

SUSTAINABLE FARMING



SINCE 1991



LEAF is a charity that promotes and supports more sustainable farming to create a resilient food and farming system for future generations.

We build
trust

We
connect

We
educate

Education & Public Engagement

In order to deliver on our purpose LEAF's education and public engagement work seeks to connect with, build trust and educate young people and wider society to ensure we have a resilient food and farming system, empowering people to make climate positive food choices, driving trust and understanding of the agri-food sector.



Our work in 2024

26,521 young people worked with of farm or in school

1,497 teachers benefitting from LEAF Education Specialist knowledge and training on farm

722 farmers accessing accredited training and CPD

966,430 people benefitting from our delivery training and resources.



100% of pupils are now more interested in where their food comes from

94% have greater knowledge of how farmers are looking after the environment while producing food

97% have a better understanding of where their food comes from

100% think individual food choices are important in the fight against climate change

65% are inspired or interested in a career in the agri-food industry

75% of GCSE students change and select A – level subjects that are linked to a career they are interested or inspired to consider

**Impact of projects we have delivered*



“I pledge to share my knowledge with other people so that they can understand where our food comes from and how our choices can make a big difference to the environment.” 13yr old

Our Work In Action...

Some of our stories

“Winning the competition has left our students buzzing, for one of our students this whole experience has boosted her confidence and cemented her desire to pursue a career in agriculture.” **Teacher – Boston Spa Academy**

As I mentioned this morning, the AQA report from exams breaks down certain sections and topics of the exam paper, and compares your class’s average scores to the national averages. My students excelled on maths, stats, data collection, fieldwork and agriculture, **which just goes to show the value of the visits!** They scored higher than national averages on those topics as they had practiced them, carried out tests and were better able to remember the details (of course its better than reading it from a textbook!)
Environmental science leader

Teenager Research 2023:

A Report on Young People's Perceptions of the Agri-Food Industry and Next Steps



Conscious Consumer



Careers



Sustainable Agriculture



Diversity and Inclusivity

<https://leaf.eco/education/research>



74%
of young people
would like to
learn more about
sustainable
food choices



87% of young people believe that
soil is an essential factor in
sustainable agriculture



95% of young people highlighted they
should be aware of where their
food comes from and
how it is produced



52% of young people would like
to learn more about how to
enter the agri-food industry



91%
of young people
believe our
individual food
choices are
important in some
way in the fight
against climate
change

Top line Results...





Key Recommendations:

We asked young people as a result of the residential what would you tell people who didn't know anything about the agri-food industry?

'It is the back-bone of our society.'

'It is really big industry and is nothing like the stereotypes.'

Have you received any careers advice on the agri-food industry? 0%

How can we change this?

1. Experiential Learning – on-farm / in classroom
2. Curriculum links
3. Work experience – short (week / month)
4. Talking to professionals from the agri-food industry
5. Work experience – long (year-long whilst studying / apprenticeships)

NB: 100% of respondents were positive to each of the suggestions, minimum ranking 4/5.



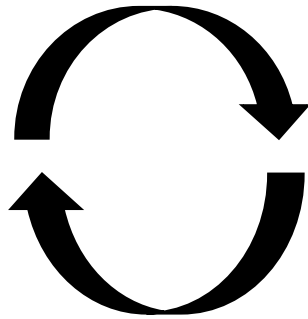
Why Educate?

Increase trust and awareness in sustainable farming

Increase knowledge of sustainable food production and farming

Deliver more sustainable farming

Share new knowledge



Create new knowledge and innovate

Create new entrants into the industry

Drive climate positive food choices and environmental action

Raise aspirations, highlight the opportunities in the sector



CEVAS

Countryside Educational Visits
Accreditation Scheme
www.visitmyfarm.org



Code of Practice

Every year millions of people visit premises where members of the public, particularly children, are encouraged to view or touch animals.

The purpose of this Code of Practice is to help ensure visitor health and safety by providing sensible, practical and proportionate guidance on preventing or controlling ill health at visitor attractions.

[Find Out More](#)



About

Access To Farms (ATF) brings together agricultural organisations that support farmers to provide opportunities for people to experience farming, and offers training to farmers who host visits from school parties or vulnerable groups.

