



Press Release

23 June 2011

LEAF Marque acknowledged by Government as the Environmental Food Production Standard of choice

The LEAF Marque has been recognised in Defra's recently released plans for new standards of food procurement across all Government departments and agencies. The LEAF Marque is cited as a solution within the new standards as one of the ways the Government can meet its new sustainability targets.

LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), a membership organisation at the forefront of sustainable agriculture, has championed Integrated Farm Management (IFM) since 1991. IFM looks at the whole farm, enabling farmers from all sectors to achieve high productivity with low environmental impact and is the key principle behind the LEAF Marque.

Farmers certified by the LEAF Marque, farm to the highest standards of environmental care. They take measures to save fuel, reduce energy use, manage water efficiently and enhance biodiversity.

The fact that the Government has identified the LEAF Marque as the environmental food production standard of choice, enforces LEAF Marque as a clear way for farmers from all sectors to demonstrate their environmental credentials.

LEAF's Commercial Manager, Jeremy Boxall said, "In setting these standards, the Government are sending out a clear message about their commitment to sustainable food production. LEAF Marque delivers food produced to high standards of environmental care by farmers committed to improving the long term environmental health of their businesses – including biodiversity, energy and water use. We are hugely encouraged by the Government's recognition of the LEAF Marque and hope their lead will encourage other sectors to make similar recommendations."

To find out further information about LEAF Marque producers and suppliers please visit <http://www.leafuk.org/leaf/foodchain/supplychaindirectory.aspx.eb> or contact, the LEAF office on 02476 413911

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For further information, images, to arrange an interview or to obtain industry comment:

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For further information on all LEAF's work and activities, visit www.leafuk.org

Editors' Notes:

- The new Government Buying Standards are available from the Defra website [here](#).
- LEAF Marque is an assurance scheme based on LEAF farming principles. It is independently inspected and certified by third party certification bodies. Farms certified as LEAF Marque can use the LEAF Marque logo on all the produce they sell, direct to the consumer or to retail outlets.
- LEAF Marque growers produce a wide range of products including fruit, salads, vegetables, cooking oils and flowers. They care for the environment in a number of ways including carefully managing hedgerows to provide habitats for food and wildlife, using pesticides and fertilisers only when absolutely necessary, recycling waste and conserving energy and water.
- In addition to running the LEAF Marque scheme, LEAF is a farming charity that helps farmers to farm with environmental care and build public understanding and trust of food and farming. This is done through Open Farm Sunday and visits to their national network of Demonstration Farms.