



**University of  
Reading**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

## **The Centre for Dairy Research (CEDAR) named as LEAF Innovation Centre**

**The Centre for Dairy Research (CEDAR), University of Reading has been named an Innovation Centre by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), the leading organisation promoting more sustainable farming.**

CEDAR joins a select group of nine other Innovation Centres made up of some of the country's most prestigious education and research organisations, set up to support the research, evidence, development and promotion of LEAF's Integrated Farm Management (IFM) to help deliver more sustainable food and farming.

Speaking at the launch, Caroline Drummond, Chief Executive of LEAF said: "CEDAR is a unique, state of the art scientific facility for applied and strategic large animal research. Their extensive research capability, looking at areas such as milk composition and human health, dairy cow nutrition and the environmental impacts of meat and milk production, will further strengthen LEAF's technical outreach activities. Being able to access CEDAR's ground-breaking research will support our members and the wider livestock sector to become more innovative and to take advantage of new technologies in order to turn agricultural innovations into commercial opportunities."

"We are delighted to welcome CEDAR as a LEAF Innovation Centre and are hugely excited about the opportunities this new partnership will offer."

Professor Chris Reynolds, Director of CEDAR, added: "CEDAR has a proud history of cutting-edge research and this exciting collaboration with LEAF will enable future research at CEDAR to achieve greater impact through joint knowledge exchange between both parties.

“Of the nine LEAF Innovation Centres that currently exist in the UK, only four are universities. So, we are delighted to be part of such an elite team that aims to provide robust scientific data on how to minimise the environmental impact of both livestock and arable farming, while maintaining high levels of quality food production that can be disseminated through LEAF to the agricultural community.”

The launch forms part of CEDAR’s celebrations to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the research centre and is part of a series of events taking place.

The other LEAF Innovation Centres are:

- Bangor University, Gwynedd
- Bayer CropScience, Cambridgeshire
- Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Leicestershire
- Harper Adams University, Shropshire
- The James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen/Dundee
- Rothamsted Research North Wyke, Devon
- The Royal Agricultural University, Gloucestershire
- The Dairy Research Centre, SRUC, Dumfries and Galloway
- The Stockbridge Technology Centre, Yorkshire

For more information on LEAF Innovation Centres, visit: <https://leafuk.org/>

**ENDS**

**For interview opportunities or further information please contact:**

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**Editors’ Notes:**

- **CEDAR** is a state-of-the-art research facility for applied and strategic research, which is located at Hall Farm, Arborfield near Reading. Its key research themes include sustainable



forages for livestock systems, dairy cow digestion and nutrition, milk composition and consumer health. Hall Farm is home to a commercial herd of 560 Holstein dairy cows.

- **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.
- **LEAF Innovation Centres** are research organisations whose work supports the research, evidence, development and promotion of Integrated Farm Management. They investigate and communicate practices which underpin the continual improvement of the Integrated Farm Management approach to help deliver more sustainable food and farming. The network of LEAF Innovation Centres includes a range of research and education organisations across the UK.
- **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 the UK.. They work alongside the LEAF Innovation Centres.
- **LEAF** manages **Open Farm Sunday**, the farming industry's annual open day when farmers open their gates and welcome people onto their farms to discover the world of farming. Next year's LEAF Open Farm Sunday will take place on 10th June 2018. Alongside LEAF Open Farm Sunday, farms across Britain also host **LEAF Open Farm School Days** which run 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.
- In June 2017, LEAF merged with **FACE (Farming And Countryside Education)** and is now leading a collaborative approach within the industry for better education and public engagement among consumers, children and young people.