



LEAF Marque Glossary.

Terms highlighted in **green** are new additions to the LEAF Marque Glossary v3.0.

ADJUVANT:

Products or product mixes used to enhance the effectiveness of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) such as herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides.

AGROCHEMICAL:

A synthetic chemical compound (e.g., fertilisers, pesticides, etc.) used in agriculture as part of management practices. This differs from Plant Protection Products (PPPs) which specifically refer to pesticides of both chemical and biological compounds.

ASSESSMENT (“assessment” control points that inform management plans):

An evaluation carried out to understand a specific part of the farm business. This includes evaluating the current/recent conditions or situation on farm, potential risks, and/or resource use. Assessments are carried out to inform management plans in the LEAF Marque Standard (v17.0).

AUDIT:

A systematic and documented process for obtaining evidence and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which specified requirements are fulfilled (Source: ISEAL Alliance). In the LEAF Marque Standard, this applies to the Certification Bodies’ audit of the business.

BASELINE CERTIFICATION:

The business’ underlying agricultural certification system(s) – for example, farm assurance certification for food safety – required as the LEAF Marque

Standard is a supplementary system. A list of LEAF Marque Approved Baseline Certification Systems can be found within the LEAF Product List.

BENEFICIAL SPECIES:

Any species that provides additional benefit to the farming system, such as predation of pests, pollination of plants, and contribution towards healthy soils.

BIODIVERSITY:

The variety of plant and/or animal life. Biodiversity can refer to diversity at the genetic, species, and ecosystems level.

BUFFER STRIP:

An allocated section of land between the farmed area and targeted conservation area or waterbody that reduces the risk of impact from fertilisers and Plant Protection Products (PPPs). See also, Buffer Zone.

BUFFER ZONE:

An allocated section of land between the farmed area and targeted conservation area or waterbody that reduces the risk of impact from fertilisers and Plant Protection Products (PPPs). See also, Buffer Strip.

BUND:

A secondary containment designed to capture any leaks from a primary containment, such as a storage tank.

BUSINESS:

Refers to the legal entity in which LEAF Marque certification is applicable, including Producer Groups. “Business” refers to the farming business in

which the LEAF Marque Standard is relevant, and not separate or conjoined packing or distribution business(es).

BUSINESS RESILIENCE:

The ability of a business to adapt to disruptions, withstand changing conditions, and recover quickly from setbacks (for example from extreme weather events, supply chain challenges, or market changes).

BY-PRODUCT:

A material or product left over from farming operations that is not the main product, which can be used/repurposed as a resource (not for human consumption). Examples of by-products include husks, stalks, animal manures, etc.

CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂):

A greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere, causing global warming. CO₂ molecules absorb heat radiating from the Earth's surface and re-release it in all directions, including back towards the Earth's surface.

CARBON FOOTPRINT:

A carbon footprint is a calculated value or index that makes it possible to compare the total amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that an activity, product, company or country adds to the atmosphere directly or indirectly. Carbon footprints are usually reported in tonnes of emissions (CO₂-equivalent) per unit of comparison and represent all GHGs (in the form of their CO₂ equivalent amount) including, for example, methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and not just carbon dioxide (CO₂).

CARBON FOOTPRINTING TOOL:

A tool or method used to estimate and report the carbon footprint of a specific entity or activity, typically by calculating the GHG emissions involved.

CARBON SINK:

Natural Systems that absorb and store more carbon than carbon dioxide is emitted.

CERTIFICATION BODY:

The organisation responsible for auditing and certification decisions.

CLIMATE POSITIVE (ACTION):

Climate positive means that activity goes beyond achieving net-zero carbon emissions to create an environmental benefit by removing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE:

The capacity of a farm to anticipate, prepare for, withstand or respond to, and recover from hazardous and extreme events, trends, or disturbances related to climate, minimising their impact.

COLLABORATION:

The sharing of knowledge and resources between individuals/groups to achieve common goals and solve problems. Collaboration can also support monitoring and interpretation of data.

COLLECTIVE ACTION:

The intentional delivery of actions which support a common goal across the collaborating group.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT:

An ongoing effort to enhance processes, products, or services, often through incremental changes. Establishing objectives and finding opportunities for improvement is a continual process, based on regular review of progress and reflection on successes and challenges.

CROP ROTATION:

The practice of planting a sequence of different crops, and often cover crops, on a specific field. Crop rotations can be used to help build soil

health and fertility, reduce pest and disease pressure, and suppress weeds.

