

## Koivuniemen Herran MUUMAA tourism farm selects the best cone cow The first World Championships in making cone COWS to be held in June in Merikarvia, Finland

One of the most interesting events this summer will be the World Championships in making cone cows, in Merikarvia, where both the skills and style of the contestants will be put to the test. This contest, to be held on 11 June at the Koivuniemen Herran tourism farm, is the first of its kind at the world championship level, and both children and adults are welcome to participate.

The patrons of the contest are children's writers **Aino Havukainen** and **Sami Toivonen**, who have designed a Tatu and Patu emblem for the contest. 'As the emblem of the contest is, the contest itself is definitely playful, but at the same time, we want to promote this traditional children's toy that has been a part of the childhood of many,' says the lady of the farm, **Sirkka-Liisa 'Sirkkis' Koivuniemi**, enthusiastic about the contest.

The World Championships in cone cow making are being organised as a one-day event for Saturday, 11 June, at the Koivuniemen Herran farm. The qualifications and finals will be the same day, with separate categories for children under age seven as well as for older children. In addition, a family category is available, in which adults too can join in.

'The purpose of the contest is to familiarise the children with the traditional Finnish toy, but at the same time it is a pleasant pastime for the whole family. The children can start preparing for the competition by practising. The cone cows are part of Finnish tradition and children's culture. They might be a bit unfamiliar for the youngest children, but most parents and grandparents surely know what these toys are about,' Sirkkis says.

Providing many activities for families, Koivuniemen Herran **MuuMaa** domestic animal park is a familiar holiday destination for many. In addition, it is a popular choice for class trips and nature schools. The World Championships in making cone cows celebrate the 20th anniversary of the farm and the Satakunta region's year as a UNICEF province.

### THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CONE COW MAKING IN BRIEF

<b>patrons:</b>	children's writers Aino Havukainen and Sami Toivonen
<b>categories:</b>	children under seven years, schoolchildren, families
<b>rules:</b>	contestants must use natural materials (provided on site) at the location the cows are given names, and they are introduced during a 'cow walk' (someone other than the creator may perform the introduction) the time available is from cow's bell to cow's bell
<b>location:</b>	Koivuniemen Herran MuuMaa domestic animal park, Merikarvia (cone cows are made in the traditional yard)
<b>evaluation categories:</b>	balance, creativity, introduction, development of the character
<b>chairperson of the jury:</b>	sculptor-artist Veijo Setälä
<b>registration:</b>	online at <a href="http://www.koivuniemenherra.fi">www.koivuniemenherra.fi</a> and on site (if places are still available)

### Source of further information:

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*KOIVUNIEMEN HERRA is a versatile company representing a new kind of countryside tourism in Merikarvia, in the Satakunta region. The company's goal is to offer experiences in the countryside, close to nature and in tune with the traditional peasant life in a river setting. The rural adventure takes place on an old Koivuniemi farm in Merikarvia.*