



LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING

## East Midlands LEAF Discussion Group 2017/2018 Winter Programme

LEAF is running an East Midlands evening discussion group this coming Autumn and Winter to promote knowledge sharing and discussion amongst farmers. The programme for each evening will include a brief introduction followed by a talk from a speaker on various different and current topics. This will be followed by a farmer led discussion and questions.

The group will be run by LEAF Regional Chairman, Andy Guy ([www.andyguyconsulting.co.uk](http://www.andyguyconsulting.co.uk)) and is open to LEAF members and friends. The sessions will run once a month on a Thursday and take place either at Uncle Henry's Farm Shop, Grayingham, The Allerton Project, Loddington, Leicester or FarmEco, Nr Screveton - please see below for dates, times, locations and speaker details. Sessions are free to attend, but please bring a small contribution for dinner. If you would like to book on to any of the sessions below, please email [events@leafuk.org](mailto:events@leafuk.org) – we look forward to seeing you there!

### Optimising Soil Management to Enhance Soil Function, Plant health and Yield, Joel Williams, [www.integratedsoils.com](http://www.integratedsoils.com)

Joel is an independent crop and soil health consultant and has worked extensively in both Australia and the UK. Joel has a great deal of expertise and experience assessing soil biology and will start this session by looking at the key organisms in the soil ecosystem and what role they play in nutrient supply and crop production. He will also discuss management practices that support and suppress these beneficial microbial interactions in the soil.

Joel is particularly interested in the links between nutrition and pest & disease pressure – and how nutrient additions combined with enhanced biology can be used to manage insect and disease problems. Joel will talk through some of his work on nutrient behaviour and synergies, as well as the role of carbon balances in the soil and the plant. If understood and managed well, through measures like cover crops and green manures, this knowledge can help improve input efficiencies, protect soil life and help growers balance long term soil restoration with short term cropping requirements. Joel spoke at a couple of AHDB Monitor Farm events in the South earlier this year and his practical and engaging style made for some very interesting discussion. He is currently based in Canada but is over in the UK speaking this October and we very pleased that he is able to join this LEAF Discussion Group.

Date: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October

Time: 6.30 – 8.30pm

Location: Uncle Henry's Farm Shop, Grayingham Grange Farm, Grayingham, Gainsborough, DN21 4JD

## Looking Ahead, Future Proofing your Business Balance Sheet – Jonathon Armitage, Head of Agribusiness, Bidwells

Date: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Time: 6.30 – 8.30pm

Location: FarmEco, Home Farm, off Lodge Lane, Screveton, Nr Bingham, Notts NG13 8JL

## Arable Integrated Pest Management – What does it look like? – Alastair Leake and Phil Jarvis, The Allerton Project

Date: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Time: 6.30 – 8.30pm

Location: The Allerton Project, Loddington House Main Street, Leicester LE7 9XE

## Precision Farming – Adam Hayward, Claas and Paul Hayward, LEAF Demonstration Farmer

Date: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Time: 6.30 – 8.30pm

Location: Uncle Henry's Farm Shop, Grayingham Grange Farm, Grayingham, Gainsborough, DN21 4JD.