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Newsletter

December 2020 Issue 132

General News

OF&G recognised by the EU as an equivalent organic control body post-brexit



OF&G completed an application seeking recognition as a CB operating in a third country (UK) by the EU last February. On Tuesday 1 December the representatives of the EU Member States voted on this recognition and it was positively approved. The approval is now following the usual adoption procedure and OF&G will be informed when it is published.

OF&G are pleased to see the recognition of all six UK Organic Control Bodies by the European Commission. This will allow UK organic operators to continue to access European markets next year which would have been closed to them from the 1 January 2021 without it.

The recognition is, however, only for 12 months which means that UK OCBs will have to apply again next year and with the implementation of the new EU organic regulation on 1 January 2022 there remains uncertainty around which EU organic regulation

equivalence will have to be gained.

The best possible outcome for UK and EU operators would therefore be to secure a national organic equivalency agreement between the UK and EU. This would potentially avoid the need for label changes and could mean that the need for certificates of inspection could be avoided once there is an agreement. This would have a significant benefit to operators.

In spite of this recent announcement OF&G are therefore still keen to see a comprehensive organic equivalency arrangement agreed between the UK and the EU as soon as possible.

In the meantime there remains the need for clarification regarding a possible grace period for label changes and when access to TRACES NT for UK exporters will be allowed. OF&G have requested clarification on these aspects from the European Commission.

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OF&G Office Hours over Christmas break



The office will be closed from 1pm on Thursday 24 December until 9am Monday 4 January.

The contact number for emergencies only outside of these hours is for Stephen Clarkson on 07929 623118



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Agriculture Act and Environmental Land Management – an opportunity for organic to deliver public goods for public money

On 11 November, the Agriculture Bill received Royal Assent and the first Agriculture Act for more than half a century saw the light of day. There was much work by many groups and organisations – notably the Sustain Alliance and their members (OF&G being one) – to propose and lobby for vital amendments.

From an organic perspective, it was clearly good to see agroecology get a mention, but organic, a coherent, well defined, legally binding working example of agroecology is not on the face of the Act. Although it has brought the EU organic regulation into UK law, Government has yet to explicitly recognise that organic land management is however relevant to the Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme by ensuring the delivery of public goods. It is clear that this would be supported by increasing numbers of consumers and the public.

With all this by way of background, the slowly emerging Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme is getting tied up in complicated knots, trying to define standards and public good outcomes – but with a reluctance to grasp the nettle. It is becoming evident that there is a fear that anything too

effective, any real departure would garner criticism from the farming industry. Defra is perhaps treading too carefully.

The English Organic Forum (EOF) (which is part-funded by OF&G) has made specific policy proposals for how organic could fit within the ELM scheme– and thereby deliver the public goods that we urgently need. No longer should farming result in a denuded environment, and a crisis for climate and biodiversity – not to mention human health. Of course this is more than just about what farmers and growers do on the land, it is also about our consumption patterns, our reliance on imports of food that we can grow here, excessive waste and so on.

The rationale for the EOF proposals is that the synergies of the organic farming system add significantly to the public goods benefit that can be achieved compared. We envisage two elements for the Sustainable Farming Incentive (formerly Tier 1): Firstly, an Organic Management (public good) Strand with rolling agreements and based on a defined bundle of standard ELM options. This would secure continued delivery of public goods. Secondly, an Organic Conversion

Option which would involve a multi-year agreement based on a planned organic conversion. This could include recognition of the costs of planning and restructuring to achieve the organic system-synergy public goods benefit, and the costs of certification.

ELM is being re-branded, gone are Tiers 1, 2 and 3 (too many echoes of Covid-19). Now Defra is talking about the Sustainable Farming Incentive (formerly Tier 1); Local Nature Recovery (Tier 2); and Landscape Recovery (Tier 3). With these names, it seems that organic could offer one way forward – that is why the EOF has offered policy proposals to Defra for organic. An organic policy, as part of Environmental Land Management would support diversity (a key to resilience) and be good value for money. Rather than the 1,200 individual measures currently being considered in ELM, we hope that Defra will seize the opportunity that organic farming presents. As a legally defined farming system, with good evidence for public good delivery, backed up by the organic certification and annual inspection, there is a track record of high standards of organic farm management.

EU-UK Future Partnership and Organic FAQ

Working with colleagues at the UK Organic Certifiers Group (UKOCG) ourselves, Defra and key stakeholders, the Food and Drink Federation have produced a document to help clarify what is currently known about organic labelling, equivalence, import and export legislation and certification once the EU-UK transition period ends on 31 December.

The position is currently being updated regularly so please contact your CO to ensure you have the most up to date position.



Organic - A way forward for future farming and food policy

This English Organic Forum (EOF) are currently preparing a paper (with support of OF&G) to be circulated publicly outlining how organic land management could be integrated into England's agricultural policy through the future Agriculture and Environment Acts; the Environmental Land Management scheme and the productivity scheme; and the animal health and welfare pathway and it is consistent with the developing National Food Strategy.

The organic approach in principle and practice meets multiple outcomes and provides multiple benefits in line with the ambition and objectives of these policy initiatives. It is by far the most developed "agroecological" system and has a proven track record commercially and environmentally on a wide-range of farms and in the market place. It is described and defined in law and is supported by a comprehensive inspection, certification and information system.

As such, it can, realistically, be a powerful pivot for system change, responding simultaneously both to the aspirations as well as the concerns of a significant proportion of consumers and citizens, and the environmental challenges we collectively face.

