




## LEADER Funded Projects- Wool Towns

Theme: Farm Productivity / Food Processing and Marketing / Animal Health	
	<p>Lodge Farm is based in Lindsey, Suffolk on the outskirts of Hadleigh. They grow strawberries, raspberries and blackberries and supply the East of England Co-op as well as several farm shops. They applied for a LEADER grant towards a project to create a purpose-built pack-house and workshop that will also include a kitchen area for developing new products. The new building will help the business to increase productivity and as part of the project they aim to utilise the new kitchen area to develop a new range of product.</p>
	<p>Website: <a href="http://www.suffolkfresh.co.uk">www.suffolkfresh.co.uk</a></p>
	<p>The project will create 1.1 new full time equivalent jobs</p>
	<p>The project was awarded a LEADER grant of £32,238</p>

Theme: Farm Productivity/ Food Processing and Marketing / Animal Health	
	<p>Griffin Farming applied for a grant for a direct seed drill.</p>
	<p>The direct drill reduces the disturbance to soil and the number of passes they need to do when growing crops meaning that they are able to save money on fuel and inputs enabling greater financial sustainability for the farm business.</p>
	<p>The project outputs are reductions in water use and SO2 being released into the environment through this new technique.</p>
	<p>The project was awarded a grant of £34,000.00</p>

Theme: Farm Productivity/ Food Processing and Marketing / Animal Health	
	<p>Scarff Farms have recently embarked on a diversification by turning part of their land into a vineyard.</p>
	<p>They applied for a grant towards cold air drains which are used to ensure that frost doesn't cause damage the crop. This will ensure that they are not at risk of losing a crop and help the vineyard business to thrive.</p>
	<p>The project was awarded a grant of £26,328.21</p>

Theme: Farm Productivity/ Food Processing and Marketing / Animal Health	
	<p>PH Maddever applied for a grant for a direct seed drill.</p>
	<p>The direct drill reduces the disturbance to soil and the number of passes they need to do when growing crops meaning that they are able to save money on fuel and inputs enabling greater financial sustainability for the farm business.</p>
	<p>The project outputs are reductions in water use through this new technique.</p>
	<p>The project was awarded a grant of £27,351.50</p>

## Theme: Farm Productivity/ Food Processing and Marketing / Animal Health



Rodwell Farm applied for a grant towards the purchase of heat detection collars for their herd of cows. The collars will reduce the amount of time the applicant business has to spend visually monitoring the herd for signs that they are in heat. This means that the applicant will increase their productivity and milk production and therefore improve their turnover and financial sustainability.

The project was awarded a grant of £4,120.00

## Theme: SME's & Farm Diversifications



Envirofield are an agricultural company based in Drinkstone, Suffolk, specialising in environmental and agricultural field research along with soil analysis. They were awarded a LEADER grant towards a project to install a new office, workshop and seed preparation area which will allow the business to grow and meet a demand for their services that they are currently unable to take advantage of.

*Iain Turner the managing director of Envirofield said, 'As with all small companies' investment is essential to maintain growth but resources are always a limiting factor. To be able to get some assistance towards that investment has been vital for the company. We are experiencing an increased demand for our services and we can only meet that demand by increasing the number of people we employ. The LEADER project has made that possible.'*

Website: [www.envirofield.co.uk](http://www.envirofield.co.uk)

The project will create 2 new full-time jobs

The project was awarded a LEADER grant of £38,404 (40% of total project costs of £96,012)

## Theme: SME's & Farm Diversifications



Fairfield Farm Crisps based in Wormingford, Essex, launched in 2006 and has grown into a well-known high quality crisp brand in Great Britain and increasingly overseas as they now export to 20 countries. They have won several awards including the East of England Co-operatives best producer supplier and several Great Taste awards. They successfully applied to the LEADER programme for grant for a new Batch Fryer System. This purchase will allow the business to increase its supply of crisps so that it can increase sales and its export potential. The new system is also more efficient and means they can produce more crisps using less energy. The project will also have an indirect benefit to Fairfield Farm Crisps key supplier of savoury flavours and neighbouring potato farms who supply Fairfields with the raw ingredients for the product.

