



ofgorganic.org



Newsletter

August 2025 Issue 160

General News

Organic September

1 September marks the start of the annual celebration of the sector as Organic September gets underway.

This year's campaign focuses on the fundamental connection between healthy soil and healthy food. Throughout the next four weeks people will be encouraged to nourish their 'gut garden' by eating organic produce that benefits their gut microbiome.

OF&G is working to support the promotion of Organic September, alongside the Soil Association and SACert.

There is a comprehensive digital toolkit with graphics, social media assets and content that can be downloaded from their Point-of-Sale page.



<https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/marketing-organic/organic-september/order-organic-september-materials/>

Getting involved in Organic September is a great way to align your brand with a nationwide campaign that explores the link between how the quality of organic food all comes back to how soil health is managed by organic farmers and growers.

Help us celebrate our 50th anniversary

We've extended the deadline of our 50th Anniversary Survey until the end of September so you still have time to share your insights on the opportunities and your hopes for the future of farming. The short questionnaire only takes less than 5 minutes to complete and every response will be entered in a prize draw for a hamper of organic wine, beer and cider.

Your views matter to us and we look forward to hearing them. Take the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OFGsurvey50>

"This anniversary is not only a moment to reflect on our heritage, but to explore how we continue supporting farmers transitioning to more regenerative and resilient farming systems," says Steve Clarkson, interim Chief Executive.



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Window for Sustainable Farming Scheme opens in Wales - time to act

The Welsh Government has opened the Expressions of Interest (EOI) window for the new Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS), a policy that sets a fresh direction for farming in Wales and offers a dynamic model that challenges England to catch up.

The scheme's EOI stage was officially launched by the Welsh Organic Forum during the Royal Welsh Show, attended by the Deputy Minister for Farming.

It has been designed to support farmers in delivering environmental and economic benefits with a clear emphasis on growth, resilience, and long-term sustainability for the sector. You can read the full scheme description on the Welsh Government [website](#), or see recent coverage from the BBC.

Key dates and opportunities

- EOI window: Now open until 12 September.

Why this matters to organic farmers

The SFS represents a funding opportunity and a strategic framework for farming that recognises the role of nature-friendly, climate-positive production. For organic producers, this is a moment to demonstrate how established practices already deliver many of the scheme's objectives - from biodiversity gains to soil health improvements.

We encourage all OF&G's licensees in Wales to engage with this opportunity and make their voice heard in shaping a farming future that works for both business and the environment.

Shining a spotlight on organic

Over the coming months OF&G will be working with our communications agency, Pinstone, to develop a series of case studies to showcase the value of organic certification.

These stories will be used in our newsletters, on our website and in media articles to raise awareness of the multiple benefits of organic.

The case studies aim to:

- celebrate the achievements of individual farmers and businesses;
- inspire others by sharing practical experiences and learnings;
- demonstrate the value and impact of organic certification;
- help raise the profile of organic farming with the public, policymakers, and supply chain partners.

Our certification officers will be contacting licencees to encourage them to take part in a short telephone interview. It's a great opportunity to share your experiences and insights and generate some positive publicity to help support the growth and understanding of the organic sector.

We look forward to proactively engaging with the press and drawing attention to positive contributions that organic delivers - to food and farming, the environment and to consumers.



OF&G policy activity - what we have been doing

CS - Christopher Stopes , SC - Steve Clarkson

NAME	ACTIVITY	DATE	COMMENT
CS	Defra and EOF Policy Group	18/6/25	Online
CS	ARK Regenerative and Organic Farming Summit	20/6/25	In person
CS	OF&G, SA, SA Certification PBO	23/6/25	Online
CS	Defra & EOF Update Meeting	3/7/25	Online
CS	Defra & EOF Update Meeting	17/7/25	Online
CS	Defra & EOF Update Meeting	24/7/25	Online
CS	Defra Farm & Countryside Forum	31/7/25	Online
CS	Defra & EOF Update Meeting	31/7/25	Online
CS	Defra & EOF Update Meeting	7/8/25	Online
CS	Defra & EOF Organic Evidence Workshop	13/8/25	In person
CS	Defra & EOF Update Meeting	14/8/25	Online
CS	Defra & EOF Update Meeting	21/8/25	Online
CS	Defra & EOF Update Meeting	28/8/25	Online
SC	WOF Reception (Royal Welsh Show)	22/7/25	In person

OF&G & Organics in the News

Achieving organic growth depends on positive policy.

Since the closure of Sustainable Farming Incentive applications in England we've seen a sharp decline in organic enquiries.

