



ofgorganic.org



Newsletter

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General News

Organic Market Report

Resilient and rising – organic hits new heights.

Many of you will have seen the positive headlines following the publication of the Soil Association's Organic Market Report 2026 last month.

For the 14th year the sector reported consecutive growth with a healthy 4.2% increase, while the overall market value nudged its way towards the £4 billion mark.

Value sales of organic food and drink in major retail outperformed non-organic by four times (1.2% versus 0.3%). This marks a clear shift in consumers' attitudes and behaviours and is a fundamental change in the way people are prioritising health and the environment in their purchasing decisions.

Two-thirds of consumers intentionally purchase organic and this group is growing. Perhaps what is most startling is the disconnect between shoppers' purposeful action when contrasted

with the government's underwhelming show of support for organic, in England at least.

Organic farming in the UK saw mixed growth in 2024, with significant variations between regions. Scotland led the way, experiencing a 13% increase in organic land, reaching 131,500 hectares thanks to robust government support through the Agri Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) and the newly launched Organic Action Plan. This ambitious plan aims to double organic farmland by 2026.

In contrast, England's growth was more modest, with a 7% increase in organic land area, although the suspension of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) temporarily removed crucial financial support for organic conversion.

Wales, on the other hand, has seen the introduction of a £3 million scheme in 2026 boosting organic farming and strengthening its organic land conversion.

These regional disparities show the importance of targeted financial support and clear government policies to sustain growth in the organic sector, which is increasingly seen as vital for long-term food security and environmental sustainability.

You can download the full report here: <https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/organic-market-report/>



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Inserts: Technical News with New & Recently renewed Approved Inputs



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Organics in the News

Land Use Framework signals joined up approach

It has been a long time coming but the Land Use Framework was finally launched by Defra Secretary of State Emma Reynolds. It aims to present a shared national vision for how England's land should be used – balancing food production, nature recovery, housing, clean energy and climate resilience.

As the Secretary of State reminds us in her Foreword: "No one understands the connection between land and resilience better than the farmers who work it. They see the impact of declining pollinators, worsening soil health, birds disappearing from their fields and the rising frequency and severity of flooding. These challenges can be addressed for the benefit of our national security, farm businesses and ecosystem health."

These are strong words. The prospect of a land use system that prioritises resilience is a much needed and worthy ambition. The organic sector is ready to continue working in partnership with policymakers, farmers and communities to deliver on this blueprint.

As the responses to the Land Use Consultation pointed out, farmers feel trapped between competing demands. A stronger steer from Defra with an ambitious Organic Action Plan for England (OAPE) complementing the recently published Scottish Organic Action Plan, could give the right signals for organic growth from the current European low of 3% of England organically managed against a European average of 17%. This would simultaneously reconcile the need to produce healthy food, care for nature and produce more of the organic food that is demanded, rather than importing it from elsewhere.

With competing pressures and trade-offs facing the country's landscapes, the framework delivers a coherent strategy on which to build. With regard to food and farming we should take encouragement from the vision provided in the Strategy: "*We will produce more of what we consume, partly because more of our land will be efficiently growing the high value food that people recognise on their plates,*

rather than ingredients for processed and unhealthy food or animal feed, and farmers will see more of this value (page 14)."

The words 'efficient' and 'efficiency' are used 28 times in the strategy document, often alongside 'multifunctional'. Organic producers aim to be efficient by optimising nature protection and enhancement with food production – exploiting a synergy that is all too often missing. We need to act today to address the inefficiency of current land use patterns, aware that organic farmers demonstrate that it is possible to deliver multifunctional and efficient land use.

The clear direction the strategy sets out emphasises the need to balance food production, environmental goals and national infrastructure. Four key principles have guided the development of the strategy:

- **Multifunctionality** – Land can and should serve more than one purpose at a time – producing food while restoring nature, managing flood risk while improving water quality. This is second nature to organic producers.
- **Right use, right place** – The framework recognises that priorities must be delivered in ways that are sensitive to the specific geography, ecology and communities of each place.
- **Adaptive capacity** – Whatever decisions are made about land must be capable of adaptation in the face of uncertain futures. Designing for resilience, not just 'efficiency' – whatever that means – is central.
- **Future-ready decisions** based on evidence – The strategy commits the government to improve how evidence is gathered, shared and used.

With the wealth of evidence available for the multifunctionality, adaptive capacity and future-readiness of organic, it seems that the recommendations in the strategy resonate with organic principles. We are encouraged by the recognition of the importance of innovation and regenerative and organic (as the gold standard for regenerative) farming

methods. This sits alongside the call to reduce environmentally harmful practices, including pesticide use, and the ambition to reduce food waste and encourage dietary shifts.

