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Newsletter

December 2025 Issue 162

General News

A look back at 2025

As we look back on the year, one word springs to mind: contrast. Organic demand has never looked stronger, yet the policy and climate context for farmers has rarely felt tougher.

Organic demand out in front

– Starting positively, the Soil Association's Organic Market Report showed market growth of 7.3% in 2024, reaching £3.7 billion. This is double its value a decade ago and marks 13 consecutive years of growth.

Organic unit sales in major retail grew four times faster than non-organic, showing how shoppers are actively seeking out certified food and drink.

Yet organic land area remains static at around 3% of UK farmland, leaving a buoyant domestic market heavily reliant on imports and undoubtedly a missed opportunity for domestic producers.

Defra rollercoaster – January began with then Environment Secretary, Steve Reed, setting out plans for England's first Land Use Framework, promising better data to balance food production, housing, energy and nature. A 12-week Land Use Consultation followed as part of the government's wider Plan for Change, billed as a 'national conversation' on how England uses its finite land while safeguarding food security.

In spring, farmers felt the ramifications of Defra's unexpected closure of SFI applications. OF&G saw organic enquiries fall by 50% and applications by 62% in the four months after 12 March, with the announcement

effectively stalling the organic transition pipeline.

There was change at the top, too. In September, Steve Reed was replaced by Emma Reynolds, who took over as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Throughout the year, OF&G continued to state the case for a 10% organic land target within the emerging Land Use Framework and wider agricultural roadmap.

Devolved administrations have shown greater ambition. In Wales, ministers confirmed a £3 million grant for organic farmers in 2026–27, giving producers with certified organic land the confidence to plan ahead as the Sustainable Farming Scheme comes on stream. Scotland, meanwhile, has seen a 13% increase in organic farmland following targeted support.

At the same time, OF&G has continued to stand up for organic integrity following the deregulation of precision bred organisms (PBO). We supported Beyond GM's legal challenge to secure robust labelling, traceability and coexistence so organic producers can remain GM-free.

Weather extremes – If policy has felt uncertain, the weather was downright brutal. The UK's warmest and driest spring for around 50 years raised

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Inserts: Technical News & Classifieds

Office Christmas closure and emergency contact.

The OF&G office will be closed from **1pm on Wednesday 24 December until 9am Friday 2 January.**

The contact number during the office closure - **for emergencies only** - is Stephen Clarkson on 01939 292002



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serious concerns for yields, while the hottest summer since records began in 1884 piled further pressure on crops and livestock.

Unsurprisingly, harvest delivered mixed results, with AHDB reporting huge variability across regions and crops. Against that backdrop, the UK also experienced the worst wildfires recorded, with over 47,000 hectares of moorland, forests and fields burned – yet another stark reminder of the reality of climate change.

Environmental concerns were flagged in OF&G's farmer survey. While 95% of respondents said environmental sustainability plays an important role in their farming decisions, only 3% feel very prepared for the impacts of climate change.

OF&G milestone - Amid this turbulence, 2025 marked our 50th anniversary and a renewed call for a whole-system,

agroecological approach to sit at the heart of the UK's food and farming strategy.

In September, the Board confirmed Steve Clarkson as OF&G's permanent chief executive, recognising his extensive experience within the organisation and the wider organic sector, and signalling stability and renewed momentum as we move towards 2026.

The year ahead will be about turning that proven demand, and the clear appetite from farmers, into a coherent package of support that allows many more businesses to convert, thrive and keep delivering for climate, nature and rural economies.

In the meantime, the OF&G team wishes you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sustain Bridging the Gap - how to fix the food system for everyone

Sustain: the alliance for better farming launched a landmark report "Bridging the Gap - how to fix the food system for everyone" on 25 November. Launched in 2022 and supported by the National Lottery Community Fund, Sustain worked on a series of pilot projects with the Alexandra Rose Charity and Growing Communities alongside Food Sense Wales, Nourish Scotland and Nourish Northern Ireland.

Through nine pilots (three in schools and six in retail settings) Bridging the Gap has demonstrated ways to enable people on a low income to access climate and nature friendly food. Food that is good for people and the planet is currently more expensive than food that is bad for health and produced in ways that damage the planet.

