

## **Griffin Report on E Coli Published**

### **Statement from LEAF by Caroline Drummond, Chief Executive:**

“Every year tens of thousands of people get great pleasure in visiting a farm. They come to simply enjoy the countryside or to learn more about where their food comes from.

In the run up to Open Farm Sunday last weekend (13 June), LEAF worked closely with farmers and with all the relevant authorities, to make sure Open Farm Sunday was a fun, enjoyable day and safe for everyone. We ran a series of workshops up and down the country to prepare farmers for the big day, and one of our priorities was ensuring every farmer was aware of his obligations as far as providing hand-washing facilities, segregating eating areas and other health and safety issues.

While farmers must take appropriate health and safety measures and provide good hand washing facilities, LEAF’s advice to farm visitors, especially the parents of young children has always been, that they should also ensure they and their families use the facilities as recommended. That way, the risk from E.Coli (0157) will be minimal.

LEAF farmers host hundreds of farm visits every year that demonstrate how they produce the food we eat whilst caring for the environment. To help farmers ensure the safety of their visitors, we run professional training courses which detail the procedures that must be in place to achieve a safe but enjoyable visit. For LEAF’s Open Farm Sunday 2010 over 400 farms across the country opened to the public, welcoming thousands of visitors who enjoyed a great day out.

Looking ahead we will continue to work with HPA and the farming industry to ensure that farm visits can still be enjoyed by everyone.”

For more information on LEAF and Open Farm Sunday call 02476 413911 or visit [www.leafuk.co.uk](http://www.leafuk.co.uk) or [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org).