



FINAL LEAF OPEN FARM SUNDAY FIGURES SHOW 2018 MOST POPULAR YEAR TO DATE

Record Visitor Numbers for 13th LEAF Open Farm Sunday 2018

Final visitor numbers for LEAF Open Farm Sunday 2018 released today (9th July), show that this annual event is now more popular with the public than ever before. LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) has announced that a total of **293,650 people visited a farm on Sunday 10th June 2018**. This is 2,254 more visitors than the previous record, which was achieved in 2015.

The total number of visitors to a farm for LEAF Open Farm Sunday over the last 13 years has now reached over 2.2 million, demonstrating the enormous impact the day has on connecting the public with farming and where their food comes from.

For LEAF Open Farm Sunday 2018, a total of **362 farms** opened across the country to welcome visitors. Of those farms which opened, 26% were taking part for the first time.

Events spanned all shapes, sizes and enterprise; from organised walks for a few local people, to larger events with visitors in the hundreds and thousands – but the popularity of the day was reflected in the average number of visitors to each event which was 811, the highest on record.

LEAF Open Farm Sunday Manager Annabel Shackleton said: *“We are thrilled that more people than ever before chose to visit a LEAF Open Farm Sunday event this year. These figures show the public’s growing interest in, and support for, British farming and all that it delivers. It was also great to see so many farms opening for the first time and we hope that even more will do so next year **on the 9th June**. LEAF Open Farm Sunday is a unique opportunity for farmers to showcase all they do and it is vital that as many farmers get involved as possible. Our thanks to everyone – farmers, volunteers and sponsors - for making 2018 such a huge success and we look forward to your continued support in 2019.”*

-Ends-

For more information visit www.farmsunday.org. To keep up to date on Twitter follow [@OpenFarmSunday](https://twitter.com/OpenFarmSunday), [@LEAF_Farming](https://twitter.com/LEAF_Farming) and [@AnnabelOFS](https://twitter.com/AnnabelOFS)

For further information contact:

Ceres

Open Farm Sunday Press Office T: 01189 475956 E: openfarmsunday@ceres-pr.co.uk

Editors notes:



- **LEAF Open Farm Sunday** is managed by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming). LEAF is the leading organisation delivering more sustainable food and farming. It 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 has organised Open Farm Sunday since it began in 2006. (LEAF is a registered charity no: 1045781)
- LEAF Open Farm Sunday offers an opportunity for all farmers to open their gates and welcome people onto their farms to discover the world of farming.
- LEAF Open Farm Sunday 2019 takes place on the 9th June. Farmers wanting to host an event are asked to register at www.farmsunday.org from the 1st November 2018.
- **LEAF Open Farm School Days** run alongside LEAF Open Farm Sunday. The programme supports hundreds of farms across Britain to host on farm school visits throughout June. They provide thousands of school children with the opportunity to visit a farm to learn more about where their food comes from and how it is produced.
- Sponsors of LEAF Open Farm Sunday 2018 are: Arla Foods, Asda, BASF plc, Co-op, Defra, Farmers Weekly, Frontier Agriculture, John Deere, LEAF Marque, Marks and Spencer, The National Farmers' Union, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose and the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board.
- **Social media:** To keep up to date on Twitter follow @OpenFarmSunday, @LEAF_Farming and @AnnabelOFS