



## **East Lothian LEAF Farmers named Local Food Farmers of the Year**

East Lothian farmers Peter and Hilary Cochran were celebrating last night after being named Local Food Farmers of the Year at the prestigious Farmers Weekly Awards. The husband and wife team, who are also members of LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), were recognised for their passion for farming, their commitment to growing local food and the sense of community attached to their farm shop. Peter and Hilary started out selling eggs from the hens' houses in the late 1960s, before opening the farm shop in 1979. Today they sell 900 dozen eggs weekly and manage 150ha of arable tenancy which produces arable crops, potatoes and other vegetables, promote and demonstrates their commitment to environmentally responsible farming.

“On behalf of the LEAF team we would like to congratulate Peter and Hilary on their achievement” said Caroline Drummond, Chief Executive of LEAF. “They are an excellent example of all that LEAF stands for - combining traditional skills with the latest technology, ensuring that their farm is as sustainable and profitable as possible. The Cochran’s are an integral part of their local community and are really helping to build public understanding of food and farming in a number of ways, including supporting LEAF’s Open Farm Sunday.”

LEAF supports farmers in producing good food, with care and to high environmental standards, identified in-store by the LEAF Marque logo. LEAF also builds public understanding and trust of food and farming in a number of ways, including Open Farm Sunday and visits to a national network of Demonstration Farms

To find out more about the work of LEAF visit [www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org)

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For further information and images, to arrange an interview or to obtain industry comment:  
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**Editor's Notes:**

- LEAF Marque is an assurance scheme based on LEAF farming principles. It is independently inspected and certified by third party certification bodies. Farms certified as LEAF Marque can use the LEAF Marque logo on all the produce they sell, direct to the consumer or to retail outlets
- LEAF's Integrated Farm Management (IFM) 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
- The LEAF Audit is a progressive and practical whole farm business management tool, to help farmers prioritise decisions and make meaningful changes to farm practices as well as demonstrate their environmental responsibility
- The LEAF Green Box is a simple, step-by-step approach to monitoring the environment on a farm. Divided into four sections: biodiversity; soil; water and air, the Green Box helps farmers record and monitor activity on their farm
- Open Farm Sunday – taking place on 13 June 2010, Open Farm Sunday is a national flagship event when hundreds of farms open their gates to the general public. It is a great opportunity for visitors to see at first hand how farmers produce the food they eat and care for the countryside. For more information visit [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org)
- Let Nature Feed Your Senses – LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) and the Sensory Trust are working together on a flagship project to connect disengaged groups and individuals with nature and the countryside, through food and farming. The project involves sensory rich visits to farms and nature reserves across England and is part of Natural England's Access to Nature programme, which is funded by The Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme
- For more information on all LEAF's work and activities, visit [www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org)