

South West AgriTech



World-class technology supporting efficiency and innovation in celebrated West Country livestock farming, fishing and food industries



The South West is England's largest and most rural region with rich, diverse natural resources, a strong and growing network of over 200 innovative agri-tech companies, working with industry leading academics and R&D institutions.

South West Agri-tech small to medium sized companies generate over £371 million turnover. The area also attracts many major employers including Arla Foods UK, Danone, Mole Valley, Mullers, Thatchers Cider, and Yeo Valley Farmers. Complementary sector strengths include Aerospace, Automotive, Marine, Nuclear, Space, ITech and Pharmaceuticals. With five of England's fourteen Food Enterprise Zones offering simplified planning and incentives, a huge range of other site options from collaboration space, labs, rural and urban offices, science and business parks and employment land; the South West is the ideal location to relocate for any growing company.

Academic and Corporate R&D Excellence:

1. Bicton College
2. Bridgwater College Agri-tech centre
3. Campden BRI
4. Centre for Environmental Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
5. Duchy College Cornwall's Rural Business School and Food Innovation Centre
6. Hartpury University Centre
7. Kingston Maurward College
8. Research Councils UK
9. Rothamsted Research
10. Royal Agricultural University
11. Russell Group University of Exeter
12. Satellite Applications Catapult Centre of Excellence
13. The Food Security & Land Research Alliance
14. The Met Office
15. The University of Bristol Veterinary Investigation Unit, Robotics Lab and National Composites Centre
16. The University of Plymouth Centre for Agricultural and Rural Sustainability and Brixham Lab aquaculture and environmental science facilities
17. Wiltshire College
18. Agri-Tech Cornwall Project
19. Swindon and Wiltshire
20. Farm491
21. Royal Bath & West Of England Society's Rural Enterprise Centre
22. Weston-Super-Mare's Food Enterprise Zone



18. AGRI-TECH CORNWALL PROJECT

The Agri-tech Cornwall Project is a three-year £10m initiative to increase Research Development and Innovation in the Agri-tech sector across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. It is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Open to small and medium-sized Cornish companies, or companies starting up in Cornwall, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop and apply new technologies assisted by project partners, research projects, grants and graduate placements.

The project is led by the Duchy College Rural Business School in partnership with leading research institutions – the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth and Rothamsted Research, as well as the Cornwall Development Company.

In addition, with match funding from Cornwall Council the project will also create a dairy systems research platform 'Future Farm' based at Duchy College's Stoke Climsland campus.

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9. ROTHAMSTED RESEARCH NORTH WYKE FARM PLATFORM

The Rothamsted Research North Wyke Farm Platform in Devon, is a unique national and global research facility that is linked to real-world farming.

It attracts researchers from different communities and disciplines who are seeking to develop sustainable ruminant production systems, with an emphasis on beef cattle and sheep production.

The facility provides access to a range of in situ state-of-the-art instrumentation in hydrologically isolated catchments, to better address key issues in sustainable agriculture.

For over one hundred and seventy years, engaging and collaborating with others has been at the heart of North Wyke. Industry and academia working together to accelerate innovation to deliver meaningful impact for all.

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19. SWINDON AND WILTSHIRE

Wiltshire offers a well-established and thriving agricultural, food and drink sector, with a growing network of dynamic innovative companies. Irish-owned Origin recently acquired the Wiltshire-based Resterra Agri-tech company, which operates soil testing, data management and software advice to major farms across the UK and Southern Africa. An Origin spokesperson said "the acquisition enhances the company's growing digital technology capabilities. Digital technologies have the potential to support delivery of dynamic and highly customised crop management strategies to optimise gross margin at the farm level".

investinwiltshire.org.uk

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7. KINGSTON MAURWARD COLLEGE

A £1.2m investment at Dorset's Kingston Maurward College near Dorchester created a game-changing centre for students and a hub for regional Agri-tech development.

