



LEAF Marque Glossary

Adjuvant: Products or product mixes used to enhance the effectiveness of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) such as herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.

Audit: A systematic and documented process for obtaining evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which specified requirements are fulfilled (*Source: ISEAL Alliance*). In the LEAF Marque Standard, this applies to both the Certification Bodies audit of the business, and the business's own audit of their Animal Feed, Energy, and Landscape & Nature Conservation.

Baseline Certification System: The business' underlying agricultural certification system(s), required as the LEAF Marque Standard is a supplementary system. A list of LEAF Marque Approved Baseline Certification Systems can be found within the [LEAF Product List](#).

Beneficial Species: Any species that provides additional benefit to the farming system, such as predation of pests, pollination of plants, and contribution towards healthy soils.

Biodiversity: The variety of plant and/or animal life.

Buffer Strip: An allocated section of land between the farmed area and targeted conservation area that reduces the risk of impact from Plant Protection Products (PPPs). See also, Buffer Zone.

Buffer Zone: An allocated section of land between the farmed area and targeted conservation area that reduces the risk of impact from Plant Protection Products (PPPs). See also, Buffer Strip.

Business: Refers to the legal entity in which LEAF Marque certification is applicable, including Producer Groups. "Business" refers to the farming business in which the LEAF Marque Standard is relevant, and not separate or conjoined packing or distribution business(es).

Carbon Footprinting: Measurement of the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by the business, expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide.

Carbon Sink: Natural Systems that absorb and store more carbon than carbon dioxide is emitted.

Certification Body: The organisation responsible for auditing and certification decisions.

Continual Improvement: Recurring activity that has the effect of increasing the ability of a group to fulfil specified requirements. The process of establishing objectives and finding opportunities for improvement is a continual process, based on risk assessment, audit findings, management reviews and other means (*Source: ISEAL Alliance*).

Crop Rotation: The practice of planting a sequence of different crops and cover crops on a specific field. Crop rotations can be used to help build soil fertility, reduce insect pest pressure, and suppress weeds.

"Detrimental to the farm as a whole": Any activity or impact that goes against LEAF's principles, Integrated Farm Management, or the intended impacts of LEAF Marque. This also includes any activity that would bring the LEAF Marque System or farming industry into disrepute. For example, management of livestock that results in poor animal health or welfare, the use of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) in a way which negatively impacts the environment, employees or the general public, or an approach to staff welfare that does not meet international labour standards.

Dirty Water: Dirty water is an effluent consisting of water contaminated by manure, urine, cleaning material, crop seepage and other waste products.

Drift: The deviation of particles from their intended direction during Plant Protection Product (PPP)



application due to air currents.

Ecosystem Services: The naturally occurring benefits from functioning ecosystems that have societal value. These include provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services.

Environmentally-Sensitive Areas: The designated areas which will safeguard and enhance areas of land that have particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value and where possible improve public access. The Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme was initially established in the UK; for international businesses, other designated areas for environmental protection are relevant if they have the same purpose as outlined above.

Fertigation: The incorporation of fertilisers into an irrigation system.

Forage: Leafy crops fresh or preserved, utilised as feed for animals.

Greenhouse Gas: A greenhouse gas is a gas that contributes to the natural greenhouse effect. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) produced by human activity include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride.

Habitat: The area of an environment where an organism lives, feeds and breeds.

Habitat Banks: These provide mid-field refuges for predatory insects and spiders during cooler periods, which then then invade the crop in warmer weather to eat pest species such as aphids.

Hay: Grass or other plants, such as clover or alfalfa, cut and dried for fodder.

Hectare, (Ha): A unit of area measurement. One hectare is 10,000 square metres or 2.47 acres.

Impact: Disturbance, consequence, repercussion or similar permanent effect of a human or natural cause. Impacts may be positive or negative. They may affect a natural system, the environment, an animal or plant population or individuals (environmental impacts), or human individuals or populations (social impacts).

Implemented: A process, procedure, or plan is carried out in order to achieve the intended result.

Integrated Farm Management (IFM): [LEAF's IFM](#) is a site-specific farm business approach that enables the delivery of prosperous farming that enriches the environment and engages local communities. It combines the best of modern technology and traditional methods, and is split into nine sections which together addresses the entire farm business.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): A strategy of pest management that focuses on long-term prevention of pests and/or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Plant Protection Products (PPPs) are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimises risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment. IPM aims to make conditions less favourable for pest development and is included within Integrated Farm Management.

Landscape: The visible features of an area of land, including physical elements such as landforms, living elements such as flora and fauna, abstract elements such as lighting and weather conditions, and human elements, for instance human activity or the constructed environment.



LEAF Marque Protected Cropping: LEAF Marque Protected Cropping refers to structures covered in either glass or plastic in which crop growing conditions are manipulated to enhance production capabilities. Mushroom production or vertical farming systems are also defined as Protected Cropping, even if the structure is not made from glass or plastic. Protected Cropping in the LEAF Marque System does not include shade-houses or other temporary covers such as fleece or netting.

LEAF Sustainable Farming Review: [An online self-assessment management tool](#) designed to aid the implementation of Integrated Farm Management (IFM). It is applicable to the whole farm business and has questions and targets that cover 9 sections of IFM, addressing economic performance, environmental quality and social health. On completion, management reports are available to document results and benchmarking tools are incorporated into the self-assessment.

