



EISA Visit to LEAF Demonstration Sites in the UK Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st June 2011

A tour of LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) Demonstration Sites in the East of England to reinforce practical solutions for delivering sustainable agriculture and meeting future challenges of food security, environmental health and social acceptability through the uptake of research and Integrated Farming.

The tour will include a visit to the world renowned research Institute at Rothamsted, specialising in crop science, soil, water and biodiversity, and two LEAF Demonstration Farms: a vegetable and arable farm growing & packing potatoes to LEAF Marque Standards and an arable farm demonstrating Integrated Farming and Organic production side by side.

At the event we will be joined by farmers, representatives of associations from the agri-food chain, including environmental associations and representatives from the EU institutions and UK Government.

Objectives of the Event

- To raise the awareness of whole farm solutions to deliver sustainable agriculture through the practice of Integrated Farming. This will include policy measures within the reformed CAP and will help prepare European farmers for their changing role in society, in particular by strengthening their position in a more global market place and food security.
- To demonstrate Integrated Farming in practice on different farming types and how the UK has adopted and applied the measures within the EISA Integrated Farming Framework.
- To demonstrate LEAF Marque in practice.
- To demonstrate and highlight LEAF's outreach work through Open Farm Sunday and Let Nature Feed Your Senses.
- To allow EISA and its members to see the work of LEAF first hand and to meet with some of its members and partners.



The Event

Topics will include:

- Increasing market orientation and strengthening farmer competitiveness (including: LEAF Marque standards; new market opportunities; meeting societies needs; adding value to commodity products and seeking out niche markets).
- Adopting, monitoring and communicating innovation and research (including: new research opportunities, LEAF's Innovation Centres, new technologies; sustainable intensification, Integrated Pest Management etc).
- Protecting and enhancing the environment.
- Contributing and communicating how farmers are delivering public goods to society as a whole, through making sustainable living more accessible. In particular by delivering quality food, better health, a viable countryside and thriving nature (including: the LEAF Demonstration Farms and LEAF's work on Open Farm Sunday; Let Nature Feed Your Senses and Speak Out).

Based in the East of England, this two-day event will comprise a mixture of visits and presentations with facilitated discussion. Throughout the event farmers, representatives of farmer's organisations, the EU institutions and key environment, food and retail industry sectors will enter into an exchange of experience and views on farming practices in the various EU and non-EU Member States with particular regard to the implementation of the CAP and Integrated Farming. The East of England is principally an arable area and the evening discussion will be based on livestock production and 'sustainable intensification'.

Languages

The programme will be run in English (French, Swedish and German speakers will be available for occasional interpretation, if necessary).



Programme

Monday 20th June 2011

13.00 Meet at The Great Northern Hotel, Peterborough Station for light lunch

- introduction on the event (organisers, participants, objectives & programme)
- welcome packs, pre-event questionnaires & Question/Answer session

13.45 Depart for A H Worth, Holbeach, Lincolnshire

14.45 Welcome and introduction from Tony Worth, QV Foods and Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Duncan Worth, Chairman of QV Foods Ltd, Chairman of Worth Farms Ltd and Managing Director of AH Worth and Company Ltd, and Gary Naylor, Farms Director, Worth Farms, and Visit round the farm and packhouse (a practical demonstration of the integration of wildlife conservation with profitable farming together with LEAF Marque in practice)

QV Foods is a wholly owned subsidiary of its parent company, A H Worth, a family business based in Lincolnshire. They operate from four purpose built factories on a 21 hectare Holbeach site and farm 1,820 hectares locally.

QV offers a wealth of knowledge and expertise in all areas throughout the supply chain of fresh and prepared potatoes and vegetables. Their asset base and business structure provides a sound basis for continued growth. They continually re-invest in source development, new product offerings and varieties to ensure that the business remains at the forefront in product development and innovation.

In addition to the original 810 hectares of land around the village of Holbeach Hurn owned by the family, a further 1011 hectares is farmed as farm business tenancies and contract farming agreements.

This acreage is divided between a number of key crops. The sustainable 6 year rotation includes peas, potatoes, wheat, sugar beet, brassica, lettuces and leeks. Potatoes are a key crop for the business.

Farm Assurance is an important marketing focus for the business and they are accredited to LEAF Marque, Assured Combinable Crop Scheme, Assured Produce, and Tesco Nature's Choice. They are involved in many environmental schemes to promote the local wildlife and in 1996 they become a LEAF Demonstration Farm which helped to make it possible to join the Entry Level scheme at its launch.

Marsh Harriers have successfully nested on the farm for the last ten years whilst Bumble Bee and Barn Owl numbers have continued to increase with careful management of their habitat. Through the generations, the Worth farming family have always handed the land base to the next generation in a more sustainable and environmentally enhanced condition. The fourth generation of the Worth family is committed to continuing this tradition.