These are all vital tools for improving agricultural sustainability by working with nature to enhance productivity, restore ecosystems, as well as being vital elements of food system reform.

However, it is important to note that the strategy fails to address what we eat – our dietary consumption patterns. This is a serious oversight revealing a reluctance to confront the reality that our excessive consumption is a key driver of land use. The need to address our food consumption, which is not within planetary boundaries, is the elephant in the room.

The strategy calls for the development of a sector growth plan for horticulture – essential since eating vegetables supports good health and imports make up a large proportion of the organic (and non-organic) vegetables we consume. A growth plan for poultry, also highlighted in the strategy, seems perverse since intensive poultry production is an environmental hazard. What about a growth plan for pulses? This is surely a higher priority since more pulses will help overcome our protein deficit, contribute to a balanced land use policy and reduce our reliance on imported protein for animal feed.

Over the next year the government will establish a Land Use Unit, the Food Partnership Board has been put in place and we can expect the Farming Roadmap and Food Strategy to put the framework into action and set out national spatial priorities for relevant government outcomes. They all can help balance competing demands, let's hope they give organic the opportunity to flourish that it deserves.

Find the full version here: **The Land Use Framework for England** (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69ba6ba026909a14239612e7/Land_Use_Consultation_Accessible.pdf) and the **Summary of Responses to the Consultation** (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69b984486736ec37c8a46681/Land_use_framework_summary_of_responses.pdf), completed in early 2025.

Sustainable Farming Incentive 2026 – what to expect

The shock caused by the sudden closure of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) in March 2025 disrupted farmers' organic plans. One year on, Defra announced SFI26 at the NFU conference in Birmingham on 24th February 2026. The new scheme includes organic conversion and ongoing organic management payments,

Defra listened to the widespread support from the organic sector and environmental organisations for the well-evidenced environmental benefits arising from organic farming – a system that delivers public goods making organic farmers a worthy recipient of public money. OF&G celebrates this breakthrough. However, early indications are that the new scheme may have a negative impact on farmers converting to, or with the ongoing organic management on their farms. There is a risk that farmers may abandon organic farming.

With the uncertainty of the past year behind us, what will SFI26 bring? The Defra blog, published on 24th February 2026, outlines the application windows and eligibility rules, eligibility limits and payment rates.

As of 25th March 219 comments on the Blog reveal the challenge that farmers are facing in working with the new scheme – in many cases, the response from Defra to the concerns raised by farmers is to say that they have passed the comment to the Defra policy team! Let's hope that this signals the possibility of change, if not now, then in the future as the SFI is developed for 2027 and beyond. Subscribe to the Defra Farming Blog and you will receive updates as they are published.

Guidance not yet available

Detailed guidance is expected before the scheme opens, but Defra are not saying when it will be available. The earlier the better for all farmers who need certainty to plan and implement rotations and cropping plans. Farmers do not want to compromise their eligibility for organic conversion and ongoing management payments or for any of the other payments available, but without knowing the detailed rules, it is hard to predict.

Existing scheme-holders whose schemes expire in the coming autumn or winter are already planning their planting and ordering seed. It is not

yet known how farmers with expiring agreements will be supported. It is possible that payments can be made retrospectively for actions that will have been taken by farmers ahead of securing a scheme, but this is not confirmed.

Two windows for SFI26 - no budget confirmed

There are two 'windows' opening for applications to SFI26. The first, which opens in June 2026 will be for small farms less than 50Ha, who may hold an SFI 2023 or 2024 agreement. Farms of any size are also eligible for the first window if they are not in previous versions of SFI (2023 and 2024), Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier (CSMT), old and new versions of Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT) and Higher Level Stewardship. The first window will be open for two months, but early closure is possible if the available budget is fully utilised.

The second window for applications will open in September 2026 and will be for all farms with no date set for closure. With no information on the available budget it is important that farmers get applications ready for early submission – it will be a scramble with success not guaranteed.

Cap on agreements

A financial cap has been imposed for SFI26, with agreements limited to £100,000 per year. Defra says that this is "so the funding can be shared across more farms". However, this cap will limit the scope for medium size farms to get funding to convert to, or maintain, their organic farming (average organic farm size is around 200ha). Organic is a whole-farm system, so converting half a farm is unlikely to be feasible. The cap of £100,000 will potentially impact on the financial viability of farms where their SFI26 options could take them over this cap, resulting in their organic operation becoming unviable.

