



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **LEAF and Corteva team up to nurture emerging leaders in sustainable farming**

Leading sustainable farming organisation LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) and global crop protection and seed company Corteva Agriscience have teamed up in the search to develop new LEAF demonstration farmers as emerging leaders in sustainable farming.

The Resilient and Ready programme will support two farmers to become industry leaders in sustainable farming.

They will participate in an immersive, action-packed three-year programme of training, technical support and mentoring to adopt more sustainable farming and gain the skills and know-how to showcase their sustainable farming expertise and go on to become a LEAF Demonstration Farmer, industry leaders and innovators.

Alice Midmer, Demonstration and Innovation Manager at LEAF said: “The farming industry is undergoing huge changes. The new Agriculture Bill and reforms to support payments through the new Environmental Land Management scheme will pay farmers for environmental services and benefits, with pricing based on a natural capital valuation approach. In order to stay competitive and maximise the opportunities these changes will open up, it will be critical for farmers to get on the front foot.

“Our Resilient and Ready training programme offers a hugely exciting opportunity for two forward thinking farmers to build the resilience of their own businesses and make a long and sustained contribution to the agricultural industry.

“We want to hear from entrepreneurial farmers who are in the mindset for change. They will already be thinking about the role of UK farmers in responding to the big global challenges around climate change, biodiversity, soil fertility, water scarcity and health and wellbeing. They will have the vision, commitment and determination to learn new skills, to embrace the very latest thinking and make change happen.”

The two selected farmers will undertake a three-year training programme to implement cutting edge sustainable farming techniques on their own businesses.

LEAF will offer access to some of the best sustainability experts in the businesses, technical support, training, resources and one-to-one mentoring. Depending on suitability and priorities, participating farmers will also be supported to become LEAF Demonstration Farmers, LEAF Marque certified and be given state of the art communications training to provide them with the know-how, skills and confidence to go on to become industry leaders in sustainable farming.

Alice added: “This is a fantastic opportunity for two visionary farmers. We are incredibly excited about tapping into raw talent, developing the leaders and thinkers of the future who will ultimately go on to become future champions of sustainable farming. We can’t wait to get started.”

Simon Parker, Marketing Manager at Corteva, said: “As a company that is rooted in innovation we believe in creating the environment for farm businesses to thrive, giving them the tools they need to flourish and prosper.

“UK agriculture is entering a new era and forward-thinking farmers will be looking at the opportunities that come from change. Corteva is really excited to be working with LEAF and we hope the project can be a catalyst for change.”

The search for participating farmers in the Resilient and Ready training programme starts this Autumn.

Discovery Events will be held in the North and South of England where farmers will learn more about the project, speak to existing LEAF Demonstration Farmers and see sustainable farming practices in action.

The events take place on **Friday 25 October at Bowhill Farming Ltd, Estate Office, Bowhill, Selkirk, TD7 5ES** and on **Friday 1 November at E W Davies Farms Ltd, The Hydes, Thaxted, Dunmow, Essex, CM6 3QB**.

Farmers interested in applying will be required to complete an expression of interest form in the first instance. Shortlisted farmers will complete an application form which will be followed up with an interview. There is no age limit to apply.

Visit [www.leafuk.org/news-and-media/events](http://www.leafuk.org/news-and-media/events) to find out more and to book on to a Discovery Event.

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## **Notes to editors**

### **About LEAF**

- **LEAF** is a leading organisation delivering more sustainable food and farming. LEAF works with farmers, the food industry, scientists and consumers to inspire and enable sustainable farming that is prosperous, enriches the environment and engages local communities.
- **LEAF** promotes **Integrated Farm Management (IFM)**, a whole farm business approach that uses the best of modern technology and traditional methods to deliver more sustainable farming. IFM is made up of nine sections, which together address the entire farm business. These include soil and water management, pollution control, crop health and protection, animal welfare, community engagement, energy efficiency and landscape and nature conservation.
- **The LEAF Marque** is a leading global environmental assurance system recognising more sustainably farmed products. It is underpinned by the sustainable farming principles of IFM. **LEAF Marque** certified businesses are independently verified against the LEAF Marque Standard.
- The LEAF Network includes **LEAF Demonstration Farms** – commercial farms in England and Scotland, which show the beneficial practices of IFM to a broad range of audiences, through organised visits. They communicate an understanding of IFM to encourage uptake by farmers, support from the industry and political awareness of sustainable food and farming. The LEAF Network also includes **LEAF Innovation Centres** – research organisations from across the UK whose work supports the research, evidence, development and promotion of IFM.

LEAF, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. CV8 2LG t: 02476 413911 e: [enquiries@leafuk.org](mailto:enquiries@leafuk.org) [www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org) LEAF is a registered charity (No. 1045781) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England (No. 3035047).

## **About Corteva Agriscience**

Corteva Agriscience is a publicly traded, global pure-play agriculture company that provides farmers around the world with the most complete portfolio in the industry - including a balanced and diverse mix of seed, crop protection and digital solutions focused on maximising productivity to enhance yield and profitability. With some of the most recognised brands in agriculture and an industry-leading product and technology pipeline well positioned to drive growth, the company is committed to working with stakeholders throughout the food system as it fulfills its promise to enrich the lives of those who produce and those who consume, ensuring progress for generations to come. Corteva Agriscience became an independent public company on 1 June 2019, and was previously the Agriculture Division of DowDuPont. More information can be found at [www.corteva.co.uk](http://www.corteva.co.uk)

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