CEVAS is managed by **LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming)** on behalf of the Access to Farms Partnership.

Managing Risk Checklist

This tool is designed to help farms and visitor attractions look at their venues and plan ways to make the best use of their facilities to ensure a safe and successful event.

[Find Out More](#)



LEAF Education Events

Inspiring the Next Generation about Future Farming

A training event showcasing the latest resources developed by LEAF in partnership with NFYFC funded by ADM Cares. The training is designed to support wider industry in their endeavour to encourage learners to consider careers in food, farming and environment.

8th May 2025

Find Out More ▶




<https://leaf.eco/news-and-events/events>

COUNTRYSIDE CLASSROOM

Connecting schools with **food**, **farming** and the **natural environment**

Read ABOUT US **HERE**

Search for resources i

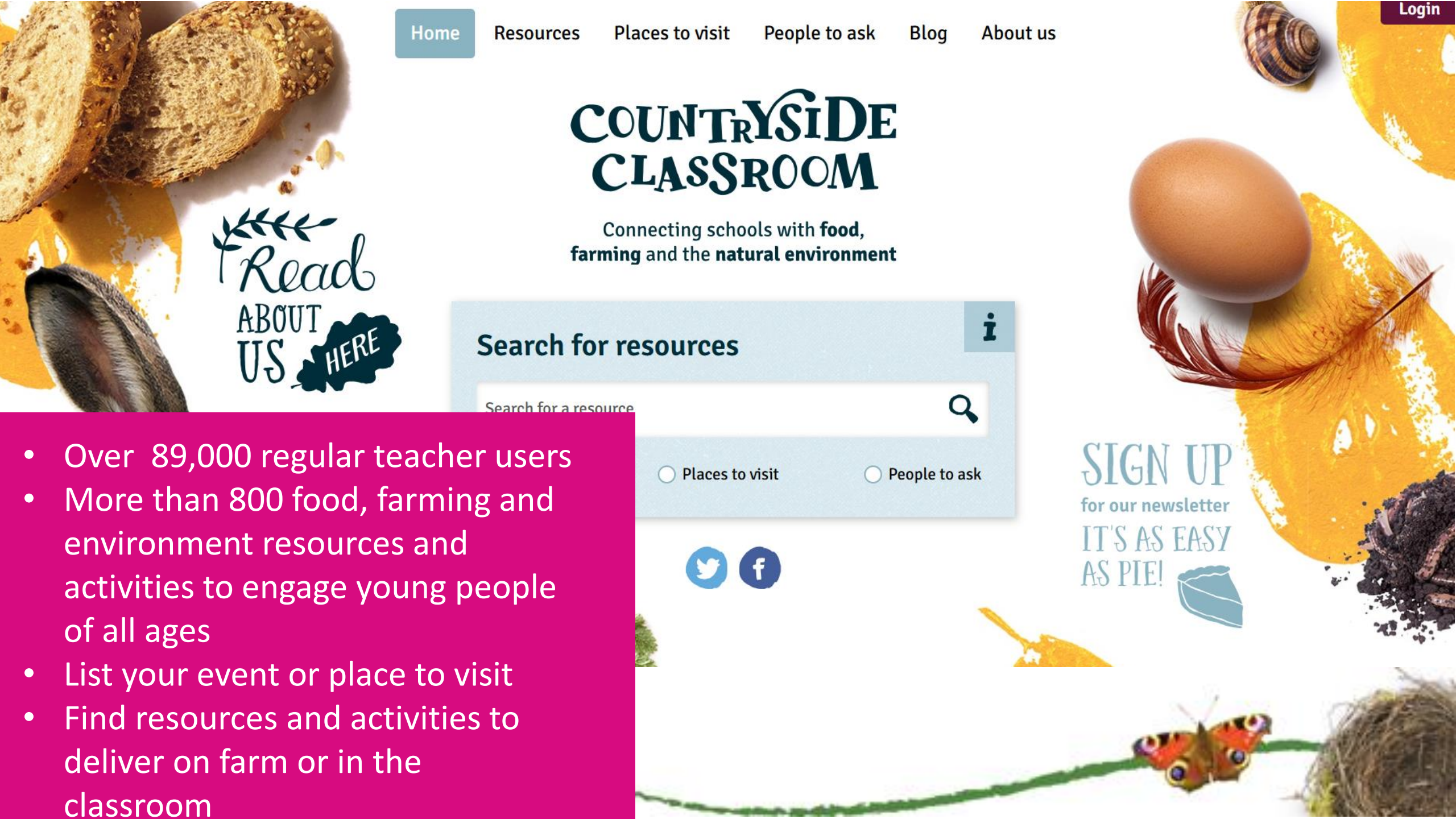
Search for a resource 

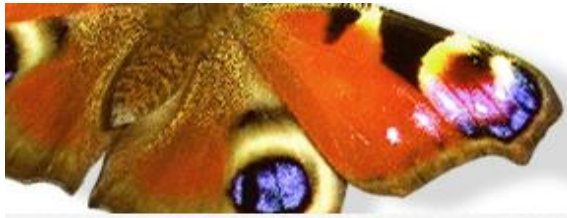
Places to visit People to ask



SIGN UP for our newsletter IT'S AS EASY AS PIE! 

- Over 89,000 regular teacher users
- More than 800 food, farming and environment resources and activities to engage young people of all ages
- List your event or place to visit
- Find resources and activities to deliver on farm or in the classroom





RESOURCES

[Home](#) > [Resources](#) > Practical Farm Resources for Secondary Learners

Practical Farm Resources for Secondary Learners



Rating: ★★☆☆☆

0 ratings. [Sign in to be the first to rate this resource](#)



A collection of educational resources adapted for farm educators engaging young people in hands-on learning experiences. These activities aim to connect students with real-world agricultural practices, highlighting the importance of sustainability, biodiversity, and farm management.

This resource pack includes four structured activities that span a range of topics, from water infiltration and soil structure to waste reduction, genetic selection, and plant diversity in farm habitats. Each activity is designed as a starting point, encouraging you to adapt the content based on your

knowledge and unique farm environment.

The other files are editable versions of the activities for farmers who want to adjust to work.

<https://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/resources/1830>

COUNTRYSIDE CLASSROOM

Farming Fortnight

2nd – 13th June 2025

All about LEAF.
Linking Environment And Farming.
A Farming Fortnight resource.