In the weeks following 12 March the number of organic enquiries dropped by 50%, while applications fell by 62%, and the submission of conversion plans has dropped by 30%.

Our interim Chief Executive, Steve Clarkson, believes the true impact on organic's future is only now becoming apparent.

"The closure of SFI has effectively stalled the organic transition pipeline" he says. "The sharp decline in applications presents significant economic and ecological risks to a sector that has experienced notable growth."

The organic market reported a 7.3% increase in value during 2024. However, only 3% of English farmland is currently certified organic, meaning the domestic market is overly reliant on imports to meet consumer demand.

The organic outlook in England starkly contrasts with those of the devolved nations. Last year Scottish organic farmland increased by 13% due to a supportive policy.

More recently, Welsh Government has announced the Sustainable Farming Scheme 2026 (see page 2), which explicitly supports the development of the Welsh organic sector through conversion and ongoing support payments.

"It's clear that any future growth in the number of organic producers licensed in England is dependent on the government's recognition of the wider value that organic farming delivers," adds Steve.

"If we are to meet food security and environmental targets while supporting growth in agriculture then tangible pathways for farmers looking to transition to organic farming must be restored. Without these we risk losing the momentum built in recent years and compromising the future of the sector. There is still time for ministers to act; a one-year rollover agreement for CS farmers would provide the

confidence for continued growth."

"Organic farming has long played a crucial role in delivering environmental benefits, such as improving biodiversity, building soil health, sequestering carbon and improving water retention."

"We hope that the ambitions and incentives outlined by England's closest neighbours can be replicated, as a step to securing a sustainable and resilient food system."

Organic Research Centre evidence review completed for Defra

As part of Defra's commitment to the organic sector, a comprehensive evidence review of organic farming was commissioned by Defra earlier this year. Completed by Organic Research Centre (ORC), the review examined the scientific evidence for the environmental impact of organic production.

The review has confirmed the overwhelming evidence of environmental benefit. It is anticipated that the outcome of the review will be made available in the coming months.

This will undoubtedly strengthen the case for positive policies to support organic as a viable, market orientated way to contribute to the delivery of Defra's environmental objectives. The basis of organic farming in legal, robust and monitored standards is a vital element in securing environmental public goods..

Beyond GM's legal challenge to Defra on deregulation of "precision breeding".

Beyond GM has filed a full legal case and evidence with the High Court in support of their challenge to the deregulation of genetically modified "precision bred" foods and crops. This runs to 778 pages, bringing together scientific, legal and policy arguments that the government must address.

Beyond GM is the lead claimant in the case and they have brought together a powerful alliance of civil society, consumers, farmers and farm businesses all united in defending the

integrity of our food system, the rights of the public and protection of the environment.

This marks the start of the 'permission stage' of a judicial review, where a judge will decide whether the case presented by Beyond GM is arguable, and should proceed to a full hearing.

This case matters, and is of interest to OF&G and our licensees because it is about protecting the right to know what's in our food and how that food is produced. It could also have implications for organic farmers and trade since organic businesses are committed, through our standards, to keep GMOs out of our supply chains.

In addition to the possible impact on organic food and farm products and trade, the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Regulations 2025 create a new and largely unregulated category of genetically modified organisms, known as Precision Bred Organisms, or PBOs.

Beyond GM believes that this new regulation is unlawful, unsafe and damaging for a number of reasons, including:

- the lack of testing or verification,
- no labelling or traceability,
- exclusion from rules governing environmental damage liability,
- a failure to uphold public rights,
- ignoring conservation law and
- overstepping legal powers.

Beyond GM has raised funds to start this process, and are seeking further support to see the case through. OF&G licensees can support this work by signing the joint GM Freeze and Beyond GM petition on the Stop Hidden GMOs website <https://stophiddengmos.uk/sign-the-petition/> and sign up to the Beyond GM newsletter to stay informed.

Donate to the legal action at <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/stop-hidden-gmos/> through the Beyond GM fund at CrowdJustice, the PayPal donate button on the Beyond GM home page or by sending a cheque made payable to **Beyond GM Ltd** to: Stop Hidden GMOs c/o Beyond GM, 99 Brentwood Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 7ET.

Market Reports

Grain Prices: Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable

This year's harvest, like all farming through the last 12 months, have been dominated by weather conditions. From winter flooding to a summer drought, we have seen a harvest year that has been extreme as any in recent years.

How have crops fared through this? Early indications are that they have fared surprisingly well. Winter crops have yielded reasonably well and those tested so far are of good quality. Bushel weights are generally good and hagberg is good in all varieties that would expect to show good hagberg levels.

