

# AgriTech: a growing knowledge hub

AgriTech

With mile after mile of fertile land we have a thriving agricultural technology sector with over 2,200 agricultural businesses based across the county. Our key strengths are in dairy and grassland farming and of course, we're famous for our Cheshire cheese.

The rural economy is a strategic priority, with agricultural technologies being identified by Government as a key driver for economic growth. This has presented a significant opportunity for Cheshire East to expand as a hub for AgriTech, bringing together farmers, growers and scientists to exploit the use of technology to achieve sustainable productivity growth in both agriculture and processing.

As a predominantly rural borough, Cheshire East is home to Reaseheath College, recognised as one of the top national specialist land-based colleges in the UK. Reaseheath's success and growth is being supported by an ambitious £50 million capital investment programme to increase the productivity and efficiency of farming and forestry businesses – by establishing a National Centre of Excellence for AgriTech. The college is working in partnership with the Council to pilot a new Food Enterprise Zone, aimed at encouraging growth in food growing, supply and farming.

Across Cheshire East, AgriTech accounts for over £2.9 billion and around 30% of the Borough's economic output and more than a third (62,900) of the Borough's workforce.

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» **'Best County in England to run a rural business'**

CLA RURAL BUSINESS COUNTY LEAGUE TABLE, 2015

» **£50 million investment programme**

AT REASEHEATH NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



## NWF Group

Based in Nantwich, this major feed, food and fuel specialist has a 140-year history. It's the UK's No.2 producer of ruminant animal feeds, with 1 in 6 of Britain's dairy cows fed on NWF products, and supplies over 4,300 farmers across the country. It's also the North-West's leading distributor of grocery products with 260,000 sq m of warehousing, and is the UK's 3rd largest fuel distributor with 17 depots nationwide delivering 420 million litres a year.

## Promar

The UK's largest farm, environment and agri-food consultancy, Promar is a multi-million pound business with a nationwide team of research consultants working across a wide range of sectors including dairy, livestock, fruit and vegetables, horticulture and more. The company's headquarters are in Stapeley near Nantwich, and part of Genus plc – a world leader in animal genetics.

## Joseph Heler Cheese

Sourcing milk from over a hundred specially selected local farms, within a 45 mile radius of their Nantwich dairy, and with over a century of cheese-making heritage this family business supplies the country's leading supermarkets. They have pioneered healthier options and produced the UK's first reduced fat and salt cheeses.

## Mornflake

Established since 1675, Mornflake is Britain's 4th oldest family-owned company. Today, 15 generations later, their plant in Crewe is Europe's largest oat mill, producing over 50 types of Mornflake branded breakfast cereals alongside supermarket own-brand ranges. They also export to over 60 countries.

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» **7,500 students**  
AT REASEHEATH

» **2,200**  
AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY AND  
FISHERIES BUSINESSES

» **2nd largest dairy herd**  
IN ENGLAND

# Businesses in the know are in Cheshire East

To know more about investing, working and living in Cheshire East, contact:

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