

MUSEUM-FARM GOEMANSZORG



A journey through the last century.
See what life was like in and around the farm on the island of
Schouwen-Duiveland.



BEFORE WE ENTER...

The name of the museum derives from **Jan Goemans**, one of the early owners. The farmhouse was built in the 18th century, the barn in 1906. It was occupied until 1977, sold in 1994, restored in 1995 and opened for public in 1996. The museum gives an impression of the farm during the first 50 years of the 20th century. After that the character of agriculture changed within a very short time.

THE BIG BARN

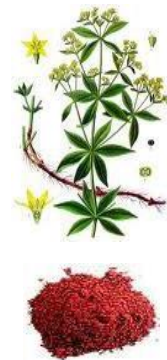
Here your walk through the museum starts. You will find the main themes: madder, the draft horse and flax. Discover the bees and see how the farmers family lived before the 1950s.

At the information tables the history of the island Schouwen-Duiveland is described. There are screens with small documentaries about the core tasks in and around the farm. For instance growing flax, madder and potatoes.

Madder

Until 1875 this product provided much work for the cultivation and making of this durable red dye. The madder plants would be harvested after 2 or 3 years, depending on the quality of the soil. The roots would then be dried and pounded into powder. The plant itself was only used for taking new cuttings.

In 1868 German scientists discovered that Alizarin (the red crystalline compound) could be extracted cheaper from coal-tar.



The draft horse

This horse is a combination of strength, power and elegance. His imposing appearance appeals to the imagination for young and old. An adult draft horse can weigh over 1000 kg. Thanks to their calm cold-blooded character the draft horse is suitable for many purposes.

In the old days they were used for the heavy work in the fields, the forestry, the ports and the brickyards. World War II minimized the number of draft horses and so did motorisation in agriculture and transport sector from 1950.



For recreational purposes this quiet giant is very suitable. 'Ringrijden', this folkloric tradition in which people try to put a lance through a ring, seated on horseback or from a hitch is a popular tradition in Zeeland.

And on the island of Schouwen-Duiveland we have the Strâo-festival. It is a spectacular event. Many decorated horses go to the beach for the first time in the year to wash their feet in the sea.

The Strâo-festival is since 2018 a Dutch immaterial cultural heritage.



The bees

Also in the barn you find a cabinet for bees. Here we can safely take a close look at bees building their home. Up to 40.000 honey bees can live here together with their queen. In spring the queen can lay 2000 eggs every day. The workers fly out through the transparent tunnel. As soon as they come back they store the nectar and dusting mail. The most popular products we get from the bees are honey, bee wax and propolis.



THE LIVING AREA

The museum has a completely furnished farmhouse.

The central hall

The statue in the central hall portrays Demeter, goddess of agriculture, watching over the farmer. Under the windowsill are 17th and 18th century tiles.

At the walls you see works with horses of Wim Romijn, also for sale in the museum shop.

The kitchen

Before 1930 there was no running water or electricity in the kitchen. The dishes were cleaned in a basin on the table. Left, beside the door is a cistern with a copper and brass pump.

The stove is standing on four lion's heads. The oven is richly decorated on both sides, as is the ash-pan.

The lid of the coal bin has a landscape and Jugendstil leaf and flower decoration.

The feet are decorated with leaves.

On the table and in the cupboard is pottery, dating about 1910.

Above the table, the pork-rack. On the small table are two paraffin warmers. On the cupboard are measuring-cups and on the side is a coffee-grinder.

The living room

The living room was also referred to as the 'display or show room'.

To the right is an organ, imported from Cleveland, decorated with leaves and rosettes. A little further is a gramophone.

The cast-iron stove is from the 19th century and has Biedermeier ornaments as well as the tortoiseshell coal-bin.

The chairs date from approximately 1900.

The hearth plate behind the stove represents 'Rebecca by the well'.

In the cupboard next to the stove stands a mourning dinner tableware which was used after a relative had passed away.