It is hoped that this paper will be published before the end of the year and OF&G will make it available to everyone as soon as we have the final version.

Operators importing from the EU require importing on their certificate

It has been widely publicised that from 1 January 2021 the rules on bringing organic products into Great Britain (GB) from both the European Union (EU) and other Third Countries will change. Regardless of whether you bring organic goods into GB from the EU or third countries you will need to register your business with a control body and be inspected and certified as an importer. If you are already registered as a processor requiring an annual physical inspection you will need to contact your Certification Officer in order to have your certificate updated to include importing. OF&G will then ensure importing is inspected at your next and subsequent annual inspections. If you are registered on OF&G's Merchant Registration Scheme and subject to a physical inspection on a three year cycle, we will need to amend not only your

certificate but also the scheme with which you are registered. You will need to move to a processor licence requiring a physical inspection on an annual basis, whilst we will update your certificate to include importing this will result in a new fee at your next invoice period. If you have any questions please contact your Certification Officer.

In order to bring organic goods into GB, Defra have produced a paper based import system and Certificate of Inspection (Col). A paper Col will need to be produced by your supplier and their control body as per the Defra requirements. For information on the Defra import system and paperwork please follow the link below or refer to the email sent on 30 October 2020:

<https://ofgorganic.org/news/importing-organic-products-from-third-countries-into-great-britain-at-the-end-of-the-transition-period>

Please note that Defra has recently informed all CBs that a decision has been taken to allow the import of certified organic goods from the EU only without the need for a Col for a period of six months. By 1 July 2021 EU exports and their CBs will need to ensure a Defra Col is produced for all products destined for GB.

If you are importing products from other Third Countries a paper Col based on the Defra import system must be used from 1 January 2021.

If you have any questions please contact your Certification Officer

OTB opening membership to farmers

We will be writing to our farmer licensees to let you know you the Organic Trade Board (OTB) has introduced a new £100 (plus VAT) annual membership rate exclusively for organic farmers and growers.

OF&G has been a long-term member of the OTB and Roger Kerr is on the OTB's board of directors. The board is working to make organic an everyday choice for consumers. It does this through successful consumer marketing campaigns.

The OTB is an independent member funded organisation that seeks to unify the industry and encourage consumers to make organic an everyday choice, forever.

Some of the membership benefits you may be interested in include

- Opportunity to support and benefit from our industry-wide marketing campaigns;
- Networking opportunities throughout the year at local meetings;

- Closed members' group on LinkedIn where you can share news, views, questions and network;
- Access to the OTB team (directors, committees and staff).

If you are interested please do not hesitate to contact Annie Seeley if you have any questions on annie@organictradeboard.co.uk or her mobile 07947 500 415.

Nature has the Answer - Organic Trade Board



On 19 November the OTB held a virtual meeting for its members to review their activity this year. In spite of the pandemic, results show that organic sales increased by 9.5% in the third quarter of this year, out performing non-organic sales by nearly 3% (non-organic sales rose by 6.6% in the same period).

This year the OTB campaign message was 'Nature has the answer' which seems to chime with consumers in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss. One third of millennials said they were more likely to buy organic food following the OTB campaign, this represents around 12 million people. Sales of organic in September rose by 13% compared with last year.

Given the very difficult trading conditions this year the OTB have done well engaging with consumers and national press and the strength of them acting for the whole industry, with one mission, one goal and one gift is certainly paying off. OF&G remain committed to supporting them in the coming years in promoting 'organic as an everyday choice, for everyone'

Genome Editing - Sensible fail safes and regulatory safeguards



A bid to have the government change how the UK Environmental Protection Act is applied was at the centre of one of the amendments proposed, but which did not make it onto the statute book, when the new Agriculture Act 2020 became UK law.

Amendment 275 was aiming to give the Defra Secretary of State the powers to change the Environmental Protection Act in order to allow techniques in plant breeding that the European Union have legally defined as genetic modification.

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2551/stages/12194/amendments/53251>

Internationally organic regulations are clear on this point. Genetically modified crops are not allowed in organic farming systems.

In July 2018 the European Court of Justice made a ruling on new mutagenesis techniques -

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-07/cp180111en.pdf>

'the Court considers that the risks linked to the use of these new mutagenesis techniques might prove to be similar to those that result from the production and release of a GMO through transgenesis, since the direct modification of the genetic material of an organism through mutagenesis makes it possible to obtain the same effects as the introduction of a foreign gene into the organism (transgenesis) and those new techniques make it possible to produce genetically modified varieties at a rate out of all proportion to those resulting from the application of conventional methods of mutagenesis.'

In the same statement the ECJ also qualify the rules around existing practices -

'However, organisms obtained by mutagenesis techniques which have conventionally been used in a number of applications and have a long safety record are exempt from those obligations, on the understanding that the Member States are free to subject them, in compliance with EU law, to the obligations laid down by the directive or to other obligations.'

Following the European court ruling these 'new genetic mutagenesis' techniques cannot be used in organic cropping systems.

Before the UK government allows such techniques to be used commercially in the United Kingdom many very serious issues would need to be addressed.

To begin with we must consider the market. The governments of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have all made it clear that growing genetically modified (GM) crops will not be permitted within their borders.