Farming Fortnight is an annual LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) initiative, connecting young people with more sustainable farming & food production.

Livestock.

A Farming Fortnight resource.

Farming Fortnight is an annual LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) initiative, connecting young people with more sustainable farming & food production.



Key questions.

- What do we mean by sustainable farming?
- How is sustainable farming delivered in practice?
- How can you identify examples of sustainable farming in practice?

Key concepts.

- We connect farmers, industry, management & how it can improve.
- We build trust by providing our independently audited data.
- We educate through our citizens & farmers across the country.

Sustainable farming: benefiting nature, society & the environment.

Integrated Farm Management (IFM) is a way of farming that protects nature while growing food. It helps farmers look after the environment, wildlife, and soil while still producing healthy crops and animals.

LEAF Marque: is a way of farming that protects nature while growing food. It helps farmers look after the environment, wildlife, and soil while still producing healthy crops and animals.

Key questions.

- What is animal husbandry?
- Why is it important for farmers to look after their animals well?
- How do livestock farms work towards being sustainable?



Instructions.

- Divide the class into small groups. Each group to research how farmers would care for their animals.
- What 'products' do we get from the animals?
- What diet does the animal need?
- Where would the animal live? Would they be there all year round?
- How does the farmer keep the animal healthy?
- How does the farmer ensure the welfare of their animals?

Pollinators.

A Farming Fortnight resource.

Farming Fortnight is an annual LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) initiative, connecting young people with more sustainable farming & food production.



Key questions.

- What is pollination and why is it important for plants?
- Why should farmers encourage wildflowers to grow on their land?
- How do pollinators help farmers grow food in a more sustainable way?

Key concepts.

- Pollinators are animals and insects that help move pollen from one flower to another, allowing plants to grow fruits, vegetables, and seeds.
- Examples of pollinators: Bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, birds, and even bats!
- Without pollinators, many plants wouldn't be able to produce fruit or seeds.



Key concepts.

