

# A & E G Heading Onion Store

Awarded £125,000 under Measure 121- Modernisation of Agricultural Holdings

A & E G Heading Limited is a third generation farming business and the largest supplier of onions to Sainsbury's supermarkets, producing around 4,000 tonnes of onions per year.

However, a fire in 2009 completely destroyed the company's bulk onion store which was half full at the time. After careful consideration the company decided to continue to grow onions and invest in a new, larger store with significant environmental innovations.



The Fens Adventurers are always looking to support exciting and innovative projects in agriculture and were delighted to support A & E G Heading with a grant of £125,000 towards the £608,000 construction costs. Looking to create an environmentally and economically sustainable project, the business was keen to investigate new technology from the Netherlands for improving efficiency in heating the store.



This latest technology involves the suction of air through the building, rather than blowing – and this combined with a more energy efficient building, use of boxes rather than bulk should reduce energy costs by 25 percent. This pioneering project is the first of its kind in the UK and provides an excellent model for others to follow.

The investment secures the future of onion production, supports eight full time employees and contributes to Rustlers' 110 part time positions throughout the year.



Photographs courtesy of John Heading.



Fens Adventurers Rural Development Programme is an RDPE initiative delivered through the Leader approach, managed by Cambridgeshire County Council & Cambridgeshire ACRE and supported by EEDA, Defra, Local Authorities & the EU's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: *Europe investing in rural areas.*

The Fens Adventurers Rural Development Programme has committed over £1.4 million to some 39 enterprises since it started in 2009, with £2.3 million left to spend until December 2013. Decisions made to provide a grant are made by the Local Action Group (LAG), a locally based public/ private sector partnership with a range of expertise and differing perspectives.

The Fens Adventurers LAG invests in existing and new local businesses and community enterprises which contribute to the following priorities; Sustainable Food & Farming, Rural Business Development, Sustainable Rural Tourism and Basic Services. The aim is to ensure that any grant made adds value locally and supports the overall strategy to strengthen the economy, increase job opportunities and enhance the quality of life for people living in the Cambridgeshire and West Norfolk Fens.

For more information on the Fens Adventurers programme contact the team:

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