

EMBARGOED TUESDAY 21ST MARCH 10:30

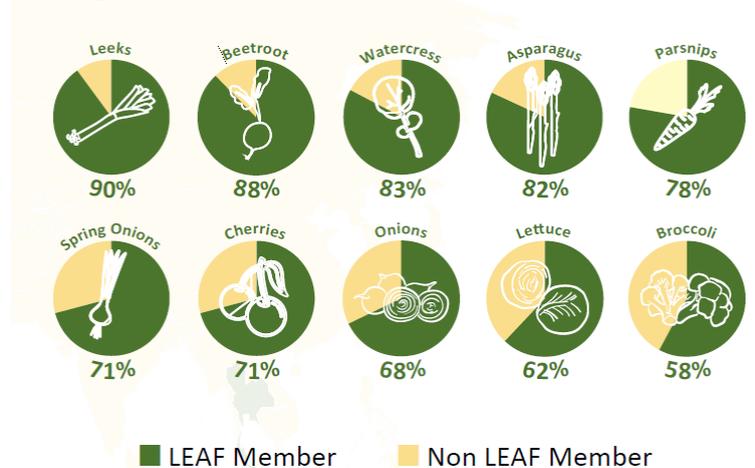
LEAF's Global Impacts report reveals sustainable farming progress

LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) has announced substantial progress in its mission to inspire and enable sustainable farming. Launching its fifth Global Impacts Report at today's LEAF Marque Summit, it revealed that it is continuing to consolidate its strong position in the cereals and horticulture sectors and that progress is also being seen in the livestock sector.

The total number of LEAF Marque businesses in all sectors across the globe now totals 1,013 covering 367,395 hectares. Cereals and horticulture remain the two largest sectors amongst LEAF Marque certified businesses: cereals represent 53% of total LEAF Marque crop area (194,441 ha – up 8%), while horticulture represents 41% of total LEAF Marque crop area (152,033 ha – up 5%). Although livestock makes up a much smaller amount, 24% more livestock and poultry businesses are now rearing animals to the LEAF Marque Standard. In total, 596,620 animals, including poultry, are reared to this standard.

In the fresh produce sector, LEAF Marque has further consolidated its strong position, with 1 in 3 hectares of UK fruit and vegetables being grown to the LEAF Marque Standard. In fact, 90% of leeks and 88% of beetroot, by area, are LEAF Marque certified. Meanwhile, watercress and asparagus have seen the greatest increases with 83% and 82% respectively now grown on LEAF Marque certified businesses.

Percentage of UK Fruit and Vegetable Cropped area grown on LEAF Marque Certified businesses



Kathryn Green, Sustainability Manager at LEAF said: “We are immensely proud of the impact LEAF Marque growers across the world are making to delivering more sustainable food and farming. They are farming in ways that have the long-term health of our planet and its people at its heart. The results highlighted in our latest Global Impacts Report show continued improvements in how our producers are managing their soil and water, conserving energy, protecting their crops, enhancing wildlife habitats and reaching out to their local communities. We congratulate and thank them all.”

“This progress is hugely encouraging but there is much scope for expansion, particularly within the livestock and dairy sectors. Increasing the number of LEAF Marque certified businesses in these sectors is a key part of our five year strategy so this is an area we will continue to focus on. What is clear though is that farmers across the world are making important sustainability commitments and are choosing to realise them through LEAF Marque certification; in doing so they represent a powerful force for change.”

The report also shows how businesses are following the sustainable farming practices of LEAF’s Integrated Farm Management (IFM). All LEAF Marque certified businesses have a Farm Environmental Policy, with one in three recording Soil Organic Matter. Half of businesses (49%) are carrying out waste management best practice, while 44% have some form of renewable energy generation on farm.



Landscape and Nature Conservation is a key part of LEAF’s IFM. All LEAF Marque certified businesses have a Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan which plays an essential part in helping management of ecosystems, habitats and biodiversity across the whole farm. On average 13% of land on LEAF Marque certified businesses is currently used as habitat for wildlife including hedges, trees and ponds – significantly higher than the 5% recommended in the LEAF Marque Standard. Together, this demonstrates the focus on not only quantity but *quality* of habitat.

LEAF Marque certified businesses improving on-farm biodiversity

- 6 million metres of hedges** (that would stretch further than from Paris to Moscow and back)
- 1,311 ponds**
- 136,044 metres of habitat banks**
- 565 reservoirs that benefited biodiversity**
- 342,738 in-field trees**
- 1 million metres of non-hedge boundaries**

Another area of LEAF’s IFM is Community Engagement. As well as the annual LEAF Open Farm Sunday, LEAF Marque businesses hold visits and events off farm throughout the year. In the past 12



months, LEAF Marque certified businesses communicated sustainable food and farming to a total of 163,317 visitors through 7,147 on-farm and 703 off-farm events.

Caroline Drummond MBE, LEAF Chief Executive added: “We started formally reporting on our monitoring and evaluating work five years ago to show the impact that LEAF Marque certified farmers are making to delivering more sustainable food and farming. The results highlighted in this year’s report show that the progress made by LEAF Marque certified businesses is really something to celebrate. When I meet with LEAF Marque growers and members, I am continually inspired by their willingness to embrace change and adapt to challenges.”

The results were released at the 2017 LEAF Marque Summit. The summit, now in its 2nd year, explored the theme ***From My Field to Your Fork: Marketing the supply chain sustainability.*** Speakers included: **Jonathon Porritt**, Founder and Director, Forum for the Future; **Emmanuelle Hopkinson** Food Plan A Team, Marks and Spencer; **Simon Day**, Farm Manager, Worth Farms and LEAF Demonstration Farmer, **Emma Keller**, Agricultural Commodities Manager, WWF-UK, **Emmanuelle Hopkinson**, Project Manager, Food Plan A Team, Marks and Spencer and **Tallulah Chapman**, Communications Manager, Forest Stewardship Council.

For more information on LEAF, LEAF Marque, Integrated Farm Management or to view the full Global Impacts Report visit www.leafuk.org

ENDS

For more information or images, please contact:

David Gough / Emma Wheat

LEAF Press Office - Ceres

T: 01189 475 956

E: david.gough@ceres-pr.co.uk / emma.wheat@ceres-pr.co.uk

LEAF Editors’ Notes:

- **LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming)** is the 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 delivers more sustainable farming. IFM uses the best of modern technology and traditional methods to deliver prosperous farming that enriches the environment and engages local communities.



- **The LEAF Marque** is an environmental assurance system recognising more sustainably farmed products. It is based on the sustainable farming principles of Integrated Farm Management (IFM), which covers areas such as soil and water management, pollution control, crop health, animal welfare, community engagement, energy efficiency and landscape and nature conservation. LEAF Marque businesses are independently assessed and certified against the principles of IFM.
- **LEAF Demonstration Farms** are commercial farms which show the beneficial practices of IFM to a broad range of audiences, through organised visits. They communicate an understanding of IFM in order to encourage uptake by farmers, support from the industry and political awareness of sustainable food and farming. The network of LEAF Demonstration Farms includes a range of farm businesses across England and Scotland. They work alongside the LEAF Innovation Centres.