Robert Strathern (Managing Partner) said: "We first looked into the LEADER programme back in early 2016. At the time, we were considering how we could fund the installation of a new larger, more efficient fryer. We needed to keep up with the growing demand for our products and we needed to invest in more production capacity. The grant funding has enabled us to bring a project to fruition that otherwise we would not have achieved. It will now enable our business grow in both sales and the number of employees we have producing our products."

Website: [www.fairfieldsfarmcrisps.co.uk](http://www.fairfieldsfarmcrisps.co.uk)

The project will create 6 new full-time jobs

The project was awarded a LEADER grant of £99,980

### Theme: Small and Medium Sized Rural Business



Sarah Hardy is a food artist based in Sible Hedingham. She applied for a LEADER grant towards her start-up business the Edible Museum. Sarah produces exceptionally high quality chocolate sculptures based on the types of insects and fossils you would see in a museum. Prior to applying for the LEADER grant, Sarah was producing her work from her home kitchen, but this was not compatible with family life and the requirements for a temperature-controlled environment. The LEADER grant has enabled her to purchase a workshop and associated fittings so that she can have dedicated space and improve her productivity. As part of her financial contribution towards the project, she ran a successful Crowdfunding campaign which generated over £10,000 worth of funding from 116 people, which not only had the benefit of providing funding but showed good evidence of demand for her products.

Website: [www.sarahhardy.co.uk](http://www.sarahhardy.co.uk)

The project will create 1 full time job

The project was awarded a LEADER grant of £10,083

### Theme: SME's & Farm Diversifications



Olivers Plant's is based in Earls Colne, Essex and they are a retail plant nursery. They applied for a grant towards a new covered structure to expand their outdoor retail area for displaying and selling plants. The project will help reduce wastage of plants and provide a better shopping experience for customers (especially in poor weather) as well as improving turnover.

Website: <https://www.oliversplants.co.uk/>

The project will create 2 new full-time jobs

The project was awarded a grant of £41,568.00

### Theme: Tourism




#### Giffords Hall

Giffords Hall Vineyard applied for a grant to refurbish a disused building and purchase additional wine making equipment. This will enable them to increase their wine production capacity and improve and grow the vineyard tours and tasting aspect of their business.

Website: <https://www.giffordshall.co.uk/>



The project will create 1 new jobs and as well as increasing day tourist visits to the site and area

The project was awarded a grant of £12,167.84

Theme: SME's & Farm Diversifications	
	<p>H S Hawes &amp; Sons run Deersbrook Farm in Shalford Green near Braintree. They applied for a grant to build and fit out a new butchery and farm shop at Deersbrook Farm.</p>
	<p>The farm currently opens for direct sales to the public 1 day a week where they sell meat and vegetable boxes. The new butchery and farm shop will enable them to open a further 3 days a week as well as butcher their own meat on site (it currently has to be butchered off site). The project will increase the turnover and profit margins of the farm improving the sustainability of the business.</p>
	<p>Website: <a href="https://www.deersbrookfarm.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html">https://www.deersbrookfarm.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html</a></p>
	<p>The project will create the equivalent of 4.44 full time jobs across a range of roles. The project was awarded a grant of £17,787.25</p>

Theme: Tourism	
<p><b>SJ Philp &amp; Sons</b> <b>Kirby Hall Holiday Accommodation</b></p>	<p><b>Kirby Hall Holiday Accommodation</b> S J Philp &amp; Sons is a farming business based at Kirby Hall in Castle Hedingham. They applied for a grant to renovate an unused building on site into a holiday let.</p>
	<p>The project will create the equivalent of 1 full time job.</p>
	<p>The project was awarded a grant of £35,000.00</p>

Theme: SME's & Farm Diversifications	
	<p>Unwin Estates is a farming business that has utilised redundant buildings to diversify with a cookery school, wine shop and accommodation now on site. Located at Baythorne Hall, Baythorne End, Halstead, they applied for a grant for a further diversification to create Baythorne Hall Café.</p>
	<p>Unwin Estates are looking to make Baythorne Hall into a “destination” and see the addition of the café as a catalyst to make this happen. The project will increase the turnover of the business and create new jobs.</p>
	<p>Website: <a href="https://www.baythornehall.co.uk/">https://www.baythornehall.co.uk/</a></p>
	<p>The project will create 4 new jobs The project was awarded a grant of £55,200.00</p>