“DETRIMENTAL TO THE FARM AS A WHOLE”:

Any activity or impact that goes against LEAF’s principles, Integrated Farm Management, or the intended impacts of LEAF Marque. This also includes any activity that would bring the LEAF Marque System or farming industry into disrepute. For example, management of livestock that results in poor animal health or welfare, the use of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) in a way which negatively impacts the environment, employees or the general public, or an approach to staff welfare that does not meet international labour standards.

DIFFUSE POLLUTION:

Pollution that comes from multiple, often widespread sources (e.g., nutrient and soil runoff from fields, chemicals, bacteria, etc.), rather than a single, identifiable source.

DIRTY WATER:

Dirty water is an effluent consisting of water contaminated by manure, urine, cleaning material, crop seepage, and other waste products.

DRIFT:

The deviation of particles from their intended direction during Plant Protection Product (PPP) application due to air currents.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES:

The naturally occurring benefits from functioning ecosystems that have societal value. These include provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting services.

ENVIRONMENTALLY-SENSITIVE AREAS:

The designated areas which will safeguard and enhance areas of land that have particularly high landscape, wildlife, or historic value and where possible improve public access.

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS:

The occurrence of unexpected, intense, and increasingly persistent weather events (e.g., flooding, drought, etc.) as a result of climate change.

FARM/SITE:

Terms may be used interchangeably, but all refer to the certified entity unless specified otherwise.

FERTIGATION:

The incorporation of fertilisers into an irrigation system.

FIELD BOUNDARY:

A boundary that marks the edge of a field. Boundaries includes but are not limited to hedges, dry stone walls, ditches, grass margins, non-temporary fences, and watercourses. In addition to agricultural functions of providing shelter for livestock and crops, field boundaries can also deliver ecological functions such as habitat creation, landscape diversity, and providing a wildlife refuge/ corridor.

FOOD WASTE/FOOD SURPLUS:

Food that was intended directly for human consumption but which, for one reason or another, was diverted and ended up in one of several specific alternative destinations. The following are excluded from this definition of food waste: Non-food crops (including crops grown specifically for animal feed); Crops lost before harvest (due to diseases, pests, weather); Livestock lost (due to disease or injury) and therefore not going to make it into the food chain for human consumption.

FORAGE:

Leafy crops fresh or preserved, utilised as feed for animals.

FOSSIL WATER:

Ground water that infiltrated an aquifer thousands of years ago and which has been stored underground since that time and is subject to very low or

zero rates of modern recharge. Fossil water is a non-renewable source of water.

GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL (GWP):

A measure of how much heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere over a specific time period, relative to carbon dioxide (CO₂).

GRASS:

In the context of Integrated Farm Management, grass is typically managed as a crop. This means that a business' agricultural practices maximise the multiple benefits and roles grass can deliver when managed effectively (e.g., enhancing soil health, benefits of integrating livestock in grazing systems, biodiversity). However, there are some cases where grass is not considered to be managed as a crop, for example where the grass is being managed specifically for biodiversity (e.g., species rich grassland, conservation grazing, etc.).

GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG):

A gas that contributes to the natural greenhouse effect. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) produced by human activity include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulphur hexafluoride. The principal greenhouse gas emitted by most industries is carbon dioxide (CO₂) from fossil fuel combustion. For agricultural systems, methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) are the primary greenhouse gases emitted.

GROUND WATER:

Water that collects or flows underground in the small spaces in soil, sand, and rock (includes aquifers).

GROWING MEDIA:

Materials that support plant roots, providing physical structure and supporting the supply of water, air and nutrients for plant growth. In the LEAF Marque Standard, "growing media" typically refers to non-soil materials/substrates.

HABITAT:

The area of an environment where an organism lives, feeds, and breeds. On farm, a habitat is an area that hosts wildlife in the farm environment.

HABITAT AREA:

An area that is being actively managed for the benefit of biodiversity, such that action is taken to preserve and enhance habitats for wildlife. In the scope of the LEAF Marque Standard, habitat area includes the following types of habitats: natural habitats, semi-natural habitats that are being actively managed for wildlife and biodiversity, and wildflower habitats. For more information about how to calculate quantity of habitat area for LEAF Marque (e.g., calculating 5% or 10% habitat area), and for examples of habitats, please refer to the LEAF Marque guidance documents in the myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).

HABITAT BANKS:

These provide mid-field refuges for predatory insects and spiders during cooler periods, which then invade the crop in warmer weather to eat pest species such as aphids.

HABITAT QUALITY:

The ability of a habitat to meet the needs of species, supporting their survival, growth and reproduction. High quality habitats are in a healthy condition and can meet the needs, and support the movement of, species in the local environment.