The minimum area eligible for application is 3ha, which must be classified as agricultural land. Land holdings smaller than this are not eligible to apply. We support the work of the Organic Growers Alliance, Land Workers Alliance and the UK Fruit and Vegetable Alliance to remove or further reduce this minimum area requirement. We hope that Defra may consider a bespoke scheme as part of the Horticulture Growth plan – an Organic Market Garden Support Fund.

SFI26 options

SFI24 included 102 actions, 71 have been retained and 31 removed in SFI26. There are 11 organic actions, five for organic conversion and six organic land management actions. Payment rates for each action are detailed in the 14 tables in the Defra Blog. The 'planning actions', which had high uptake and delivered no environmental benefit, have been removed. Other actions have been removed because they had low or very low uptake. One of the options that has been cut is GRH6 for species rich grassland. This was a big win for nature, and the cut has been widely criticised.

Organic needs good advice - knowledge is all

With advice and guidance for non-organic farmers often provided by agrochemical suppliers, coming 'free' with the pesticides and fertilisers, there is clearly a gap in the availability of advice to organic farmers and those wishing to convert to organic systems. The former Organic Conversion Information Service (OCIS) provided a good model that was successful. It would be a step forward if Defra were to support the introduction of a similar scheme. The Farmer Collaboration Fund recently announced by Defra may offer a route to support imaginative new schemes able to give the knowledge that organic farming requires.

Is there scope for a standalone organic scheme?

We believe that a standalone organic scheme, enabling a whole organic farm approach and support in line with the well-evidenced environmental outcome of organic production would be justified. We hope that Defra considers this in the future.

Minister visits organic Growing Communities in London

Growing Communities and the UK Fruit and Vegetable Coalition (UKFVC) welcomed the Minister of State for Food Security and Rural Affairs, Dame Angela Eagle, and other Defra officials to Dagenham Organic Farm in London on 11 March.

The visit highlighted how organic market gardens can help increase the resilience of UK fruit and vegetable supply and improve public health, whilst also delivering biodiversity, net zero, public engagement and new entrant recruitment, and raise

possibilities for how such market gardens could be better supported.

The Minister and other visitors met school children and volunteers who benefit from access to an organic farm within walking distance of their homes, saw crops growing and enjoyed a lunch prepared from produce from Dagenham as well as from other growers.

Together with twenty other growers, these organic farms supply 11,000 people in North East London with fresh organic produce via The Better Food Shed and Growing Communities.

Members of the UKFVC also spoke to the Minister about how market gardens and grower collaborations in other parts of the UK are also producing fresh, organic produce for local markets, thereby building a more resilient supply system while

also offering training opportunities and public health benefits through community engagement.

The potential for a Market Garden Support fund has been proposed. This could encourage more organic fruit and veg to be grown and supplied to communities within urban regions with the obvious benefits being clearly apparent to the Minister on her visit.

Great British Food Awards

Due to overwhelming demand from producers, an organic category has been introduced into the Great British Food Awards this year, under the Health & Wellbeing umbrella. Entries are now open, until 22 May 2026. For more information go to <https://www.greatbritishfoodawards.com/> <https://awards.fillout.com/t/7w2jcCK9b8us>

50th Anniversary hamper

Steve Clarkson recently had the pleasure of delivering OF&G's 50th anniversary prize hamper to Roger Gill, Agricultural Director at The Lakes Free Range Egg Company.

Roger was one of hundreds of people who took the time to complete our industry survey and his efforts were rewarded with a selection of organic wines, beers and ciders. Cheers Roger!



OF&G in the news

In the past few weeks, we have had Letters to the Editor published in the two weekly farming titles.

Farmers Weekly

Reduced payment fears

The first letter appeared in Farmers Weekly in response to Abi Kay's article which suggested that Defra plans to cut Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) payment rates to below income-forgone levels.

We believe such a move risks undermining years of progress made by farmers who have invested in nature-friendly practices and is deeply concerning in light of recent progress on the Organic Action Plan for England.

Farmers need long-term, reliable backing to deliver environmental outcomes. Schemes such as SFI were designed to reward public goods, restore soils, protect wildlife and strengthen resilience across the countryside. If payments no longer reflect the real costs and risks involved, participation will fall and the delivery of these benefits will stall.

Many organic businesses have built whole-farm systems around these principles, often with tight margins and significant upfront investment. Suggesting that farmers will simply continue these actions because they 'enjoy it' is derisory and risks pushing viable businesses into difficulty.

Cutting rates now would send the wrong signal, destabilise farm planning and threaten the environmental gains already achieved. The focus should be on strengthening schemes, not weakening them at a critical moment.

Farmers Guardian

Time to phase out pesticides

The second letter featured in Farmers Guardian and focused on new research published in the journal Nature. After assessing 373 sites in 26 European countries and monitoring 63 pesticide inputs, worryingly, residues were detected in 70% of sites.