Indeed across all of Britain people are still saying "no" to genetically modified food -

<https://www.gmfreeze.org/why-freeze/unwanted/>

With the UK devolved nations and our largest markets in the European Union declining trade in GM food, it would therefore be a narrowing of market opportunity were the UK to adopt a GM path.

OF&G believe that strong regulation in food systems is essential. Our experience of adhering to a strong regulatory framework comes from the audits we administer for our licensees and from our own annual audit undertaken by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service.

We would, therefore, see no reason why others should not have to comply with an equally stringent set of standards to protect integrity in food supply chains.

Earlier this year responding to news of amendment 275's proposal the Director of GM Freeze, a non-profit organisation who campaign to raise the profile of concerns about the impact of genetic modification, Liz O'Neill, said -

"all forms of genetic engineering are prone to errors and unexpected impacts while even the smallest genetic changes can cause complex

and far-reaching changes."

She added that regulation is a "safeguard, not a ban, and it would be foolhardy to give new techniques with no history of safe use free rein in our food and on our farms".

At OF&G we support techniques in food systems from traditional to modern. We repeatedly call for much greater support to be awarded to research in agroecology from public funding bodies such as UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) which currently does not favour agroecological approaches.

We do not believe that plant breeding must be at a standstill, however nor do we see plant breeding as at all sustainable where it is removed from the Earth's ecological systems.

Where we would like to see more progress made is with forward-looking methods such as participatory plant breeding where farmers are at the heart of the process and very much in the driving seat.

<https://ofgorganic.org/news/livewheat-at-green-acres-farm-in-shropshire>

<https://www.liveseed.eu/>

And we know that marker-assisted genetic selection has shown remarkable success while also keeping within existing seed rules that are applicable across the British Isles and the continent of Europe and that can be compatible with organic standards.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10681-010-0169-0>

Following the withdrawal of amendment 275, the government announced they would hold a public consultation on the issue. As this newsletter goes to print we have yet to see any sign of that consultation.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/uk-gene-editing-amendment-withdrawn-but-government-commits-to-consultation/>

With science showing that climate and ecological crises are having profoundly negative effects on the systems that support food production banking on silver bullets cannot be considered a responsible approach. When the government's consultation

is announced OF&G will be calling for more funding for research in organic whole system methodologies before any move to embrace unproven technologies.

Farmers face huge challenges from increasingly erratic weather patterns and a diminishing biological diversity in our countryside. And they still must be economically viable to be able to manage land and produce consistent quantities of good quality food.

We want all parts of the food system to adhere to the same level of stringent regulation that our licensees achieve year-on-year. We want to see full support for established farming systems and fail safes in place for all systems to enable a truly sustainable growth.

We welcome feedback and if you have any comments or queries please contact Steven Jacobs, OF&G's Business Development Manager.

Market Information

Grain Prices: Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable

The recent Organic Trade Board members meeting highlighted the extraordinary growth the organic market has witnessed through 2020 and the prospects for organic food sales remain strong as shoppers maintain loyalty to products tried for the first time through Lockdown 1.0 or see the need to alter their consumption due to environmental or animal welfare concerns that have been highlighted due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This growth however is not filtering back to the organic grain market where conditions remain challenging.

The organic grain market is currently being affected by Brexit. The uncertainty about the basis on which we leave the EU is having two opposing impacts at present. The organic market has an impact beyond simply the trading terms of a post-Brexit UK. We also have uncertainty about the status of UK

organic certification as we currently certify to the EU regulation. However if we leave without a deal our organic status ceases to be recognised by the EU until we have achieved equivalence with the EU. Despite the preparations undertaken by the UK organic certifiers we do not know how long it may take for equivalence to be granted and this uncertainty is affecting buying decisions. Sales will be interrupted if equivalence is delayed and already some UK brands are reporting reductions in export sales. This in turn makes their grain purchasing more defensive and so sales harder to achieve.

Alongside this the initial shot in the arm that the Lockdown 2.0 gave the milling market has subsided as there was little panic buying and the supply chain was better prepared and so fewer additional sales made than was the case in the Spring.

We have seen some small increases in market values for feed grains as the keener sellers are out of the market and those with grain to sell seek higher prices.

The market for milling oats and milling wheat remains good with opportunities for feed wheat but UK supply is short. The barley market, as with conventional, is the most difficult with few malting barley opportunities and the feed market difficult too.

A good drilling season has been a huge relief after last season with only a few farmers reporting not managing to get all their planned autumn grain drilled. Possibly some forced into spring drilling last seasons saw some benefits in so doing and have shifted their policy too.

Focus is turning to spring drilling and spring wheat and oat seed is likely to be tight as some seed crops were lost. Barley seed is in good supply.

Please see <https://www.organicarable.co.uk/arable> for more information.

Please keep an eye on our blog www.organicarable.co.uk/blog

01638 744144 / 07980 955490

[@organicarable](https://twitter.com/organicarable)

Staff News

Alison Annandale

As the majority of OF&G staff have been working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic the inspection and certification of operators has run as smoothly as could be expected, although it has highlighted a need for greater communication with our inspectors.

The inspectors are an important part of the certification process being the eyes and ears of OF&G and in some cases the only physical contact operators will have with OF&G each year.

In order to bridge the gap between the office and inspectors OF&G has brought in Alison Annandale as Inspector Manager. She will be working closely with both inspectors and certification officers,

initially communicating strategy and policy during the period where we are unable to conduct all physical inspections, meaning it is unlikely you will be in contact with her.

