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Newsletter

January 2021 Issue 133

General News

ELM update – new Countryside Stewardship scheme to be launched



With the ongoing deliberations on the future agriculture policy for England, developments move on – but slowly. We have yet to see clear acknowledgement and recognition from Defra that organic systems have a place at the heart of the proposals for Environmental Land Management (ELM). Since organic systems deliver public goods – the key purpose of ELM – the organic sector is mystified by this, since the evidence is clear. We are convinced that organic producers and consumers, as well as the general public, would expect organic to be a key part of ELM.

Working with the English Organic Forum and with Defra policy teams, OF&G is making the case for organic in ELM. With the imminent launch by Defra of ELM Component 1 (the Sustainable Farming Incentive) and the National Pilot, to kick off in 2022, it is increasingly urgent to resolve how organic will fit, as we believe

that organic is seen as a distinct element within ELM given its proven simultaneous delivery of multiple public goods.

We have been aware for some time that organic farmers in Countryside Stewardship (CS) have found that their Organic Higher-Level Stewardship (OHLs) agreements are being stopped as rollover is not being enabled. This has been a failure in communication on the part of Defra and the Rural Payments Agency and we are currently supporting the EOF in their discussions around how these failures can be made good. Importantly it is an on-going failure in the implementation of CS as the Agricultural Transition Plan clearly stated that farmers with schemes delivering environmental benefit will not lose out in the new policy. We see no good reason to stop the agreements, which are clearly delivering environmental benefit. Many organic agreement holders have

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been dismayed, confused and left out of pocket so we hope that the situation will be resolved quickly.

In the meantime Defra will announce a new Countryside Stewardship scheme shortly. This will be an opportunity for organic farmers to forge new agreements, so we urge you to apply to the new scheme when it is predicted to open in March. We will keep you updated when we receive more information.



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OF&G seeks government assurance of meaningful gene editing consultation

OF&G welcomes the launch of the new Gene Editing (GE) consultation by Defra environment secretary George Eustice at the Oxford Farming Conference^[1] on 7 January 2021.

However, as a leading UK organic certification body, OF&G predicts that, unless a wide range of views are properly considered, the outcome could negatively impact on market access along with damaging the economic and ecological landscape for farming across England, and potentially the rest of the UK.

"We want this to be a true and fair consultation on gene editing and seek assurance from government that this will be the case, and that all voices will be heard and their views taken into account," says Roger Kerr, chief executive at OF&G.

In Mr Eustice's speech he suggested GE "could unlock substantial benefits to nature, the environment and help farmers with crops resistant to pests, disease or extreme weather and to produce healthier, more nutritious food".

And on the day of his election in July 2019, prime minister Boris Johnson openly advocated genetic modification (GM) and GE, and sought to reverse its ban in the UK.

"It's concerning that GM and GE are being openly addressed by the prime minister and environment secretary as though it's already part of agricultural policy. We worry the consultation is simply paying lip service to a deal that's already been done. And that is simply not acceptable," says Mr Kerr.

"A survey last autumn by the Agricultural Biotechnology Council^[2]

showed that almost half (48%) of the people surveyed didn't have faith in, and were not supportive of, new plant breeding techniques, such as GE. Why would UK agriculture want to exclude almost five out of 10 consumers from their market?"

Mr Kerr says organic already delivers profound environmental benefits, along with robust and resilient food systems that can future-proof UK food production in the post-Brexit era.

"Developing and managing organic farming rotations are already proven to grow healthier crops and rear stronger livestock, all while improving the natural environment. Defra refers to nature's 'slow process', however evidence to date doesn't show that GE will provide a quick fix.

"Research by the English Organic Forum^[3] shows, as part of ELM in England, 1m hectares of organic land could produce 2Mt less greenhouse gas emissions and more carbon sequestration worth over £40m.

"It could also reduce nitrogen surpluses in water courses by 50kt, potentially saving up to £100m in water treatment costs, as well as a 1.7kt reduction in active pesticide ingredient applications. Not to mention offering significant benefits to wildlife numbers and soil health."

Mr Kerr says introducing GE opens up the farmed environment to potentially harmful, unintended consequences and asks that a fully researched assessment of the long-term implications is undertaken.

"Mr Eustice said GE can help deliver "breeding crops that perform better, reducing costs to farmers and impacts

on the environment, and helping us all adapt to the challenges of climate change".