HAY:

Grass or other plants, such as clover or alfalfa, cut and dried for fodder.

HECTARE, (HA):

A unit of area measurement. One hectare is 10,000 square metres or 2.47 acres.

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE AREA:

An area designated on the basis of High Conservation Values (HCVs) which are biological, ecological, social or cultural values considered outstandingly significant at the national, regional or global level (Source: UN Environment Programme).

IMPACT:

Disturbance, consequence, repercussion, or similar permanent effect of a human or natural cause. Impacts may be positive or negative. They may affect a natural system, the environment, an animal or plant population or individuals (environmental impacts), or human individuals or populations (social impacts).

IMPLEMENTED:

A process, procedure, or plan is carried out in order to achieve the intended result.

INTEGRATED FARM MANAGEMENT (IFM):

LEAF's IFM is a site-specific farm business approach that delivers more sustainable farming by contributing to economic performance, environmental quality and social health. It combines the best of modern technology and traditional methods and is split into nine sections which together addresses the entire farm business.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM):

A strategy of pest management that focuses on long-term prevention of pests and/or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Plant Protection Products (PPPs) are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimises risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment. IPM aims to make conditions less

favourable for pest development and is included within Integrated Farm Management.

INVASIVE SPECIES:

A non-native species that has negative impacts on an ecosystem. Invasive species cause environmental, economic, or social harm by outcompeting native species, damaging habitats, and disrupting ecosystem services.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE:

The sharing of knowledge and best practices to improve sustainable farming.

LANDSCAPE:

The visible features of an area of land, including physical elements such as landforms, living elements such as flora and fauna, abstract elements such as lighting and weather conditions, and human elements, for instance human activity or the constructed environment.

LEAF SUSTAINABLE FARMING REVIEW (LSFR):

An online self-assessment management tool provided by LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) that is designed to help farmers monitor and improve their environmental performance and sustainability.

LEGAL ENTITY:

A legal entity refers to a business, partnership, organisation, or individual that has legal responsibility for the production processes and has the capacity to enter into contracts and be held responsible for its actions. In instances where a business works in partnership with another business, the legal entity can refer to the combination of these if stated in the legal entity name, for example, 'Farm A incorporating Farm B'. For LEAF Producer Groups, the legal entity signifies the operator of the Quality Management System.

LIKELIHOOD:

A measure of the probability that a specific event, such as a pollution incident or extreme weather, will occur.

LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY, VARIETIES RELEVANT TO:

Selection of varieties to consider factors such as (but not limited to); resistance to pests, weeds, and disease; present and future climatic variability; competition with weeds.

MANAGEMENT PLAN:

In the LEAF Marque Standard, it is a documented plan to manage an area of the farm business more sustainably. Management plans identify the targets and strategies the business implements to improve/maintain its sustainability overtime. Regular review and updating of management plans can support continuous improvement.

MEADOW:

Typically refers to a grass field for mowing for hay or silage. However, wildflower meadows are managed for biodiversity.

MEASURE:

A specific strategy to assess the size, amount, or degree of a factor, or a single assessment of a factor.

METHANE (CH₄):

A greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming by trapping heat in the atmosphere. CH₄ is the second most important greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide, in terms of its Global Warming Potential.

MITIGATION:

Actions or programs intended to offset known impacts to an existing natural resource, human being, or community.

MONITORING:

The systematic observation of changes or impacts to the environment and/or production system.

MULCHING:

The practice of spreading organic materials—such as straw, compost, or wood chips—over otherwise bare soil between and among crop plants. It can enable moisture conservation, weed suppression and increased soil organic matter.

NATIVE SPECIES:

Those species that occur naturally in the place where they are found. For the purpose of the LEAF Marque Standard, naturalised species – exotic species that have adapted and grow and multiply as if they are native – are also considered as native if it is proven that they do not cause negative economic or environmental impacts.

NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS:

An ecosystem that substantially resembles – in terms of species composition, structure, and ecological function – one that is or would be found in a given area in the absence of major human impacts. This includes human-managed ecosystems where much of the natural species' composition, structure, and ecological function are present. See [Accountability Framework](#).

NATURAL FORESTS:

A forest that is a natural ecosystem. Natural forests possess many or most of the characteristics of a forest native to the given site, including species composition, structure, and ecological function. Natural forests include: Primary Forests, Regenerated (second-growth) Forests, Managed Natural Forests, and Partially Degraded Forests. It also includes Tree Plantations: A forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding that lacks key elements of a natural forest native to the area, such as species composition and structural diversity. See [Accountability Framework](#).

