our city since its beginning. What a great way to introduce the history of New York to a child!"

About Michael Parrish

Michael Parrish is a third grade teacher at PS 89 in New York City. PS 89 values diversity and supports inclusive classrooms. Reading, writing and math all pour through the core social studies, like music, art, science and dance. Michael is intrigued by the connection between New Amsterdam and Amsterdam. And therefore he teaches the history of Dutch New Amsterdam with great pleasure. He admits that his summer reading often consists of at least one book on the subject. When he is not teaching, Michael enjoys reading, eating great food and riding his bicycle. Michael lives in Brooklyn and rides his bicycle to school.

**Alex Bakker****48 years old****From Amsterdam**

Teacher and deputy-principal at Amstelmeerschool, Amsterdam Noord

Quote: "I know Amsterdam-Noord is not the same as Downtown Manhattan, but I'm sure there is a lot I can learn from my colleague in New York. And, as a big sailing fan, I also dream of ever participating in the Hudson race."

About Alex Bakker

Alex Bakker is a teacher and deputy-principal at the elementary school 'Amstelmeerschool' in the Nieuwendam-Noord area of Amsterdam. The school is currently bursting at its seams but at the end of this year, work will start on the construction of a new school building. During the years Alex has taught Kindergarten. He has been very involved with teaching language. He developed a program called: "Taalspeellokaal" (Language Playroom), a successful concept where children who need extra language help, learn through play, to improve their vocabulary and language knowledge. He currently teaches the upper grades. Alex is very interested in learning about the pedagogic methods used in New York, especially about situations where a lot of children need English-as-second-language assistance.

PARTICIPANTS**Firefighter x Brandweerman**

John Sullivan
42 years old
From Brooklyn
Firefighter in New York

Quote: "I would like to show my brother firefighters from Holland the way we do things in the NY Fire Department and in turn bring back useful information to New York about the way the Dutch perform their operations."

About John Sullivan

John Sullivan, right, always knew he wanted to be a firefighter. At the age of 18, too young to join the New York Fire Department, he joined the US Air Force as a firefighter. After spending time in England and Central America, John joined the New York City Fire Department, together with his brother Stephen. Years of experience prepared him to respond to the 9/11 and Katrina Hurricane rescue efforts. John describes his job as "the best job in the world and the most heartbreaking". When John is not working he loves to spend time with his wife and kids.

Stephen Sullivan

43 years old
From Brooklyn
Firefighter in New York

Quote: "Firefighters have to count on each other in some of the most dangerous situations and that creates a special bond. We often talk about the fire department as a brotherhood."

About Stephen Sullivan

Stephen Sullivan, left, is Johnny's older brother: "There is tremendous satisfaction knowing that your job is to help people." Stephen and his colleagues see ordinary people in the worst of situations every day and they do what they can to make things better. The chance to go to Amsterdam and swap jobs with a firefighter is a once in a lifetime opportunity, says Stephen. He is really looking forward to meeting the Amsterdam firefighters and talking about "the job". He wants to compare their operations with those in Amsterdam. "Amsterdam is such an old city, with much older architecture, that fighting fires and trying to save these historic buildings must be a tremendous challenge!"

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Patrick Nugter

43 years old

From Wervershoof

Firefighter, Fire Department Amsterdam-Amstelland

Quote: "To catch a glimpse of the work of "The Bravest" in a city with such a great firefighter history and unprecedented appreciation is a dream come true."

About Patrick Nugter

A chef by trade, Patrick Nugter has worked for many different restaurants in Amsterdam and vicinity. He even worked with topchef Robert Kranenburg at the famous Amstel Hotel! During all his years as a chef, he also worked as a volunteer firefighter, a profession for which his passion grew stronger over time. Several years ago he finally decided to trade his chef's hat for a firefighter helmet. Says Patrick: "I have never regretted my decision; being a firefighter is amazing!"

PARTICIPANTS

Musician x Muzikant



Leah Siegel
30 years old
From New York
Singer songwriter in Brooklyn New York

About Leah Siegel

Leah Siegel is a Brooklyn-based singer-songwriter who started playing the violin when she was 6 years old. Leah: "The violin tuned my ear and gave me a basic understanding of melody and the harmony. I picked up the guitar at 13 and started writing at 15". Leah has lately been gaining notoriety as audiences build for her dramatic songwriting, especially in the underground scene of New York. She has an eclectic and eccentric sound. With her voice she pulls listeners closer to the turbulent center of the song with hushed breaths, and then lifts the roof with clarity, strength and honesty.