Theme: Tourism Accommodation / Tourist Attractions / Culture & Heritage	
  	<p>Clare Castle Country Park Trust manages the running of the 32 acre Clare Castle Country Park which includes the remains of a motte and bailey castle, moats and fishponds, open green spaces and woodland containing rare flora and fauna. In addition, there is a disused Victorian station, booking hall and station-masters house. The Trust applied to LEADER for a grant towards a project to renovate the old station booking hall and provide a railway themed café which would incorporate some of the key features of the original station. As the park currently has no refreshment facilities a therefore a new café will help to improve the visitor experience to the park and the Trust hope to increase the number of visitors by at least 25% over the next 3 years.</p>
	<p>Website: <a href="http://www.clarecastlecountrypark.co.uk">www.clarecastlecountrypark.co.uk</a></p>
	<p>The project will create 2 new full time jobs</p>
	<p>The project was awarded a LEADER grant of £12,871 (40% of a total project cost of £32,177)</p>



Theme: Tourism Accommodation / Tourist Attractions / Culture & Heritage



## GREAT LODGE



LA Jordan Park Hall Settlement own and run the Great Lodge wedding venue, gardens, and vineyard business in Great Bardfield, Essex. Their wedding venue is the historic Anne of Cleves Barn. The vineyard business first started in 1989 and produces several high quality 'medal' winning wines. They applied for a LEADER grant to refurbish a disused barn into quality accommodation. Primarily this is to enable them to develop the wedding venue business as many wedding parties prefer onsite accommodation as part of their booking but it will also be available for bed and breakfast or self-catering bookings when not in use for wedding parties. The project helps the business to meet an existing demand for accommodation and it is envisaged that by having accommodation on site it will also mean increased demand for their vineyard tours. The project will create an additional 1000 overnight stays per year.

*Rebecca Jordan (Trustee) said: 'We are delighted to have been awarded a LEADER grant towards the cost of renovating a barn for holiday accommodation. We are always looking for ways to further diversify our farming business and it is great to find a new use for these wonderful old buildings. The rooms will be used by our wedding guests, but we also plan to expand our vineyard tours and wine tastings by having overnight accommodation. We are members of the East Anglian Vineyard Association who are keen to promote wine tourism in our region.'*

Website: [www.greatlodge.co.uk](http://www.greatlodge.co.uk)

The project will create 1.5 new full time jobs

The project was awarded a LEADER grant of £43,200 (40% of total project costs of £108,000)

Theme: Tourism



### Tuffon Hall Vineyard

B&J Crowther are a farming business with a vineyard. They currently sell their wines through their website, local pubs, and local events. They applied for a grant to convert a disused barn into a "cellar door" and events space. This will enable them to create a tourist attraction themed around offering vineyard tours as well as wider events. It will also enable them to sell wine on site via the "cellar door". The project will enable the business to diversify and grow their income streams.

Website: <https://tuffonhall.co.uk/>

The project will create 2 new jobs as well as increasing day tourist visits to the area.

The project was awarded a grant of £177,126.00

Theme: Tourism



### Toppesfield Vineyard

P&J Moore are a farming business with a vineyard. They applied for a grant to erect a purpose-built building to be used as a wine cellar door and event space at Toppesfield Vineyard in Essex. This will enable them to sell directly to the public increasing their profit margins. They also plan to hold regular events focused on art including local artist Michael Ayrton.

Website: <https://www.toppesfieldvineyard.co.uk/>

The project will create 1.5 new jobs and as well as increasing day tourist visits to the area.

The project was awarded a grant of £84,000.00



**Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

Suffolk Wildlife Trust is a local nature conservation charity which is responsible for looking after nearly 8000 acres of important wildlife sites.

They applied for a small grant towards the purchase of a firewood processor for their Bradfield Woods Nature Reserve to help improve the efficiency of their woodland management on the site.

Website: <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/>

The project was awarded a LEADER grant of £3,440 (40% of a total project cost of £8,600)