



ofgorganic.org



Newsletter

August 2026 Issue 166

General News

Dame Angela Eagle visits Riverford Organic Vegetables Sacrewell Farm



Images courtesy of Riverford



On 10 June Dame Angela Eagle DBE MP visited Riverford Organic Vegetables Sacrewell Farm near Peterborough. A key Riverford organic vegetable production and packing location, the minister, now Secretary of State at Defra in the new Cabinet of Prime Minister Andy Burnham, used the opportunity to find out more about the benefits to biodiversity and the environment offered by organic farming.

This will help support the finalisation of the Organic Action Plan for England (OAPE) that Defra has worked on with the English Organic Forum (EOF). Great discussions with members of the EOF were complemented by an inspirational tour of Riverford's organic farm. It is expected that the OAPE will be published in the coming months.

The leadership of Defra is critical at a time of organic market growth, since a significant proportion of the organic

products consumed are imported, when they could be produced in this country.

Organic action plans help provide the orientation that can support the development of the sector, which in England is significantly lagging behind other countries with only 3% of farmland being managed organically. It is good to see that our Secretary of State has a positive view of the potential for organic in England as one approach that can support the change towards a more resilient and sustainable food and farming system.

A short video from Riverford, posted on [facebook](#), provides an inspiring overview of the Secretary of State's commitment to organic farming alongside the perspective of Riverford's Managing Director, Rob Haward - a member of the English Organic Forum.

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Defra's Farming Roadmap - a framework for change

OF&G has received Defra's Farming Roadmap 2050 with great enthusiasm, in particular, the government's explicit commitment to work with the organic sector to deliver an Organic Action Plan for England (OAPE).

For many years organic farmers have been delivering exactly the outcomes the Roadmap now identifies in its three themes by improving profitability and productivity; enhancing sustainability; and building resilience. The Roadmap states that by 2050, the farming sector will be performing well against all of these crucial themes.

As the former Secretary of State Emma Reynolds explains in her introduction to the Roadmap: "Farmers feed our nation and manage the land that shapes our countryside, yet their contribution has never been valued in the way it deserves. Our roadmap marks a shift away from only looking to the next harvest and towards a plan that gives farmers the long-term clarity they need to innovate, invest and grow with confidence for generations to come."

From healthier soils, cleaner water, greater biodiversity, and reduced reliance on costly inputs, organic rightly deserves this long-awaited acknowledgement of the contribution it can make to securing a resilient future for agriculture.

This recognition of organic's role as one of the clearest, most trusted and established routes to delivering on government farming policy objectives is a significant step for the sector.

A box on page 57 of the Roadmap outlines the justification and scope for the OAPE, stating that Defra recognises "the proven benefits of organic production for the environment, through improvements to water quality, soil health, biodiversity, carbon emissions, and animal welfare. In addition to the environmental benefits, there is also a significant opportunity for economic growth in the

organic sector. To realise this potential, the government is collaborating with the organic sector to publish an Organic Action Plan for England.

Through this plan, the public and private sector will work together to promote sustainable, long-term sector growth, ensuring that the economic, employment, and environmental benefits of organic food and farming are fully realised.

[Defra] have agreed on clear, actionable goals that will support the sector's development across several themes including improving awareness and understanding of organics, supporting increased conversion to organic production and encouraging growth across the range of domestic and international markets available to organic growers."

It is encouraging that the government promises to work in partnership with industry to create Sector Growth Plans and we look forward to working on complementary organic sector plans alongside the Farming and Food Partnership Board.

The aim now is put organic front and centre within future ELM, SFI and private market frameworks as the leading, legally regulated and independently audited system of sustainable farming.

For years, organic has trailblazed the co-operative models highlighted in the Roadmap. Collaboration remains key. OF&G CIC will continue working with Defra through our involvement with the English Organic Forum in the development and launch of the OAPE. We are committed to ensuring the supply chain has the confidence to invest in the future of English organic food and farming over the coming decades.

ARK Summit - Weathering Uncertainty: Cultivating long term resilience for land, food, biodiversity and community

For the third year the ARK summit returned to the Winwood family Hilltop Farm on 19th June. Now six years into organic management the event has grown over the years to host more than 300 people. It provided a great opportunity to see how an organic farm can meet the needs of an increasing market for organic, whilst putting organic food and farming in the context of the urgent need to transform farming for the better.

