



Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – embargoed until 12pm

## LEAF Open Farm Sunday announcement

Due to the circumstances related to the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19), it is with regret that LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) has taken the inevitable, safe and sensible decision to postpone this year's LEAF Open Farm Sunday (LOFS) event to **Sunday 20th September 2020**.

This decision has not been taken lightly and the organisation is fully aware of the implications and disappointment this may cause to host farmers and visitors. However, given the challenges that the whole country faces in the coming weeks and months, LEAF has been left with little choice but to postpone the event to later in the year.

Caroline Drummond, LEAF Chief Executive, said: "We have spoken to a number of our host farmers to understand the impact of postponing later in the year. We are pleased with the positive response from our ever enthusiastic farmers, many of whom have indicated that they would like to still host LEAF Open Farm Sunday 2020. Consequently, we have rearranged the date to the 20th September 2020.

"We look forward to welcoming the public out onto farm at a different and interesting time of year, when they will take pleasure from getting outside and celebrating farming, food and nature. We will continue to support farmers hosting an LOFS event in September and encouraging the public to visit a farm and discover the world of farming."

LEAF would like to thank everyone involved with LEAF Open Farm Sunday for their patience and understanding at this time and would encourage anyone with any questions about this postponement to visit the FAQ page on our website, [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org) or email the LOFS team [OpenFarmSunday@leafuk.org](mailto:OpenFarmSunday@leafuk.org).

**ENDS**

Notes to editors

Words 290

For further information and images please contact

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**Editor's notes:**

- LEAF Open Farm Sunday is managed by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming). LEAF is the leading organisation delivering more sustainable food and farming. It 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 set up and has managed Open Farm Sunday since it began in 2006. (LEAF is a registered charity no: 1045781)

- LEAF Open Farm Sunday offers a chance for all farmers to open their gates and welcome people onto their farms to discover the world of farming. Events can be as simple as a farm walk for a small group to fully fledged events for over 1000 people. LEAF offers advice and support for all types of event.
- LEAF Open Farm Sunday will take place on 20th September 2020. Registrations are open at [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org) The following year's event will take place on 13th June 2021
- Sponsors of LEAF Open Farm Sunday include: Arla Foods, Asda, BASF plc, Co-op, Defra, Farmers Weekly, Frontier Agriculture, John Deere, Kelloggs, LEAF Marque, Marks and Spencer, The National Farmers' Union, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose and the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board.

LEAF is a registered charity (No. 1045781) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England (No. 3035047).