



The Campaign for the Farmed Environment is encouraging farmers and land managers to voluntarily adopt land management practices that will retain and exceed the environmental benefits that used to be provided by set-aside. There is a range of voluntary management measures or ELS options that you can adopt on your farm to benefit the environment, whilst at the same time being agronomically practical

**Name:** J & V Casey and Son Limited

**Region:** East Midlands

**Farm:** Willow Farm, Dogdyke, New York,  
Lincolnshire.  
Situated on the edge of the West Fen under  
the flight path of RAF Coningsby.

**Size:** 148 =Ha with additional land hired annually

## Background

The Casey Family has farmed at Willow Farm since 1970, purchasing Chestnut Farm and the Roanes Farm in the interim years. Originally the farming was dairy, beef and arable but now the whole farm is wholly arable. Sugar beet, cereals and some potatoes are grown but the main focus of the farm is growing leeks. In 1991 when we began growing leeks we grew six acres and now some 160 acres are grown annually.

The farm has 4 generations living on it. It employs 6 permanent staff and has its own pack house which employs some 25-30 seasonal staff. The 'season' runs from the beginning of August to May, with leeks being in the ground all year round. When the decision was taken to grow Leeks in 1991, Mervyn and Marilyn Casey knew that their commitment had to be in producing a top quality product and the emphasis is still the same today. In 1999 they were finalists in the Hallmark Vegetable Grower of the Year competition. The company regularly hosts trial sites and visits from home and abroad.

The **soil type** is mainly sandy loam. Most of the land has irrigation available to it.

### **What voluntary management do you already undertake on your farm?**

Eight acres of grassland in permanent pasture.  
Cover strips for game birds.  
Over winter stubbles.  
Five acres of woodland.  
The maintenance of 1Ha of low lying wet land.

### **How will you be/are you taking part in the Campaign?**

The farm has always farmed responsibly, following good farming practice & using voluntary initiatives. It will soon be joining the ELS and becoming a 'CFE Beacon Farm'.

### **Will you be using an adviser?**

We already use agronomists on all our crops but we will also use FWAG at a local level.

### **What are the benefits of taking part in the Campaign?**

One of the main incentives is to encourage the wider farming community to introduce voluntary measures on their farms and to create a greater awareness amongst the general public of the good farming practices taking place nationwide. This in the hope that voluntary measures will prevent regulatory ones.

### **How does undertaking voluntary management fit in with your farming business?**

The Company has always followed the good farming practises of I.C.M. and I.P.M. Being annually accredited for Assured Produce in Combinable crops, Sugar Beet, Potatoes and Leeks, Nature's Choice in Leeks, and Leaf Marque means we already balance the needs and interests of many bodies. This will be an extension of what we already do.

The challenge for us will be in preparing to host visits to the farm by our farming colleagues in the 'Beacon Farm' initiative and promoting even more the good practices already taking place in Great British farming.

### **What is driving you to take part in the Campaign?**

To spread the message that it is possible to farm in an environmentally sensitive way, lead by example and hopefully prevent practices being imposed which cause farming to suffer even more financial and unpractical penalties.

Finally we hope to learn something from the experience.