Legal Entity: A legal entity refers to a business, partnership, organisation or individual that has legal responsibility for the production processes and has the capacity to enter into contracts and be held responsible for its actions. In instances where a business works in partnership with another business, the legal entity can refer to the combination of these if stated in the legal entity name, for example, 'Farm A incorporating Farm B'. For LEAF Producer Groups, the legal entity signifies the operator of the Quality Management System.

Long Term Sustainability, Varieties relevant to: Selection of varieties to consider factors such as (but not limited to); resistance to pests, weeds and disease; present and future climatic variability; competition with weeds.

Meadow: A grass field for mowing for hay or silage.

Minor Product: Products that do not contribute a significant commercial value to the business, do not take up a significant part of the business's time or land, and are not in any way detrimental to the farm or environment as a whole. For example, a single dairy cow used to support the business's family, or a small trial experimental garden for research not consumption purposes.

Mitigation: Projects or programs intended to offset known impacts to an existing natural resource, human being or community.

Monitoring: The systematic observation of changes or impacts to the environment and production system.

Mulching: The practice of spreading organic materials—such as straw, compost, or wood chips—over otherwise bare soil between and among crop plants. It can enable moisture conservation, weed suppression and increased soil organic matter.

Native Species: Those species that occur naturally in the place where they are found. For the purpose of the LEAF Marque Standard, naturalised species – exotic species that have adapted and grow and multiply as if they are native – are also considered as native if it is proven that they do not cause negative economic or environmental impacts.

Natural Resources: A feature or component of the natural environment that is of value in serving human needs, e.g. soil, water, plant life, wildlife, etc. Some natural resources have an economic value (e.g. timber) while others have a "non-economic" value (e.g. scenic beauty). (Source: UNUN <http://www.eionet.europa.eu>).

Pasture: Grassland harvested by the grazing of livestock.

Permanent Pasture: Any land dominated by grasses or herbaceous forage that can be grazed and has not been included in the crop rotation of a holding for five years or more.



Pollution: The introduction of substances or energy into the environment, resulting in deleterious effects of such a nature as to endanger human health, harm living resources and ecosystems, and impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment (*Source: European Environment Agency*).

Potable Water: Water that is safe to drink or to use for food preparation, without risk of health problems.

Procedure: Specified way to carry out an activity or a process (*Source: ISEAL Alliance*).

Programme: A planned course of action with a detailed and explicit set of directions for accomplishing a purpose.

Renewable Energy: Energy sources that do not rely on fuels of which there are only finite stocks. The most widely used renewable source is hydroelectric power; other renewable sources are biomass energy, solar energy, tidal energy, wave energy, and wind energy (*Source: EEA multilingual environmental glossary <http://glossary.eea.europa.eu>*).

Resistance: Fundamental ability of an organism to avert the attack of a potential pathogen up to a certain degree or to resist the effect of a harmful agent.

Silage: Preservation method of grass or other green fodder for use as cattle and sheep winter feed.

Slumping: Movement of soil and rock downslope as a single mass.

Slurry: A semi-liquid mixture where water is mixed with small solid particles, typically manure.

Soil Erosion: The removal or displacement of soil caused by the movement of water or wind. Severe erosion implies the removal of the entire plough layer or "A" horizon (topsoil) of the soil.

Soil Fertility: The capacity of the soil to provide plants with all essential nutrients required to support plant growth.

Soil Health: The capacity of soil to function as a living system, with ecosystem and land use boundaries, to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and promote plant and animal health. Healthy soils maintain a diverse community of soil organisms that help to control plant disease, insect and weed pests, form beneficial symbiotic associations with plant roots; recycle essential plant nutrients; improve soil structure with positive repercussions for soil water and nutrient holding capacity, and ultimately improve crop production (FAO, 2008)

Soil Husbandry: Management of soil to maintain and preserve it as an agricultural resource.

Soil Organic Matter (SOM): Soil organic matter has three parts: living organisms, fresh residues, and well-decomposed residues. Fresh residues are a primary source of food for living organisms. Decomposition of fresh residues releases nutrients needed by plants. Well-decomposed matter, also called "humus," holds on to some nutrients, storing them for slow release to plants.

Staff: All individuals employed by the business/organisation, including but not limited to: managers, contractors, administrators and assistants.

Statutory Landscape Designation: Protected areas of land, allocated by government, that aim to conserve and enhance the natural landscape and ecosystem.

Substrate: Growing media, either solid or liquid, for crops. Predominantly used in covered cropping systems.

Sustainable Agriculture: A method of agriculture that is economically viable, socially responsible and ecologically sound. The economic, social and ecological aspects are all interrelated and essential to sustainability - a system capable of maintaining productivity indefinitely.



Third Party Verified: Process by which a producer's compliance with the Certification System Standard (LEAF Marque Standard) is confirmed by an a LEAF Marque approved Certification Body following an independent audit.

Thresholds in Integrated Pest Management: The level of infestation or pest attack at which the benefits received (for example, in terms of yield or crops saved) cover the cost of the treatment or application.

Trace Element: A chemical element that is required in very small amounts to support normal growth and development.

Visual Soil Assessment: A method of measuring soil health that involves measuring soil structure and porosity.

Waste: Waste is an unwanted or undesired material or substance. It is also referred to as rubbish, trash, garbage, or junk depending upon the type of material and the regional terminology. Most waste is comprised of paper, plastic, metals, glass, food waste, organic material, faeces and wood.

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