



ISSUE 16

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE LEP FOOD SECURITY

18 February 2021

FOOD ENTERPRISE ZONE LAUNCH

On 17th March 2021, the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone will be soft-launched in a keynote webinar by Judith Batchelor, Head of Brand at Sainsbury's.

To register and engage in this ground-breaking opportunity, [CLICK HERE](#).

Sector Progress & Highlights

Please click on a link below to take you directly to the stories for quicker review.

- [GL Food Sector in News](#)
- [Workplace Testing Progress](#)
- [LIAT Skills Boost](#)
- [Great Taste Awards](#)
- [Manufacturing Tech Centre](#)
- [Barclays Eagle Farm Lab](#)
- [LCC New Grant Funds Open](#)
- [DEFRA Export Reports](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)
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Click [here](#) to view the LEP e-newsletter review of 2020, and [here](#) to register to receive updates.

Hot off the Press! Greater Lincolnshire Quarterly Economic Briefing. [Click](#) to view.

Greater Lincolnshire Food Sector in the News

- **ROBOTICS, AI AND THE FUTURE OF FOOD.** This Food Navigator [article](#) features interviews with Jake Norman of OAL whose robot development team are based at NCFM Holbeach.
- **LINCOLNSHIRE TO LEAD THE WAY ON AGRICULTURAL ROBOTICS.** Over 135

delegates attended a webinar hosted by Business Insider in January to debate the way that automation and new technology is impacting the food chain. A report on the event and link to a recording is available [here](#).

THE UK FOOD SECTOR IS GREATER IN LINCOLNSHIRE

**WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2021
12:00 - 13:00**
A KEYNOTE WEBINAR FOR THE UK FOOD SECTOR

Judith Batchelor
Head of Brand,
Sainsbury's

Hear from special guest Judith Batchelor OBE, Director of Sainsbury's Brand along with the most influential voices in the UK food sector as they discuss

MORE SPEAKERS TO BE ANNOUNCED

- The growth of the UK Food Valley
- The future of agri-tech
- The unrivalled opportunities that the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone is delivering for investment, development and collaboration

REGISTER NOW >

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SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE FOOD ENTERPRISE ZONE

Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL
Marking for a better future

Greater Lincolnshire

TEAM LINCOLNSHIRE

South Holland District Council

UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

Workplace Testing Progress and Testimonials

Government announced last week that Institutional Testing was being expanded to offer on-site testing to businesses with over a workforce of 50 staff. Find out more [here](#).

Workplace testing: Identifying asymptomatic cases to break chains of infection and keep people working

NHS
Test and Trace

Scaling asymptomatic testing by employers is one pillar of the overall approach to testing and managing the pandemic. Workers can access testing that is tailored to their situation as follows:

- 1 Community based testing**
 - Community testing is led by local authorities (LAs)
 - Asymptomatic is being scaled for small businesses, where workers cannot work from home
 - Fixed and/or mobile sites are available depending on your LA, for businesses with under 50 employees
- 2 Institutional testing**
 - Over 90 companies currently running 244 asymptomatic test sites to test their workforce
 - Over 8,000 more businesses have signed up to join
 - LFD tests currently funded and provided by NHS T&T (to end March)
- 3 Home-collect testing**
 - Where Asymptomatic Testing Sites (ATS) are not practical and community testing is not available, we are building new approaches to testing
 - Pilots are currently underway before the offer is assessed and potentially scaled


<50 Employees

>50 Employees

In pilot phase

Workplace pilots reduce outbreaks and staff absence


NHS
Test and Trace



Andrew Murphy, Group Operations Director, said "Bosses had seen **lower absence, lower cases, lower spread**. That feels really exciting, if you think about what lateral flow tests ... could do for the country at scale."

Other key benefits:


- 45,700 tests with employees
- Saved 6,643 working days for 2,286 staff members



Daily swabs saved **'hundreds of thousands of pounds'** and avoided five potential stops in production at its steelworks in Port Talbot, South Wales.

Other key benefits:

- 5,627 checks and around 12,500 work hours have been saved.



Greg Jackson, CEO and founder of Octopus Energy, said "We started testing in December and it was **so well received by our staff** that we're continuing it this year."

- Though testing is voluntary, 'almost 100 per cent' of staff use the testing facilities'.

Lincolnshire Institute of Technology (IoT) brings major skills boost for Greater Lincolnshire's key Sectors and welcomes Chief Operating Officer

The Lincolnshire Institute of Technology is a unique collaboration between the University of Lincoln, employers and Further Education providers across Greater Lincolnshire. Created through a Government led competition, the Lincolnshire IoT has enjoyed £13 million of capital investment to enhance

facilities to meet the higher-level scientific and technical skills needs of Lincolnshire's key sectors of which the Agricultural and Food sector is clearly a priority.

