

Case Study



David Felce

Midloe Grange Farm, Cambridgeshire

ARABLE

DAIRY

BEEF

SHEEP

HORTICULTURE

OTHER LIVESTOCK

David Felce

Arable farmer



Size
96 ha



Staff
Contract
farming



Soil type
Sandy clay
loam



Rainfall
560mm



David and his wife, Hayley, farm Midloe Grange Farm, a lowland arable farm near Huntingdon on the Cambridgeshire/Bedfordshire border. The whole farm has been in a Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) since 1992.

- Winter beans
- Oilseed rape
- Wheat

As well as working full time on the farm, David provides agronomy services and gives nutritional advice to a number of local farms. He has also set up his own discussion group with local farmers.

“ LEAF promotes what used to be called ‘good farming’. LEAF membership gives us a really useful framework to everything we do. ”

Why LEAF?

I've been a member of LEAF since 1998 and became a LEAF Demonstration Farmer in 2000. I have always had a sympathetic approach to the environment and many LEAF principles match what we are doing on the farm.

LEAF membership provides a really useful framework to everything we do and puts us ahead of the game in many respects.

www.leafuk.org



Financial

My involvement with LEAF was the catalyst to getting a profile which I've used to open doors to other things. For me, many of the benefits of being a member of LEAF stem from being a Demonstration Farm.

Meeting with other farmers, providing comment on behalf of LEAF to the press and winning the Farm Sprayer Operator of the year, has given me an incredible platform to promote my agronomy services and operator training.

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LEAF is all about pushing the boundaries of Integrated Farm Management and putting these ideas into practice on real working farms.

As a LEAF Demonstration Farmer, it's been great to get involved in a number of trial projects, most recently the SuDS project, looking at new ways to reduce surface run off.

All these projects have had direct business benefits to the farm, helping me to save money and reduce my costs.



LEAF's network of Demonstration Farms and Innovation Centres is made up of working farms of all sizes and types. They demonstrate IFM and welcome visits throughout the year from a wide range of groups, including farmers, policy makers, school children and the media.

Environmental

Although I don't carry out the LEAF Audit every year, Integrated Farm Management (IFM) runs through everything I do on the farm. The main messages I take from IFM are the importance of knowledge, planning, monitoring and communication. I know that if I incorporate these four elements into the way I farm, then it will work!

Being a member of LEAF encourages me to question how I manage every aspect of the farm and how each area relates to the other. It's a whole farm approach. For example, I have an optimal and targeted approach to my agrochemical applications and a real appreciation of thresholds.



Only available to LEAF members and included in your membership fee, the LEAF Audit provides a comprehensive health check of the farm and gives benchmarks and action plans to focus the business for the year ahead, saving you time and money.

LEAF membership has certainly improved my habitat management. I've gained a much greater understanding of the finer workings of the biodiversity on the farm. Furthermore, the LEAF Audit helps keep me up to date with regulatory requirements and, because they inspect on risk, if you're a member of LEAF, you're probably going to drop down the list.



Social



Being a member of LEAF and a Demonstration Farmer has greatly extended my social network! There is a huge amount of good attached to being a LEAF member, be it from a regulatory point of view, research or the contacts you make.

Raising consumer awareness of food and farming is massively important. We host regular visits to the farm and its hugely rewarding to chat to visitors about the farm, hear their views and understand their concerns.

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The Three Shires Way runs through the farm – a long distance path which also links into two SSSIs and we've put up LEAF notice boards along the path. They really help the local community get a better understanding of what we're doing on the farm and how we take care of all our environmental features for the benefit of the farm as well as the countryside.



Notice Boards

The 'All on Board' collection of farm notice boards are a fantastic way of telling walkers and visitors to the countryside about how farmers are producing food with care for the environment.



Open Farm Sunday is the farming industry's annual open day that gives everyone the chance to meet the farmers who grow their food and care for the countryside. Open Farm Sunday is organised by LEAF.

LEAF's IFM



LEAF's Integrated Farm Management (IFM) approach combines the best of traditional farming methods with modern technology, allowing farmers to manage their farms in an informed, professional and caring way. IFM encourages farmers to maintain the highest standards of food production with the minimum environmental impact.

Join LEAF today

TECHNICAL EVENTS • DEMONSTRATION FARMS • SPEAK OUT • LEAF MARQUE • LEAF AUDIT • GREEN BOX

Go to www.leafuk.org and join online!

 LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG  024 7641 3911
Registered Charity Number: 1045781

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