



## ISSUE 17 GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE LEP FOOD SECURITY

9 April 2021

### SECTOR PROGRESS & HIGHLIGHTS

Please click on a link below to discover our most recent sector updates.

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### Greater Lincolnshire LEP newsletter - Ports & Connectivity

The March LEP e-newsletter shines a spotlight on [Ports & Connectivity](#) together with commentary [here](#). The introductory blog by new LEP Director Simon Bird, Director of ABP Ports (Humber), introduces the Freeport success and is accompanied by a short promotional vlog, available [here](#). Join us on [@GreaterLincolnLEP](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to be the first to see key updates, snapshot news and information. Click [here](#) to register.

### South Lincolnshire FEZ launch event March 2021

The webinar launch of the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) on 17<sup>th</sup> March attracted 300 participants to hear the opportunities opening at the FEZ and across the wider food cluster.

The launch highlighted the University of Lincoln receiving the keys to the brand new Centre of Excellence (below), which is the first building on the FEZ. Work is also now starting on both the Institute of Technology (IoT) which will open later in 2021 and the FEZ Hub building, due to open in early 2022. The IoT will focus on recruiting and training the next generation of food sector engineers and technicians, and the FEZ Hub will host start-up and food sector SMEs in a series of offices and workshops.

A recording of this event is now available to [watch on demand](#).



Contact [t Downing@pygott-crone.com](mailto:t Downing@pygott-crone.com) to arrange your meeting today.

## National Report on Data Trust in the Food Chain led by University of Lincoln

The study, 'Food Data Trust: A Framework for Information Sharing', released on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021, was produced by Internet of Food Things Network Plus and led by the University of Lincoln, to examine innovation in the burgeoning technology of 'data trusts', which have been described by technology experts as 'a glimpse into our collective future' in the secure and effective use of big data.

For further information please see: [Food Data Trust: A framework for information sharing | Food Standards Agency](#)

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## INDUSTRY NEWS AND PROJECTS

### 850 Group sold to Sofina Foods

The 850 Group, which includes Greater Lincolnshire-based Youngs Seafood, Karro Food Group, and five other protein business across Europe, has been acquired by Sofina Foods of Canada. The 850 Group has sales of £2bn per year and employs 8,300 people across 23 sites. As part of the now enlarged Sofina Foods business, the new combined business will have a turnover of nearly \$6billion and 13,000 employees globally. A press release from 850 Group is available [here](#).

### Floralinc

Floralinc, a trading division of Freshlinc, offers an exciting new initiative providing temperature-controlled logistics solutions to horticulture and produce industries in the Europe and UK, working with growers and distributors based in the UK and the

Netherlands, supplying directly to garden centres, nurseries, and retailers.

Floralinc's European operation exports raw materials from Europe to the UK for use by packers and manufacturers, utilising the Spalding Freshlinc hub for onward consolidation. With the fully accredited Border Control Post (BCP) and External Storage Facility (ESF) at the Spalding Freshlinc site, they are now working towards a BCP and ESF directly at the Floralinc site, which will be operational from July.



### Worldwide Fruit - SoftRipe

Worldwide Fruit have invested in the award-winning innovation Softripe System, which revolutionises the ripening process by 'communicating' with the physiological state of the fruit to ensure optimal conditions are met, preventing stress and excess use of gases. The development of the new Softripe System has been spearheaded by Neal Collishaw, Operations Director at Worldwide Fruit and member of the Greater Lincolnshire Food Board.

### Business Awards Wins for Food Cluster Companies

March has seen two local food chain companies honoured for their work in the food chain:

- **Worldwide Fruit** won the Lincolnshire Business of the Year Award and the Food & Farming Award at the Lincolnshire Business Awards on 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- Food chain logistics company **Fowler Welch** won Best Practice in Logistics for the third time at the Waste2Zero awards run by Foodservice Footprint, which recognise excellence in reducing the environmental impact of the food chain.

### Dyson Farming Glasshouses Harvest First Crop

In late March 2021, Dyson Farming picked the first crops of fruit from their new 15-acre glasshouse unit at Carrington, near Boston. This unit supports the delivery of high-tech, sustainable farming, replacing imported strawberries. With energy from Dyson Farming's adjacent anaerobic digester, the glasshouse houses 700,000 strawberry plants and will produce 750 tonnes of strawberries each year. The University

of Lincoln worked with the Dyson team on energy and robotics systems as part of the design of this world-leading development. For more information click [here](#).