Bridging the Gap focused on the supply and affordability of organic fruit and vegetables to people who experience low income in cities. The nine pilots included, in Scotland - **Give Peas a Chance!**, **Edinburgh Community Food**; in Northern Ireland - **Carrick Greengrocers**, **Newtownards Accessible Veg Box**; Wales - **Welsh Veg in Schools**, **Cardiff Planet Card**; in England - **Liverpool Queen of Greens**, **Hackney Organic School Food**, **Tower Hamlets Food Coops**.

A key part of Bridging the Gap is the economic analysis carried out by the University of Portsmouth and the Organic Research Centre. This showed the potential return on investment in climate and nature friendly food. For every £1 of public money invested (along with £1.10 invested by customers) provides a return of £8.78 in social, health, economic and environmental benefits: £3.94 in stronger communities + £3.11 improvements in health and wellbeing + £1.44 local economic growth and £0.29 climate and nature gains.

Bridging the Gap How to fix the food system for everyone



Supporting organisations: National Lottery Community Fund, Alexandra Rose Charity, Growing Communities, Food Sense Wales, Nourish Scotland, Nourish Northern Ireland, Sustain.

Alongside these inspiring pilot projects, and building on the positive economic return, the report makes three key recommendations which arose through the project's work:

- **Fix the supply** - boost UK fruit, vegetable and pulse production through cross-departmental horticulture strategies across the four nations to support green growth, support small-scale and organic farmers.
 - **Fix the 'missing middle'** - ensure fair prices and invest in infrastructure like food hubs, processing and packing and distribution centres to help smaller, local producers to get their produce to market
 - **Fix the access** - enable everyone to eat good food through using public food procurement to create stable markets for organic and locally produced food. Roll out schemes that make healthy food more affordable to low-income households.
- Recognise the value of horticulture
 - Build access through local retail
 - Champion a fair wage in farming and beyond
 - Enhance public sector food procurement
 - Enable voucher schemes and fruit and veg on prescription
 - Invest in food hubs and wholesaler supply chains

The outcome of Sustain's Bridging the Gap project reveals the importance of coordinated development of the organic sector through coordinated organic action plans underway in Wales and Scotland.

OF&G & Organics in the News

SA Conference - Responding to the rise of regenerative agriculture.

At last month's Soil Association Organic Trade Conference, there was a focus on positioning of regenerative agriculture and how organic measures up in comparison.

During a compelling session on this topic, Sarah Compson, Director of Standards Innovation at the Soil Association, and Niamh Noone, Head of Marketing at Soil Association Certification, made it clear - organic businesses have a unique opportunity to lead the conversation by showcasing how organic already delivers on regenerative principles.

While the term 'regenerative' has undeniable appeal, as Niamh pointed out, it's often misused or inaccurately contrasted with organic farming.

While regenerative is sometimes framed as transformative and organic as static, the reality is that both movements share a deep commitment to sustainability, biodiversity, and soil health.

To illustrate the point, it was satisfying to see our co-branded infographics presented by the Soil Association positioning organic as the 'gold standard' of regenerative agriculture, reinforcing the message that organic is not just relevant but a leading force in the movement towards a more sustainable future.

Sarah Compson emphasised the need for organic businesses to communicate more confidently about how organic farming already addresses climate change, soil health, and biodiversity, areas where regenerative agriculture aims to make strides.

Earlier in the day, entrepreneur Solitaire Townsend highlighted how organic remains the 'big kid' in the room during her keynote address. While regenerative agriculture may be gaining momentum in industry discussions, it's still not on the radar for mainstream consumers. Organic, on the other hand, has widespread recognition and consumer trust. For now, regenerative should be seen as the junior partner to organic in public communications.

As we look ahead, it's clear that organic farming, with its proven

resilience and adherence to strict standards, is well-placed to continue to lead the charge for a sustainable, regenerative future.

Organic farmers in Wales set to benefit from £3 million in support payments.

Deputy First Minister (and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs), Huw Irranca-Davies, announced £3 million organic farming support at the Hybu Cig Cymru reception at the Winter Fair. The £3m indicative funding will be available to all eligible farmers with organic certified land.

The Welsh Government's commitment to organic support is driven by a combination of environmental, economic and social objectives. Organic farming is seen as a cornerstone of sustainable agriculture in Wales, delivering benefits for biodiversity, climate, rural economies and public health. The government's support is designed to ensure that organic farming remains viable and attractive, particularly as Wales transitions to the new Sustainable Farming Scheme.