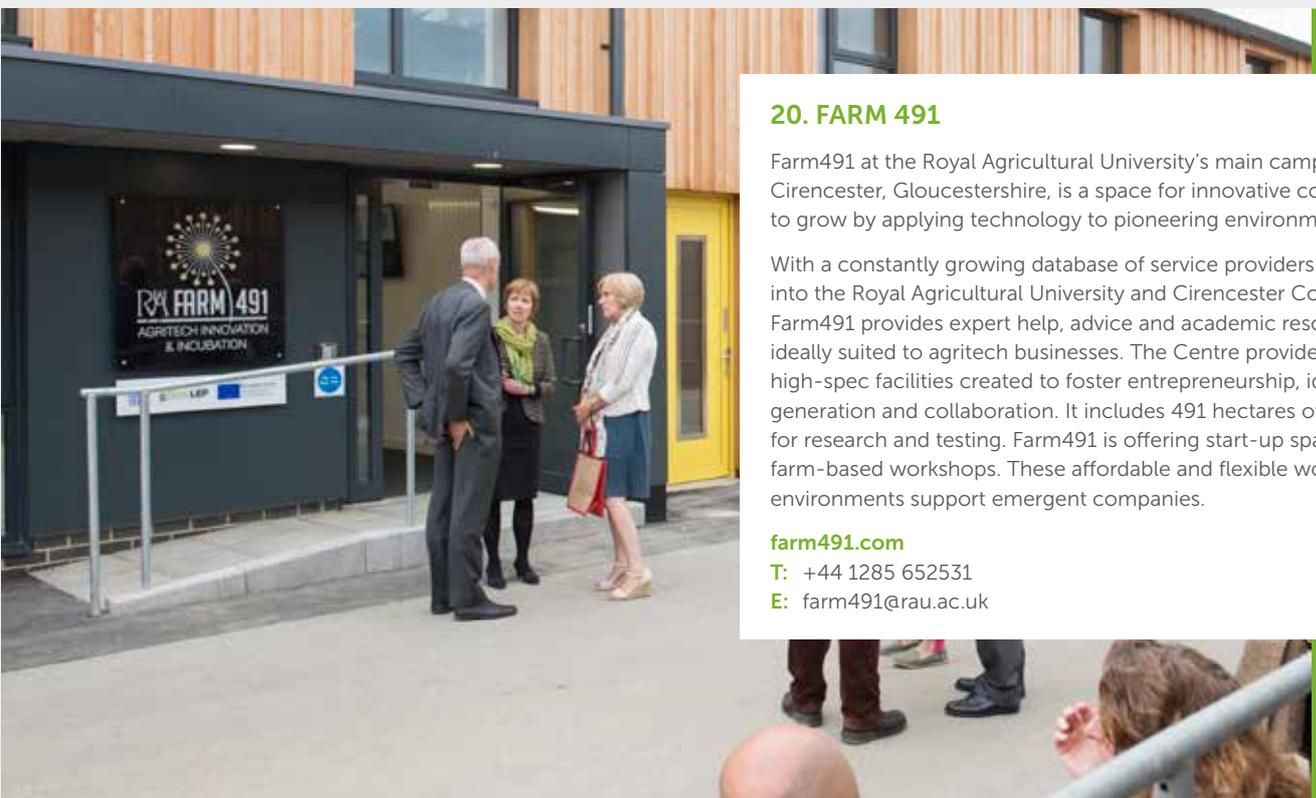
The College Principal said "the new Agri-tech centre offers state-of-the-art facilities with an agricultural classroom, IT suite, high-spec workshop and machinery with a new fleet of tractors including a GPS tractor with full connectivity, a plough, sprayer and variable rate drill.

With this experience, College students can enhance the productivity of the farms they support. The Centre also highlights the importance of the agricultural sector within Dorset and the rural South West region".

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20. FARM 491

Farm491 at the Royal Agricultural University's main campus in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, is a space for innovative companies to grow by applying technology to pioneering environments.

With a constantly growing database of service providers and links into the Royal Agricultural University and Cirencester College, Farm491 provides expert help, advice and academic resources ideally suited to agritech businesses. The Centre provides high-spec facilities created to foster entrepreneurship, ideas' generation and collaboration. It includes 491 hectares of farmland for research and testing. Farm491 is offering start-up space and farm-based workshops. These affordable and flexible working environments support emergent companies.

farm491.com

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21. ROYAL BATH & WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY RURAL ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Somerset's Royal Bath & West of England Society's new Rural Enterprise Centre is part of a major refurbishment project to transform the agricultural showground into a modern Agri-tech and Food Innovation Centre.

Education, knowledge transfer and business growth is at the heart of the Centre, which will provide the perfect venue for businesses, academics and individuals. Featuring a conference and seminar area, modern commercial test kitchen, meeting rooms and commercial office space for Agri-food and rurally focused businesses. The Centre will be a valuable facility in supporting the development of agricultural businesses, land-based skills training and micro food and drink companies.

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22. WESTON-SUPER-MARE'S FOOD ENTERPRISE ZONE

North Somerset's Food Enterprise Zone at Junction 21 Enterprise Area (J21EA) will offer ideal conditions to develop a significant cluster of food-related businesses. This ten acre site at Weston-super-Mare will create a hothouse for food and drink manufacturers and related businesses including R&D, packaging and logistics, all in one dynamic development area.

A £9.3m Food WorksSW food and drink innovation centre will form phase one of the Food Enterprise Zone, providing food-grade business units, product development facilities and specialist business support.

The facilities and support will provide a central hub bringing together expertise from bio-technology to food engineering and design, excelling in food research, production, manufacturing and resource efficiency.

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