This included persistence in organically managed soils and what's been termed the 'ghost of a conventional agricultural past.'

The findings are concerning as healthy soil is our first line of defence. If we keep knocking out the biology that feeds crops and regulates pests naturally, we lock farmers into a chemical treadmill. Long-lasting residues undermine the living fabric of our soils, farm resilience, wildlife, public health and long-term food security.

This legacy of pollution should be a wake-up call. The cost of pesticide dependency continues to accumulate, delaying recovery even for farmers who are trying to do better.

Some argue the new findings are not a case for eliminating pesticides entirely, but for 'more nuanced' use. OF&G disagrees. Nuance is important, as is an ecologically informed approach to pest management, but this evidence strengthens the case for getting off the pesticide treadmill altogether.

Organic farming already demonstrates that productive agriculture can work without routine synthetic pesticide use. By moving from damage control to a protection-first approach the planet and its people will escape the haunting legacy of hazardous contamination.

OF&G policy activity - what we have been doing

CS - Christopher Stopes , SC - Steve Clarkson , JB - Jenny Bibb

NAME	ACTIVITY	DATE	COMMENT
CS	Defra / English Organic Forum update	3/2/26	Online
CS	Wildlife & Countryside Link SPS Working Group	10/2/26	Online
CS	Defra / English Organic Forum monthly meeting	12/2/26	Online
CS	Pesticide Action Network board meeting	23/2/26	Online
CS	Organic Research Centre evidence review meeting	26/2/26	In person
CS	Sustain Farm Working Group	3/3/26	Online
CS	Soil Association Organic Market Report launch	4/3/26	Online
CS	Defra / English Organic Forum update	5/3/26	Online
CS	Defra Stakeholder engagement update	9/3/26	Online
CS	Defra / English Organic Forum monthly meeting	19/3/26	Online
CS	IFOAM Organics Europe Organic Action Plans	24/3/26	Online
CS	Food Farming & Countryside Commission Land Use Framework	26/3/26	Online
SC	United Kingdom Organic Certifiers Group	9/2/26	Online
JB	Organic Research Centre evidence review meeting	26/2/26	Online

Market Reports

Grain Prices: Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable

The organic cereal market has seen a bit more buying interest of late. Nothing like a crazed, maniacal military campaign fuelling inflation and global supply chain panic to help raise commodity prices. The spike in oil prices has ignited ethanol production and the conventional markets have risen about £10 - £12 since the crisis began. The fundamentals of the conventional market suggest that wheat supply remains good with winter wheat crop report seeming favourable in Europe so no panic. However, fertiliser prices have rocketed and so upward price pressure to pay for increased production costs will hopefully result. The organic market can ride this wave although for most it will be improved new crop values as

most of the domestic crop is now sold. Increased freight costs will make domestic crop more attractive, but haulage rates are increasing resulting in higher values being eroded by transport costs. Hauliers are now pricing all loads with a fuel supplement which is calculated weekly. Winter crops are looking well and spring crops have gone into good conditions and are now enjoying warming soils. I imagine some would like a bit of rain but at present harvest is looking positive.

see <https://www.organicarable.co.uk/arable> for more information. **01638 744144 / 07980 955490**

[@organicarable](#)

Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC

ORGANIC STORE CATTLE REPORT

The cattle trade continues to be very buoyant with buyers hungry for cattle to turn out.

We now have a waiting list of buyers for 300-400 kg, 12-month-old cattle which is reflective of the demand for organic cattle. The grass is starting to green up and grow in most areas and while we have had plenty of rain, the ground is starting to slowly dry out and conditions for turn out will be here soon.

Breeders are either calving cows now or certainly calving in the next couple of months with over 80% of the national beef herd being spring calving. This means that producers are starting to think about their breeding policy and bull selection. Obviously, the aim is to get a calf and a cow back in calf as quickly as possible to end up with a calf every 365 days. Early calvers will already have made decisions on breeding policy and later calvers need to be thinking of bull selection PDQ.

The subject of cattle breeding is vast and in a short article like this, it is simply impossible to cover the subject comprehensively. There are nevertheless a few simple issues that need contemplation and thought.

To make progress with breeding cattle, the bull needs to be of better genetics than the existing female herd. I would urge you to select a bull that is going to produce progeny that maximises returns from the marketplace, but also take a long-term view and consider that the female progeny will be the basis of the herd in the future. This of course depends on the size of the herd and may mean two breeding programmes, one focused on breeding cattle to sell and one for replacement heifers.

The importance of cattle breeding on farm returns is without question. It costs the same to feed a badly bred steer or heifer as it does a good one.