The Deputy First Minister said: "As we transition to the SFS, I want to let organic farmers know of the ongoing support so that they can make informed business decisions as they plan for next year. This announcement confirms our commitment to organic farmers across Wales."

Recognising that organic farming delivers environmental benefits that go beyond other sustainable farming practices, including the elimination of artificial fertilisers and pesticides, protecting water quality and building soil health over many years.

The sector also supplies organic produce to Welsh supply chains, supporting rural employment and contributing to the Community Food Strategy. Organic produce also plays a role in initiatives including providing locally produced, high-quality vegetables for Welsh school meals.

Organic Action Plan for Scotland announced

At the inaugural Scottish Organic Gathering, Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands outlined a forward

looking Scottish Organic Action Plan. This will boost the organic farming sector in Scotland by strengthening the market, expanding supply chains and supporting farmers transitioning to organic production. Hosted by Soil Association Scotland, in partnership with Soil Association Certification, the event focused on taking Scotland's organic sector to scale and was attended by around 150 farmers, growers, food businesses, policy leaders and researchers.

The Cabinet Secretary promised £200,000 of Scottish Government funding, for the first year of a three-year delivery, awarded to Scotland Food & Drink to drive the roll-out. She explained that the plan has five main pillars: raising awareness of organic, research and training, developing supply chains and markets, facilitating conversion and maintenance, and promoting public procurement of organic.

David McKay, co-director of Soil Association Scotland, welcomed the commitment to the Scottish Organic Action plan saying that "We know from international experience that action plans can be effective in helping to develop markets for organic produce." The new measures should go further to expand organic in Scotland and reach the commitment to double the organic land area.

With six years of continuous growth in organic land area and rising consumer demand, Scotland is now well placed to embed organic within policy and practice. Scotland continues to outpace the rest of the UK in organic growth. Defra figures reveal Scotland achieved a 13% increase in organic farmland in 2024, bringing the total area to 131,500 hectares—marking the sixth consecutive year of expansion. This far surpasses the marginal 1% rise in England and the decline in Wales.

Organic Action Plan for England

The good news for organic reported in Wales and Scotland highlights the widening gap between these devolved nations and progress in England, where continued growth in the market for organic food is not matched by an increase in the area of land under organic management.

The English Organic Forum had a

positive meeting with Daniel Zeichner MP, former Defra Minister of State, in early September that revealed his enthusiasm for an Organic Action Plan for England (OAPE), which could provide the opportunity through a positive policy framework for organic farming and food. A government reshuffle shortly after that meeting with the appointment of Dame Angela Eagle MP as Minister of State at Defra has resulted in a pause in progress. However, a positive exchange of letters with the new Minister gives some hope that the OAPE will spring back into life.

The English Organic Forum has invited Minister Eagle to an organic roundtable at Riverford Organic Farmers Sacrewell Farm in early 2026. The dynamic and forward looking Riverford serves as a model for how organic food can be affordable, accessible and available to all, whilst caring for the environment and delivering public goods. Defra's leadership, through a well focused Organic Action Plan for England, could play a significant role in enabling growth in the sector and replacing imports with home-produced organic food.

Celebrating organic, agroecological fruit and veg growers in Parliament

MPs, peers and civil servants joined UK fruit and vegetable growers at Westminster on the 25th November to celebrate the launch of **The UK Fruit and Vegetable Coalition for an organic, agroecological future**. The event emphasised the role of organic, agroecological horticulture in strengthening food security, improving public health and supporting environmental resilience.

The new Coalition, hosted by the **Food Foundation** and Chaired by Steven Jacobs, Coordinator of the **Organic Growers Alliance**, brings together key organisations representing organic, agroecological growers across the UK. These include the Community Supported Agriculture Network, Landworkers' Alliance, Soil Association, Sustain, Lantra, Growing Communities, Organic North, Regather Sheffield, Better Food Shed, Food Sense Wales, Wildlife Trusts, and the Permaculture Association.

The aim of the Coalition is to strengthen domestic horticulture and

build resilient local supply chains. Working with policymakers in Defra's horticulture team, the Minister of State recently committed to include a horticulture growth strategy as part of the UK government's Food Strategy, signalling welcome support for the sector.

The UKFVC will continue to work closely with Defra to expand domestic fruit and vegetable production, improve market access for growers, support new entrants into horticulture and advocate for investment in regional distribution infrastructure. Read the Coalition's policy asks in their new **Growing Together** booklet.