"Local singer-songwriter Leah Siegel is developing a serious buzz with her solid songwriting chops, thoughtful lyrics and a voice that sounds a bit like Chan Marshall imagining how Jeff Buckley might interpret Billie Holiday. Unquestionably one to watch." *Time Out New York*



Renske Taminiau
28 years old
From Amsterdam
Jazz singer from Amsterdam

Quote: "During Job Swap, music will be the way through which we will communicate our experiences and our stories."

About Renske Taminiau

Renske is songwriter, performer, producer, composer and painter. From a very young age she was interested in both art and science and singing and painting became her outlet. "It helped me clear my mind from all the academic-work during college." During her third year in Medical School, Renske realized that picking your brains for lyrics was much more appealing than brain anatomy. And so she decided to follow her heart and enrolled in the Amsterdam Conservatory. She has written and produced her debut album and has been working on several projects, such as Wicked Jazz Sounds and a cd of the famous Dutch comedian Brigitte Kaandorp. During Job Swap, Amsterdam and New York will be the inspiration for a special Job Swap composition.

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Parkranger x Boswachter



Rakeem Taylor
31 years old
From New York
Park Ranger in New York

Quote: "You can even go camping in Central Park with your family! We'll set up the tents and organize hikes and cook-outs. And maybe even walk a survival trail. It's great!"

About Rakeem Taylor

When Rakeem Taylor was 14 years old, he knew just what he wanted to be: a Park Ranger. Growing up in New York City he would attend nature sleep-away camps, and that is where his love for the Ranger work was born. By the time he was 21 he joined the Park Rangers. Besides supervising other Park Rangers, Rakeem's heart really is in the educational side of his job. The Parks Department offers programs to individuals, groups and New York City schools. Asked about the most unusual animal he has encountered during his ten years on the job, Rakeem says: "That most definitely was a nine-foot boa constrictor in Central Park!"



Jowien van der Vegte
32 years old
From Zuid-Kennemerland
Park Ranger with "Natuurmonumenten, National Park Zuid-Kennemerland"

Quote: "I am intrigued by Central Park being run by a non-profit organization and would like to see how volunteers are integrated in the work. I am also keen on learning more about how they handle sustainable energy in New York City Parks."

About Jowien van der Vegte

Jowien van der Vegte works at *Natuurmonumenten*, the Dutch Nature Conservancy. While still a geo-ecology student (a combination of physical geography and geology), Jowien became a Nature Conservancy Park Ranger in National Park Zuid-Kennemerland near Amsterdam. Shortly thereafter she also took a temporary position at Natuurmonumenten Headquarters, where she was responsible for creating an inventory of the geological and geomorphologic heritage in Natuurmonumenten nature reserves. Now she works fulltime as a Park Ranger. She deals with recreation issues, cares for some 100 volunteers and is concerned with visitor management, grazing, nature development projects and cultural history. Being a true ranger, Jowien lives in a Park Ranger cottage in the middle of a National Park. She often finds herself surrounded by free-roaming Highland cattle, Konik horses and Shetlandpony's, which she enjoys tremendously.

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Bartender x Barman



Jimmy Carbone

44 years old

From New York

Bar owner of Jimmy's No43 in New York City

Quote: "Through food you can really get to know the history of different places and its people. I can't wait to get a "taste" of Amsterdam!"

About Jimmy Carbone

Jimmy Carbone arrived in New York City at age 18. Travels to Italy, Turkey, Mexico and California turned him into a professional eater and drinker. Today Jimmy is the proud owner of Jimmy's No.43 in the East Village. Jimmy's No.43 has hosted scores of music and theatre performances, beer-tasting events and poetry readings. Earlier this year, Jimmy opened a second café: 1 Dominick. Jimmy can often be found writing new entries for his blog about beer and food. A devotee of small production, craft beers, Jimmy hopes to meet one of his favorite brewers in the world, Christoffel of the Brand brewing family. And yes, the rumor is true; Jimmy has never tasted jenever before.



Klaas Fris

51 years old

From Amsterdam

Bartender and manager of Café Welling, Amsterdam

Quote: "I am curious to find out if an enormous city like New York has a bar-culture similar to that of Amsterdam."

About Klaas Fris

Klaas Fris grew up in the suburbs of Amsterdam. While in high school, he spent his holidays working in a bar. A few years later, when he was only 20 years old, he started managing his first bar on the island of Texel. With his passion for music, he also organized music festivals on the island and ran two other bars. When it was time to move on, Klaas returned to Amsterdam to study economics. However 'blood will tell' and soon he found himself working in legendary Amsterdam café Welling, near the world-famous Concert Hall. It is known as a place where musicians and writers come together. After not too long he became the enthusiastic manager of the café and now, 10 years later, he still is!

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City Harvest x Voedselbank



Jared Clark
33 years old
From New York

City Harvest bike rider in New York

Quote: “In addition to seeing all of the art and history Amsterdam has to offer, I’d like to learn more about community service in the Netherlands, particularly how the country provides food to the poor.”