However, she has a wealth of experience and will be known to some farmers as she has previously inspected on behalf of OF&G and also managed the farm inspection contract with our previous inspection provider.

Wales REAL Food and Farming Conference

The WRFFC or CGFFFc - Cynheliwyd yr ail Gynhadledd Gwir Fwyd a Ffermio ran from 16-19 November 2020.

With 30 sessions over four days and sales reaching more than 250 individual tickets, the second Wales Real Food and Farming Conference was a resounding success.

OF&G business development manager, Steven Jacobs, is the event treasurer and has an active role on the steering group.

Steven wrote a blog just prior to the event - 'Where some food systems fail, others will thrive' which describes the situation currently with the pandemic but also where strengths and weakness lie:

<https://wrffc.wales/2020/11/03/where-some-food-systems-fail-others-will-thrive/>

Inspired by the Oxford Real Farming Conference (<https://orfc.org.uk/>), the Wales Real Food and Farming Conference was established to explore sustainable food and farming, bringing together farmers and other food businesses, environmentalists and people involved in public health, food education, food sovereignty and social justice.

As with last year the 2020 event also featured one of the co-founders of the ORFC, Colin Tudge, alongside one of Wales' most prominent farmers and campaigners for better recognition of people and food in Wales, Gerald Miles of Caerhys Organic in Pembrokeshire,

<http://www.coca-csa.org/>

The schedule for the conference is still available to look at online and all of the sessions were recorded and will be posted via the event website and youtube channel during the course of the next few days, weeks and months.

<https://wrffc.wales/cynhadledd-2020-conference/>

The event carried a series of themes for each day. Monday was Climate and Resilience, Tuesday was Diversity, on Wednesday the theme was Well-being and the final day, Thursday, the theme was Histories and Futures.

The event was co-sponsored by (in alphabetical order) Garden Organic, Hybu Cig Cymru, the Land Workers'



WALES REAL Food & Farming Conference

Alliance, the Nature Friendly Farming Network, Organic Farmers & Growers, the Soil Association, and Whole Health Agriculture.

Supporters included Aberystwyth University, Bangor University, Cynidr Consulting, Food Manifesto Wales, Purposeful Permaculture, the Real Farming Trust and the Sustainable Food Trust.

With keynotes from young farmer and recipient of a Henry Plumb Foundation communicators and future leaders grant, Ffion Storer Jones; author and Chair of the Wales Inquiry of the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission, Jane Davidson; NFU Cymru President John Davies; and author, public speaker and linguist, Carwyn Graves.

Sessions included discussions asking big questions across a wide range of subjects such as: How do farmers and food businesses meet the challenges from Brexit, climate change & ecological diversity, and also incorporated a People's Assembly on where to fill in the gaps in food and farming education.

Other topics covered included agroforestry, the COP26, low-input farming, diverse breeding programmes for livestock and for plant varieties, sustainable diets and urban food production, to name just some of the session topics.

This conference was a broad but deep delve into food systems, to those that are up and running and to those still being built.

Some of the quotes we picked up during the conference and posted or re-posted on twitter #WRFFC20 -

"Every school should adopt a farm", Gerald Miles, Caerhys Farm

"Diversity is the key to reliability" Mark Lea, Green Acres Farm

"The need is for recognition of the value Higher Nature Value approaches bring and the importance of bottom-up approaches" - Prof. Davy McCracken, SRUC

"A dialogue based on respect is essential. It seems sometimes, change happens to us, but it is our responsibility to push the realm of the possible. Danger and opportunity; in a crisis be aware of danger, but also recognise the opportunity" - Ffion Storer Jones

Keep an eye on the website - <https://wrffc.wales/cynhadledd-2020-conference/> - and the Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLaS2F6tYmv3v4hvBSp9njA> and social media - <https://twitter.com/wrffc20> - for updates on more material to be posted online very soon.

A short (12mins) though eloquent and quite moving talk on diversity in agriculture from Ffion Storer Jones is now available on the WRFFC YouTube channel -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7k9RJgCSXM>

Any comments or queries about the Wales Real Food and Farming Conference or about food and farming in Wales more generally then please contact Steven Jacobs at OF&G.

OF&G and Organics in the News

Our chief executive, Roger Kerr is a director on the Organic Trade Board and has been quoted in numerous publications following a statement issued jointly on behalf of food and drink businesses raising alarm over the impact a no-deal Brexit could inflict on UK businesses.

The **Grocer** covered this issue at the end of **October 2020** -

Brexit a “£200m threat” to organic exports

An FDF spokeswoman said: “In early September, more than 30 organisations including the Organic Trade Board, the FDF, NFU and Omsco wrote to chief negotiator Lord Frost and the chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster, Michael Gove, to raise awareness of the importance of mutual equivalence between the UK-EU for organic products.

“Without equivalence, there is a ban on the export of organic products to the EU. While the UK has recognised equivalence of organic imports to the UK, the same has not been secured from the EU,” she said. “Representatives in the sector continue to press for mutual equivalence as the end of the transition period draws closer.”

The fight to raise awareness of the threat to the export trade, which also involves Yeo Valley and certification body OF&G, comes despite new figures from Nielsen showing booming popularity of organic produce within the UK.

The full article can be found online at -

<https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/buying-and-supplying/brexit-a-200m-threat-to-organic-exports/649880.article>

Roger also features in the **Farmers**

Guardian on 22 October 2020 with a piece called - ‘Diversity is key for a resilient and productive food system’

The issues we face are multi-dimensional – we are seeing significant degradation of soils and major climatic events alongside huge biodiversity loss.