Oxford Real Farming Conference returns to shape agroecology's future

Each January – next year on 8–9 January 2026 – Oxford hosts not one but two remarkable gatherings. Alongside the Oxford Farming Conference sits the Oxford Real Farming Conference (ORFC), a forum for organic farming, agroecology and food-system transformation.

ORFC began in 2010 as a radical alternative to conventional agricultural conferences. Its founders envisaged a gathering where 'mud-on-the-boots' farmers, food producers, researchers, campaigners and policy-minded citizens could come together to ask the big questions and share practical solutions.

OF&G regularly has a presence and what really sets ORFC apart is its dual focus on the grassroots and the systemic. You'll find sessions on everyday practices such as agroforestry, soil health, natural pest control and diversified crop systems. These run alongside discussions on food sovereignty, policy reform, land justice and the role of agriculture in tackling climate, biodiversity, and social crises.

The scale and diversity of the conference reflect ORFC's evolution – from a fringe fringe-event to what some describe as the world's largest agroecology conference. Recent editions have attracted around 1,800 in-person delegates along with many more online, featuring hundreds of speakers from the UK and abroad.

For anyone working in organic farming, ORFC offers an unparalleled opportunity to connect, learn,

challenge assumptions and leave inspired, equipped to bring change both at farm and a national level. In short – it's where the future of sustainable farming gets shaped.

Find out more about this year's conference [here](#). We hope to see you there.

Open Farm Sunday Two decades of connection. People. Food. Nature.

For 20 years, Open Farm Sunday has been a beacon for farmers looking to engage directly with the public and showcase the importance of sustainable food production.

The organic sector has historically always been well represented and in support of 2026's landmark celebrations we'd love to hear from any of our licensees who intend to host an event. OF&G recognise this as an opportunity to connect with consumers and help them make informed food choices and lasting changes that support a healthier planet and food system.

We believe Open Farm Sunday is more than an annual fun day out – it can be a catalyst for change; providing a proven platform to build public trust in food, farming and the environment. Together, let's make Open Farm Sunday's 20th anniversary a showcase for organic. Contact your CO if you're planning to participate on 7 June next year so we can showcase your involvement.

Event organisers LEAF have a wealth of resources for farmers considering hosting an event next year. These include webinars, in-person training days, a handbook and promotional resources. Visit **Open My Farm - Open Farm Sunday** to find out more.

Precision Breeding Techniques - "coexistence" for organic through a new Industry Working Group.

A **position paper** (in German) from the **IG Saatgut**, the Seed Interest Group, a union of plant breeders, seed producers and conservation initiatives, has been working since 2005 to raise awareness, promote public relations, and network in order to establish political and legal frameworks that will ensure the long-term viability of GMO-free seed production. A **summary of the position paper** in English by

Eva Gelinsky and Lena Huttman of IG Saatgut and posted by the Agriculture and Rural Convention (ARC) highlights the importance of GM free seeds to allow a GMO-free agricultural and food industry to operate. The summary provides an interesting overview of the challenges that the GMO-free seed production sector could face. These include: detection methods, zero tolerance, cultivation register and other 'coexistence' measures, the polluter pays principle and collective liability, labelling, and patent law.

There are at least 15 crop genera, including many important crop species grown by organic farmers in the UK where precision breeding traits introduced for conventional farmers over the coming years could pose a contamination risk. The importance of robust and effective coexistence measures to protect against contamination of organic crops cannot be underestimated if the organic sector is to remain "GM Free" - as required by internationally agreed and legally binding standards.

The timescale for introduction and commercialisation of new precision bred varieties is unclear, and there is some time during which robust coexistence measures can be developed. However, it seems important that the cost for the implementation of a viable coexistence regime is not borne by organic farmers, or the organic supply chain. Rather these costs should be borne by the developers and users of precision bred crops, as required in the Polluter Pays Principle.

Although no proper impact assessment has been completed, a De Minimis Assessment (DMA) was compiled by Defra economists, reviewed by the Defra Chief Economist and published in early 2025 by Defra and the Food Standards Agency (the DMA is available from Defra).

The rough and ready estimation of costs in the DMA have not been subject to proper scrutiny, nor were they calculated on the basis of any coherent coexistence measures, since none have been agreed. Total costs were estimated to be almost £9 million between 2023/4 to 2033/4, which include costs for the "organic farmers protection" estimated to amount to £759,000 over this 10 year

period. These estimates have been made with no clear methodology for their calculation shown in the DMA. However, the stakeholder engagement implemented under a Defra contract with NatCen has concluded and the DMA was considered out of scope during this process.