We are always available to give advice and we have contacts with good breeders who can supply bulls. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact the office on 01829 730580 or:

Peter Jones: 07720 892922

Email: p.jones@peterjoneslivestock.co.uk

OLMC FINISHED STOCK

Prime Cattle

The current situation for prime finished cattle is one of reasonable demand and marginal under supply coming on to the market. We would have expected to see a push in kill numbers prior to Easter by the processors, this hasn't particularly been apparent. Abattoirs report a steady demand for beef which is more or less being met by the cattle coming ready for slaughter. Should we see numbers tighten up, it is likely that the trade will get firmer into the summer.

Average R4L Organic UTM in spec @ 753p/kg deadweight

Cull cow

Supplies of cows coming on to the market remain tight. Abattoirs report lower than required volumes being slaughtered currently. The trade is strong and while demand for cull cows continues and

shortages are about the prices look unlikely to weaken for the meantime.

Average R4L Organic OTM Cow in spec @ 590p/kg deadweight Lamb

We have seen a big move in price for organic lambs as the Easter Holiday approaches, the numbers coming forward are on the short side helping fuel the hike in prices. We would expect to see the trade even out after the holiday, should numbers remain tight the higher prices could well remain, as we are a long way off starting to see new season organic in any volume.

Average R3L organic NSL in spec @ 850p/kg

Finished Stock Marketing office: 01763 250313

olmc@olmc.co.uk Tim Leigh: 07850 366404

The Woolkeepers® search for organic wool

An important part of what OF&G believe in is ensuring sheep farmers are fairly rewarded for their endeavours in producing organically grown wool.

The Woolkeepers® are looking for large quantities of certified organic wool, this initiative could help organic sheep farmers unlock greater value from their flocks.

Founded in 2018 and with over 1,000 existing farmers, the Woolkeepers® is part of H Dawson Sons & Co (Wool) Ltd, a company certified to the Global Organic Textile Standard.

The Woolkeepers® provide an alternative to the volatile and short-term auction pricing, providing fair and stable long-term pricing, based on a loyal client bank. They are offering the opportunity to join their expanding depot network, bringing increased value for wool into your community.

If your farm falls into the areas highlighted on the map, and you have an interest in diversifying your farm's

income, please contact The Woolkeepers® Team, they are keen to get in touch with larger farms and offer free collection of five tonnes (approximately 80 bags).

This season, they are focusing on sheep farmers with Downs types, such as Suffolks, Dorsets and Romneys, Bred wool types such as Llyns, Texels or Cheviots, as well as those who keep crossbreeds such as the North Country or Scotch Mule.



For more information, or to request a call from The Woolkeepers, you can do so using their Expression of Interest form, alternatively, you can find out more by contacting Kevin Snowball in the Woolkeepers® Support Team at Kevin.Snowball@woolkeepers.co.uk, call Kevin direct on 07955 464524 or go to their website www.thewoolkeepers.com

Classified Ads

Note: Purchasers should always check the current certificate and the status with the vendor. OF&G cannot take responsibility for any stock, items or services sold through this service. Advertisements are accepted at OF&G's discretion.

CATTLE FOR SALE				
Organic Galloway Cattle	Due to dispersal pedigree Galloway bull (Conqueror of Kilnstown), pure bred in calf cows of various ages. Contact for further details.	Mr Len Tabner	07930 469714	North Yorkshire
Organic Pedigree Polled Hereford heifers for sale	Four Organic Pedigree Polled Hereford heifers for sale, 22-24 months of age, please contact for more information.	Mr Emlyn Evans	07989 176994	Shropshire
Organic Pedigree Hereford Heifers	Pedigree Hereford heifers 22-24 months. Horned and polled breeding Average 550 kgs £2350	Daniel Seaborne	07967 208818	Herefordshire
Stabiliser Bulls for sale	Pedigree Stabiliser Bulls for Sale - quite to handle, easy calving. Welcome to view	Bob & Liz Priest	07887 886354 or 07810 717248	Devon
Organic Stabiliser Heifers	Pedigree Stabiliser heifers for Sale. Quite to handle, easy calving. Welcome to view			
Dairy beef X calves	Aberdeen Angus X bulls & heifers. British Friesian x bulls. Ayrshire bulls. All calved since 15/2/26	Gruff Lewis	07985 690784	Ceredigion

