



For Immediate Release
Maidstone, 9th May

LIVING LAND TEACHES 2650 SCHOOL CHILDREN ABOUT FOOD AND FARMING

The Living Land, an event organised by the Kent County Agricultural Society, had another successful day last week with 2650 school children attending to learn about where their food comes from.

The Living Land is a free to attend event for Kent's primary school children aiming to provide a hands-on experience of the processes and work that goes into producing their food and life in the countryside. Local farming machinery dealership, Burden Bros, brought a combine, tractor and cultivator, and tractor and drill for children to see the farming cycle. Produced in Kent also brought a display which demonstrated what food is grown in the county and the importance of food miles.

Catherine Joules from the Marden Fruit Show Society said: "We are here today giving slices of apples, apple crisps, pear crisps and fruit bars to the children. We've had an absolutely brilliant day, a lot of the children have said that they've never tried an apple before so it's been great for us to introduce apples to them. We've had a couple of different varieties, allowing them to see the difference between them we've really enjoyed it and so have the kids."

The Living Land also partnered with a number of local Young Farmers' Clubs to bring animals to the event for visitors to meet. Jemima Pierce from Brockhill Park Performing Arts College said: "We've had rabbits, pigs and cows here today and we've been teaching the kids all about farm to fork and where their food comes from." Visitors to the Living Land were able to meet the animals and find out about life on a farm and the work that goes into looking after livestock.

Children were also able to visit the Discovery and Machinery Area to see vintage and modern farming machinery with a display from Wheels of Time showing how farming and food production has changed over time. A display from the Leeds Castle Falconry team demonstrated how these animals are used as a pest-deterrent by farmers with a thrilling show of their birds in action.

The Living Land has been running for 16 years and is organised by the Kent County Agricultural Society, a registered charity, and this year was supported by the Rochester Bridge Trust and Wheeler Foundation. The Society works to promote development and education in agriculture, horticulture and countryside life, and the Living Land is part of the Society's work to promote education in these areas to schools. To find out more on what work the Society does, visit www.kentshowground.co.uk or get in touch on 01622 630975 or info@kentshowground.co.uk.

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Notes to the Editors:

The Living Land is a free, one day event offered to Kent school children in years three and four aimed at educating young children in the areas of farming, agriculture, countryside and healthy eating within the beautiful landscape of the Kent Showground, home to the Kent County Show.

The Living Land is a well-established event, now in its 16th year and is hugely popular. The timetable of activities included the opportunity to see and touch farm animals, taste local produce, see dancing sheep at the "Sheep Show", Birds of Prey and many other displays and demonstrations. Most of the activities are interactive, with a wealth of organisations on hand to share their knowledge with the children and can easily be linked to the school curriculum.

The educational experience is invaluable and taking pupils away from the normal classroom environment, enhances the ability to learn.

About the Kent County Agricultural Society (Registered Charity Number: 1001191):

The Society has been supporting education and improvement in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and related industries since its foundation in 1923. It provides grants to Kent Young Farmers Clubs and offers university scholarships to students wishing to study in related fields. The Society also provides free education on farming to young children through the 'Farming in the Classroom' initiative and the Living Land event. The Kent County Show is the Society's showcase event of the year.