



LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING  
[www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org)

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## **LEAF's Demonstration Farm Network Expands**

**LEAF's (Linking Environment And Farming) UK wide network of Demonstration Farms is to increase, with the launch of two new farms this month.**

They join over 40 Demonstration Farms which are centres of excellence for sustainable farming and demonstrate the principles of LEAF's Integrated Farm Management. They are selected against stringent criteria and host visits throughout the year to a wide range of invited groups including farmers, teachers, government officials and the media.

The two latest farms to join LEAF's nationwide network of farms are E J Barker and Sons in Stowmarket, Suffolk and Wilkin & Sons Ltd in Tiptree, Essex.

E J Barker and Sons, which will be launched on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, is a 510 hectare family owned partnership based at Lodge Farm, Westhope in North Suffolk, growing high quality arable crops. Farmed by Brian and Patrick Barker, the two cousins have brought new energy to the business and built upon the work of previous generations of Barkers.

Commenting on becoming a LEAF Demonstration Farm, Brian and Patrick said:

"We are passionate about our future in the farming industry and hope to pass on our passion and knowledge of farming, local wildlife and the countryside to as many people as we can. Being a LEAF Demonstration Farm is a fantastic way for us to show others how we are farming with nature."

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Wilkin and Sons Limited, in Tiptree, Essex, will be launched by Ken Crowther, BBC Essex gardening presenter, on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. The 400 hectare farm grows a wide variety of top and soft fruit which go to make the famous Tiptree preserves and marmalades. Farms Director, Chris Newenham, explained that the farm had been members of LEAF since 2002 and became LEAF Marque certified a few years later,

“Becoming a LEAF Demonstration Farm was the next logical step. We have always tried to be innovative and forward thinking in the way we farm and are looking forward to building on our interest in reconnecting people with how their food is grown.”

Welcoming the two new farms, Caroline Drummond, LEAF’s Chief Executive said:

“Our industry has much to be proud of. For over twenty years, LEAF’s nationwide network of over 40 Demonstration Farms has been playing a leading role in promoting best practice in sustainable farming to other farmers as well as bridging the gap between farmers and the public. I am delighted that these two outstanding farms will be joining us. They are very different farms, both in terms of cropping and geographical location. Their diversity is to be celebrated. It shows that the principles of Integrated Farm Management can be applied across different farm situations. Demonstration Farms are hugely important to encourage knowledge exchange amongst other farmers and enable the public to see first hand how their food is grown to the highest standards of environmental care.”

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For further information on all LEAF’s work and activities, visit [www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org)

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is a farming charity at the forefront of sustainable agriculture, promoting Integrated Farm Management (IFM). LEAF supports farmers to produce good food, with care and to high environmental standards. These standards are identified in store by the LEAF Marque logo.
- LEAF was set up in 1991 and celebrates its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary this year.

- There are currently over 40 LEAF Demonstration Farms all over the UK. They host visits throughout the year to a wide variety of invited groups to demonstrate the principles of Integrated Farm Management (IFM).
- LEAF's Integrated Farm Management approach combines the best of traditional farming methods with modern technology, allowing farmers to manage their farms in an informed, professional and caring way. IFM encourages farmers to maintain the highest standards of food production with the minimum environmental impact.
- Further information and images on E J Barker and Sons and Wilkin and Sons Limited are available from [kathryn.mitchell@leafuk.org](mailto:kathryn.mitchell@leafuk.org).
- To find out more about LEAF, visit [www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org) or email: [enquiries@leafuk.org](mailto:enquiries@leafuk.org)

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