CATTLE WANTED				
5-10 in calf organic Hereford heifers	5-10 in calf organic Hereford heifers wanted	Kieran Bull	07792 227101	Derbyshire
Stabiliser bulling heifers.	Heifers suitable to bull July 2026, must be TB4, and preferably High Herd Health accredited. Young incalf cows or with calves at foot also considered.	Geoff Roddam	07762 632272	Northumberland
Hereford Heifers Wanted	Hereford heifers wanted. West Cornwall.	Henry Collins	07973 375702	Cornwall
BBX & LIMX Heifers	Wanted 12 - 24 month old BBX or LIMX heifers. Worcestershire area	Colin Collins	01905 381195	Worcestershire

FEEDSTUFFS AND FORAGE FOR SALE				
140 Barn Stored Organic Straw Bales	Good quality barn stored tightly baled wheat straw. Approx 10% of bale is bean straw as baled from a bi-crop harvest 2025. Barn stored. 260x120x90cms Loader on site. Articulated access	George Jackson	07511 870764	Dorset
Organic Rye for sale	Organic feed rye - 100 tonnes available.	Edward Brettell	07773 004302	England
Hay round bales	4ft round bales cattle hay as meadow with a little rush in some bales £45 each.Collected Ringwood haunts	Chris Snow	07745 292945	Hampshire
2025 Organic Round Bale Hay	Good quality 2025 Organic round bale hay for sale (stored on pallets).	Mr John Cullimore	07761 599873	Gloucestershire
Beans for sale	Beautiful winter and spring beans for sale. 2.88 tonne of spring. 1 tonne of Winter. 550kg of mixed beans and grains	Charles Parry	07734 210810	Worcestershire
Small bale & round bale organic hay	Organic small & round bale hay for sale	Ian Sneade	07740 409825	Powys
Organic Hay for sale	Good Organic meadow hay for sale. Round and square bales. Suitable for cattle and sheep. Adeys Farm GL13 9HF	Tim Wilson	07977 456749	Gloucestershire
Organic oats	Organic oats for sale. Approx 50t. Approx 8% wheat.	Annabel	07903 120597	Worcestershire
Organic Oats	We have either rolled or organic oats for sale	Miles Walton	07500 660423	Sussex
Organic hay and silage for sale	Round bale organic hay and silage for sale	Charlie Morrish	07971 230728	Devon
Fodder Beet for Sale	Fodder Beet for sale, 200t available	Rob Houlbrooke	07792 685696	Herefordshire
Round bale silage for sale	50 organic round bale silage available	Ian Sneade	07740 409825	Powys
In conversion grass.	60 Acs of in conversion grass leys. Available to mow and some grazing for 26 season.	Phillip Lloyd	07867 975012	Herefordshire
Silage for sale	11 ME and 17% protein silage 200T for sale. Analysis on request.	A L Sayers Ltd	07870 205721	Cornwall

FEEDSTUFFS AND FORAGE WANTED				
Organic hay/haylage wanted	After 40 round bales of hay or haylage suitable for sheep Would consider silage.	Sophia Chinn	07500 892164	Northumberland
Organic silage wanted	Organic silage wanted with in reasonably transport distance of Bromyard Herefordshire.	Daniel Howlett	07594 325693	Herefordshire
Organic clamp silage wanted	Organic clamp silage wanted	Jack Howarth	07704 542206	Yorkshire
Organic straw	Wanted organic chopped straw - round or square bales. Ideally local to Herefordshire.	Claire Howlett	01885 498484	Herefordshire

SHEEP FOR SALE				
In Lamb Ewes	Mixture of Mules, Romneys and Aberfield x mainly 6t-FM. 80 ewes scanning at 168%. £250/hd. Farm assured/ Converted Breeding stock- All lambs will be fully organic. Only for sale due to loss of tenancy.	Rob Davie	07801 597703	Devon
Summer Grazing	75 acres summer grazing in south shropshire.	Chris Wilson	07398 517073	England

SHEEP WANTED				
Grazing for Organic Ewe Lambs	Grazing for up to 900 ewe lambs annually or on a summer or winter only grazing basis. Happy to collaborate with contract shepherds or farms that would like to manage the lambs themselves. Please get in touch for more information. Rhug Estate	Emyr Owen	07810 452538	Denbighshire
Balwen, Torwen or Black Welsh Mountain Sheep	Seeking Balwen, Torwen or Black Welsh Mountain sheep for budding farming enterprise within 15 miles of Llansadwrn, Carmarthenshire, Wales.	Rosie Slater	07754 575084	Carmarthenshire

DAIRY CATTLE FOR SALE				
Organic Grass Based Cross Bred Heifers	45+ dairy bred AI sired dairy heifers, 12 months old, will be fit to bull this summer. Only for sale due to changes in milk contracts. All pre movement tested. Out wintered.	Martyn Thirtle Mills	07811 255636	Cornwall
Spring calving cows for sale	Home bred ,closed herd spring calving cows and heifers for sale.TB tested and ready to move	Huw Ellis	07932 651030	Shropshire