- Threats.** Habitat loss, pesticides and climate change are the biggest threats to pollinators.
- Integrated Farm Management (IFM).** It helps farmers look after the environment, wildlife, and soil while still producing healthy crops and animals.
- Pollinators provide a vital ecological and economical role in UK farming.**



Water.

A Farming Fortnight resource.

Farming Fortnight is an annual LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) initiative, connecting young people with more sustainable farming & food production.



Key questions.

- Why is water important?
- How is water used on farms?
- How does improving water management support a sustainable approach to farming?

Key concepts.

The importance of water in agriculture: Water is essential for all life and plays a crucial role in farming. It is used for livestock, processing food, and cleaning equipment. Efficient water management ensures sustainable food production and protects the environment.

Water conservation on farms: Farmers use various strategies to reduce water use and protect water resources. These include:

- Efficient irrigation systems
- Reducing water wastage
- Using drought-tolerant crops
- Planting trees and hedges to reduce wind and improve soil moisture retention
- Using rainwater harvesting
- Using drip irrigation
- Using cover crops to improve soil structure and reduce evaporation
- Using mulch to reduce soil evaporation
- Using water-efficient machinery
- Using water-efficient livestock management practices

Managing runoff & water quality: Farms can manage water runoff by planting cover crops to prevent soil erosion and reduce sediment runoff into waterways. They can also use buffer strips to filter pollutants before they reach water bodies. Sustainable water management improves resilience to drought and flood.

Technology.

A Farming Fortnight resource.

Farming Fortnight is an annual LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) initiative, connecting young people with more sustainable farming & food production.



Key questions.

- What technology is being developed to help farmers?
- How can technology help farmers farm more sustainably?
- What will farming look like in the future?

Key concepts.

- Smart Machines & Robots:** Farmers now use self-driving tractors and robotic harvesters to plant and pick crops; these machines help farmers work faster and use less fuel.
- Precision Farming:** Using GPS and sensors, farmers can check the soil and water their crops in the right places; this saves water and helps plants grow better.
- Drones in the sky:** Drones fly over fields, taking pictures to check for sick plants or dry soil; this helps farmers know exactly what their crops need.
- Smart Farming with AI & Big Data:** Computers can predict the weather and tell farmers the best time to plant crops; this means farmers can avoid droughts or storms that could ruin their harvest.
- Vertical & Hydroponic Farming:** Some farmers grow food indoors in tall buildings using special lights. Hydroponics lets plants grow in water instead of soil - no dirt needed.

Biodiversity.

A Farming Fortnight resource.

Farming Fortnight is an annual LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) initiative, connecting young people with more sustainable farming & food production.



Key questions.

- What is biodiversity?
- What are the benefits of biodiversity?
- How does biodiversity support a sustainable approach to farming?

Key concepts.

- Biodiversity in farming:** refers to the variety of life forms, including plants, animals, and microorganisms, that contribute to a healthy and resilient farming system. It is essential for maintaining soil health, pest control, and water retention.
- Genetic Diversity:** in farming can be achieved by using different breeds of livestock, such as sheep and cattle, and by growing a variety of crop species. This helps farmers adapt to changing weather and disease, and climate change. Having a range of different crops and livestock also helps farmers manage risk and ensure their business is resilient.
- Ecosystem Diversity:** is achieved by farmers using different types of farming practices, such as crop rotation, cover crops, and agroforestry. These practices help to improve soil health, reduce erosion, and increase water retention.
- Soil Biodiversity:** can be achieved through practices like crop rotation, cover crops, and agroforestry. These practices help to improve soil health, reduce erosion, and increase water retention.
- Landscape & Habitat Connectivity:** is achieved by farmers using different types of farming practices, such as crop rotation, cover crops, and agroforestry. These practices help to improve soil health, reduce erosion, and increase water retention.



Open Farm Sunday

8th June 2025 *or another date in June!*

- The future of our food security and nature recovery depends on public support.
- Open Farm Sunday is a powerful platform to connect, engage and enlighten the public.
- Open Farm Sunday promotes your commitment to more sustainable farming and drives demand for British produce.



Get involved & host an event...

