



MEDIA RELEASE Wednesday 29th June 2016

**Bangor University becomes LEAF's ninth Innovation Centre:
a centre of excellence for sustainable farming**

A new LEAF Innovation Centre is being launched today by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), the leading organisation promoting sustainable farming. Bangor University becomes the latest site to join LEAF's network of Innovation Centres. It will showcase sustainable farming methods, particularly in the area of lowland and upland livestock systems, and support the development and promotion of sustainable farming through Integrated Farm Management.

Speaking about the announcement, Alice Midmer, LEAF's IFM Manager said:

"We are delighted to welcome Bangor University as a LEAF Innovation Centre in Wales. As LEAF embarks on its next 25 years and looks to strengthen its work in the livestock sector, it is absolutely critical that we link up with leading research establishments to access the latest research and thinking into sustainable farming across a wide range of farming sectors.

Bangor University and the work being carried out at Henfaes Research Centre, will bring a wealth of expertise and crucial information on the role and development of Integrated Farm Management in upland and lowland livestock systems. Furthermore, Henfaes is also the site of a wide range of research projects looking at improving efficiencies of agricultural production in both arable and horticultural production around sustainable intensification, agroforestry, soil science, nutrient management and greenhouse gas emissions.

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As a LEAF Innovation Centre, we will be able to access this cutting edge research and ensure that it reaches our members and the wider farming community. We are hugely excited about the opportunities this partnership will offer our members to improve the function, resilience and sustainability of farming systems. It will result in improved understanding of the complexity of upland and lowland livestock systems and what it means for practical land management, food production and environmental goals.”

Dave Chadwick, Professor in Sustainable Land Use Systems in the School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography at Bangor University added,

“We are hugely proud to be launched as a LEAF Innovation Centre. It signals our commitment to equipping farmers with the latest skills and know-how to address current challenges through Integrated Farm Management. Being part of a UK network of leading research establishments will strengthen our reach to the wider farming community. It also offers an exciting and innovative platform to share ideas, expertise and insights into the development and delivery of more sustainable farming.”

Bangor University becomes LEAF’s ninth Innovation Centre – a network of research organisations whose work supports the research, evidence, development and promotion of Integrated Farm Management.

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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.
- LEAF Innovation Centres are research organisations whose work supports the research, evidence, development and promotion of Integrated Farm Management. They investigate and communicate practices which underpin the continual improvement of the Integrated Farm Management approach to help deliver more sustainable food and farming.
- In addition to Bangor University other LEAF Innovation Centres are: the James Hutton Institute, Royal Agricultural University, Scotland Rural College (SRUC), Harper Adams University, Stockbridge Technology Centre, the North Wyke Site of Rothamsted Research, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and Bayer. For more information about LEAF and LEAF Innovation Centres visit www.leafuk.org

About Henfaes Research Centre

Henfaes Research Centre is Bangor University's research farm, is located in Abergwyngregyn – about seven miles from Bangor, and totals an area of 258 hectares. The land at Henfaes extends from sea-level to amongst the highest land in Snowdonia, all on one farm. This diversity allows for research into lowland agriculture as well as upland systems and, through their role as a LEAF Innovation Centre, brings crucial information on the role and development of Integrated Farm Management in livestock systems.