



Join LEAF

LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is a leading organisation promoting sustainable food and farming. We help farmers produce good food, with care and to high environmental standards through Integrated Farm Management (IFM), identified in-store by the LEAF Marque logo.

LEAF is a charity and membership organisation. We help our members to farm more sustainably through our membership tools and services.

Go to www.leafuk.org to join online and turn overleaf to see what services are available to members to help in the implementation of Integrated Farm Management.

Services for LEAF Members

Integrated Farm Management: A Guide is a booklet for members which goes through the key principles of each section of IFM and the benefits of following an integrated approach.

LEAF Sustainable Farming Review is a self-assessment on-line management tool, based on IFM, to help farmer members monitor their performance, identify strengths and weaknesses and set targets for improvements across the whole farm.

The LEAF Marque is an assurance scheme recognising produce that have been grown to LEAF's IFM principles. Investment in the LEAF Marque certification enables you, the producer, to demonstrate your environmental commitment and provides a genuine commercial advantage in the demanding premium and assured food market.

Integrated Farm Management Bulletin is an electronic update sent to LEAF members several times a year and includes articles from our LEAF Demonstration Farmers, LEAF Innovation Centres and corporate members about cutting edge research and practices going on in IFM at the moment.

Information Centre is LEAF's online library of information around IFM.

LEAF Demonstration Farms are working farmers committed to the sustainable farming practices of IFM. These sites proudly demonstrate best practice IFM to a variety of different groups through farm walks, talks and demonstrations.

LEAF Innovation Centres research and develop new approaches to push forward the boundaries of IFM.

Open Farm Sunday and **Open Farm Schools Days** are managed by LEAF and LEAF membership can help you make the most out of this opportunity!

Integrated Farm Management: An Overview



LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming)
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire
CV8 2LG
UK
T: 02476 413911

LEAF is a registered charity (No. 1045781)

www.leafuk.org
enquiries@leafuk.org

 @LEAF_Farming

 facebook.com/LinkingEnvironmentAndFarming





Community Engagement

It is essential to communicate what you are doing and why to everybody who works on or around the farm, including the local community. Not only does it help them to better understand farming and the rural environment, but it also addresses their concerns, needs and expectations of the countryside and food production.



Landscape and Nature Conservation

Landscape and conservation are becoming increasingly important in agriculture, and it is easy to be daunted by the amount of information available and by the proliferation of schemes, action plans and initiatives. It is important to remember that landscape and wildlife are like any other product of the farm; what is achieved depends on the starting conditions, the capability of the land and the work put in.



Water Management

Water is an important resource which has a financial and environmental cost to farm businesses. Better and more effective water management is at the heart of LEAF's approach to IFM. Managing water wisely as well as assessing and enhancing the efficiency of on-farm water use saves money and helps plan for future needs.



Energy Efficiency

Energy use is often a significant on-farm cost and so requires constant monitoring. Careful use of inputs, appropriate tillage, reduced reliance on fossil fuels and striving for optimum instead of maximum yields will all help improve energy efficiency and contribute towards maximum return in the long run.

Integrated Farm Management (IFM) is a whole farm business approach that delivers more sustainable farming. IFM uses the best of modern technology and traditional methods to deliver prosperous farming that enriches the environment and engages local communities. LEAF's IFM is made up of nine sections, shown below, which together address your entire farm business. An appreciation of the importance of each section and the integration between them is essential for the effective implementation of IFM.



www.leafuk.org

Organisation and Planning

Good organisation and planning is key to IFM. As a starting point it is important to identify the short and long term objectives of the farm business, reflecting on the key question of where do I want my business to go?



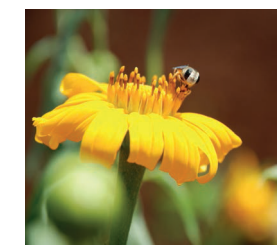
Soil Management and Fertility

Soil is the basis of all agricultural production and the conservation and improvement of this valuable resource must be of the highest priority in the adoption of IFM. This allows produce to be grown on healthy and biologically active soil with an optimum level of organic matter, a good physical structure, chemical balance and sufficient fertility.



Crop Health and Protection

IFM uses and encourages continual improvement in pest control measures that have minimal impact on the environment and human health and which promote sustainability and profitability. A well established and managed crop will be more competitive with weeds, more resilient to attack from pests and diseases and should require fewer plant protection products.



Pollution Control and By-Product Management

Well organised pollution control and by-product management will help avoid pollution, save money and plays an important part in protecting water, energy, biodiversity and soil management. In many cases farm 'wastes' are a valuable resource if used appropriately.



Animal Husbandry

IFM requires that consideration is given to the way decisions are made on the whole farm. Not only does this include animal welfare, grassland, forage and crop management, but also the attention to detail demanded to ensure sound animal husbandry techniques, environmental responsibility and an economically viable farming business.