How can we seek to reconcile these issues simultaneously without recognising the need for our food production system to significantly reduce its impact on finite natural resources and the environment?

The continued degradation of our most productive soils through increased intensification to allow lower grade soils to be rewilded can only lead to a long-term reduction in overall agricultural capacity and greater environmental decline overall.

We need to rebalance the conversation and take a broader view. To strengthen food supply chains and restore our natural environment, a whole-system approach is necessary to consider the wider environmental ‘balance sheet’ – enhancing ‘natural and public assets’ and reducing ‘environmental and societal liabilities’ through the wider implementation of organic techniques.

To bring a more benign farming system and the space needed for nature together, we must address the challenges of diet, food waste and inequities in our food system. Our productive agricultural land cannot be ransomed due to wider political inertia or slavish adherence to the current paradigm.

To optimise food production requires investment in organic and agroecological research alongside support for farmers to transition

towards different farming methods, plus the development of more local food networks and peri-urban food production.

Diversity in farming and the supply chain is ultimately the key to a more resilient and productive food system.

The full article can be found online at -

<https://www.fginsight.com/blogs/farming-matters-roger-kerr---diversity-is-key-for-a-resilient-and-productive-food-system>

Several OF&G licensed farm businesses are announced as the worthy winners in the **2020 National Egg and Poultry Awards**.

Well done to all who were nominated and to those who won an award, most notably for us to these **OF&G certified businesses, Moy Park, Farmlay and Humphrey Feeds** -

<https://www.nationaleggandpoultryawards.co.uk/2020-winners/>

Friday On The Farm

Some of you will have seen a familiar farming family on television recently.

The **Sellers family** who farm near Driffield in Yorkshire were featured on channel five’s farming programme, **Friday On The Farm**, and we reported news of their appearance on the OF&G twitter account -

<https://twitter.com/ofgorganic/status/1320342342344364032>

It was great to see the Sellers family on @OnTheFarmC5 a couple of weeks ago. Organic (licensed by us), with grain from the fields going to the mill, & then the flour to the bakery, @SideOven - a real family affair. #FridayontheFarm @channel5_tv <https://t.co/9BfboWHz40>



Website and Social Media

<http://ofgorganic.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/organicfarmers>

<https://twitter.com/ofgorganic>

<https://www.instagram.com/ofgorganic>



Approved Inputs

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

Recently awarded approved inputs

| SUPPLIER | WEBSITE / EMAIL | CATEGORY |
|------------------------|---|-------------|
| Food Alive | https://naturesfoodalive.com | Ingredients |
| Evergreen Horticulture | https://www.evergreenpeat.com | Composts |

Updated approved inputs

| SUPPLIER | WEBSITE / EMAIL | CATEGORY |
|---|---|---|
| Ron Fields Nutrition | https://ronfieldsnutrition.co.uk/ | Animal Health Products |
| Vilofoss UK | https://www.vilofoss.com/ | Vitamins, Minerals & Trace Elements |
| PelGar International | https://www.pelgar.co.uk/ | Pest Control |
| Salutaris, Unipessoal Lda | bsalvador@salutaris.pt | Ingredients |
| Dynamis Homeopathic Medicine | dynamisahc@gmail.com | Animal Health Products |
| Pack-It-Hereford Ltd | http://www.pack-it-hereford.com/ | Ingredients |
| EM Agriton Limited | https://www.agriton.co.uk/ | Manure Treatment, Compost additive, Silage additive, Animal Feed Supplement, Bedding Materials, Animal Feed Additive, Soil conditioners |
| FGS Agri Ltd | http://www.fgsagri.co.uk/ | Bedding Materials |
| Ilex EnviroSciences Limited | https://ilex-envirosciences.com/ | Fertilisers, Weed Control, Plant Health Products, |
| Lallemand Animal Nutrition UK Ltd | https://sil-all.com/ | Silage additive |
| Lallemand Animal Nutrition UK Ltd. | https://biotal.co.uk/ | Animal Health Product, Animal Feed Additive, Animal Feed Material, Silage additive, Slurry Treatment |
| Lallemand Animal Nutrition UK Limited/ Biotol | https://biotal.co.uk/ | Silage additive, Animal Feed Supplement, Slurry Treatment |
| Legume Technology Ltd | https://www.legumetechnology.co.uk/ | Plant Health Products |
| REMIN (Scotland) Ltd | http://www.reminscotland.com/ | Soil conditioners, Composts |
| Tithebarn Ltd | https://www.tithebarn.co.uk/ | Animal Feed Supplement, Vitamins, Minerals & Trace Elements |
| Agritech-IS Ltd | www.agritech-is.com | Animal Feed Supplement |
| Anpario plc | http://www.anpario.com/ | Pest Control, Animal Feed Additive |
| Greenaway Green Waste Services | http://www.greenawaycomposting.co.uk/ | Soil Conditioner |
| Intracare BV | https://www.intracare.nl/ | Animal Health Products |
| Stoller Europe, S.L.U. | https://stollerseurope.com/ | Fertilisers |
| Crop IQ Technology Ltd | http://www.cropiqtech.com/# | Plant Health Products |
| Natural Grower Limited | https://naturalgrower.co.uk/ | Fertilisers |
| Natural Feeds and Fertilisers Ltd | https://www.naturalfeeds-fertilisers.co.uk/ | Animal Feed Supplement, Vitamins, Minerals & Trace Elements, Fertilisers, Disinfectant/Cleaning Agent |
| Ball of Madley Ltd | https://www.ballofmadley-hereford.co.uk/ | Vitamins, Minerals & Trace Elements |
| Paddocks Farm Partnership Ltd | https://verm-x.com/ | Animal Health Products |
| GreenBest Ltd | http://www.greenbest.co.uk/ | Fertilisers |