Lt Col Richard Nugee (retired), who Chairs the Advisory Board for the Climate, Nature and Security All Party Parliamentary Group, and was formerly Non Executive Director for Climate Change and Net Zero for the Ministry of Defence, gave a sobering reminder of the vulnerability that arises from our current reliance on synthetic nitrogen fertiliser, dependent on fossil fuel resources vulnerable to reliance of transport through the Strait of Hormuz. This surfaced the tension between organic regenerative approach to farming, and lower input regenerative. It was encouraging to see that there was a greater focus on

organic regenerative farming, with discussion focusing on the herbicide and fertiliser dependence of low-input non-organic regenerative. The relevance of system change to organic is increasingly relevant, and this in turn can foster incremental change by reducing input use.

The anticipated Defra publication of the Organic Action Plan for England, developed through collaboration of the organic sector's English Organic Forum, was highlighted as one route to support the necessary transformation. Both Patrick Holden, Director of the Sustainable Food Trust, and the dynamic organic dairy farmer Sophie Gregory made clear that a coherent plan from Defra, implemented by the organic sector, will bring organic to the attention of more farmers, and encourage conversion. To achieve this, will depend on clear communication of the biodiversity, environmental, animal welfare and public health benefits that organic farming offers.

Organic Sector Development Groups - key to unlocking the scope for growth

With the Organic Action Plan for England nearing publication by Defra and as the new Prime Minister's Defra team settles in under the leadership of Secretary of State Dame Angela Eagle - a keen advocate of organic, the English Organic Forum is preparing for implementation.

A key to deliver the ambition of the plan to grow the area of organic in England, so delivering the well-evidenced biodiversity and environmental benefits over more of England's cherished countryside, is the development of organic supply chains rooted in the capacity of farmland to produce the organic crops and livestock to supply a growing market and replace imports where this is necessary. Organic is a place-based system, and so fits well with the government's new agenda.

To achieve this growth the English Organic Forum is initiating sector wide development groups in the key areas of organic production. These must tie in with Defra's Farm and Food Partnership Board priorities and the developing growth strategies that are being promoted by the Board.

A Horticulture Strategy is well advanced, and is expected to be published in September. It is being developed with the UK Organic and Agroecological Fruit & Vegetable Coalition chaired by the Organic Growers Alliance Director, Steven Jacobs, in partnership with Sustain (the alliance for better food and farming) and others. One of the three strands of the strategy is organic and agroecological horticulture, and with the active participation of the organic sector we look forward to helping replace the dependence on imports that the increasing organic market has relied on.

Organic dairy has been a strong organic category, with organic milk, yoghurt and cheese often being entry points for consumers. Under the leadership of dairy farmer Sophie Gregory the organic dairy sector is looking to ensure that a growing milk supply from organic farms can be grown whilst maintaining prices that provide a reliable return to the farmer. Stable and secure contracts with milk buyers will continue to be essential and these depend on ongoing dialogue with organic dairy farmers.

Getting more arable crops - both cereals and pulses for human and livestock consumption is essential, to replace a reliance on imported products. But with the uncertainty of harvests and a failure to focus on the opportunity for home-grown crops to improve resilience there is work to be done. A significant proportion of the feed cereals produced are kept to feed livestock on the farm, a good example of circularity in action. However, compound feed supply often depends on the use of imported cereals and soya - and this is where action is needed by the feed mills working together with farmers to secure more UK supplies.

The English Organic Forum is keen to further develop and establish organic sector groups to bring conversion to organic alive to the specific needs and challenges of each of the key sectors. Without the participation of farmers and the key supply chain businesses getting more home grown crops, and developing the market opportunity will fail. If you are interested in finding out more, or participating in the sector groups, contact your certification officer at OF&G CIC.

Regenerative agriculture - currently lacking in evidence

Regenerative has become one of the food and farming sectors' most widely used sustainability terms, but a new FAIRR report suggests many corporate commitments lack evidence of success.

The FAIRR Initiative is a global investor network that raises awareness of the material risks in intensive animal agriculture and opportunities in the global food sector. Its 2026 executive summary, *Regenerative Agriculture: Moving from Ambition to Credibility*, reviews 78 agri-food companies and asks whether their regenerative agriculture programmes are becoming more credible. It finds that while enthusiasm remains high, delivery is often harder to prove. Around 64% of companies now mention regenerative agriculture in their disclosures, yet only 28% have set quantified targets, down from 35% in 2023.

The report highlights a key shift with companies increasingly linking regenerative agriculture with climate,

water and supply chain resilience, but many still focus on activity-based targets, such as hectares under regenerative management or volumes of ingredients sourced, rather than measurable outcomes such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, lower pesticide use, improved soil health or biodiversity gains.

