



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**14th January 2019**

### **National Food, Farming and Environment Competition for Teenagers Opens**

**Schools from across the UK are being invited to take part in a national food, farming and environment competition aimed at opening young people's eyes to the world of farming and food production.**

The competition run in partnership by LEAF Education and Coleg Cambria Llysfasi, which is now in its second year, is based around promoting our industry to the future generation. The theme of this year's competition is: 'Drones – the farmers of the future?'. It will see secondary schools from across the UK enter the competition to win an exclusive weekend experience on a real working commercial farm at Llysfasi, in the beautiful Vale of Clwyd, North Wales – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Seven winning schools will be selected where students and teachers will be immersed in a range of educational and fun activities based around the college farm, including milking cows, handling lambs, visiting the animal centre, feeding calves and tractor driving. They will also participate in a range of class-based educational activities, looking at the science and technology that is so important to farming today. Over the course of the weekend, the schools will compete in a number of tasks, with the winning school being crowned '**Innovation School of the Year 2019 in food, farming and the environment**'.

LEAF Education Director, Carl Edwards explained:

"We are delighted to be working in partnership with Llysfasi again this year to run this hugely successful competition which brings young people in direct contact with farming. It was truly inspiring to see the impact this had on the students who took part last year. They went home, not only having had a great experience on a working farm, but with a better appreciation of the work farmers do, how their food is produced and the many exciting career opportunities available in the land based sector. This practical, hands on approach is vital if we want the next generation to really understand the relevance of farming to their everyday lives and an awareness of the many pressing issues surrounding food production including climate change, environmental protection, sustainability and health and

wellbeing. We are really looking forward to this year's competition, to welcoming students to the wonderful farm at Llysfasi and to crowning our 2019 overall winner."

Iain Clarke, Head of Llysfasi added: "We have always tried to do things differently, to think outside the box and find new and exciting ways to bring farming alive for young people. Our partnership with LEAF Education through this national schools competition does just this. To ensure a vibrant future for the farming sector, we need to attract fresh, new minds and encourage the best people into the industry. This competition allows students from all backgrounds to experience farming at first hand on a real working farm; the levels of energy, engagement and enthusiasm we saw from students and teachers last year was outstanding. Indeed, following the weekend, three students changed career aspirations to land-based subjects. This competition is just one way Llysfasi is leading in inspiring, innovating and empowering students to succeed."

The 2019 Food, Farming and Environment competition is now open. Secondary schools wishing to apply are asked to download a questionnaire at <https://education.leafuk.org/for-schools/national-food-farming-and-environment-competition-2019>. Completed questionnaires should be returned to [education@leafuk.org](mailto:education@leafuk.org) by **22nd February 2019**. The winning schools will be announced week commencing **29th April 2019**. The prize weekend will take place from **Friday 28th June to Sunday 30th June 2019**.

**ENDS**

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**Editors' Notes:**

- **LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming)** is a leading organisation delivering more sustainable food and farming. LEAF 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 promotes Integrated Farm Management (IFM)**, a whole farm business approach that uses the best of modern technology and traditional methods to deliver more sustainable farming. IFM is made up of nine sections, which together address the entire farm business. These include soil and water management, pollution control, crop health and protection, animal welfare, community engagement, energy efficiency and landscape and nature conservation.
- **The LEAF Marque** is a leading global assurance system recognising more sustainably farmed products. It is underpinned by the sustainable farming principles of IFM. **LEAF Marque** certified businesses are independently verified against the LEAF Marque Standard.
- The LEAF Network includes **LEAF Demonstration Farms** – commercial farms in England and Scotland, which show the beneficial practices of IFM to a broad range of audiences, through

organised visits. They communicate an understanding of IFM to encourage uptake by farmers, support from the industry and political awareness of sustainable food and farming. The LEAF Network also includes **LEAF Innovation Centres** – research organisations from across the UK whose work supports the research, evidence, development and promotion of IFM.

- **LEAF Education** builds on the work of FACE (Farming and Countryside Education) following its merger with LEAF in July 2017. It works to inspire future generations about farming, food and the countryside. It manages a number of industry and educational initiatives, including Access to Farms, CEVAS (Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme), Countryside Classroom, Chef on the Farm and LEAF Open Farm School Days. **LEAF Education** provides teachers with curriculum focused training, tools and resources to help them deliver high-quality learning experiences about farming. It also helps farmers navigate the world of education and supports them in delivering inspiring and engaging on-farm and in-classroom activities.
- **LEAF** manages **Open Farm Sunday**, the farming industry's annual open day when farmers open their gates and welcome people onto their farms to discover the world of farming. Alongside LEAF Open Farm Sunday, farms across Britain also host **LEAF Open Farm School Days** which run throughout June. They provide thousands of schoolchildren with the opportunity to visit a farm to learn more about where their food comes from and how it is produced.

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[www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org) LEAF is a registered charity (No. 1045781) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England (No. 3035047).

#### **Coleg Cambria Llysfasi**

- Llysfasi is one of Coleg Cambria's six sites throughout North East Wales. Coleg Cambria is one of the largest colleges in the UK and offers a wide range of courses from Further Education to Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and Foundation Degrees. Llysfasi is set in 970 acres of stunning countryside and is home to many of Coleg Cambria's land-based students. It has its own farm, comprising three main enterprises – beef, sheep and dairy, which includes a new £1 million dairy unit. [www.cambria.ac.uk](http://www.cambria.ac.uk)