State-of-the-art amenities for developing skills in Agri-food and digital technologies, advanced engineering and manufacturing are being created at the University's National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM), Bishop Burton, Boston, Grantham, Lincoln, North Lindsey, and Grimsby Colleges. In parallel, new courses are being designed with employers to develop essential skills and provide the experience needed by over 3,000 students to access a range of high-quality technical careers with local employers. Major businesses at the helm of the Lincolnshire IoT include, Bakkavor, OAL and Siemens.

Investment from the IoT and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership will see a new Digital Food Manufacturing Technologies Centre established on the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone complementing a £7M investment in a flagship Centre of Excellence in Agri-food Technologies which will open to support research, innovation and skills in March 2021.

Professor Val Braybrooks, Dean at the University's National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM) of which the new centre will be a part of said: *"The Centre will address the growing demand for digital innovation and technology adoption to deliver cost savings and access to new markets for businesses across the food supply chain. As the IoT lead, the University's role is to ensure that teaching is informed by the latest thinking and with UK and internationally leading experts residing in NCFM and the Lincoln Institute of Agri-food Technology, the University is very well positioned to achieve this for the Agri-food Sector and support the wider adoption of digital technologies across the IoT."*

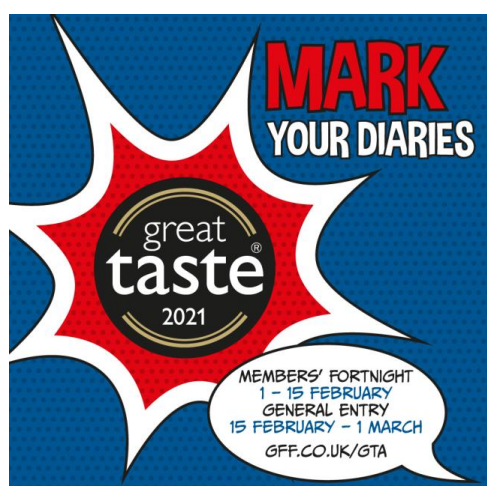
At Bishop Burton's Riseholme Showground campus on the outskirts of Lincoln, work is underway to build a new training facility focused on advancing precision agriculture, complementing the £30M investment in the site which has already been made to create a leading College for the Agri-food sector.

Bill Meredith, Chief Executive and Principal said: "Precision farming systems have the potential to revolutionise UK agriculture, improving the efficiency of production and reducing its environmental impact. The Lincolnshire IoT will develop the skills required to harness the power of digital technologies and big data to meet precisely the husbandry requirements of crops and livestock."

The Lincolnshire IoT has recently welcomed Simon Plummer as Chief Operating Officer. Simon has a distinguished background in educational leadership including overseeing school to academy transition and the development of new colleges in the Middle East and China. Simon joins the Lincolnshire IoT having spent the last six years working across the Middle East for British and Canadian educational institutions.

Simon Plummer, Chief Operating Officer, Lincolnshire Institute of Technology said: *"Whereas the Institutes of Technology are an exciting initiative for the whole of England, its relevance to Lincolnshire is particularly timely. With increased affinity between the "natural" industries of the county, such as food manufacturing and energy, and central Government agenda, the county is well-placed to ensure that students and employers are best prepared for the future economy."*

Great Taste Awards 2021



Great Taste - the world's largest award scheme for food & drink producers opened for entries on 15th February next month. General entry dates are:

- 15 Feb 2021/ noon - general entry opens
- 1 Mar 2021/ noon - entry closes

Anyone thinking about entering a product into the awards this year is encouraged to apply quickly as the entry is capped at 12,500 products maximum and the entry form will close when this cap is reached.

Great Taste is widely acknowledged as the most respected food accreditation scheme for artisan and speciality food producers and a record breaking 12,777 different products were entered in 2020. Entries were sent in from 106 different countries, including Estonia, Greece, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Madagascar, the Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, the USA and Vietnam. Of the products entered: 3,818 were awarded 1-star; 1,294 were awarded 2-star; 205 were awarded 3-star. More information is available at www.greattasteawards.co.uk and any queries or help regarding your Great Taste entry, please email the team here

Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) Made Smarter Smart Factory Innovation Hub

The [Smart Factory innovation hub](#) enables businesses to test the latest digital manufacturing solutions in a broad range of applications, before investment. MTC are looking for businesses of all sizes which are eager to embrace the power of digital technologies including in the food and drink sector. MTC works closely with NCFM at Holbeach and LIAT at the University of Lincoln.

