



Leckford Estate Sees Royal Visit for LEAF Open Farm Sunday

HRH The Countess of Wessex visits to discover the world of farming

On Sunday 11th June, HRH The Countess of Wessex, LEAF's Honorary President, visited The Waitrose Farm, Leckford Estate for Open Farm Sunday.

Now in its twelfth year and organised by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), LEAF Open Farm Sunday once again saw hundreds of farms open their gates to showcase the world of farming to the public.

During her visit to the Leckford Estate which is also a LEAF Demonstration Farm, The Countess of Wessex met with Andrew Hoad, Head of Leckford and Caroline Drummond, LEAF Chief Executive. She toured the Estate's various enterprises including the dairy farm, mushroom unit, orchards, vineyard and Farm Shop and also learnt more about Leckford's extensive programme of environmental management based around LEAF's Integrated Farm Management principles.

Since the first LEAF Open Farm Sunday in 2006 over 1.8m people have visited an event. This year, farms across the country, from Cornwall to Orkney, provided young and old with an opportunity to see farming in action and learn more about the work farmers are so proud to do.



Above: HRH The Countess of Wessex, LEAF's Honorary President visits The Waitrose Farm, Leckford Estate for LEAF Open Farm Sunday, 11th June 2017

-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:

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Editor's note:



- The Leckford Estate runs to 4,000 acres, some two miles north of Stockbridge in Hampshire. It produces a wide range of foods for Waitrose including milk, poultry, mushrooms, apples, pears, cider, apple juice and flour. The Estate also runs a dairy herd of over 550 Holstein Friesians and is one of around 50 dedicated dairy farmers supplying milk into Waitrose. Leckford Estate is a LEAF Demonstration Farm and is also LEAF Marque Certified.

LEAF Demonstration Farms are commercial farms, which show the beneficial practices of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) to a broad range of audiences, through organised visits.

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 is the farming industry's annual open day. A day for farmers to open their gates and welcome people onto their farms to discover the world of farming.
- Alongside LEAF Open Farm Sunday, farms across Britain also host LEAF Open Farm School Days which runs 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 Open Farm Sunday 2017 are: Arla Foods, Asda, BASF plc, Co-op, Defra, Farmers Weekly, Frontier Agriculture, LEAF Marque, Marks and Spencer, National Farmers Union, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose, The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, with direct support from the Beef and Lamb, Cereals and Oilseeds, Dairy, Horticulture, Pork and Potatoes sectors.,
- Keep up to date with LEAF's activities via twitter www.twitter.com/LEAF_Farming and www.twitter.com/OpenFarmSunday and our regular blogs at leafmarque.wordpress.com.