"There is an acute lack of peer-reviewed, independent research to back up the minister's claims. Science has shown the climate and ecological crisis is having serious negative effects on our food production systems. GE isn't a responsible, proven solution.

"Additionally, it's frustrating that GM and GE are receiving government support while organic, with its proven delivery and market recognition, isn't currently recognised in the new Agricultural Transition Plan and future Environmental Land Management scheme (ELM).

"More government funding for research into organic, whole food system methodologies should be considered before embracing unproven technologies," concludes Mr Kerr.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gene-editing-creates-potential-to-protect-the-nations-environment-pollinators-and-wildlife>

[2] <https://abcinformation.org/two-thirds-of-britons-fear-impact-of-second-wave-of-covid-19-on-uk-food-supplies/>

[3] For more information on the English Organic Forum research report, prepared by Nic Lampkin, 'Potential contribution of organic farming and growing to ELM', contact OF&G.

Further articles - Genome Editing – Sensible fail safes and regulatory safeguards - see ofgorganic.org

National Organic Combinable Crops - NOCC21

Tuesday 6 July 2021 is the planned date for OF&G's National Organic Combinable Crops event, which this year will be based at the home farm of the Pawsey family, John and Alice and their children, at Shimpling Park farms in Suffolk.

Covid-related restrictions are likely to continue in some form throughout 2021.

Although we will hopefully see in the summer months a set of guidelines that allow for people to gather together we are planning to blend an

in-person outdoor gathering along with an online programme.

The objective is to build a great event that will be equal to the expectations of you our audience and that will be entirely appropriate to the times.

Our aim is to be on the farm and to livestream relevant sections of the event programme with panel discussions and, where we can, outdoor activities such as a 'virtual' farm walk.

We will keep you updated as we progress the building of the 2021



delivery of this popular organic food and farming conference.

If you have any offers of content, ideas for speakers and any comment on organic food and farming please contact [Steven Jacobs](mailto:Steven.Jacobs@ofgorganic.org) at the OF&G office.

Events

GMOs and gene editing in agriculture: the benefits of regulation: 10 February

Yves Bertheau of France's National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment will be speaking on the feasibility of detection strategies.

Steven Jacobs, OF&G Business development manager, will be speaking on contamination issues for operators & regulators.

Followed by discussion with a diverse panel of invited guests.

For more details including how to register -

<https://www.organicseurope.bio/events/gmos-and-gene-editing-in-agriculture-the-benefits-of-regulation>

BIOFACH / VIVANESS eSPECIAL: The digital place to be for the organic food and natural and organic cosmetics community in 2021: 17-19 February

Each year OF&G takes part in the largest organic event in Europe, BIOFACH.

This year of course the event, usually held each February, will not take place in person but instead will be a purely digital affair.

OF&G will attend both the trade side and the internationally renowned conference, the IFOAM + BioFach Congress

<https://www.biofach.de/en/biofach-congress/topics-forums>

BIOFACH NEWS: In response to the current rapid spread of the coronavirus pandemic, the global organic sector will hold its annual "class reunion" in a virtual "classroom."

The eSPECIAL has three main focuses: exhibitor presentations, networking, and the conference.

Apart from its impact on health, the economy, and society, the pandemic has also turned a spotlight on the need for a change in ecological practices and eating habits as well as movements for transformation.

So the conference at BIOFACH 2021 eSPECIAL will be focusing on the highly topical subject of transformation and how various social movements can advance it even better together: **Shaping Transformation. Stronger. Together.**

<https://www.biofach.de/en/info/especial>

Low Carbon Farming Event: 9 & 10 March

Held in association with the National Farmers Union (NFU), the Low Carbon Agriculture show will move to a fully interactive digital format on 9 and 10 March 2021.

Event organiser David Jacobmeyer said: "The digital show will allow greater access for a wider audience, providing the ability to engage with suppliers in one to one conversations or as a group, gain expert knowledge and debate views raised in the conference sessions and easily network online with experts from across the renewables, agricultural,

environmental and transport sectors."

Spring boarding off the success of 'Energy and Rural Business Show' in 2019 and 2020, the event continues to be ahead of the curve, evolving from its roots as 'Energy Now Expo', and will celebrate 12 years of success next March.

David Jacobmeyer adds: "Our aim is to provide farmers and landowners with information and guidance on ways to combat climate change, to align with developments in agri-policy and to identify the business opportunities which will allow them

to continue providing their essential products

and services in both a profitable and sustainable way. The importance of supporting farmers as they transition to a new subsidy framework has not gone away."