Barclays Eagle Farm Lab at Riseholme Welcomes First Resident Member

Eagle Labs Farm, based at the Riseholme campus in Lincoln, opened its doors in Autumn 2020 and is a partnership with The University of Lincoln and is a dedicated co-working and business incubator for agricultural technology (AgriTech) businesses. The Farm provides AgriTech entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers with access to cutting-edge resources that include a dedicated robotics lab, a demonstration pack-house and a model refrigerated supermarket aisle, for members to develop, prototype and test their products. Lab members also benefit from support a dedicated Ecosystem Manager, access to Barclays' banking services, business expertise, mentoring and coaching and a year-round events programme.

Eagle Labs Farm welcomed its first resident member in December 2020, Terravesta are specialists in Miscanthus grass, which can improve soils, store carbon, increase biodiversity, and provide a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels. The company works with growers in the UK and internationally, linking them with rapidly growing markets and the Eagle Labs team was delighted to welcome them and will work closely with them to help them grow their business.

In January 2021, Eagle Labs partnered with the University of Lincoln to launch a 10-week virtual accelerator designed to help early-stage AgriTech businesses in order to drive innovation in UK's agricultural sector. This fully funded, 10-week accelerator will include a series of half-day workshops that focus on business skills, developing business models, financing and planning a route to market.

Barclays recently carried out some research on Artificial Intelligence in AgriTech and released the findings in January, providing insight into unlocking opportunities for productivity, profitability and sustainability that are fundamental to securing the UK agricultural sector's future. Access a copy of the report [here](#)

Find out more about the Eagle Labs Farm in Lincoln [here](#).

Lincolnshire County Council's New Grant Funds Open Next Week

LCC's four new grant funds for small businesses have been published, including the Business Recovery Fund which will be the first to open for applications next week. This fund is available to those small businesses that have been directly impacted being unable to fully trade, and have not benefited from the other government's Covid-19 support schemes. For more details on the grant schemes visit [here](#).

The four grant schemes launched will be:

1. **Business Recovery Fund** - for small businesses who have not been able to access any of the government grants to date
 - LAUNCHES for applications from noon 23 February 2021 until 11.59pm on 25th Feb
 - Application criteria now available.

2. **Digital Voucher Fund** - supporting businesses in improving digitisation
 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST window will be open between 8 March 2021 and 12 March 2021
 - Application criteria published 1 March.
3. **Invest for the Future Grant** -to contribute towards business expansion
 - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST window will be open between 15th March - 26th March
 - Application criteria published 8 March.
4. **Rural business grant** -for businesses and organisations with projects specifically in rural areas
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST window will be open between 8 March 2021 and 17 March 2021.
Application criteria published 1 March.

Export reports - DEFRA Reports on Food Export Potential in India, USA and the Gulf Region

DEFRA with the Food and Drink Sector Council's Exports Working Group identified a lack of good-quality market intelligence and insight as a barrier to UK food and drink exports and last year commissioned Promar International to conduct in-depth market research in China, India, USA and UAE (identified as key markets by industry) and produce market intelligence reports for publication.

The China research was not able to be conducted before the pandemic, but the other three reports were released on 4th February. The detailed content of the reports will be covered in webinars hosted by Promar International, and dates for these webinars will be set once the initial post-transition period activity concludes. The reports are all available [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

List of funding opportunities in Agri-tech

If you are working in agriculture, farming or food production then these funds may help. The agri-tech research teams at the University of Lincoln are expert at working with industry to build practical solutions to productivity, transportation and growing challenges for food and farming. If you have a process, resource or technology challenge inside your farm or food business, then please do get in touch: LAR@lincoln.ac.uk or for Innovate UK enquiries at the University of Lincoln, JBootmarshall@lincoln.ac.uk

Secure a grant from DIT's Internationalisation Fund

The Department for International Trade has now launched its new European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) for eligible East Midlands businesses. Match-funded grants of between £1,000 and £9,000 are available for future activity (subject to eligibility and availability) to support work to develop new overseas markets.

To secure a grant, you will need to fund a proportion of your costs yourself. This varies according to where your business is based and will be either 40 or 50% of the total cost. East Midlands businesses looking for support can find out more [here](#).