DAIRY CATTLE WANTED				
Wanted Holstein high PLI youngstock	Wanted 140 Elite High Health high PLI Holstein Youngstock 8-14m old. John's Free & BVD free.	Rhodri Ellis	07900 937262	Denbighshire
Friesian bulling heifers	Looking for 100 friesian bulling heifers to serve 1/6/26 weighing 300kg. High health status and milks solid preferred	Jack Howarth	07704 542206	Yorkshire
Wanted organic holstein friesian dairy cows	Wanted 20 organic holstein friesian pure bred cows.	Sean bennett	07825 617622	Devon
Wanted dairy cows	30-40 heifers or young cows. Must be small high solids grazing type. Suitable for OAD all grass system. Preferably freshly calved or calving up to mid April	Matthew Boley	07786 638707	Somerset
50 Holstein heifers wanted	50 Holstein heifers wanted	Dan	07847 887298	Dorset
Dairy Cows Wanted 6-10	To join our long lived Organic Dairy herd near Gloucester. Lovely temperaments and high herd health status is a must. We run a cow with calf milking system, where calves live alongside the herd, and our cows live a very long time.	Jess Vaughan	07974 024028	Gloucestershire

LAND AND GRAZING FOR SALE				
Cropping land available for this growing season	Land available for cropping or silage. Some is stubble turnips stubble	Huw Ellis	07932 651030	Shropshire
Organic Farm (Babbinswood, Oswestry, Shropshire)	An exciting opportunity to purchase a sizeable holding which has been farmed organically since 2002, and held by the same family for the last five generations. 187.72 acres total. A range of modern and traditional farm buildings. Further details can be found on Rightmove.	Rhiannon Parry-Hughes	01691 610317	Shropshire

LAND AND GRAZING WANTED				
Arable growers wanted for spring & autumn Ahiflower production -	Growers needed for spring Ahiflower production for harvest 2026. Arable break crop, suitable for range of soil types, wide sowing window, early harvest, low input, low pest pressure. Uses conventional arable cropping equipment for production (standard drills and combines). UK wide opportunity.	Simon Meakin	07977 044160	Yorkshire
Grass keep	Looking for Grass keep in the Mid Devon area. Mainly for sheep potentially cattle. Good references available	Rob Davie	07801 597703	Devon

OTHER LIVESTOCK WANTED				
Bed and Breakfast Pigs Wanted	Land available for pig bed and breakfast in Monmouthshire, South Wales. All options considered, even small numbers, so please get in touch.	Sarah	07751 394773	Monmouthshire

MISCELLANEOUS WANTED				
Experienced organic gardener & grower seeks work	Experienced organic gardener and grower seeks work anywhere in the UK	Paul Smith	07930 805670	N/A
Organic Poultry Farm Manager - Home Counties	Lead a thriving organic free-range egg enterprise for a forward-thinking, well-invested family business. Package: Competitive salary, bonus, vehicle, & 3-bedroom on-site cottage. Contact Pam for info.	Pam Jones	07361 913180	Shropshire

General

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

Grass and forage seed mixtures for 2026

The Organic Grass and Forage Seed Working Group met at the beginning of December to discuss both the use of organic grass and forage seeds during 2025 and the supply of organic seeds as we move into 2026. The group noted concern over the supply of organic grass seeds and the percentage inclusion in mixtures. Following these discussions the group has proposed, and Defra has agreed, a reduction in the organic percentage of grass seed mixes

for the year 2026. The organic content of grass and forage seed mixtures has been reduced to 50% as a temporary measure for 2026.

Please note that for arable silage and wholecrop mixtures the percentage remains at 70%.

The same variety of seed may not be used in both organic and non-organic form within the same mix.

Producers

5% Non-Organic Protein Feed Ingredients

In the December issue of the OF&G Technical Newsletter (see right) we informed operators of the upcoming changes to the provision allowing the use of 5% non-organic protein in the diets of non-herbivores (pigs and poultry).

For clarity from 1 January 2026 the use of 5% non-organic protein feeds in line with Article 43 of Assimilated Regulation 889/2008 will only be permitted for 'young animals', young animals being pigs at less than 35kg liveweight and poultry less than 30 weeks of age.

Defra has now confirmed it will allow Control Bodies to take a reasoned and proportionate approach to enforcement of this change in the requirements. It has stated that 'where poultry operators are not compliant with these new requirements from 1 January 2026 due to taking a legitimate and reasoned approach to protecting the health and welfare of their flocks, they shall work with operators to ensure compliance is established by the end of a 14-week transition period ending on 9 April 2026'.