Conveniently for the government the total cost, at less than £10 million, means that no full impact assessment was deemed necessary. Apparently a full impact assessment is only required if the costs exceed £10 million. However, some of the assumptions are questionable and depending on how many crops, and trials, and the overall size of the seed industry in the UK. Costs could range from £25-57million i.e. 2.8 – 6.3 times more than the costs estimated in the DMA. Costs could exceed the threshold of £10million that would necessitate a full impact assessment, and yet full impact assessment has been done.

In the final Stakeholder meeting the aim, scope and terms of reference were outlined for an "Industry Working Group", convened to develop coexistence protocols and procedures to protect organic farmers and organic supply chains. It was agreed that this Working Group would be convened by the NFU. No funding will be available for this group from Defra, but in view of the importance of agreeing viable coexistence measures it is essential that its work can resolve measures as precision bred crop varieties are brought to market.

This is vital work that the organic sector - farmers and supply chain operators - must get fully behind to protect an organic future free from Genetically Modified Organisms (AKA Precision Bred Crops).

Lloyds launches Agricultural Transition Finance loan.

The new loan aims to help UK farmers overcome the financial barriers of transitioning to more sustainable and regenerative farming systems and is open to new and existing customers across all farming sectors, with a minimum loan value of £25,001.

The loan can support refinancing, funding new investments in sustainable farming practices and providing working capital during the

transition process.

Farmers at all stages of their sustainable farming journey can qualify for the scheme. Farmers may focus on an area or areas that will have the most impact for them across 16 regenerative activity standards, including practices such as cover cropping, minimum or zero tillage, direct drilling, mob grazing, herbal leys, companion cropping, undersowing and intercropping.

Participants must provide a carbon or environmental baseline assessment dated within two to three years and may also qualify through participation in Defra's environmental schemes, supply chain programmes, or by holding relevant organic or LEAF Marque standard accreditations.

The launch follows the publication of Lloyds' recent report, **Farming with Nature: Mapping the Growth Opportunity for UK Agriculture**, which mapped 5.1 million hectares to identify where the greatest financial and environmental returns could be delivered, providing an evidence base for this new financial proposition.

The Organic Research Centre (ORC) enhances capabilities by joining ADAS

As of 1 September 2025, the UK's foremost research authority on organic farming and low-input farming practices, ORC, officially became part of the agricultural and environmental consultancy ADAS.

ORC remains a stand-alone business within the ADAS group of companies and will continue to be managed by current CEO Lucy MacLennan. This strategic move aims to leverage shared resources and complementary applied research expertise to advance sustainable farming practices.

OF&G welcomes the announcement and will continue to work closely alongside colleagues within the newly strengthened organisation. The integration of ORC into ADAS is a significant opportunity to expand research into new areas to more effectively respond to evolving challenges in agriculture.

ORC will continue its valuable role in advocating innovative organic solutions that benefit the sector, our licensees and the environment through independent applied research.

Market Reports

Grain Prices: Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable

We held our annual meeting in late November which was an interesting day focussed on soil health and innovative approaches to soil health assessment and testing, and an opportunity for organic farmers to meet and discuss. It was an enjoyable day with plenty to reflect upon. Opportunities for the organic sector to gather to learn and exchange ideas are important and something we need to support and strengthen.

Imported grain continues to maintain its grip on the UK market with feed compounders reporting they have good cover. Organic dairy and organic poultry demand is reportedly up, yet we seem to have continued weakness in the organic feed wheat price. Sales are hard to make at present as by remaining out of the market, buyers continue to maintain downward pressure on price. We have an ask of the organic livestock sector, to be more questioning of their feed suppliers as to how much UK cereal and pulse

they use. If beef and milk remained unsold, despite good demand, you would ask your customers for support. The dominance of imported grain is now so established it is only if demand changes that buying approaches will be altered. When you next look at your feed ingredients ticket give your feed rep a call and ask how much is UK sourced? And please can your New Year's resolution be to ask them to increase it by 10% in 2026.

Current indicative values (ex farm) Feed Wheat £290, Feed Barley £270, Feed Oats £265, Beans £400

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

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Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC

ORGANIC STORE CATTLE REPORT

As we move to the end of 2025 the store trade remains very buoyant with all sizes and grades of store cattle in strong demand with finishers seeking to stock up to fulfil contracts.

