From Carl Edwards

Last year, LEAF Education commissioned pioneering research with 12 to 18 year olds to explore their views and values in relation to farming and food production. Encouragingly, 35% of the teenagers felt that young people should be more interested in how food is produced with a further 32% saying they would consider a career in farming, but only 22% said they had received relevant careers information. This year we have responded by reaching out to young people, giving them the right information, raising knowledge about the role of farming in their everyday lives as well as to important issues that they are concerned about – climate change, food security, sustainability, health and wellbeing. We ensure we enthuse young people about farming and career opportunities, and provide teachers with explicit links to the curriculum and exam specifications. We continue to show the true, modern and diverse farming industry through our work, so that real farming and real farmers are an integral part of our work. We welcome the support that the DfE and DEFRA have given to wider work with education and young people within food and farming and we will continue to champion the meaningful and impactful work that LEAF Education delivers.

Our work with schools

This year we have continued our focus on secondary school engagement and delivery, especially to GCSE students. Our Key Stage 4 and 5 provision has increased from 400 students (2017-18) to over 950 students this year.

One shining example of our successful work with this age group was the #Farmmyfood event organised by East of England LEAF Regional Consultant Gaina Dunsire and hosted by the Elveden Estate in June 2019. Designed specifically for students studying for Business and Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSEs together with their teachers, the hands-on event included business and food workshops and careers surgeries run by local businesses, colleges and Universities, sessions around animal welfare, sustainability and the environment, health and nutrition and the future of the food industry. Cookery and butchery demonstrations from local chefs gave students an opportunity to see first-hand the processes involved in food production and help them understand the links between what they eat and the environment around them. Students were also encouraged to take part in a group challenge to design and market their own online food box menu.

Impact from the students has been equally as positive:

• 100% of Business Studies students learnt something new during the day – with 48% saying that had learnt quite a lot or more.

• 97% of Food students learnt something new during the day with 47% saying that had learnt quite a lot or more.

• 92% of all students stated that they found the day useful in supporting their GCSE courses.

A video summarising the day can be found here: youtu.be/HfqK9KL-6FE

“I just thought it was a fantastic day, the students loved it and I thought it was really relevant to my teaching and will be able to bring in examples.”
- Teacher

“How pleased we are to be linked up with a secondary school, having only done a couple before we really want to help inspire the next generation of farmers.”
- Farmer
LEAF Education Demonstration Schools

10th July LEAF Education launched its national network of Demonstration Schools, set up to showcase best practice in food and farming education. LEAF Education Demonstration Schools will act as best practice examples of using food production, farming and the countryside as a core element of the school curriculum. This could be around exemplary teaching methods, engagement with farmers, provision of school gardens, nature-friendly grounds and wider school community engagement as well as events and activities specifically designed around the field to fork story. Primary and Secondary Schools will be selected as LEAF Education Demonstration Schools in one of three categories – Bronze, Silver and Gold. LEAF Education Regional Consultants will work closely with schools to support them in achieving each of the categories.

3 schools have been officially launched in Summer 2019:
• Norton Church of England Primary School, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
• Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop Church of England Primary School, Salisbury, Wiltshire
• St James’ CE Primary School, Chorley, Lancashire

Further information can be found here: education.leafuk.org/for-schools/leaf-education-demo-schools

Initial Teacher Training

Thanks to continued support from Bayer CropScience, we have increased the delivery to trainee teachers from 353 (2017-2018) to 518. This has also seen an increase in the number of learning hours offered to trainee teachers from 1,589 to 2,138. We have additionally provided continuous professional development (CPD) for 1,089 other teachers, increasing the number of hours of CPD from 2,367 to 4,420. We are surveying past trainee teachers worked with to measure the ongoing impact this training has had.

Our teacher training has a focus on providing attendees with the confidence to incorporate food and farming topics into their teaching. Training takes a variety of formats: some, including to student teachers, can be accredited by the Open College Network. Many of our CPD programmes for practising teachers are curriculum specific and provided by our team members with expertise in such subjects as food and nutrition, science, geography or art. Most training is carried out on farm to ensure teachers have the opportunity to apply their learning.
Work with farmers

CEVAS Plus
Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme - or CEVAS as it is better known - is the long-established training scheme for farmers and countryside educators wishing to host school visits. We have now developed CEVAS Plus, a brand new one-day course for those who undertook CEVAS training over five years ago. We ran two pilot courses and we are delighted that the course has been accredited as a Level 3 qualification by Open College Network. CEVAS Plus courses will now begin to run in autumn 2019 onwards.