General

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

Postponement of 2018/848

It has been widely reported that due to the restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the European Commission had proposed a postponement to the implementation of the new organic regulation, Regulation (EU) 2018/848, to 1 January 2022. On 11 November 2020

the European Commission published Regulation (EU) 2020/1963 officially deferring the date of application of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 by one year to the 1 January 2022. For many licensees this news will, in reality, have no impact on your certification. However, for those licensees in

Northern Ireland where you will be required to operate within the EU regulations this will allow extended time to implement any changes required within regulation 2018/848. If you have any queries please contact Steve Clarkson.

Producers

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

Due to a number of confirmed cases of HPAI in both wild and captive birds the Chief Veterinary Officers of England, Wales and Scotland have agreed to bring in new measures to protect poultry and captive birds.

From 14 December new housing measures will mean it will be a legal requirement for keepers to keep their birds indoors and follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread and eradicate the disease.

They can help prevent avian flu by maintaining good biosecurity on their premises, including:

- housing or netting all poultry and captive birds;
- cleansing and disinfecting clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing;
- reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and using effective vermin control;
- thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting housing at the end of a production cycle;
- keeping fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all points

where people should use it, such as farm entrances and before entering poultry and captive bird housing or enclosures;

- minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds.

These new measures will be kept under regular review as part of the government's work to protect flocks.

The organic regulations permit the housing of birds where there are statutory obligations. When permanently housed the birds must have sufficient access to organically certified roughage or suitable material. Other enrichment may be added such as straw bales, pecking blocks etc... However, these must be certified as organic or approved for use in organic systems.

Operators should be vigilant for any signs of disease in birds and seek prompt advice from your vet if you have any concerns. You should report dead wild birds to the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77 (option 7), and keepers should report suspicion of disease to APHA on 03000 200 301. Keepers should familiarise themselves with our [avian flu advice](#) (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>)

Grass and Forage Seed Mixes

At a recent meeting of the Grass Seed Working Group the percentage of organic seed required in a grass and/or forage seed mixture was discussed. In early 2020 Defra approved a time limited reduction in the organic percentage from 70% to 50% ending on 31 December 2020. The members of the working group were in agreement that as of the 1 January 2021 the organic inclusion rate should revert back to a minimum of 70%. The Certification Body Technical Working Group (CBTWG) further discussed the implications of such an increase and made the following recommendations to Defra.

Where a farmer purchased a 50% grass and/or forage seed mixture before the 18 November 2020 and was unable to sow the mix prior to the 31 December 2020, these mixtures may still be used as 50% organic for sowing in the spring of 2021;

Where seed companies have 50% organic seed mixtures left in stock after the 18 November 2020, these must be re-mixed and the organic content increased to a minimum 70%.

Where a grass and/or forage mixture for sowing in 2021 contains at least 70% organic content approval will not be required prior to sowing, however, must be obtained before your next inspection by completing and returning a copy of Record Sheet 4a to your certification officer.

Processors

Extension of derogation relating to COVID restrictions to 1/2/21

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place across the EU, the European Commission issued a temporary 'derogation' from certain aspects of Regulations (EC) 889/2008 and (EC) 1235/2008. Those derogations had been due to expire at the end of September, however the Commission has since extended the time period for these to now expire on 1 February 2021. In relation to Regulation (EC) 1235/2008 there is a requirement for the Col produced within TRACES NT to be printed, hand signed and forwarded for verification by the Port Health Authority Or Local Authority before the goods can be released. The derogation allows the Col to be produced, signed and stamped by the relevant CB and then verified and endorsed by the PHA/local authority electronically within TRACES NT without the need for a paper copy.

Ethylene oxide in sesame seeds

We have been alerted via the EOCC (European Organic Certifiers Council) about ethylene oxide (ETO) findings in sesame seeds from India. Skal with Dutch Food Safety Authorities (NVWA) have raised a general concern about (organic) sesame seeds from India with ethylene oxide applied as a disinfectant.

The presence of this contamination has prompted a spate of product recalls across Europe.

<https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2020/09/multi-country-recalls-due-to-ethylene-oxide-in-sesame-seeds>

Skal imposed a recall for sesame seeds with ethylene oxide in the following way;

For operators in the Netherlands, in the event of an analysis result for sesame seeds greater than or equal to the MRL (0.05 mg/kg ethylene oxide), products must be recalled from shops and consumers in accordance with the NVWA press release (Dutch language).

For operators outside the Netherlands, they must immediately contact their control body in accordance with Regulation 889/2008 article 91.1

At present, 8 notifications have been made to Skal about ethylene oxide in organic sesame seeds from India, of which 6 are above the MRL. Given the extent of the use of ethylene oxide in both conventional and organic sesame exporters / producers in India, the interpretation of Skal is that each lot from India is not organic because it indicates active use and/or contamination that could have been avoided. For that reason, Skal does not block the batch, but proceeds directly to decertification of the batch.