NATURAL RESOURCES:

A feature or component of the natural environment that is of value in serving human needs (e.g., soil, water, plant life, wildlife, etc). Some natural resources have an economic value (e.g., timber) while others have a "non-economic" value (e.g., scenic beauty). (Source: UNUN <http://www.eionet.europa.eu>).

NITROUS OXIDE (N₂O):

A greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change and ozone depletion. N₂O traps infrared radiation that's reflected back from the Earth's surface, causing the atmosphere to warm. N₂O persists in the atmosphere, remaining in the atmosphere for over a century and it is also a strong ozone depleting substance.

NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY:

Energy sources that exist in finite quantities and cannot be naturally replenished or regenerated (e.g., fossil fuels).

PASTURE:

Grassland harvested by the grazing of livestock.

PEAT:

Partially decayed plant material that accumulates under water-logged conditions over long time periods. Natural areas covered by peat are called peatlands. (Source: [Global Peatlands Initiative](#)).

PEATLAND:

Natural areas covered by peat are called peatlands. Terms commonly used for specific peatland types are peat swamp forests, fens, bogs or mires. Peat is found around the world – in permafrost regions towards the poles and at high altitudes, in coastal areas, beneath tropical rainforest and in boreal forests. Peatlands store large amounts of carbon. (Source: [Global Peatlands Initiative](#)).

PERMANENT PASTURE:

Any land dominated by grasses or herbaceous forage that can be grazed and has not been included in the crop rotation of a holding for five years or more.

POINT SOURCE POLLUTION:

Pollution arising from a single, identifiable and localised source, for example a pipe discharging waste into a river.

POLLUTION:

The introduction of harmful substances or products into the environment, resulting in deleterious effects of such a nature as to endanger human health, harm living resources and ecosystems, and impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment (Source: European Environment Agency).

POTABLE WATER:

Water that is safe to drink or to use for food preparation, without risk of health problems.

PROCEDURE:

Specified way to carry out an activity or a process (Source: ISEAL Alliance).

PROGRAMME:

A planned course of action with a detailed and explicit set of directions for accomplishing a purpose.

PROTECTED AREA:

A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values (Source: IUCN)

PROTECTED CROPPING:

LEAF Marque Protected Cropping refers to structures covered in either glass or plastic in which crop growing conditions are manipulated to enhance production capabilities. Mushroom production or vertical farming systems are also defined as Protected Cropping, even if the structure is not made from glass or plastic. Protected Cropping in the LEAF Marque System does not include shade-houses or other temporary covers such as fleece or netting.

REGENERATIVE SOIL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

Soil management techniques that help restore degraded soils and build soil health, for example, by increasing soil organic matter, minimising soil disturbance, minimising bare ground and maintaining living roots in the soil.

RENEWABLE ENERGY:

Energy sources that do not rely on fuels of which there are only finite stocks. The most widely used renewable source is hydroelectric power; other renewable sources are biomass energy, solar energy, tidal energy, wave energy, and wind energy (Source: [EEA multilingual environmental glossary](#)).

RESISTANCE:

Fundamental ability of an organism to avert the attack of a potential pathogen up to a certain degree or to resist the effect of a harmful agent.

ROOT ZONE ENVIRONMENT:

The area surrounding the roots of a plant, for example the medium that the plant is grown in that surrounds the roots. The root zone plays a critical role in absorbing water and nutrients.

SEQUESTRATION:

Removing GHG emissions from the atmosphere by capturing and retaining greenhouse gases (e.g., carbon dioxide) in soils and biomass on-farm, with the aim of storing the GHGs for the long-term/permanently.

SEVERITY:

An assessment of the seriousness or impact of an event or risk, such as the damage caused by flooding or pollution.

SILAGE:

Preservation method of grass or other green fodder for use as cattle and sheep winter feed.

SITE-SPECIFIC:

The implementation of Integrated Farm Management depends on the context of a business (i.e., geographical, environmental, economic, cultural factors), such that businesses implement approaches appropriate to their context, enabling the relevance of LEAF Marque to all enterprises and countries. The LEAF Marque Standard facilitates a site-specific approach by being plan-based, wherein businesses define the relevant practices they will implement to meet the requirements of the Standard.

SLUMPING:

Movement of soil and rock downslope as a single mass.

SLURRY:

A semi-liquid mixture where water is mixed with small solid particles, typically manure.