The fund can be used to support areas including (but not exclusively limited to):

- Market research
- IP advice
- Translation services
- International social media/SEO
- Trade fairs - where no TAP funding is available
- Independent market visits
- Consultancy and other international commercial services

Agritech accelerator programme University of Lincoln and Barclays Eagle Labs

A new 10-week virtual accelerator designed to help early stage agricultural technology businesses to drive innovation in the UK's agriculture sector is being launched in Lincolnshire. The programme is open to entrepreneurs in the AgriTech sector with a promising business plan or early stage (0-3 years) AgriTech businesses with the desire to grow. The fully funded, 10-week virtual accelerator has been launched by the University of Lincoln, UK, in partnership with Barclays Eagle Labs. It will include a series of half-day workshops focused on business skills, including developing a business model, financing a business and planning a route to market.

In addition, each individual business will have access to tailored support and resources via a specialist mentor and a series of unique master classes tailored to the start-up's needs. Topics could range from selling to farmers and working with partners to developing new technology and artificial intelligence in farming. For more information and to apply [click here](#)

Knowledge Transfer Partnership

The [Knowledge Transfer Partnership \(KTP\)](#) scheme helps businesses in the UK to innovate and grow and does this by linking them with an academic or research organisation and a graduate. A KTP enables a business to bring in new skills and the latest academic thinking to deliver a specific, strategic innovation project through a knowledge-based partnership. For more information [click here](#)

The Productivity Programme for Greater Lincolnshire

The Productivity Programme, delivered by the University of Lincoln and funded by the European Regional Development Fund, is designed to enable micro, small and medium businesses to do things differently through grant funding, business support and collaboration with the academic capacity of the University. To find out more, please head to the Productivity Programme website [here](#).

Innovate UK Smart Grants (Opens January 2021)

Opportunity for UK registered organisations to apply for a share of up to £25 million from Innovate UK to deliver game-changing and commercially viable R&D innovation that can significantly impact the UK economy. Applications can come from any area of technology and be applied to any part of the economy, such as, but not exclusively:

- the arts, design and media
- creative industries
- science or engineering'

For more information, [click here](#)

New £10 million fund to boost investment in nature projects

The launch of the new £10 million [Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund](#) will provide grants of up to £100,000 to environmental groups, local authorities, businesses and other organisations to help them develop nature projects in England which both provide environmental benefits and attract private investment.

Post Brexit

Latest Announcement

Agreement reached between the UK /Northern Ireland and the EU

As part of an analytical review of the figures describing the TCA fisheries outcomes, a small number of changes have been made to the summary explainer, to ensure that the estimated value of the UK's negotiated quota uplift is described as clearly as possible. Click [here](#) for more information.

Update for businesses moving goods to the EU

- Businesses must declare any goods sent to the EU, providing details about the consignment and what it's worth, using a customs declaration form. Businesses can get a [customs intermediary](#) to help do this.
- [An Export Health Certificate \(EHC\)](#) is needed to export food or drink that contains products of animal origin such as meat, dairy or eggs.
- DEFRA is hosting a series of webinars covering importing food and drink, including composite food and fishery products from the EU to Great Britain (GB) from 1 April 2021. For more information and to register for relevant webinars, click [here](#).
- Webinars for businesses that trade with the EU. Click [here](#) to view a list of webinars you can sign up to watch live or on demand.

Support for exporters

- The Department for International Trade's Check [How to Export Goods](#) online tool, provides information on the UK border, and duties and customs procedures for over 160 markets around the world.
- [VAT guidance](#) has information on the conditions for zero rating VAT on the goods exported, and how to export goods in specific circumstances.
- Register at the free [Trader Support Service](#) for moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- An [online guidance package](#) developed by DEFRA with HMRC to guide fish exporters through each step of the export journey. There's a range of information and support available to ensure the new rules including the [MMO One Stop Shop](#) are followed.
- HMRC's Customs & International Trade Helpline at **0300 322 9434** is open from 8am to 10pm Monday to Friday and from 8am to 4pm at weekends. Or can send HMRC your questions or use their webchat service [here](#).

Next Edition

If you have relevant news or information which you would like to be included, please let us know by sending an email to: kate.storey@lincolnshire.gov.uk To be added to the LRF economic & business updates distribution list click [here](#).

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP continues to work closely with businesses, facilitators, and government to address the impact of Covid19 on the food chain and support the food sector to continue feeding the nation and to plan the recovery phase and interventions. Please follow the latest updates on our website www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk and follow us on [@GreaterLincsLEP](#) and through [LinkedIn](#)

Covid-19

- Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) for continued support to your business
- View the Government Covid-secure guidance by sector [here](#)
- Click [here](#) if you can provide Covid-19 testing capacity
- Feed business impacts into [Business Intelligence](#)