



Farming Minister Launches New Water Management Tool

Press release: 26th October 2011

A new Water Management Tool, developed by leading farming charity, LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), will be launched by Jim Paice MP, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food.

Mr Paice will unveil LEAF's latest management tool at their annual President's Event on the 2nd November. The easy to use, on-line resource offers farmers a complete health check for water use on their farm, helping to make every drop count. Split into 7 sections, it looks at better distribution and monitoring; improved irrigation; more efficient washing systems; protecting water quality; recycling and reuse. Using the tool, farmers will be able to better understand how to increase their efficiency and, in turn, make significant savings on their water bills.

Speaking on the new resource, Mr Paice said:

"Farmers need to meet the enormous challenge of producing almost 50 per cent more food by 2030. But alongside these pressures, urbanization, industrialization and climate change are all increasing the demands on limited water supplies. So to improve its water use and efficiency, agriculture will need to use innovative new methods such as LEAF's Water Management Tool."

Caroline Drummond, LEAF Chief Executive added:

"LEAF has been at the forefront of sustainable farming for over twenty years, providing farmers with practical tools to produce great food with environmental care. The Water Management Tool complements our growing range of practical resources all aimed at giving farmers a helping hand."

Cont../

Paul Dove, Technical Director, Molson Coors Brewing Company explained, “Water is a precious resource, and we are committed to protecting the supply of quality water now, and for future generations. We have been working with LEAF and the Molson Coors Growers Group to understand our water impacts, risks and to share best practice. This new tool is a great online resource and will help our farmers understand their water use and impact.”

Notes to editors:

- LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is a farming charity at the forefront of sustainable agriculture promoting Integrated Farm Management. For more information please contact the LEAF office on 024 7641 3911 and enquiries@leafuk.org or visit: www.leafuk.org
- LEAF’s Water Management Tool is available free to LEAF members. It is one of a number of management tools LEAF has developed to help farmers to farm more sustainably. Other tools include: the LEAF Audit, The Green Box and the ‘Simply Sustainable Soils’ handbook. LEAF also arranges practical training days, field events and visits to its UK wide network of Demonstration Farms.

- Ends -