The drier autumn has helped farmers spin out forage stocks with many cattle still outside, however some cattle are now showing a weathered look and would benefit from some supplementary feeding of silage in order to maximise their value. In the light of the demise of many small abattoirs and much of the meat processing now being controlled more and more by the large organisations Farm Assurance certification is becoming more important than ever, even more so as we will ultimately move toward whole life Farm Assurance which I am almost certain will become a requirement in the not-too-distant future. So, we urge Farmers to get their Farm Assurance up to date in order to maximise returns and give consumers full confidence and traceability in this wonderful product we produce.

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

The demand for organic prime beef has increased into November, the price has strengthened. Supply of organic prime cattle remains at lower levels currently. Trade might ease little as we get to end of December as demand is likely to drop.

The forward supply numbers look to be tight into the beginning of 2026 and prices are expected to remain strong.

Average R4L Organic UTM in spec @ 762/kg deadweight Cull cow

We have seen a very strong trade for organic cull cows through the autumn until the end of November. The price has dropped off a little now, mainly due to processors concentrating on prime beef kills for the Christmas market. The increased supply of cows coming on to the market has also influenced the weakening price. Both dairy and suckler cows coming forward rather than retained for further fattening, in many cases easing the pressure on dwindling stocks of winter food.

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

Lamb

The trade for prime organic lamb has followed the same path as conventional by firming a little as we came through November. The numbers of organic lambs have been enough for the current demand and would look to be that way until we get into the new year now.

Prices have strengthened and should maintain similar levels into January.

Average R3L organic NSL in spec @ 700p/kg
Finished Stock Marketing office: 01763 250313 /
olmc@olmc.co.uk

Tim Leigh: 07850 366404 / James Doel: 07741 248928

Upcoming Events in 2026 that OF&G are attending

LAMMA 15-16 Jan 2026 at the NEC Birmingham

The UK's biggest agriculture machinery and technology showcase returns bringing together more than 600 exhibitors and tens of thousands of farmers and contractors under one roof. It's an opportunity to explore the latest tractors, combines, arable and grassland kit, new ag-tech, and livestock-friendly machinery – alongside a packed seminar, Demo Zone and the new Dairy & Beef Hub covering all sectors.

The Low Carbon Agriculture Show will, this year, be incorporated into the LAMMA show, OF&G will again be exhibiting at the show with two members of staff on hand each day. If you would like to discuss anything organic or relating to the Compost and Biofertiliser Certification Schemes please come along to our stand, **Stand number LCA224**.

Claim your free ticket [here](#)

Oxford Real Farming Conference 2026

8 - 9 January, Oxford

The ORFC 2026 line-up will include 145+ dynamic in-person sessions, including 45+ livestreamed sessions, and will bring together pioneering voices from across the UK and around the world to address the crucial issues facing food and farming right now. For more information and to buy tickets visit <https://orfc.org.uk/>

Staff News - Meet Ryan Mason our new Processor Certification Officer

Over the past few months, we've been busy recruiting to bolster our team of certification officers. We're pleased to introduce you further to Ryan Mason.

I joined OF&G in June 2025 as a Processor Certification Officer. In my role, I help processors navigate everything from ingredients and suppliers to labelling and traceability, ensuring it all stays within organic standards. I also support operators with all sorts of enquiries about the organic certification process. This is my first foray into the complex world of organic certification.

Before OF&G, I worked in product development for a global manufacturer of brewing ingredients, and before that I was a brewer myself, a role in which tasting sessions were actively encouraged. This all followed a BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry, where I learnt how even the smallest things can drive the biggest change. Now at OF&G and with the help of my esteemed colleagues, I've begun to build a solid understanding of the full certification workflow, from handling new enquiries and product approvals to reviewing inspections, managing non-compliances, and updating certificates. What I enjoy most is digging into the organic regulations (who doesn't!).

Looking ahead, I'm optimistic about the organic sector and firmly believe it will continue to grow as more people care about health, sustainability, and where their food comes from.

Outside work, you'll usually find me in the garden, optimistically trying to grow herbs and vegetables each year with mixed results. I'm also a keen chess player, happily spending my evenings perfecting the art of losing. Spending time in nature is my true passion, whether it's hiking mountains or taking a wild swim, nothing brings me more joy.. As Henry David Thoreau said, "I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees."