### **Cropdesk launch Seasonaljobs for recruiting seasonal fresh produce workers**

Cropdesk is a software company focussing on the global fresh produce industry, founded by award-winning blueberry farmer David Trehane.

The platform SeasonalJobs was created when the pandemic took hold as a response to the high priority need for skilled seasonal workers within the fresh produce sector. The platform runs via app with a supporting website, and matches job seekers with labour users in the industry, providing employers with pre-screened, ready-to-work candidates for seasonal positions in several industries.



Seasonaljobs runs social media advertising campaigns to secure workers with exactly the right fit, focussing on industry requirements such as fitness level, experience, availability, and location.

Each employer-user, a “partner”, pays a fee of £100 per candidate on acceptance of a role. This enables them to post roles that they need filling and to be able to interview and select available workers. This fee supports the ongoing development of the app functionality and UX interface. There is no cost to the job seeker.

To book a demo or for more information for employers or seasonal job seekers, please access the Greater Lincolnshire LEP’s Twitter account [here](#) and quote #LEPSeasonalJobs when booking your free demo. If you would like to find out more, please visit the [website](#).

### **Magnavale Investment in Easton, Grantham**

Magnavale, which operates a range of cold storage and food chain solutions for fruit and vegetables across the Midlands, has recently announced a major investment at Easton to construct the UK’s largest and most efficient Cold Storage Unit. As a new purpose-built and stand-alone store, this facility will be the largest in the UK and will also run entirely on renewable energy, providing capacity space for 96,000 pallets.

Construction of the project will create 230 jobs over 2 years, boosting the local economy during the COVID-19 recovery period. Following construction, a further 300 jobs will be created on a permanent basis to operate the facility going forward. For more information click [here](#).

### **Discover Reality Project**

The Lincolnshire-based UK Fresh Produce Network (UKFPN) is working with the Education Business Partnership (EBP) and National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM) on the Discover Reality Project. This is a ground-breaking initiative using state-of-the-art virtual reality technology to provide careers information to schools and colleges. Students will get a direct

virtual insight into working in the field, an HGV cab, a ripening facility, a packhouse, or trading office; looking at engineering, soil science, account management, importing, exporting and much more

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### **Seafood Cluster Development**

Made Great in Grimsby has teamed up with Lincolnshire Chef Steven Bennett, of Healing Manor Hotel, for a series of Instagram cook-alongs focused on seafood, which showcase fish products produced in Grimsby. For the full story click [here](#).

## Love Seafood Spring 2021 Campaign

In line with the Seafood Cluster Development, Grimsby-based Seafish have teamed up with DEFRA to encourage UK consumers to eat more UK-caught shellfish and fish species that the UK has traditionally exported, or which are normally sold to the food service industry. For details on the campaign and how to get involved, click [here](#).

## Greater Lincolnshire LEP Online Jobs and Careers Fair Series

Since November 2020, the Greater Lincolnshire Online Jobs Fairs have supported over 4,000 individuals to access information about jobs, training and employment support. The next virtual fair will take place on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 10am-1pm** and will be hosted by Mandy Watson, Director, Ambitions Personnel.

Employers, Greater Lincolnshire training providers, and support services are welcome to register free of charge at [www.greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk/register](http://www.greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk/register)

For support and advice, please take a look at the [website](#) or contact [jobsfair@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:jobsfair@lincolnshire.gov.uk) if you require help setting up a virtual stand. Joining the fair as a visitor is free, simply go to [www.greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk](http://www.greaterlincsjobsfair.co.uk)

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### Seasonal workers to receive free Covid-19 tests on farms

Employers of seasonal agricultural workers in the edible horticulture sector are [urged to register](#) for free workplace testing.

### Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC) report

The TAC advises the Government on how to advance the interests of British farmers, food producers and consumers in future trade agreements outside the EU. It set out 22 recommendations based on a set of principles, including that the UK should aim to:

- Promote the liberalisation of trade, to positively influence innovation and productivity and price and choice for consumers
- Prioritise a thriving domestic agri-food sector supported by complementary domestic and trade policies
- Ensure that agri-food imports meet relevant UK and international standards on food safety and biosecurity

The full report is available [here](#).