FAIRR notes that 54% of companies now mention measuring outcomes or having monitoring, reporting and verification systems in place, up from 16% in 2023. However, inconsistent definitions and weak data continue to make it difficult for investors, farmers and customers to assess whether these programmes are delivering genuine benefits.

The report also raises questions about farmer support. While 40% of companies provide some financial support to help farmers transition, this often represents just 0.01% to 0.05% of revenue. FAIRR warns that greater transparency is needed to understand whether the transition is being properly de-risked for producers.

For organic and agroecological farming, the message is clear - credibility matters. Regenerative claims must be backed by clear standards, farmer support and measurable outcomes. Without that, regenerative agriculture risks being another green label, rather than a tangible pathway to healthier soils, resilient farms and meaningful food system change.

New Agriscience Technical Guide and Hub help farmers harness the power of beneficial insects for natural crop protection

Farmers and growers across the UK can now access a new collection of practical resources to help reduce reliance on insecticides and strengthen natural pest control, with the launch of Agriscience's **Beneficial Insects for Crop Protection Technical Guide** and accompanying online **Beneficial Insects Hub**.

A practical guide to working with nature

Beneficial insects play a vital role in sustainable crop production, helping to control aphids, slugs and other pests while supporting healthier, more resilient farming systems. However, declining insect populations and increasing pressure on pesticide use mean that understanding and supporting these natural allies has never been more important.

Written by Kelly Jowett, Dion Garrett and Patricia Ortega-Ramos, with contributions from Martin Lines, Georgina Bray and Janie Caldbeck, the free Technical Guide introduces the insects and other arthropods that naturally protect crops by feeding on pests. It explains which species farmers are likely to encounter, the role they play within farming systems, and the practical steps that can be taken to create habitats where they can thrive. The guide explores how habitat creation, field management and soil stewardship can work together to encourage populations of beneficial insects and strengthen integrated pest management strategies.

Interactive Hub brings together additional learning resources

Alongside the Technical Guide, Agriscience has launched a dedicated online Beneficial Insects Hub. Designed as an interactive learning space, the Hub brings together a wide range of curated supporting materials, including farmer case studies, videos, research summaries and practical design tools.



Image from [Agriscience.co.uk](https://www.agricology.co.uk)

The Hub enables users to explore the topic in greater depth. Covering everything from habitat creation to soil management, insect identification and farm-scale planning, it has been carefully designed to support farmers at all stages of their natural crop protection journey.

Access the Hub here.

Matt Smee, Head of Agriscience, said:

"Beneficial insects are one of the most valuable but often overlooked assets on our farms. This new Guide and Hub are designed to help farmers understand the important role each species play and provide practical, evidence-based advice on creating farming systems that support them. We hope these resources will give more farmers the necessary confidence to make the most of nature's own pest control."

The Beneficial Insects for Crop Protection Technical Guide (<https://www.agricology.co.uk/resource/beneficial-insects-for-crop-protection-technical-guide/>) and Beneficial Insects Hub (<https://www.agricology.co.uk/resource/beneficial-insects-hub/>) are freely available via the [Agriscience.co.uk](https://www.agricology.co.uk) website.

2026 Shows/Events OF&G is attending

Natural and Organic Food Show - Excel, London

16-17 Sept 2026 Now part of the London Food and Drink Festival - for industry professionals.

<https://www.naturalandorganicfoodshow.co.uk/>



16-17 SEPTEMBER 2026 EXCEL | LONDON

Classifieds notice

It has come to our attention that an advert placed on our website was not what it purported to be. Whilst we check and manually approve each advert that is placed, it is not always clear that the advert might be false. We do recommend that purchasers always ask for proof of organic status, such as a valid certificate with an accredited control body, before parting with any money. OF&G cannot take responsibility for any stock, items or services sold through the OF&G website or newsletter classifieds.

Market Reports

Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC

ORGANIC STORE CATTLE REPORT

Contact the office on 01829 730580 or:

Peter Jones: 07720 892922

Email: p.jones@peterjoneslivestock.co.uk

After a very quiet May, June and July have been busy for the time of year. Prices have followed a similar trend with store cattle taking a dip in May with a recovery in early June. Overall store cattle prices are now marginally higher than twelve months ago which is out of line with prime stock price levels which are lower than last year. This shows the level of confidence amongst beef producers; it is also a reflection of the amount of conserved forage in silage clamps and hay barns. The blisteringly hot weather we are experiencing in most of the country is burning grass off rapidly and there is no change predicated in the weather.