OF&G policy activity - what we have been doing

CS - Christopher Stopes , SC - Steve Clarkson

NAME	ACTIVITY	DATE	COMMENT
CS	EOF / Defra Review meeting	30/10	Online
CS	NatCen Precision Breeding Technique Stakeholder meeting	12/11	In person
CS	Wildlife & Countryside LINK Agriculture Working Group	13/11	Online
CS	IFOAM OI Keeping Regen Real webinar	17/11	Online
CS	Lumina Intelligence UPF webinar	20/11	Online
CS	Defra Farming & Countryside Programme Update	20/11	Online
CS	Sustain Bridging the Gap report launch	25/11	In person

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
Sipcam UK Ltd	stewart@sipcamuk.co.uk	Plant Health Products
Gardening Naturally Ltd	justin.daubeney@gardening-naturally.com	Pest Control, Fertilisers, Bedding Control
Tithebarn Ltd - Rockie & Farm Division	serena@tithebarn.co.uk	Animal Feed Supplements, Vitamins Minerals & Trace Elements
Passion Ag Ltd	tom@passionag.com	Plant Health Products, Silage Additives
Lallemand Animal Nutrition UK Ltd	gpayne@lallemand.com	Animal Feed Material, Animal Feed Additives, Slurry Treatment, Silage Additive
Greenaway Green Waste Services	green_away@btinternet.com	Soil Conditioners
EM Agriton Limited	info@agriton.co.uk	Manure Treatment, Compost Additive, Silage Additive, Animal Feed Supplement, Bedding Materials, Soil Conditioners, Fertiliser
Sea-Chem Ltd	chris.black@sea-chem.co.uk	Plant Health Products, Compost Additive
GreenBest Ltd	Kerry.Goodland@greenbest.co.uk	Fertilisers
Origin Fertilisers	info@originfertilisers.co.uk	Fertilisers
SBM Life Science	jessica.barrett@sbm-company.com	Fertilisers, Insect Control, Plant Health Products, Pest Control,
E Marker A/S	hugh.frost@planting-ideas.co.uk	Foliar Treatment, Fertilisers, Plant Health Product
Legume Technology Ltd	jacky@legumetechnology.co.uk, mike@legumetechnology.co.uk	Plant Health Products
Techna Nutrition UK & Ireland	jamie-leigh.douglas@groupe-techna.com	Animal Feed Additives, Animal Feed Supplements
JJS Resources Company Ltd	sales@jjsminerals.com	Bedding Materials, Soil conditioners
Vilofoss UK	jfish@vilofoss.com	Vitamins Minerals & Trace Elements, Disinfectant / Cleaning Agent
Channelled Atlantic	info@channelledatlantic.co.uk	Plant Health Products, Manure Treatment
Ball of Madley Ltd	enquiries@ballofmadley-hereford.co.uk	Vitamins Minerals & Trace Elements
Evergreen Garden Care UK Ltd	Sarah.Eldali@evergreengarden.com	Fertilisers, Insect Control
Crop Solutions Ltd	chris.armstrong@cropsolutions.co.uk	Weed Control
Biolevel Ltd	laurence@biolevel.net	Soil Conditioners
Volac International Ltd	melani.garcia@volac.com	Silage Additive
Alltech (U.K.) Ltd	europequality@alltech.com	Animal Feed Additives, Animal Feed Supplements, Vitamins Minerals and Elements,
Doff Portland Limited - Pelsis Group	Tom.Clamp@Pelsis.com	Pest Control, Fertilisers
Crop IQ Technologies Ltd	global@cropiqtech.com	Plant Health Products, Insect Control
British Gypsum	adam.kent@saint-gobain.com	Fertilisers
Sumitomo Chemical (UK) Ltd	ruth.stanley@sumitomo-chemical.eu	Insect control
Insonso Salmarim LDA	filipe@salmarim.com	Ingredients
Herban UK Limited	info@herban.co.uk	Animal Feed Supplements
Gromax Industries Ltd	simon.brett@gromax.co.uk	Weed Control

Recently awarded approved inputs

SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
EZOTRADE Ltd	info.ezotrade@gmail.com	Soil Conditioner
Midland Chemicals Ltd	sunny@midlandchem.com	Fertiliser
Rumbol Products Limited	info@rumbol.co.uk	Vitamins, Minerals & Trace Elements