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## FUNDING

### Capital Allowance Super Deductions

The March 2021 Budget announced a new Capital Allowance Super Deduction programme which provides:

- A temporary increased tax relief for qualifying expenditure on plant and machinery incurred between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2023.
- The relief will be 130% of the cost of the capital investment.
- The relief is only available if you run a limited company, but for these businesses will mean tax cuts of up to 25p (130% of the corporation tax rate) for every pound invested in qualifying plant and machinery.

This creates a real incentive to invest in new machinery, equipment, and systems to improve productivity and sustainability. Further details are available in the Treasury factsheet, but as with all tax please consult your accountant first [here](#).

### **Farming Innovation Pathways**

A new £12m fund has been launched by UKRI and DEFRA to fund farming innovations, supporting:

- Feasibility studies of 12-18 months duration and with eligible project costs of £75,000-£250,000
- Industrial research projects up to 24 months and with eligible project costs of £250,000 - £750,000

The competition closes on 28 April 2021, and is for collaborative feasibility studies and industrial research projects, which target the development of innovative farm-focused technologies, systems or approaches to help improve food productivity, as well as increasing resilience and sustainability in line with net zero ambitions.

Projects must address one or more high priority areas in at least one of these four industry subsectors:

- Livestock
- Plants
- Novel food production systems
- Bioeconomy and agroforestry

Further details are available [here](#).

### **Internationalisation Fund**

Match-funded grants of between £1,000 and £9,000 will be available to help SMEs investigate the potential in overseas markets. To secure a grant, businesses need to fund either 40% or 50% of the total cost, depending on business size. 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

Further details are available [here](#).

### **UK Research and Innovation Expression of interest: Transforming UK Food Systems for Health and Environment**

Apply for funding to support interdisciplinary research into interventions that will transform the UK food system. Business projects should collate elements from both of these areas:

- Production, processing, manufacturing, food environments
- Healthier diets and consumption

For more information, please [click here](#) or contact Jessica Boot-Marshall at the University of Lincoln: [JBootmarshall@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:JBootmarshall@lincoln.ac.uk)

### **Support for Research and Innovation Funding**

Agri-tech research teams at the University of Lincoln are experts 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 at [LAR@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:LAR@lincoln.ac.uk) or for Innovate UK enquiries at the University of Lincoln.

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## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Workplace testing programme: registration extended to 12 April for 10+ employees**

The government has now made rapid home testing available for all businesses with over 10 employees who cannot offer on-site testing. Businesses must register their interest by 12 April to access free tests. Businesses can [sign up](#) for free COVID-19 workplace asymptomatic testing [here](#).

### **Geographical transition for businesses**

As of 1 April 2021, the geographical overlap between the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and the Humber LEP has been removed, and North and North East Lincolnshire will be part of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP only and no longer part of the Humber LEP.

The support that businesses in North and North East Lincolnshire can receive has moved to the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub from 1 April 2021. The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub offers free and impartial advice to businesses across Greater Lincolnshire and Rutland. The front door to business support services is through the [www.businesslincolnshire.com](http://www.businesslincolnshire.com) website.

### **Remote Sensory Imagery in agriculture**

Business Lincolnshire is hosting this free event on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Click [here](#) to find out more and register.

### **Food for Thought**

The Food for Thought Initiative is looking at the importance of sustainability and local food systems in catering and hospitality education, giving future hospitality employees with a sound knowledge of local food systems and sustainable food practices. This provides businesses with the opportunity to influence the curriculum and ensure that students leave education armed with the skills and knowledge that businesses need as the results will be used to establish the content requirements for an educational programme for catering and hospitality students, and to identify optimal learning methods that attract and motivate young learners.

To feed your industry needs into this short survey click [here](#).

### **Environmental Land Management Scheme**

Two introduction sessions of the two national Tests for Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) within the Humberhead Levels and South Lincolnshire are available.

- [Humberhead Levels](#): Introduction Wednesday 21 April, 10am to noon
- [South Lincolnshire Vision Workshops](#): Introduction Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 10am to noon

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## **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](mailto: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](http://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](#)