There is understandably more variability in quality in spring crops having received minimal rainfall. The lack of rainfall has been damaging but high light levels through spring were excellent which allowed good grain development. We have also seen far lower weed germination and growth this year and so crops have seen less weed competition than is usual. Early indications are that spring wheat

protein levels are good driven by the heat and light. Some oat crops are showing the impact of the dry conditions and have very poor bushel weights.

Demand is anticipated to be good. We are aware cereal crops drilled to be combined were taken as wholecrop silage to supplement poor grass silage yields. With good milk prices dairy farmers will need to buy feed to maintain and push production and without home produced cereals they will have to come to the market.

see <https://www.organicarable.co.uk/arable> for more information. Please keep an eye on our blog www.organicarable.co.uk/blog

01638 744144 / 07980 955490 @organicarable

Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC

ORGANIC STORE CATTLE AND STORE LAMB REPORT

This year, 2025, will be remembered for a variety of reasons in the farming industry and particularly organic farmers whose dependence on grass growth is greater than that of conventional producers. The contrast between the drought areas and the 'green' areas is almost unbelievable considering we are all on the same island. The Midlands, South and East are like a desert with some farmers in what is really quite a serious situation with conserved forage supplies either low or non-existent. Other producers have an abundance of grass.

The Blue Tongue situation has developed into a costly nuisance for producers in Wales and Scotland. There are a number of cattle and sheep producers, particularly in Wales, unable to buy the volumes of store cattle and store lambs needed to maintain the enterprises on their farms. It does seem that the decision makers have taken a draconian stance without understanding the implications for farmers and producers at the sharp end of production.

Autumn has come early in the drought stricken areas with a lot of cattle for the first time this summer starting to look hollow and hungry. This predictably has brought a flush of cattle onto the market. Incredibly so far the trade is holding up, largely driven by the strong finished price and buyers from the areas with plenty of grass able to purchase the numbers on offer. I think we may see a slowing down of demand in the next couple of weeks if the numbers continue to flood the market.

Looking beyond the next couple of weeks I think we will see a strengthening of the trade. The flood of cattle now will see reduced numbers available in October and November.

The store lamb season is in full swing with volumes of lambs coming onto the market for the same reasons as cattle.

Trade is generally in front of last year's levels with some quality forward lambs on the market. Smaller medium and long keep lambs are also becoming available.

A rather mixed report this month reflecting the mixed fortunes of organic farmers up and down the land.

Call us for more details and advice

Contact the office on 01829 730580 or:

Peter Jones: 07720 892922

Email: p.jones@peterjoneslivestock.co.uk

David Bostock: 07734 808050

OLMC FINISHED STOCK

Prime Cattle

Overall, the stock coming forward has been balancing the current demand for beef. Abattoirs report sales have dipped a little in the past month, thus the price has started to weaken marginally. Summer cattle trade seems to have been set much the same for a few weeks, there is a real possibility of trade coming back as indicated by the current slight weakening in price as we progress into late summer and early autumn. It's quite likely we might see a flush of cattle as grass gets even shorter.

Average R4L Organic UTM in spec @ 750/kg deadweight

Cull cow

A very slight weakening in cow prices in both conventional and organic sectors but still at good levels. A few more cows coming on to the market as producers decide to trade them in rather than get more weight on them. Shortage of forage supplies inevitably influencing such decisions.

Average R4L Organic OTM Cow in spec @ 575/kg deadweight

Lamb

The trade for new season has remained reasonable strong, as greater numbers have started to come on to the market, we see the inevitable weakening in price. However, the levels of trade are still pretty good for well finished lambs, where producers have been able to keep quality grass in front of them the lambs have performed well.

Keeping sustainable quality grazing in front of lambs will be a challenge for many areas of the country, especially

where the hot weather and low rainfall has taken its toll

Average R3L organic NSL in spec @ 750p/kg

Finished Stock Marketing office: 01763 250313 /

olmc@olmc.co.uk

Tim Leigh: 07850 366404 / James Doel: 07741 248928

01327 264962 / 07815 741547



Contact The Farming Community Network to speak in confidence with a sympathetic person who **understands** farming life.

Our volunteers in England and Wales **help hundreds of farmers and farming families each year** with a wide range of issues.

We've been described as a **lifeline** and a **trusted friend**.