- You decide on the size and type of event to suit you and your farm
- Organise a farm walk for 30 people or an open afternoon for 300
- Manage visitor numbers using our FREE online ticketing service
- It's FREE to register your event and order FREE resources

www.farmsunday.org

Jess: 07512 307834 Email: OpenFarmSunday@leaf.eco





9th June 2024 Key Results

180,000 visitors

5% increase on 2023

241 events

23% first visit to a farm

225 host farmers

88% farmers took part to promote a positive image of farming

80% to improve community relations

75% to inform visitors about sustainable farming practices

91% visitors encouraged to buy more British food

87% reported increased trust in British farming

38% inspired someone in their group to consider an agri. career



180,000 visitors.

51:49 urban rural split.

23% never visited a farm before.

Open Farm Sunday is a special experience which leaves a lasting positive impression on visitors, strengthening public trust and understanding in British farming.

94% rated events as excellent or good.

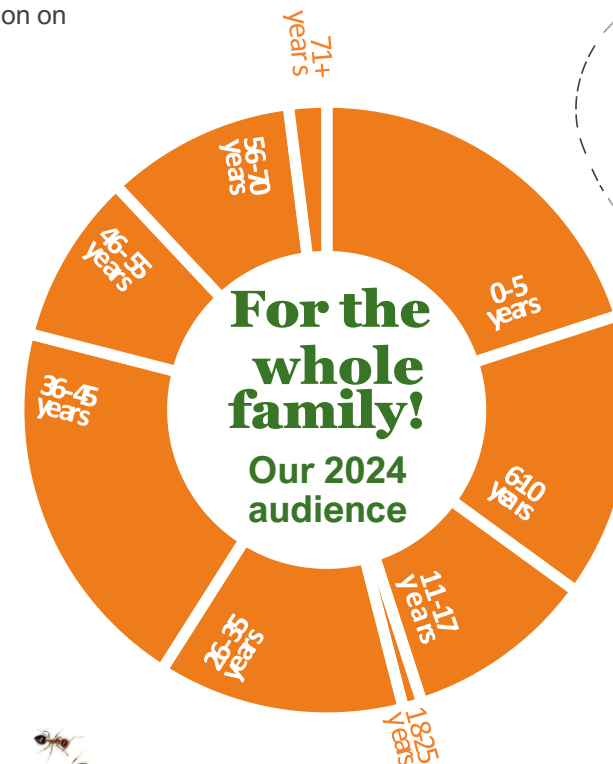
96% now have a greater appreciation of the work farmers do.

95% have a better understanding of what 'sustainably produced food' means.

91% are encouraged to buy more British food.

86% learnt something new about farming.

38% said it had inspired someone in their group to consider a career in farming.



“ Great to see the agricultural industry being more transparent and trying to educate the general public. ”

📍 Visited: Severndale Farm, Gloucestershire



“ Really great open day. We learned a lot and had a lovely time! ”

📍 Visited: West Middlewick Farm, Devon



Top tips and guidance Watch our Zoom Webinars.

Register to attend the webinars or watch the recordings at
www.farmsunday.org/open-my-farm/top-tips-and-training

Topics:

1. All about Open Farm Sunday.
2. Discover OFS – first time hosting!
3. Ticketing events – how to use Trybooking.
4. Publicity and how to boost visitor numbers.
5. Planning and logistics.
6. Discover OFS - first time hosting!
7. Activity ideas.
8. Health and safety considerations.
9. Last minute questions.



Andy Bason

Newhouse Farm

6 OFS events

25 visitors to 2000

Watch webinar 1



Kate Bigwood

Ardenrun Farm

1st OFS event

3 weeks, 40 visitors

Watch webinar 2



Open Farm Sunday



Open Farm Sunday.
8th June 2025.
Register!
www.farmsunday.org



JOHN DEERE



The National Competition in Food, Farming and Natural Environment

The National Competition, started in 2018, aims to engage and inspire future generations about food production, the natural environment and highlight the many career opportunities available in the land-based sector. See how your school (Years 9 to 11) can enter this year's competition.

[Impact Video https://leaf.eco/education/competitions/the-national-food-farming-and-environment-competition](https://leaf.eco/education/competitions/the-national-food-farming-and-environment-competition)