With this in mind poultry operators should now be taking steps to ensure they are compliant with these new rules at the earliest opportunity and no later than 9 April 2026.

If you have any queries or concerns you should contact your Certification Officer.

Use of Non-Organic Protein Feed Ingredients for Monogastric Animals

As noted in the June 2025 issue of the Technical Newsletter the production rules allowing the use of 5% non-organic protein feeds in the diets of pig and poultry was due to expire at the end of 2025 with Defra laying a Statutory Instrument (SI) to extend its use beyond this date.

Defra has now confirmed and published the SI (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2025/1111/regulation/2/made>) extending the use of the 5% non-organic protein ingredients to the end of December 2026.

As had been initially proposed, from 1 January 2026, the use of the 5% non-organic protein will be restricted to 'young animals' with 'young animals' being defined as pigs up to 35kgs liveweight and poultry of no more than 30 weeks of age.

Defra have indicated that a transition period will be put in place to allow pigs over 35kgs and poultry over 30 weeks of age on 1 January 2026 to move away from the use of 5% non-organic protein feed in their diet without adversely affecting their health and welfare.

We are currently waiting for Defra to confirm the details of any transition and will inform operators as soon as we are made aware.

Processors

TRACES NT helpdesk

We have received a number of queries lately concerning difficulties with the use of TRACES NT, the EU system for Certificates of Inspection used by GB operators for the export of organic goods from GB to the EU and Northern Ireland.

OF&G cannot usually help with TRACES NT technical issues, such as login issues and the use of 2-factor authentication. Regarding account recovery, it is best to contact the TRACES helpdesk directly by email at SANTE-TRACES@ec.europa.eu

Organic Standards and Certification Manual - Section 10

Section 10 of the OF&G Organic Standards and Certification Manual has now been updated, with a number of amendments such as removing redundant references and dates.

Please ensure that when checking for permitted ingredients and processing aids it is this latest issue that you refer to.

The updated section can be downloaded from our website at the following link;

<https://ofgorganic.org/useful-info/organic-standards>

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
Paddocks Farm Partnership Ltd	https://verm-x.com/	Animal Health Product, Animal Feed Supplements
Aphaeas Agriculture Ltd	https://aphaeas-agri.com/	Soil Conditioner
Improcrop Limited t/a Alltech Crop Science	https://www.alltech.com/	Fertiliser, Soil Conditioner
Quat-chem Ltd (Part of the Kersia Group)	https://www.quatchem.com/	Disinfectant/Cleaning Agent, Animal Health Product
Pre-Treatment Solutions Ltd	http://www.healthyoovesuk.com/	Animal Health Product
Novozymes A/S	https://www.novozymes.com/en	Fungicide
Pensia Ltd	pensia@btinternet.com	Fertiliser
Frunol Delicia GmbH	https://www.frunol-delicia.de/startseite/	Pest Control
LKAB Minerals Ltd	mark.fidell@lkab.com	Soil Conditioner
Blackthorn Salt	https://www.blackthornsalt.co.uk/	Ingredients
W. Neudorff GmbH KG	https://www.neudorff.de/	Pest Control, Fertilisers, Insect Control
ICL UK Sales Ltd	https://polysulphate.com	Fertiliser
Agrimin Limited	https://www.agrimin.co.uk/	Vitamins, Minerals and Traces
Premier Nutrition	https://www.premiernutrition.co.uk/	Animal Feed Supplements
Strathclyde Nutrition Ltd	https://www.strathclydenutrition.com/	Vitamins, Minerals and Traces
Syngen Animal Health Ltd	https://syngenanimalhealth.com/	Slurry Treatment
Nico Orgo Manures	http://www.neemnico.com/	Fertiliser, Plant Health Products, Soil Conditioners
Aiva Limited	https://www.aivafertiliser.co.uk/	Fertiliser, Plant Health Products, Soil Conditioners
Kelvin Cave Ltd	https://kelvincave.com/	Silage additive
Microferm Ltd	https://www.microferm.co.uk/	Animal Feed Additives, Slurry Treatment, Plant Health Products, Silage Additive
Vitax Ltd	https://www.vitax.co.uk/	Fertiliser, Plant Health Product
Denis Brinicombe Group	http://www.brinicombe.co.uk/	Vitamins, Minerals and Traces, Animal Feed Supplements
Gwen Petitpierre T/A Goodlifegateway	contact@goodlifegateway.com	Fertiliser


Recently awarded approved inputs


SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
Lodi UK Limited	https://www.lodi-uk.com/	Insect Control
Afrikelp (pty) Ltd	www.afrikelp.com	Plant Health Product




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