FCN | THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

Call 03000 111 999 or email help@fcn.org.uk

(Helpline open 7am-11pm, 365 days of the year)

Approved Inputs

A full list of approved inputs appears on our website <https://ofgorganic.org/useful-info/approved-suppliers>

Updated approved inputs

SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
Antec International Limited - A LANXESS Company	andrew.jenkins@lanxess.com	Disinfectant/Cleaning Agent
Volac International Ltd.	melani.garcia@volac.com	Animal Feed Additives, Slurry Treatment, Silage Additive
Pelagia (Bressay) Limited	geraldine.fox@pelagia.com	Soil Conditioners
FytoFend S.A.	r.buonatesta@fytofend.com	Fungicide
Scotmin Nutrition	alan.richmond@scotmin.com	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements, Animal Feed Supplements,
Koppert UK Ltd	kgirard@koppert.co.uk	Bio Fungicide
Kilwaughter Minerals Ltd	gillian.hamilton@kilwaughter.com	Soil Conditioners
GoudenKorrel S.A.	wachulak@goudenkorrel.com	Fertiliser
Darlingtons Group Ltd	heather.artell@darlingtons-group.co.uk	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements
Northern Agricultural Merchant Ltd	sue.farmsupplies@btinternet.com	Animal Feed Additives
Action Pin	marieeve.debrue@action-pin.fr	Fungicide
DryMatter Sales Ltd	phil@drymattersales.co.uk	Bedding materials
Forage Technology Ltd	sophy@foragetechnology.co.uk	Silage additive, Slurry Treatment
Eutrema	russell@eutrema.co.uk	Biofungicide, Fertilisers, Plant Health Products
Greenfence Ltd t/a plantNatural	dt@greenfence.co.uk	Pest Control, Soil Conditioner
Alpha BioPesticides Limited	nicolas.gimenez@alphabiocontrol.com	Insect Control
Pan Agriculture Limited	info@panagriculture.co.uk	Fertiliser
Tricet UK Ltd	john.tricet@btoopenworld.com	Foliar Treatment, Soil Conditioner
Bio8 Ltd	olly@envii.co.uk	Fertiliser, Soil Conditioner
Bacto-Tech Sp. z o.o.	hello@bactotech.co.uk	Soil Conditioners
Corteva Agriscience UK Limited	lucia.anza@corteva.com	Insect Control
Timac Agro UK Ltd	james.hay@uk.timacagro.com	Soil Conditioners, Vitamins, Minerals and Trace Elements
Lallemand Animal Nutrition UK Ltd	gpayne@lallemand.com	Silage Additive, Animal Feed, Slurry Treatment, Animal Feed Material
PlantWorks Ltd	liane.field@plantworksuk.co.uk	Plant Health Products
Weeding Technologies Limited	info@weedingtech.com	Weed Control
Swiss Medicare Limited	info@swissmedicareltd.com	Fertiliser, Plant Health Products, Biofungicide, Plant Disease Control, Compost Additive
SafeRock Ltd	John.Jeremiah@safesrock.co.uk	Soil Conditioners
Microbial Distribution Ltd	bill@microbialdistribution.com	Plant Health Products
EVERYSPROUT	info@everysprout.co.uk	Plant Health Products
Fertiliser Limited	jeremy.hitcham@btinternet.com	Fertiliser
ECOSpray Ltd	awais@ecospray.com	Pest Control, Animal Feed Additives, Plant Health Products,

Recently awarded approved inputs

SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
SmartFert Ltd	robin@recycledcropnutrients.com	Fertiliser, Soil Conditioner
Otlo Agencies	otloagencies@gmail.com	Fertiliser
Inform Nutrition Ireland Limited	clairefoley@informnutrition.com	Animal Feed Supplements