OF&G will be contributing, with our Biofertiliser Certification team attending and our business development manager Steven Jacobs among the speaker line-up.

<https://lowcarbonagricultureshow.co.uk>



The Oxford Real Farming Conference - held online 7 - 13 January

With more than five thousand delegates from around the world ORFC Global 2021 was the largest attended event yet, with sessions interpreted into seven languages and speakers from six continents taking part.

ORFC Founder, Ruth West said:

"The point of ORFC is not to attack the status quo but to look ahead: to ask what the world really needs, and what's possible, and to show what really can be done. Always on the

agenda, or thereabouts, is the dream of Agrarian Renaissance: to restore agriculture and all that goes with it to its proper place at the heart of the economy, and indeed of all our lives. Agriculture at present, and farmers, are marginalised. The thing that matters most for humankind is low on the global agenda.

From the outset, ORFC had a buzz. Farmers and scientists and activists and others came together in support of real farming and new relationships

and initiatives were formed. Crucially, it has always been the participants who provide the programme and the sessions reflect their diversity.

All of the sessions were recorded and they can be watched at any time via the event website: <https://orfc.org.uk/programme>

and The ORFC21 YouTube channel -

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNSHtMBQRdj_E56wj-r8AlpmLi6UVF9d-

Market Information

Grain Prices: Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable

The conclusion of Brexit negotiations and the confirmation of UK organic certification having equivalence with the EU regulation and tariff free trade lifted some of the concerns that had preoccupied the market late last year. Brexit preparations have largely meant that goods are entering the EU without hitch and commendations to the certifiers in their timely authorisation of Certificates of Inspection that verify the goods as organic as this was a concern. We move goods out to Northern Ireland have managed to keep supplies moving well.

The market has seen some more buying interest in early Jan and although there is more selling interest than buying interest at present prices have crept up – on the back of the strength of the conventional market - which is encouraging. Feed wheat traded at £250 ex in December and barley about £10 less which is an improvement on early season values. Feed wheat remains the biggest market we have and whilst this is largely fulfilled with imports it is not a market UK growers should ignore. As the milling oat market moves towards surplus and malting barley remains difficult due to French and German supplies filling the Belgian markets, UK growers should reconsider their view of growing feed grains. There will be increased interest in provenance from consumers as the trend to “less and better” dairy and meat consumption grows and consumers will want to know more about how their food is produced. This will include feed sourcing. WWF recently published a major report, Deforestation Fronts, stating “commercial agricultural expansion continues to have the largest influence on deforestation, mainly in Latin America and Asia” and as this is digested and discussed the role of imported feedstuffs will be increasingly questioned.

Beans are in short supply and are achieving values in excess of £395 ex farm partly due to the shortage

and the increased cost of soya expeller seen this season but also due to increased demand. They are well worth revisiting despite being variable in yield. In a good season they perform well as a cash crop and will extend a rotation. As the report mentioned above highlights the role of soya in diets will be questioned and alternatives are required which can help to protect premiums.

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

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

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

Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC

Finished Stock Report

ORGANIC PRIME BEEF CATTLE

The market for organic finished cattle held stable to see out the otherwise tempestuous 2020.

Demand generally matched supply with numbers of cattle getting shorter at Christmas.

Generally, finishers have seen good returns for cattle meeting specification. However, shortages of both bedding and feed going into the New Year raise concerns for the quality of cattle coming forward. With the trade showing early signs of modest improvement, it will be important to try and maintain the standard of cattle sent to abattoir in order to capitalise.

ORGANIC CULL COWS

Typically in the autumn, owing to low feed and bedding stocks, the market weakened with increased numbers of both organic and conventional stock coming forward. This, together with an average level of demand, caused the price to weaken slightly.

However, the New Year has seen demand increase to strengthen the market and this is a trend we hope will continue

Average R4L Organic UTM in spec @ 437p/kg deadweight

Average R4L Organic OTM Cow in spec @ 285p/kg deadweight

FINISHED LAMBS

We have continued to see a strong demand and good prices for producers' lambs throughout the year with fears over the impact of Brexit proving to be unfounded. This trend seems set to continue and will probably see prices increase as the availability of lambs becomes tighter. Prices may ever reach an all-time high

Average R3L Organic NSL in spec @ 580p/kg deadweight

For further information on the marketing of finished stock, please call:

Tim Leigh on 01763 250313 or 07850 366404.