The 'Horse clock' still keeps accurate time. The two bronze statues on the mantelpiece represent a sower and a potassium miner.

The large Zeeland belly cabinet has Louis XV characteristics, a scrolled headpiece, undulated doors and a belly. It was however built in a later period, due to the delay in furniture styling in rural areas.



The bedroom

The beds are very short due to the fact that people then were a head shorter than they are now and also slept in a semi-sitting position. At the foot end of the bed is a crib. Between the beds is a pantry, now decorated with traditional dolls.

In the right-hand bed a display of several accessories.

To the right, next to the door, the 'privy', that goes without saying.

The cellar

To the right are butter and cheese moulds, bottled preserves, preserve kettles and biscuit tins.

On the wall is a wooden mortar and pestle for crushing mustard.

Butter was produced in churns which sometimes had an iron driving unit. On the fly wire cupboard are smaller specimens and a tumbling churn bottle for making illegal butter during World War II and also a butter cask (with a hole in the bottom).

Cabbage slicers, a flour sifter, a hay box, a fruit grinder and a variety of pots and jars are also in the collection.

The upstairs room

Next to the spinning wheel there is an armoire with some lovely children's tea-sets, purses, jewellery and perfume bottles.

The Goddess coal stove is decorated in Biedermeier style.

Further many sewing attributes and a hand sewing machine.

In the bed are children's clothes and toys made from natural materials

The wooden schoolbag was also used as writing desk.

The loft

Coming back into the Big Barn the stairs lead to the loft.

Upstairs tools and objects are brought together. They illustrate the activities in and around the farm. There you will find cart and saddle making, farm models, ploughs, home laundry, weighing, measuring, house slaughter, grain, flour, poultry farming and beekeeping.

And... the beautiful sleighs in the middle deserve extra special attention.

THE P.A. BOOT BARN

This barn was financed from a bequest of Mr. P.A. Boot and completely focused on flax processing. In summer every second Saturday of the month demonstrations take place by villagers.

The flax

Dreischor once was a centre of flax manufacturing. The many small black barns around the village bear witness to this fact.

Financially, flax manufacturing once provided stability. The farmer grew the flax and those who processed it often bought it 'on the land'.

The most important end product was the raked and combed flax, ready for spinning and weaving. It would therefore be transported to Rotterdam or Belgium.

Literally every part of the plant is used:

*The seed is for sowing or making linseed oil. It was used in paint.

*The husks were used in cattle feed.

*The fibres for making linen, on the outside of the stems, were soaked and to a degree rotted to make separation easier.

*The remainder was either burnt (fuel) or pressed into fibreboard, used in the building trade.

*The long willow stalks were used to rotate the flax in the rotting process.

The battering machine is a mechanised version used for breaking the seeds.

The raking bench could be used from two sides for removing the seeds. The manual seed crusher, with its ribbed iron cylinder has a huge capacity. The linseed and husks are transported in the ridges to the front of the machine.

The winnow or sifting machine fans the seed free of chaff. The clean seed is collected in a tray and transferred to linen bags.



The wooden breaking machine, with drawer and flap, would break the stalks into small pieces without breaking the fibres. Then the fibres would be separated from the stalk.

The flex comb and hackle, with long teeth, were used for removing remnants of stalk. Of course the spinning wheel and weaving loom were important attributes.

THE FARM YARD

Outside, at the back of the museum you will find a herb garden, various crops including flax and madder and an orchard.

There also is a horse drawn treadmill, a travail (this is where the blacksmith would shoe a horse), ploughs, harrows, a windmill for pumping water and several other agricultural implements.

And... do not miss the barn with carriages and carts.

MUSEUM CAFÉ and SHOP

Last but not least near the entrance there is a small shop to buy a souvenir from Dreischor and feel free to complete your visit with a well-deserved snack and drink in the museum café.

Thank you for visiting our Museum-farm Goemanszorg!