We had a very successful Groundswell with us welcoming new and old customers to our stand. There is no doubt that there is a renewed enthusiasm for growth amongst organic beef producers.

As always we are always available for up-to-date price information. We are also able to supply a weekly email on dairy breeding stock available and wanted, please give us a ring for more details.

OLMC FINISHED STOCK

Prime Cattle

There continues to be a slow erosion of price in the prime organic beef market. Sales are very steady and not able to absorb the slight over supply currently. The numbers

are likely to tighten up in the next couple of months, which will hopefully help maintain prices north of 700p/kg deadweight.

Average R4L Organic UTM in spec @ 740p/kg deadweight

Cull cow

We are seeing a little strengthening in the trade for cull cows. Numbers remain pretty low and it looks as if there is a little more retail demand. Processing meat sales, especially burgers remain good which should help maintain better price levels over the summer.

Average R4L Organic OTM Cow in spec @ 560p/kg deadweight

Lamb

We are starting to see the first draws of organic new season lambs. The lambs have done well in the dry weather. Many flocks taking singles and heavier lambs first and seeing what they have at weaning, when the bigger batches should start to come through. The dry hot weather might not allow some farms to finish them, this being the case they might be looking to sell as stores later in the summer.

Average R3L organic NSL in spec @ 920p/kg

Finished Stock Marketing office: 01763 250313

olmc@olmc.co.uk

Tim Leigh: 07850 366404

OF&G policy activity - what we have been doing

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

NAME	ACTIVITY	DATE	COMMENT
CS	Defra Minister Dame Angela Eagle visit to Riverford Sacrewell Organic Farm to launch the Organic Action Plan for England	10/6/26	In person
CS	IFOAM Organics Europe Let's Discuss Organics - Info sources: Organic E-prints and EU Farm Book	16/6/26	Online
CS	ARK Summit Hilltop Farm: Weathering Uncertainty: Cultivating Long-Term Resilience for Land, Food, Biodiversity and Community	19/6/26	In person
CS	Defra Teams: Organic Import Data	29/6/26	Online
CS	Defra / EOF OAPE Review	2/7/26	Online
CS	EOF / Defra Policy Group meeting	16/7/26	Online
CS	Sustain Summer Event Regents Park Allotment	16/7/26	In person
CS	Defra / RPA Combined Forum	23/7/26	Online
CS	Link Agriculture Group meeting	28/7/26	Online
CS	Defra / EOF OAPE Review	29/7/26	Online
SC	Defra Minister Dame Angela Eagle visit to Riverford Sacrewell Organic Farm to launch the Organic Action Plan for England	10/6/26	In person
SC	Organic Feed Stakeholder Group	11/6/26	Online
SC	UK Organic Certifiers Group	15/7/26	Online
SC	Welsh Organic Forum Reception (RWS)	21/7/26	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
Isle of Man Seafood Products Ltd	https://isleofmanseafood.com/	Soil Conditioners
Uniscope (Euro) Ltd	https://www.uniscopeeuro.co.uk/	Vitamins, Minerals and Trace Elements
Northern Agricultural Merchant Ltd	http://www.czfplus.co.uk/	Animal Health Product
Action Pin	https://www.action-pin.fr	Fungicide
FytoFend S.A.	http://www.fytofend.com/en	Fungicide
Darlingtons Group Ltd	https://www.darlingtons-group.co.uk/	Vitamins, Minerals and Trace Elements
Heaton (Export & Marketing) Limited	https://www.heatonexport.co.uk/	Insect Control, Animal Feed Additives, Animal Feed Supplements
Andermatt	https://www.anderstattuk.com	Fertilisers, Insect Control
Scotmin Nutrition a trading division of Fevara (UK) Limited.	https://www.scotmin.com/	Vitamins, Minerals and Trace Elements, Animal Feed Supplements
Eutrema Ltd	https://eutrema.co.uk	Biofungicide, Fertilisers, Plant Health Products
UPL Europe Ltd	https://www.upl-ltd.com/uk	Fungicide, Plant Health Products, Fertilisers, Plant Disease Control
Pan Agriculture Limited	https://www.sovereignsulphur.co.uk/	Fertilisers
SmartFert Ltd	www.smartfert.co.uk	Fertilisers
Tricet UK Ltd	https://www.tricetuk.com/	Foliar Treatment, Soil Conditioner
Bacto-Tech Sp. z o.o.	https://bactotech.co.uk/	Soil Conditioners
Swiss Medicare Limited	http://www.swissmedicareltd.com/	Plant Disease Control, Fertilisers, Compost Additive, Fungicide, Biofungicide, Plant Health Product
biodiver.city GmbH	https://biodiver.city/home.html	Soil Conditioners
SafeRock Ltd	https://saferock.co.uk	Soil Conditioners
EVERYSPROUT	https://www.everysprout.co.uk/	Plant Health Product
Certis Belchim BV	https://www.certiseurope.co.uk	Disinfectant/Cleaning Agent, Pest Control, Fungicide, Insect Control, Bio-Insecticide
Corteva Agriscience UK Limited	https://www.corteva.co.uk/	Plant Health Product
Fertiliser Limited	https://www.orgamino-n13.co.uk	Fertilisers