SOIL DEGRADATION:

A change in the soil health status resulting in a diminished capacity of the ecosystem to provide goods and services for its beneficiaries. Degraded soils have a health status such, that they do not provide the normal goods and services of the particular soil in its ecosystem (Source: FAO, 2024).

SOIL EROSION:

The removal or displacement of soil caused by the movement of water or wind. Severe erosion implies the removal of the entire plough layer or "A" horizon (topsoil) of the soil.

SOIL FERTILITY:

The capacity of the soil to provide plants with all essential nutrients required to support plant growth.

SOIL HEALTH:

The capacity of soil to function as a living system, with ecosystem and land use boundaries, to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and promote plant and animal health. Healthy soils maintain a diverse community of soil organisms that help to control plant disease, insect and weed pests, form beneficial symbiotic associations with plant roots; recycle essential plant nutrients; improve soil structure with positive repercussions for soil water and nutrient holding capacity, and ultimately improve crop production (FAO, 2008). Soil Health is inclusive of Soil Quality.

SOIL ORGANIC MATTER (SOM):

Soil organic matter has three parts: living organisms, fresh residues, and well-decomposed residues. Fresh residues are a primary source of food for living organisms. Decomposition of fresh residues releases nutrients needed by plants. Well-decomposed matter, also called "humus," holds on to some nutrients, storing them for slow release to plants.

SOIL ORGANIC CARBON (SOC):

The main component of Soil Organic Matter, primarily made up of dead and decaying organic matter (e.g., leaf litter, root remnants, decaying soil organisms).

SOIL SALINISATION:

The accumulation of water-soluble salts or their ions in the soil above a threshold of toxicity (Source: FAO, 2019).

STAFF:

All individuals employed by the business/ organisation, including but not limited to: managers, contractors, administrators, and assistants.

STATUTORY LANDSCAPE DESIGNATION:

Protected areas of land, allocated by government, that aim to conserve and enhance the natural landscape and ecosystem.

STRATEGIES:

In the LEAF Marque Standard, strategies are the practices and actions that the business implements to manage their enterprises / land / environment / resources more sustainably. Strategies are implemented to help achieve sustainability targets identified in management plans.

SUBSTRATE:

Growing media, either solid or liquid, for crops. Predominantly used in covered cropping systems. In the LEAF Marque Standard, "substrate" typically refers to non-soil materials/growing media.

SURFACE WATER:

Water that is on the Earth's surface, such as in a stream, ditch, river, lake, reservoir, or ocean.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:

A method of agriculture that is economically viable, socially responsible, and ecologically sound. The economic, social, and ecological aspects are all interrelated and essential to sustainability - a system capable of maintaining productivity indefinitely.

TARGET:

A desired outcome that the business aims to achieve over time. In the LEAF Marque Standard, targets represent the sustainability goals of the business. Targets are proportionate to the context of the business, such

that they facilitate continuous improvement in a way that is feasible for the business. The business implements strategies to help achieve sustainability targets identified in their management plans.

THIRD PARTY VERIFIED:

Process by which a producer's conformity with the Certification System Standard (LEAF Marque Standard) is confirmed by a LEAF Marque approved Certification Body following an independent audit.

THRESHOLDS IN INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT:

The level of infestation or pest attack at which the benefits received (for example, in terms of yield or crops saved) cover the cost of the treatment or application.

TRACE ELEMENT:

A chemical element that is required in very small amounts to support normal growth and development.

VISUAL SOIL ASSESSMENT:

A method of measuring soil health that involves measuring soil structure and porosity.

WASTE:

Waste is an unwanted or undesired material or substance. It is also referred to as rubbish, trash, garbage, or junk depending upon the type of

material and the regional terminology. Most waste is comprised of paper, plastic, metals, glass, organic material, faeces, and wood.

WATERBODY:

A body of surface water, such as a river, stream, pond, lake, sea, ocean, etc.

WHOLE FARM APPROACH:

A comprehensive approach to farm decision-making that considers the entire farm and all its resources, including all aspects of production, land use, and environmental impact. It recognises that nothing in farming acts in isolation, and entails managing the farm as an integrated system. A whole-farm approach enables businesses to achieve their goals, whilst enhancing natural resources, enriching the environment and engaging communities. Integrated Farm Management applies a whole-farm approach to deliver more sustainable farming.

WASTEWATER:

Water from farming activities, including runoff, irrigation and livestock effluent, that contain nutrients, chemicals, or pathogens which require management before reuse and/or disposal.

WATER CATCHMENT / WATER SHED:

An area of land where all rainfall and runoff collect into a common water body, such as a river, lake, or groundwater system, playing a crucial role in water management and ecosystem health.

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