



## **Top Food and Farming organisations back this year's Open Farm Sunday**

Top names from across the food and farming sectors are once again, united in their support of Open Farm Sunday – farming's national open day. Organisers LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), has announced long term supporters, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), Arla Food, Asda, BASF, Defra, Frontier Agriculture, John Deere, LEAF Marque, Marks and Spencer, National Farmers' Union, Tesco, The Co-Operative Food and Waitrose will once again, be supporting the initiative. In addition, two new sponsors – cereals brand, Jordans and retailer, Sainsbury's, are also sponsoring Open Farm Sunday 2016.

Taking place on 5th June 2016, Open Farm Sunday will see hundreds of farmers across the country opening their gates to the public to help them discover the world of farming, from how farmers grow crops for food, clothing, medicine and fuel through to the science and technology behind British farming. Since its launch in 2006, Open Farm Sunday has seen over 1.6 million people visit a farm to learn about the vital work farmers do. LEAF is estimating 400 farms will open this year and between them, will welcome over a quarter of a million visitors.

Annabel Shackleton, LEAF's Open Farm Sunday Manager, said: "Open Farm Sunday unites the whole industry. We are delighted to have been working with most of our sponsors for many years. Their ongoing and long standing support shows their deep commitment to providing the public with the opportunity to visit a farm, learn more about British agriculture and how it impacts on everyone's lives."

"The support demonstrates just how valuable Open Farm Sunday is to the industry and the continuing importance of connecting farmers with consumers. Our thanks to each of our sponsors and we look forward to working together with them to ensure the continued success of Open Farm Sunday."

Farmers wishing to open their farms, are asked to register their event at [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org). LEAF is also organising a programme of FREE events offering support,



advice and inspiration for both new and experienced host farmers. Details of all events can be found at [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org).

For school children, Open Farm School Days run throughout June. They provide thousands of school children with the opportunity to visit a farm to learn more about where their food comes from and how it is produced. More information about Open Farm School Days can be found at [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org).

New for Open Farm Sunday 2016, is a refreshed website that will be launched in early April. There, farmers will have access to new features and resources to help inspire their visitors about all aspects of farming, including the science and technology behind it.

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For further information contact:

**Ceres**

Open Farm Sunday Press Office

T: [01189 475956](tel:01189475956)

E: [openfarmsunday@ceres-pr.co.uk](mailto:openfarmsunday@ceres-pr.co.uk)

**Editor's note:**

- 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 has organised Open Farm Sunday since it began in 2006. (LEAF is a registered [charity no: 1045781](#))
- The eleventh annual Open Farm Sunday will take place on 5th June 2016. It is the farming industry's annual open day. A day for farmers to open their gates and welcomes people onto their farms to discover the world of farming.
- Alongside Open Farm Sunday, farms across Britain also host Open Farm School Days which will run throughout June. They will provide thousands of school children with the opportunity to visit a farm to learn more about where their food comes from and how it is produced.
- Sponsors of Open Farm Sunday 2016 include: Arla, Asda, BASF plc, Defra, Farmers Weekly, Frontier Agriculture, John Deere, Jordans, LEAF Marque, Marks and Spencer, National Farmers' Union, Sainsburys, The Co-operative Food, Waitrose plus the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, with direct support from the following AHDB sectors: Beef and Lamb, Cereals and Oilseeds, Dairy, Horticulture, and Pork.



- Keep up to date with LEAF's activities via twitter [www.twitter.com/LEAF\\_Farming](https://www.twitter.com/LEAF_Farming) and [www.twitter.com/OpenFarmSunday](https://www.twitter.com/OpenFarmSunday) and our regular blogs at [leafmarque.wordpress.com](http://leafmarque.wordpress.com).

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