The ethylene oxide alert was first raised by Belgium in early September but now concerns almost 20 countries. Ethylene oxide is a genotoxic carcinogen after regular consumption.

If you believe that you may have a batch of the seed in question please contact your Certification Officer.

Fraudulent Certificates

We have been notified via the EOCC of the following fraudulent certificates that are currently in circulation;

ACT (Organic Agriculture Certification Thailand)

Sujitra Nantapak Co. Ltd., valid until 31/06/2021

CONTROL UNION

Irie Coconut Product Manufacturing, valid until 10/11/2021

CCPB

BIOCIDIS PHARMA ZINEGLOB SARL, valid until 03/09/2021. Please note that CCPB srl certify an operator with a similar name ("Zineglob SARL" only)

The certifiers have noted that they did not issue these certificates and do not certify these operators. If you receive or have received a certificate in the above names, please contact your Certification Officer.

RABI extends support for farmers with new wellbeing initiative

Charity's evolving strategy aims to reach more farming people

With 2020 bringing ever greater levels of uncertainty and unexpected changes, pressures on the farming community continue to grow. As part of a new package of services designed to assist people deal with these complex challenges, RABI have launched an online wellbeing community and counselling service for farming people across England and Wales.

The initiative features two distinct sites - Qwell.io/rabi for adults, while Kooth.com/rabi is tailored to those aged 11-17. These safe and confidential online platforms are being delivered in partnership with a specialist online mental health provider. The websites include dedicated farmer friendly content that addresses farming sector specific challenges such as loneliness, Brexit anxiety, animal health and crop disease and farm debt.

Users will be able to anonymously access farmer specific and more generic content, as well as a wealth of discussion boards, case studies and messaging functions. There are many tools, such as a journal to record and track progress against personal goals, as well as tips and articles.

To access the online counselling platform, visit www.rabi.org.uk/kooth

The graphic features a young man in a dark jacket sitting on a wooden fence. To his right are the RABI logo (with the tagline 'helping farming people') and the Kooth logo. Below the image is a green banner with the text 'Online wellbeing support and counselling for farming people'. Underneath are three circular icons representing 'Community Support', 'Professional support', and 'Self-help', each with a brief description of the service. At the bottom, it says 'Visit rabi.org.uk/kooth'.



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Classified Advertisements Dec 2020

Items for sale

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 | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Black Galloway Cattle For Sale | Black Galloway Cattle For Sale. Organic and Farm assured. Up to 12 months and yearlings. | Mr L. Tabner | 01287 640948 | Saltburn by the sea, N Yorks |
| 16x LimxBB, 7/8 Lim, Weaned Calves. | 16x LimxBB, 7/8 Lim, Weaned Calves. Born Feb/March | Dale Wilson | 07739 565346 | Llandrindod Wells, Powys |
| Store cattle for sale | 28 organic stores for sale. Spring born 2019, suckler bred. Devon and Charolais cross. 500Kg/head, £1100 each or £2.20/kg. Housed TB tested and ready to go. TB testing interval 12 months. | Charlie Morrish | 07971 230728 | Barnstaple, Devon |
| Devon bulling heifers for sale | 11 organic pedigree Devon bulling heifers for sale. Born spring 2019, sired by Bagnell Plato. 12 month TB testing interval. | Charlie Morrish | 07971 230728 | Barnstaple, Devon |
| Pedigree Hereford bulls available | Anhay pedigree Hereford bulls suitable for dairy or beef cows or heifers. Easy calving strains. | M M Williams | 07737 492235 | Helston, Cornwall |
| Organic traditional breed cattle for sale | We have a selection of organic traditional breed cattle for sale. This includes 14 - 15 month old youngstock to be sold as store or for breeding and >30 month old fat/cull cattle. If of interest, please do give Mike a ring or drop us an email. We're happy to have socially distanced visitors. Thanks and stay safe. | Mike Lewis | 07901 710882 | Llandrindod Wells, Powys |

| FEEDSTUFFS AND FORAGE FOR SALE | | | | |
|--|--|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Spring Barley | Excellent quality, Chariot Spring Barley for feed, approx. 100 tons, please contact to discuss further. Collection only suitable for farm trailers or lorries up to 15-18 tons. | Mr Henry Edmunds | 01980 629203 | Salisbury, Wiltshire |
| Certified Organic Big Bale Haylage | Good quality, well wrapped haylage ideal cattle, sheep or horses. Buyer collects. Hay-on-Wye, Powys/Herefordshire border. | Rosalind Garratt | 07966 420822 / 07848 040430 | Hay-on-Wye, Powys |
| ORGANIC SPRING BARLEY - DEVON | Organic Spring Barley. Dried and cleaned. 27 Tonnes available. Plymouth/Devon | Henry | 07789 175192 | Plymouth, Devon |
| Big Bale Silage | 50 organic big bale silage | Elizabeth Evans | 01994 230250 / 07508 103363 | St Clears, Carmarthenshire |
| 84 round bales of meadow hay | 84 Organic round bale Hay. Baled early September 2020. This did have some rain on it so not top quality hence the price of £20 a bale. I can also deliver 8 bales a time within range of Cardiff, please ask for a quote. Organic certification on request | John O'Dwyer | 07817 786087 | Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan |
| Organic round bale Hay made August 2020 | 51 Organic round bale Hay. Baled August 2020. Good quality meadow hay. I can deliver 8 bales a time within range of Cardiff, please ask for a quote. Organic certification on request | John O'Dwyer | 07817 786087 | Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan |
| Barley | Barley for sale. W H Houlbrooke | Phil Houlbrooke | 07970 540092 | Ledbury, Herefordshire |
| Round Bale whole crop | Barley and Pea Mix undersown with grass. 40 - 50 bales | John Julyan | 07929 729239 | Newquay, Cornwall |