We have an excellent reputation for bringing together diverse groups for collaborative activities. Examples include the Access To Farms Partnership which is responsible for the Code of Practice Preventing or Controlling Ill Health from Animal Contact at Visitor Attractions and the tremendously successful Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme (CEVAS) which since its inception has trained 2,500 farmers in how to facilitate quality farm visits for schoolchildren. In a recent survey 27 CEVAS accredited personnel reported visits from 44,468 young people in the last 12 months.

FaceTime a Farmer

300
Schools and farms paired so far

9,000
children

18
Minutes
average session

10,800
learning hours

From teachers
100% of teachers:
• would recommend to other teachers
• are continuing with the project next year
• believe the children that have been involved have a better understanding of the food supply chain
• have used calls to create curriculum learning opportunities in the classroom

From Farmers
100% of farmers who have connected to a class are enjoying the experience
80% of farmers have focussed on the food supply chain in their calls
100% farmers will be continuing with FTAF next academic year

For further information on the FaceTime a Farmer Initiative and how you can take part please visit: facetimeafarmer.com
National Competition – Innovation School of The Year In Food, Farming And The Environment

The National Food, Farming and Environment competition, managed by LEAF Education, saw teenagers from six schools from across the UK take part in a broad range of activities designed to give them an insight into the science and technology used in farming including milking cows, tractor driving and auto-steer, sheep weighing, genetics, electronic identification, drones and precision farming. Students also looked at how farmers are producing food sustainably through a range of environmental protection measures including woodland management, and wildlife conservation.

We are proud to find that last year’s competition saw 5 of the 15 students attending applying to land based colleges.

Attending the competition this year it was shocking to hear the majority of students attending thought we still milked cows by hand. Additionally, several students said that this was like visiting another world: something that they knew nothing about. All the students on the weekend argued against the hypothesis: ‘Technology will take over from farmers in the future’ with all students stating that despite the vast increase in technology on farm, there will always be the need for a farmer to continue to manage and make the final decisions on farm.

- 100% of teaching staff rated the weekend as excellent for their students.
- 100% of teaching staff rated the weekend as excellent for themselves.
- 100% of teaching staff would recommend this weekend to other schools.
- 100% of teaching staff will incorporate more food, farming and environmental education in their teaching practice after this weekend.

Further information can be found here: education.leafuk.org/news/national-farming-competition-connects-teenagers-with-farming-and-food-production

REC training

We greatly value our team of RECs who serve as our delivery arm and between them have a wealth of educational expertise covering many subjects and stages of education.

The RECs have continued to be upskilled during the year:

- Training provided by PD Hook on the Poultry industry, including visiting Poultry units in January 2019 for a Two-day CPD session.
- Two days of training in April 2019 on Integrated Farm Management (IFM) and LEAF Marque, including visiting Rob Kynaston (a LEAF Demonstration Farmer).
- Two-day summer training at Debbie Hicks’, (SW REC) Home Farm in July 2019 – where RECs shared best practice and provided one another with resources/practical advice and tips to support one another with secondary school delivery.
Farming Fortnight

Farming Fortnight (3rd to 14th June 2019), developed by LEAF Education in partnership with Brockhill Park Performing Arts College in Kent, saw hundreds of schools across the UK shine a light on farming, what it delivers and the many and varied career opportunities available in the sector. A wide range of engaging national curriculum-linked resources and materials were developed for schools to download. Topic sheets, lesson plans, case studies and videos explored different farming sectors and supported teachers in delivering inspiring lessons around food and farming. Each day of the campaign had its own farming theme and accompanying social media hashtag – ranging from arable farming (#TractorTuesday), the sheep industry (#WoollyWednesday) through to fruit and vegetable production (#TastyTuesday. Schools and students were encouraged to share their learning experiences on social media.

LEAF Education Director of Education and Public Engagement, Carl Edwards explained: “Farming Fortnight provided a real focus for schools to engage young people with the important issues around farming and food production. If we are to see improvements in children’s health, wellbeing and preparedness for adult life, and long-term solutions to global challenges of sustainability and food security, then education has to be at the centre.”

Further information can be found here: education.leafuk.org/news/national-farming-competition-connects-teenagers-with-farming-and-food-production

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Get Involved!
Help us achieve our ambition
Now could not be a more critical time to engage and educate young people, our future generation, with farming, food and the countryside.
• Join LEAF & LEAF Education
• Take part in FaceTime a Farmer
• Sign up to Countryside Classroom
• Get involved in our training and education activities