

AGRILEADER

The Leader

Business insights and advice to help you stay ahead of the curve

April 2023

Welcome to this edition of The Leader, a newsletter to support you in becoming a more effective leader. As farmers, you are responsible for making tough decisions that not only impact the livelihoods of you and your team, but also the well-being of your communities. Below, we explore the importance of self-awareness and how it can help you become a more effective leader.

We look at the benefits of embracing neurodiversity in the workplace and how it can promote innovation and inclusivity. In addition, following Dan Sodergren's session at the AgriLeader Forum, we demystify the concept of artificial intelligence and why it's not something to be afraid of, but something that can help you optimize your operations and improve your bottom line.

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Diary dates

- [18 May: Talking Leaders – Leading in the new world](#)
- [15 June: Talking Leaders – Building a global network](#)
- [20 July: Talking Leaders – The role of the next generation](#)

[Find more events on our website](#)

AgriLeader Forum: Driving your success

Farmers and growers were given the unique opportunity to learn from international experts at the [AgriLeader Forum](#) on 7–8 February.

Delegates were given tools and techniques to help drive their businesses forward and encouraged to tap into mentors, develop a plan and to take their teams on the journey with them.

If you missed it, or even if you joined us, why not [watch this short video](#) that recaps the event? And to hear more about the conference and how farmers are putting learnings into practice, don't miss our [podcast](#) out on 28 April.



You don't need a title to be a leader

In our February Circle of Influence livestream, we went live with some well-known names in the farming industry to share thoughts from the AgriLeader Forum 2023 and to discuss the topic of leadership and management.

With only 0.37% of people working in agriculture investing in leadership and management development, what are the main drivers and barriers and what are the mindsets, traits and skills of a good leader?

We were joined by: Joe Seels, Olly Harrison, Charlotte Ashley, Georgina Sammut, Rebecca Wilson and Izak van Heerden.

If you missed the livestream, you can catch up on the lively discussion filmed after the AgriLeader Forum in Stratford-upon-Avon.

[Catch up with the February livestream](#)

Leader in the limelight: Nicola Carr

In this feature, we profile leaders from across our industry. We ask them questions to find out what makes them tick and how they've become the leader they are today.

This month we hear from Nicola Carr (pictured). Nicola manages the team, accounts and technical side of the business at Lincolnshire Farm Services and Bomber County Produce, which supplies leeks and asparagus to major UK supermarkets. The farm also grows wheat, barley, oilseed rape and sugar beet.



What's the best advice you have ever received?

I've been given lots of great advice over the years, but to not be afraid to ask for help or advice is right up there.

What are you most looking forward to in 2023?

I'm actually looking forward to my first BRCGS food audit on a new version of the standard. It will take place towards the end of the year, and it's unannounced, so we never know exactly when it will happen. Audits appeal to the organised side of my personality.

What superpower would you choose?

The power to control rainfall. Just imagine how popular I would be with farmers!

[Find out more about Nicola and what makes her tick](#)

Leading in the new world

Join our next Talking Leader broadcast when we'll be speaking to Emma Thomas (pictured), a values-based leader with a passion for, and commitment to, sustainable regional economic development.

Emma is passionate about fostering inclusion, community diversity, connectivity and accessibility.

[Join our broadcast on 18 May to find out what we can learn from her experiences and what we can apply to our businesses](#)



Leading yourself: Mastering self-leadership

Self-awareness is an essential trait for mastering self-leadership. It is the ability to understand one's emotions, thoughts, and actions and how they impact our lives.

In [this article](#), James Pyle, a renowned leadership coach, trainer, and speaker, discusses the importance of self-awareness in self-leadership and how taking responsibility for our lives using discipline and self-control can help us achieve mastery in self-leadership.



Leading people: Neurodiversity in the workplace

Disclosing a diagnosis can be difficult but it can lead to a better working environment.

In this article from the Financial Times, the topic of neurodiversity — an umbrella term that includes autism, ADHD, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, dyslexia and dysgraphia — is discussed. It features examples of people in different roles who have shared their condition with colleagues with positive results.

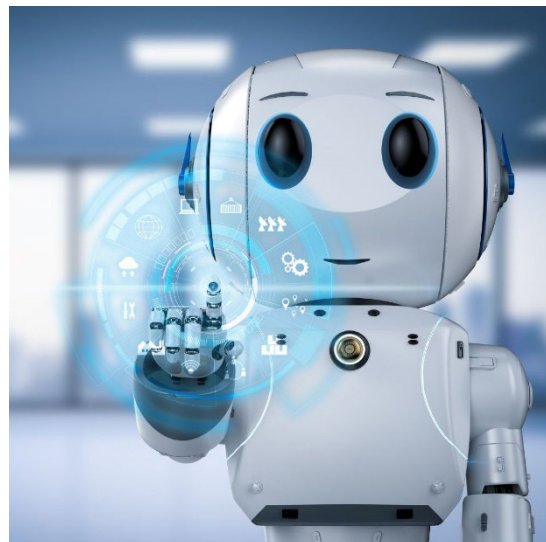
[Find out more about neurodiversity and the impact it can have on people.](#)



Leading business: The age of AI has begun

At the AgriLeader Forum, Dan Sodergren, a renowned speaker and regular on TV and radio, shared his views on the future of work. He said we should all be focused on digital change and transformation, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), whether we like it or not.

In a similar vein, Bill Gates talks at length about the development of and possibilities being created by AI [in his blog](#), including how it can be used to reduce some of the world's worst inequities.



While many of us are only just scratching the surface of AI (if at all), and perhaps have doubts about its capabilities, Bill concludes by saying: “We should keep in mind that we’re only at the beginning of what AI can accomplish. Whatever limitations it has today will be gone before we know it.”

Listen, watch, read



Listen



Watch



Read

Forged in fire, how adversity creates winners

Molly McCann is a mixed martial artist who competes in the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

In this open and honest interview on The High Performance Podcast, Molly shares stories from her turbulent childhood.

She discusses her fear of coming out at the age of 25, how to figure out who the good people are and the power of saying no.

[Find out how Molly's work ethic is enhanced by journaling and positive thinking](#)

The 15% club neurodiversity celebration week

Did the article on neurodiversity pique your interest? Do you want to better understand how it affects people in different ways?

If so, you might find this webinar recording from The Happiness Index interesting.

Guests talk about what being neurodivergent means and how organisations can be supportive and create inclusive environments.

[Watch the webinar recording](#)

Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead

Ask most women whether they have the right to equality at work and the answer will be a resounding yes, but ask the same women whether they'd feel confident asking for a raise, a promotion, or equal pay, and some reticence creeps in.

In this book, Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer at Facebook, encourages women to seek strong mentors, advocate for themselves, and assert their place in the business world.

[Find the book on Amazon](#)

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