Tony Worth is well known to the EISA team and there will be an opportunity for discussion to include:

- The application of the Integrated Farming Framework.
- Meeting retailer standards through LEAF Marque.
- Delivering the proposed reformed CAP requirements.



16.15 Question/Answer Session

16.45 – 17.45 Bus trip to the hotel

Haycock Hotel, Wansford, Cambridgeshire

19.00 Reception and Brief Introductions from EISA members

19.45 Dinner & Discussion

During dinner we will be joined by other organisations and individuals involved in LEAF and its work in the UK.

We will be debating '*Sustainable intensification and its role in Integrated Farming*'.

With an increasing demand of land EISA needs to draw up its position on the sustainable intensification of production and ecosystem services. This includes the potential development of large scale units, through to setting aside land for biodiversity. In particular, the proposal for substantial livestock units has caused considerable public debate in the UK.

Sustainable Intensification is a challenge for Europe, with our strong consumer focus and the many small family farms that offer traditional production alongside biodiversity and social integration, does the drive and need to 'produce more from less fit with EISA's vision for sustainable farming ?



Tuesday 21st June 2011

07.45 Bus trip to Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

09.45 Welcome from Professor Keith Goulding, Head: Department for Sustainable Soils and Grassland Systems

For EISA sustainability and the delivery of Integrated Farming is core to our values. Our work is based on practical, realistic and achievable solutions for farmers to adopt into their businesses to deliver economically viable, environmentally responsible and sociably acceptable produce and countryside. In particular, we play a leading role in bringing together sound science, technology, innovation and the practical application of new ideas.

In the UK, LEAF works closely with the Rothamsted Research, one of the worlds most renowned and respected scientific establishments.

Home of the world's longest running field experiment, **the Broadbalk Wheat Experiment**, the institute focuses its activities in five high-profile and integrated strategic areas of sustainability science in order to address the challenges that face science across the world, summarized as:

'How do we ensure efficient use of finite land resources for enhanced production of food, energy and other renewable crop-based products?'

This requires new scientific knowledge and understanding, particularly with the need to maintain bio-diverse, functional, agro-ecosystems and simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions, water demand and reliance on fossil-fuels.

The 5 areas of science at Rothamsted Research include:

1. The impacts of climate change on agriculture and approaches to its mitigation.
2. Development of arable crops with improved resource use, performance, yield and end-use quality (including enhanced human health benefits).
3. The vital ecosystem services delivered by soils and agricultural systems.
4. Effective and lasting approaches to reducing the impacts of pest and disease.
5. Quantification, prediction and the ability to derive value from large volumes of data to deliver new tools, analytical approaches and scientific insights.

On this visit we will get an insight in to just some of the work at the Institute and we will focus on key research into crop science, soil and biodiversity and where this work helps support Integrated Farming practices.

Prof Keith Goulding	Soil Management
Dr Phil Murray	Biodiversity in livestock
Dr Juliet Osborne	Pollinators and biodiversity in arable
Dr Andy McDonald	The Broadbalk Experiment

We will only see a small selection of the work here but it will provide an important introduction to future farming ideas, discussion and vision.



12.15 Lunch with general exchange of views and experiences between all event participants

13.00 Bus trip to Ian Pigott, Thrales End, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

13.15 Farm Visit and Discussion on Public Engagement and Delivering Public Goods

Thrales End Farm is a 690 hectares arable farm just thirty miles north of London in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. With a traditional rotation of wheat, oilseed rape, spring barley and beans, conservation features are an integrated part of the farm business. In particular, hedge and tree planting, pond restoration, beetle banks, field margins and conservation headlands are among the conservation activities at the farm.

They all work together to create a biodiversity rich farm with a wealth of wildlife habitats and food sources. They have always carried out our farming operations with sensitivity and adjust our activities to safeguard nesting sites and ensure that a fully Integrated Farming approach is adopted. Besides the important environmental features there is a Roman burial site on the farm which has been surveyed by a local archaeological society and protected by permanent set aside.

Ian is a LEAF Demonstration Farmer and has a great passion in trying to break down the barriers between town and country. It was his Nuffield Scholarship that brought back the concept of the hugely successful LEAF Open Farm Sunday from Green Sunday in Denmark. His philosophy sits well with the LEAF principles and values, *'Only by visiting a farm, will people get a real understanding of what farmers are doing to produce good, wholesome food as well as safeguard the environment.'*

This visit will leave you inspired and ready for the final debate and feedback before the end of the event.

15.30 Final discussion and drawing of joint conclusions from the visit

16:00 Start of EISA-ExCo meeting and parallel depart of all other participants