

20<sup>th</sup> November 2014

### Produce World Isleham – big site winners at Group awards



The Produce World Isleham site was a big winner at this year's Pride of Produce World Group Awards. Colleagues at the site won the 'Special Individual Recognition' and 'Team of the Year' awards.

Among the winners was Darren Francis, a team leader at Produce World Isleham, who won the 'Special Individual Recognition Award' after he saved someone's life. Darren managed to put his first aid course to good use when he was confronted with an unconscious man at the company's Christmas storage facility in Pymoor and acted without hesitation to ensure the man's safety.

The award was presented by David Frost, Produce World Group's HR Director. He said: "Darren is someone that we can always rely upon, which is perfectly reflected in this instance when he was relied upon to save someone's life! This incident shows what a great asset Darren is to the Produce World team, and his actions are an inspiration to his colleagues and the group."

David Frost, HR Director for the Produce World Group, said: "Darren is completely dependable and modest in his achievements. In this instance he went beyond the call of duty to save a man's life and ensure he made a full recovery, so it's only fitting that this significant achievement is recognised."

The other big winner from the Produce World Isleham site was the Site Employee Forum (SEF) team which won 'Team of the Year' in recognition for its staff engagement activities across the site. The SEF team ensured that all staff comments at Isleham were valued by senior management through its Great Place to Work Action Plan. This allowed every member of staff to 'have their say' and 'make a difference' to the Produce World Group business.

The team is considered to be leading the way across the Group with many of its practices, which are being adopted by other Produce World sites. These include having a SEF representative for every member of staff on site and creating a job description and charter for colleagues to abide by.

David Frost said: "The team is made up of self-motivated and committed individuals who regularly give up their own time to ensure their projects and initiatives are successful. Through the Isleham SEF Team, every colleague on the site has the ability to have their voice heard to affect meaningful change throughout the Group."

Cassandra Day, who played an integral part in forming the SEF team, earned a second runners-up place for 'Colleague of the Year.' She was heralded as Isleham's number one ambassador and praised in leading key engagement activities on the site.

Another team that was honoured at the awards was the Isleham Wash-In Team which was the second runner-up in the 'Team Special Recognition' award due to the high-standard of their work which led to an average productivity increase of over four per cent.

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**Produce World Group Website:** [www.produceworld.co.uk](http://www.produceworld.co.uk) **Produce World Group Twitter:** [@produceworld](https://twitter.com/produceworld)

### **About Produce World Group**

Produce World Group is one of the largest expert growers and suppliers of high quality fresh vegetables in Europe. It is a privately owned business, founded by the Burgess family in 1898, and the family ethos and values remain in place. The Produce World Group business is customer and category focused and it is an industry leader in sustainable and responsible agronomy, growing and lean supply chain management.

Its sourcing is a combination of produce from its own farming division Burgess Farms, joint-ventures, and collaborative working with dedicated grower groups, supplying a variety of root vegetables, potatoes, brassicas, alliums, and organic produce to leading retailers, food service and manufacturing customers.

Produce World Group is the UK's only fresh produce company that regularly donates produce to Fareshare, which enables the charity to plan more effectively each year. In October 2014 the Produce World Group was recognised for its work with Fareshare and Feeding the 5000 for redistributing this produce to help tackle food poverty across the UK by winning the CRTG Best Food Waste Initiative of the Year award. The Waitrose Way

Awards also recognised this work, with the Produce World Group being highly commended for its entry into the Treading Lightly – Waste award category. In addition, the Produce World Group was highly recommended in the Champion British award category for its work with the BBC primetime TV programme Harvest, which aimed to raise consumer awareness of how the nation's food gets from field to fork.

Produce World Group is leading the way in sustainability, research and innovation in the agriculture sector. In late 2013 the Produce World Group, in collaboration with other commercial organisations and academic institutions, was awarded funding through Sainsbury's Organic Grant to look at innovative pest controls to improve the growth of organic brassicas. Through Agri-Tech Catalyst funding support, the group is working with Cranfield University to build on the success of the 'Soil-for-Life' project, which aims to inform on-farm decision making and drive innovation in soil management.

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