About Jared Clark

Jared Clark has been a bike rider for City Harvest since the organization dedicated to feeding hungry New Yorkers, first launched its fleet of food rescue bikes in August 2008. Five days a week, he rides up and down the streets of Manhattan picking up extra food from restaurants, bakeries, and other food retailers so that it can feed the hungry at nearby soup kitchens. Prior to moving to New York, he graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree. In his free time he creates sculptures, drawings, and installations with objects found on the street or in thrift stores.



Hille Hoogland
37 years old
From Amsterdam

Coördinator Intake and “Meer dan Voedsel Alleen”
Foodbank Amsterdam

Quote: “I am looking forward to getting first hand experience the work of City Harvest in New York City, where the first foodbanks were founded in the seventies.”

About Hille Hoogland

Anthropologist Hille Hoogland has been working for the Foodbank in Amsterdam since 2005 where she has helped establish two food distribution centers. During the same period she wrote a thesis with the title: “Fighting Hunger in a Land of Plenty.” Through extensive dialogue with the volunteers and the people who are in need of help, she became very passionate about contributing to the two most prominent Foodbank missions: reducing the waste of food and fighting poverty. Hille is curious to see how New York deals with collecting the extra food and also how New York handles the underlying problems that are faced by the people in need of Foodbank help.

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PARTICIPANTS

District Attorney x Officier van Justitie



Amy Litwin
36 years old
From New York

Assistant district Attorney in the Bronx, New York

Quote: "I know that in the Netherlands, when strictly enforcing the law doesn't work, they will try to look at the underlying problem, rather than sticking to the "rules". I would really like to find out more about that approach."

About Amy Litwin

If you talk about someone with passion for her work, Assistant District Attorney Amy Litwin fits the bill. After getting her BA in Women's Studies she started working as a legal advocate, assisting women — victims of domestic violence — in filing for restraining orders. But Amy realized she could do more. She moved to New York, where she got her law degree. As an Assistant DA she is responsible for all aspects of felony domestic violence prosecutions. Amy is very interested in seeing the different legal processes in Amsterdam. On weekends Amy loves to go to the gym, listens to music, and reads, sometimes even a good crime novel!



Alexandra Oswald
40 years old
From Amsterdam
District Attorney, Amsterdam

Quote: "A lot of the modern crime prevention techniques come from New York. I can't wait to see these with my own eyes!"

About Alexandra Oswald

To call Alexandra Oswald's job path multifaceted is an understatement. From working in labor law and intellectual property rights, she moved on to be the lawyer for Independent TV Producers Union OTP. She is currently a District Attorney in Amsterdam, where "Youth and Weapons" is part of her portfolio. Recently, she also has become a press and media spokesperson for the DA's office. Alexandra is part of a think-tank where the DA, local government and the police discuss and work on crime prevention policies. Being a mom of three young kids, youth crime prevention is a cause near to her heart.

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PARTICIPANTS**Architect x Architect**

Joe Harberl
32 years old
From New York

Architect at Leeser Architecture in New York

Quote: "It will be very exciting to go to Amsterdam. The city's new architectural developments will be an inspiration to visit. In New York I ride my bike to work every day, I am looking forward to doing the same in Amsterdam!"

About Joe Haberl

From a very young age Joe Haberl used to carry a sketchbook around with him everywhere, in which he would draw houses and other buildings. So it was no surprise that he decided to become an architect. For the last 7 years he has been working at Leeser Architecture, a pioneer in incorporating new media and digital technologies in their designs. Luck has it that during the job swap in New York, the by Leeser designed façade of the Museum of the Moving Image will get installed, so Joe's Dutch counterpart will be able to go on-site, and experience first hand what it is like to oversee such an installation in New York. While tight deadlines often keep Joe at his desk during the weekends, when he does get time off, Joe loves visiting great architecture, museums and reading

biographies.



Khoi Tran
33 years old
From Amsterdam

Architect and director of Urban Symbiose in Amsterdam

Quote: "I wonder how architects in New York handle acquisition of new projects, especially during the present recession."

About Khoi Tran

After having worked for one of the most well known architects of the Netherlands, Ben van Berkel, two years ago Khoi Tran and his partners started their own practice: Urban Symbiose. The projects they work on include urban planning and infrastructure, office and residential buildings as well as interior design. Khoi is very interested in finding out what it is like to be an entrepreneur in New York. "I have the feeling that in New York your private life and your professional life are not as separated as in the Netherlands." He is also fascinated by seeing the things that the two cities have in common. For example, both cities are very multicultural, which is the perfect ingredient for creativity, Khoi says.

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