| SHEEP FOR SALE | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 45 Aberdale ewe lambs | 45 Organic Aberdale ewe lambs. Out of tregaron type welsh ewes. Fluke & wormed. No hard feed. | Dale Wilson | 01597 840217 / 07739 565346 | Llandrindod Wells, Powys |
| Lleyn Ewes for sale | Organic ewes as follows - part dispersal sale following loss of some tenanted land: 37 X shearlings, 37 X 6 tooth ewes, 25 X full mouth ewes all with good udders at teeth | Marcus Fincham | 07966 199872 | Hook, Hampshire |
| organic store lamb | 45 organic store lamb mixed cheviot and some black face nearly fat. Please ring for details. | ian smith | 01566 86155 or 07779 987580 | Launceston, Cornwall |
| Store lambs | 80+ store lambs. 20-35 kg. April born, so will grow. | Trevor | 07799 681134 | Craven Arms, Shropshire |



DAIRY CATTLE FOR SALE

| | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 30 in calf Organic Jersey Cross Heifers | I have 30 in calf organic Jersey Cross Heifers for sale. Due to start calving on 1st March 2021. They are in a group 65, so plenty of choice. I will be keeping the rest as replacements. We are Johnes, BVD and TB free (and have been for the last 7 years). We vaccinate for IBR and LEPTO. I would like them off the farm by early January. £1350 each. (Possible reduction if taken from us early) All subject to a pre-movement TB test. | Nick Cavill | 07890 091207 | Glastonbury, Somerset |
| Freshly calved Holstein dairy cattle | 1 x 2nd calver and 1 x 1st calver. available for sale at a discounted price due to not lying in cubicles. No other faults. Ring or email for further details. TB test expires 11th Nov | Peter Cole | 07833 927084 | Holsworthy, Devon |

OTHER LIVESTOCK FOR SALE

| | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Working Border collie pups | Excellent quality well built border collie pup's. 3 bitches remain from a litter of 9. From exceptional working and agility lines. Wormed, health checked, 1st vaccination and microchipped ready to go now. 10 weeks old. | Kathleen | 07980 305899 | Saltburn by the sea, N Yorkshire |
| Organic deer herd dispersal sale | Organic deer herd dispersal sale consisting of approx 40 hinds with calves at foot plus 1 stag (de-antlered). Available in November at weaning. Sensible prices. | Giles Maddever | 07971 572111 | Looe, Cornwall |

Items wanted

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SHEEP WANTED

| | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Jacob/Jacob X Mixed Store Lambs | Looking for approximately 30/40 Jacob or Jacob x mixed store lambs. | Robin Turner | 01684 833391 / 07787 758340 | Malvern, Worcs |
| Sheep Grazing | Organic registered grazing required for organic flock of Romney ewes. Happy to graze permanent pasture, leys, arable crops, 'dirty' stubbles. Flock is based near Hungerford. All offers considered. | Dan Marriott | 07834 517538 | Marlborough, Wiltshire |

DAIRY CATTLE WANTED

| | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Dairy heifers for breeding | Grazing type dairy heifer calves for breeding | J W & R I Lee | 01579 320603 | Lostwithiel, Cornwall |
| Wanted spring calving dairy heifers | Friesian type spring calving grazing heifers or young cows required. TB4 preferred calving jan-mar | Sam Howarth | 07885 487178 | Pickering, N Yorks |
| Friesian in calf heifers wanted | 40 in calf friesian heifers wanted, to ideally calve January-March. | Sam Howarth | 07885 487178 | Pickering, N Yorks |

LAND AND GRAZING WANTED

| | | | | |
|--|---|----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Sheep grazing | Keep for fattening store lambs/ewe lambs .Good fencing and water required | Rhydian Davies | 01597 870253 | Rhayader, Powys |
| Grass keep for lambs wanted | Fenced grazing for lambs Cornwall or Devon 50 pence a head a week paid up front | A Smith | 07960 738791 | Launceston, Cornwall |
| Organic Pea Growing - Land Required | Farmers within 50 miles of York - J E Hartley are looking for organic arable land within 50 miles (2 hours by tractor) of York for organic vining pea growing. An ideal break crop in an organic arable rotation. If interested in hearing more please contact Sheena Wright for details. | Sheena Wright | 07928 566918 | York, N Yorks |

MISCELLANEOUS WANTED

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Farm Manager Vacancy | Lower Hurst Farm in Dovedale is looking for a new Farm Manager who will have full responsibility for managing our long established herd of pedigree Hereford Cattle. The whole 300 acre farm has been organically certified for twenty years and the successful applicant will ideally be familiar with an organic system. A two bedroom cottage is provided. | Andrew Sebire | 01298 84900 | Hartington, Derbyshire |
| Organic producers required | Hi, I am looking for the farmers who can grow organic Indian vegetables in UK, so that I can buy them regularly in wholesale. Looking forward to discuss further. | Anthony Raj | 07440 570034 | Swindon, Wiltshire |