

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

## **LEAF Education Aims to Inspire Farmers with Networking and Development Day**

LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is inviting farmers to join them for a LEAF Education Networking and Development Day on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at Beeswax Dyson Farming - Mayfield Farm, Compton, Newbury, Berkshire, RG20 7BR.

The hands-on day is aimed at farmers to give them the skills, confidence and know-how to engage with teenagers effectively. The interactive event will bring together LEAF Education members, other farmers and LEAF's team of Regional Education Consultants to share experiences and best practice, highlight successes and map out opportunities linked to the curriculum and exam specifications.

Carl Edwards, Director of Education and Public Engagement at LEAF Education believes farmers who are interested in inspiring the next generation about food and farming will find the day invaluable: "For the future of our industry it is vital that we engage teenagers with the role that farmers have in the production of food. Our research shows that whilst many are interested, they are not as informed as they might be – which is where farmers can really help! We have a very exciting programme planned for the day, which will give farmers the skills, confidence and inspiration to connect future generations with farming and where their food comes from."

During the day, farmers will be able to attend four of the following sessions:

- **Future farming careers workshop** – a collaborative project between LEAF and National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC), enabling learners to develop critical thinking and learn about aspects of agricultural, food and retail careers

- **Livestock: selective breeding & animal welfare** – easy-to-understand activity ideas linked to Curriculum and GCSE Exam Specification
- **A day on an arable farm** – exploring ways to make an arable farm visit interesting and interactive – you don't need livestock to host a visit!
- **The importance of soils** – help teenagers get down and dirty on your farm to understand this vital resource
- **Practical science on the farm** – how to bring the Key Stage 3 & 4 science curriculum to life with practical activities on the farm and demonstrations
- **Hedgerows, margins & biodiversity** – learn with a science teacher how hedgerows and field margins can be used to deliver the science curriculum for Key Stage 3 & 4
- **Farm walk: chill out & connect with nature** – how to use your site to enhance young people's awareness of the environment, with art and sensory activities designed to be inclusive
- **Linking food & farming to the business curriculum** – led by a business studies teacher, find out how to help students understand the farm business and use it as a case study throughout the course
- **Farm tour** – tractor and trailer ride tour of Beeswax Dyson Farming – Mayfield Farm, led by farm manager Ed Hall

After the sessions finish at 4:30pm, attendees are invited to stay and join the LEAF team for a BBQ. Farmers interested in finding out more information about the event or to book a place, can do so at <https://leafuk.org/news-and-media/events/leaf-education-networking-and-development-day-grow-your-offering-ideas-innovations-inspiration>

-ENDS-

**For interview opportunities, photography or further information please contact:**

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**Editors' Notes:**

- **LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming)** 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 Education** builds on the work of FACE (Farming and Countryside Education) following its merger with LEAF in July 2017. It works to inspire future generations about farming, food and the countryside. It manages a number of industry and educational initiatives, including FaceTime a Farmer, Access to Farms, CEVAS (Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme), Countryside Classroom, Chef on the Farm and LEAF Open Farm School Days.
- **LEAF Education** provides teachers with curriculum focused training, tools and resources to help them deliver high-quality learning experiences about farming. It also helps farmers navigate the world of education and supports them in delivering inspiring and engaging on-farm and in-classroom activities
- **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** manages **Open Farm Sunday**, the farming industry's annual open day when farmers open their gates and welcome people onto their farms to discover the world of farming. Alongside LEAF Open Farm Sunday, farms across Britain also host **LEAF Open Farm School Days** which run throughout June. They provide thousands of schoolchildren with the opportunity to visit a farm to learn more about where their food comes from and how it is produced.

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