Classifieds extra

FEEDSTUFF AND FORAGE WANTED				
Forage wanted for dairy herd	Good quality silage needed for dairy herd near Wotton-Under-Edge	Gavin Green	07775 721581	Gloucestershire
Silage wanted	High quality silage wanted for dairy farm in Somerset. Ideally round bales, Call or message with what you have available.	Mat Boley	07786 638707	Somerset
silage wanted	Dairy silage required Dorset/ Somerset	Kellaway	07779 012643	Somerset
Hay and silage wanted	North Shropshire area	Barry Jones	07971 317277	Shropshire
Top quality silage	We are after quality silage for milking cows	Richard Abell	07751 735202	Herefordshire
Silage Wanted	Milking cow silage wanted. South Shropshire.	Dave Flint	07539 545852	Shropshire
Forage Needed Stamford Farm	Silage/haylage wanted as close as possible to the Northallerton, North Yorkshire area	Angus Gaudie	07725 860013	North Yorkshire
Forage wanted	200 dairy cow and followers needing feed soon	Graham Gibbs	07709 399783	Worcestershire
Wanted: organic silage	Located Near Doncaster. Looking for either clamp silage or bales.	Calvin Williams	07789 220080	South Yorkshire
Organic straw or Hay	For feed: organic straw or preferably hay wanted. No more than a single lorry load i.e. approximately 12 tonne or so.	Mark Room	07971 298436	Shropshire
Organic forage	Looking for clamp or baled silage	Darren Bowles	07887 781426	Somerset
Quality Organic Silage Wanted	Quality organic clamped silage or maize wanted to feed Dairy Cows in Sherborne, Dorset. Ideally a silage analysis to support the quality claimed. Alternatively, standing silage grass or maize considered, depending on crop quality. Within reasonable distance of Sherborne, Dorset.	Will Tizzard	07969 152917	Dorset
Organic silage wanted	200 organic dairy farm in need of silage or wholecrop Bromsgrove Worcestershire.	Graham Gibbs	07709 399783	Worcestershire
Organic Forage	Organic forage wanted for dairy cattle in Mold, Flintshire.	Aaron Evans	07885 468227	Flintshire
Forage wanted	Preferably quality clamped silage (grass, maize or wholecrop).	Freddie Clark	07895 162764	Wiltshire
Quality Organic Forage Wanted	Silage or maize wanted to feed Dairy Cows in Blandford Forum, Dorset. Alternatively, standing silage grass or maize considered, depending on crop quality.	Dan Gammon	07484 732305	Dorset
organic stockfeed carrots or potatoes required	Organic stock feed carrots or potatoes wanted	Philip Holgate	07554 581581	Derbyshire
Round or square bale haylage or silage	We are looking for some good quality haylage or silage for sheep. Haulage can be arranged.	Liz	07913 825480	Dorset
Organic forage required for milking cows/ drystock.	600t clamp silage required plus round bales silage or straw for youngstock/ dry cows in North Shropshire.	Stephen Walley	07866 375388	Shropshire
Hay/silage	Looking for quantity of baled hay/silage suitable for suckler cows also forage suitable for pregnant ewes	Tim Roberts	07432 190368	Herefordshire/ Worcestershire
Organic silage required	Looking for clamp silage between Dorchester and Sherborne due to the lack of rain.	Will	07826 929187	Dorset
Wanted 500T of Organic Maize Silage	Wanted 500T of Organic Maize Silage	Mark Persey	07796 954711	Devon
Wanted: forage for dairy youngstock	Looking to buy 500t clamp silage or bales to feed dairy youngstock this winter, reasonable quality within reasonable distance of Shaftesbury Dorset	Keith	07881 980286	Dorset
Top Quality Silage and Hay	50 top quality silage and hay wanted for red deer.	Mr Bennett	07851 005374 / 01884 855519	Devon

Technical Newsletter

August 2025 **Issue 160**

Processors

**If you have any concerns or queries please do not
hesitate to contact your Certification Officer**

Exporting Out of Scope Products

Since 2021 and the UK's exit from the EU organic products have been accepted for export to the EU (and organic products accepted for import from the EU) under the terms of the Trade Cooperation Agreement (TCA). Under the terms of the TCA organic product to be moved between the two regions must fall within one of the following categories:

- Unprocessed agricultural or aquaculture products that have been produced in the region (for example crops grown in the UK); or
- Processed products for use as food or feed that have been processed in the region with products that have either been grown in the region or imported in accordance with the organic rules.

In order to establish if a product has been 'processed' the definition in horizontal legislation Article 2 (m) of Regulation 852/2004 must be used:

"Processing" means any action that substantially alters the initial product, which includes heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion or a combination of those processes."

In practice this means that if you bring in products from outside the UK (including importing organic products from the EU) they must be further processed before they can be exported to the EU. The CBs have discussed the definition of processing a number of times and have agreed a list of actions that are deemed to be processing that would enable an organic product to be exported to the EU.

It is important to note that a product that falls outside this scope/definition will not be permitted to be exported to the EU under the terms of the TCA.

Staff News

Producer Certification Officers

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the OF&G producer certification team with Daisy Butters and Rowena Spurrier joining us in August. It can take a while to get used to the systems OF&G operates so we'll give them a few months to settle in and find their feet before letting you know a little more about the new faces in the team.

Lorraine Pickering retiring

After almost 19 years with OF&G one of our Quality Systems Administrators, Lorraine Pickering, has decided its time to enjoy a well earned retirement and some quality time with her children and grandchildren. Not many of our operators will have heard from Lorraine as she has worked tirelessly behind the scenes keeping things ticking over by ensuring the farmer section of our database is kept up-to-date with all of your field and livestock data.

The whole team at OF&G wish Lorraine all the very best for her retirement.