

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **New trustee appointments announced at LEAF**

LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), the leading organisation delivering more sustainable food and farming, has announced the appointment of a number of new Trustees to its board: Ian Ashbridge, Partner at Bidwells; Chris Collins, Professor of Environmental Chemistry at the University of Reading and Nigel Garbutt, past Chairman of GLOBALG.A.P.

**Ian Ashbridge's** role at Bidwells brings together practical agricultural management and consultancy. He has direct responsibility for 1000 hectares of arable and grassland in central England and oversees a further 600 hectares under management agreements. He is qualified in agronomy and trained in agricultural business management at the Royal Agricultural College. Ian has advised a range of rural businesses on single farm payment, agri-environmental schemes and crop management issues.

**Chris Collins'** research interests focus predominately on the fate of pollutants in the soil-plant system. His work is undertaken in collaboration with industry, regulators and academics, to determine the impacts of environmental exposure of humans and other biota to these toxic chemicals. More recently, he has developed an interest in sustainable soil management. He has authored over 70 refereed publications, written a number of commercial reports and several book chapters.

**Nigel Garbutt** spent 12 years at GLOBALG.A.P before stepping down as Chairman in 2013. He held a number of senior management positions within the UK supermarket chain, Sainsbury's for 13 years and prior to that, spent five years in Food Law Enforcement with the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food. He was a founding Director of the Assured Produce and Assured Chicken Companies and a Director of the Seafish Industry Authority.

Stephen Fell, Chairman of LEAF commented: "We are delighted to announce these appointments at a time when we are embarking on an ambitious new five year strategy to meet the growing need for our resources and services across the food and farming industry. As LEAF celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and plans ahead to its next 25 years, our Board of Trustees will be absolutely critical in delivering our business objectives and ensuring we continue to build on the potential of the organisation."

The new Trustees were appointed at the end of the 2015. Stuart Beer, Patrick Wrixon and Professor Dave Roberts stepped down from the LEAF Board of Trustees following the conclusion of their period of tenure.

## ENDS

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### LEAF Editors' Notes:

- LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is the 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 delivers more sustainable farming. IFM uses the best of modern technology and traditional methods to deliver prosperous farming that enriches the environment and engages local communities.

To commemorate its 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary this year, LEAF will be holding a number of events including a **LEAF Marque Summit** (8<sup>th</sup> April 2016), a Consumer Engagement conference (6<sup>th</sup> May 2016) and an **Integrated Farm Management conference** (19<sup>th</sup> May 2016). LEAF also runs the annual **Open Farm Sunday** initiative, running this year on 5<sup>th</sup> June. For more information, please visit [www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org)