Recently awarded approved inputs

SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
Azotic Technologies Ltd	http://ag.alltech.com/crop/	Fertiliser
Daleoak Ltd	www.humi-cert.com	Vitamins, Minerals and Trace Elements, Soil Conditioner
Kemin Europa NV	https://www.kemin.com/eu/en/home	Animal Feed Additive
Longcliffe Quarries Ltd	https://longcliffe.co.uk/	Vitamins, Minerals and Trace Elements, Soil Conditioner

Technical Newsletter

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



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Producers

Use of Non-organic Pullets and 5% Non-organic Protein

As OF&G has noted in previous copies of the technical newsletter the following production rules are due to expire on 31 December 2026:

- The use of non-organic pullets (up to 18 weeks of age) that have been managed to the organic feed and veterinary standards whilst in rear ('part-organic' pullets)
- The use of a percentage of non-organic protein feed in the diets of monogastric animals, limited to 'young' animals (pigs not more than 35kg liveweight and poultry less than 30 weeks of age).

The ending of these production rules is rapidly approaching and we have been receiving requests for 'part-organic' pullet delivery in 2027 for some time now. OF&G together

with other UK Control Bodies (CBs) have been liaising with Defra to establish a way forward to allow for the implementation of SPS and the feed and pullet rearing requirements of European Regulation 2018/848.

Defra has, at the time of writing, confirmed that it plans to extend both the production rules for the use of non-organic pullets ('part-organic' pullets) and 5% non-organic protein for young animals. With an implementation date for SPS not finalised Defra has noted that these rules will extend from 1 January 2027 to a minimum date of 1 June 2027.

Requests for the use of part-organic pullets for delivery in the first half of 2027 will be able to be processed soon provided you have supplied all information required.

Processors

Certificate of Inspection Irregularities

Defra has notified Control Bodies that there has been an increasing number of organic imports entering GB without the required documentation. This includes:

- consignments arriving without Certificates of Inspection (COIs);
- consignments arriving with COIs issued after the date of departure;
- consignments arriving with COIs not submitted to ports for endorsement;
- consignments with COIs not endorsed by the first consignee.

Importers are requesting retrospective endorsement of COIs, which ports then appropriately decline.

Once a consignment has been released and has departed the port, it is no longer the responsibility of the port.

Retrospective COIs are not provided for under the organic regulations and would not be permitted under a strict

application of the relevant regulation [Articles 13\(1\) and 13\(2\) of Assimilated Regulation 1235/2008](#).

As is the case with international partners, GB takes a rigorous approach to import documentation where consignments lack valid and appropriately endorsed documentation, e.g. COIs.

UK importers should be aware of their obligations as follows:

- valid COIs must be obtained prior to consignments departing third countries;
- COIs must be submitted to the relevant port and endorsed before consignments leave the port of arrival; and
- COIs must be endorsed by the first consignee.

Defra state that requests to retrospectively endorse COIs will be considered only in exceptional circumstances and assessed on a case-by-case basis. Importers should not expect retrospective endorsement to be granted.

Withdrawn additional official controls on organic imports

The GB additional official control measures, imposed by Defra from 1 July 2021 and applicable to specified CN chapter produce from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, China and Turkey, ended on 5 July 2026.

Defra are reviewing the rules for importing organic products and expect to introduce new rules for high-risk imports in 2027.

Fraudulent Organic Certificate

OF&G has received notification regarding a company called Agri Holding Limited. Please be aware that Agri Holdings Limited is not, and has never been, certified as organic by OF&G.



Here to listen and support you

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)