Store stock report

The lamb trade has so far defied all predictions, come through Brexit stronger than ever. Good feed availability has kept demand and price for store lambs very buoyant.

The store and finished cattle trade is following a similar pattern with retail beef sales having risen 5% in the last 12 months. Demand for organic meat remains good, with the OTB reporting sales increases of around 3%.

Organic producers seem generally to have good stocks of food, though bedding is a problem for some.

A number of finishers have been unable to take stock in due to TB, and this is of concern because of the holdups it causes in the organic chain. The rules surrounding the licencing of movements in these situations are laborious, complicated and very often impractical. A more pragmatic approach would be appreciated.

We continue to have good demand for dairy cows, heifers and young stock, and would be happy to hear from any producers who have organic dairy stock for sale.

For more information on the marketing of organic store cattle, store lambs and dairy stock, please call:

Peter Jones on 01829 730580 or 07720 892922.

OF&G and Organics in the News

Organic farmer and OF&G licensee **Tim May** featured in an article on 4 January in the South East Farmer - **Growing potential**



This month Nigel Akehurst visited **Kingsclere Estates** in North Hampshire and met managing director and regenerative farmer Tim May to learn more about his sustainable model of share farming and land management.

Tim is the fourth generation to farm at the family owned 2,500 acre estate located in the Hampshire downs, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty near Basingstoke. His great grandfather, a solicitor in London, purchased 250 acres of sporting land for hunting. His grandfather increased the farm to around 1,500 acres and Tim's dad has since added another 1,000 acres of land.

Interestingly, due to the legal background, the farm has always been run as a company, with a board of directors and quarterly meetings.

"The company owns no land at all – it's all under a continuous tenancy," explained Tim.

"That means my family can borrow against the value of the land and if a project were to go wrong the bank could only ever take hold of tenanted land. So the tenure of what we do as a farming business is completely separate," he continued.

The full article is available online - <https://www.southeastfarmer.net/section/features/growing-potential>

On 15 December organic farmers including OF&G licensee, **John Malseed of Frenchbeer Farm** featured in an article on Wicked Leeks

A view from the farm

John is quoted alongside Helen Browning and Lloyd Mortimore: It has been a particularly uncertain

year for John Malseed from Frenchbeer Farm in Devon, whose slow-grown organic turkeys will also reach Riverford customers this year. Malseed explains that the uncertain rules and regulations over household mixing at Christmas has made it impossible to know what size of turkeys to rear. "We were hatching our birds during the first lockdown, so anyone's guess was completely uneducated, but we just carried on," he says.

However, like many in the pandemic, farmers have had to be agile and innovative to cope with the consequences. "With the demand for small turkeys, we've had to adapt with our medium range birds, we're going to make into half turkeys, cut right down the middle," says Malseed. "And the larger ones, the classic big family Christmas turkey of 10kg, we're going to take off the legs and thighs and make into a turkey roll for a small gathering."

The sustainability of soya production, a crop high in protein used in animal feed, has been widely called into question following investigations that have found production linked to deforestation in Brazil.

In light of this consumer desire for an even more environmentally-sound product, next year Malseed is trialling his first year of soya-free turkeys. "But there's no guarantee that it will work because if it was easy then we would have done it already. It's just an experiment for now," he says.



The full article is available online - <https://wickedleeks.riverford.co.uk/features/animal-welfare-meat-farming/view-farm>

In November organic farmer and this year's host for OF&G's National Organic Combinable Crops, **John Pawsey** is featured on AgricoLOGY's web pages -

Healthy Farm Systems

John Pawsey gives us some insight into the principles of how he achieves health on his mixed organic farm in East Anglia following his participation in the Farm System Health Project.

The Organic Research Centre recently completed the project exploring this concept, along with the University of Bonn and the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research in Berlin, Germany.

One of the four guiding principles of organic agriculture is the aim to promote health on all levels of the farming system.

This project, which was funded by the Ekhsaga Foundation in Sweden, worked with a network of farms in the UK, Germany and Austria to jointly develop a set of criteria for farm health measurement that could be applied practically.

<https://www.agricology.co.uk/resources/healthy-farm-systems-john-pawsey>



As we reported earlier in this newsletter the government have announced a consultation on the regulation of food and the environment with regard specifically to genetic manipulation.

Following the release of our statement on this consultation in particular and on the issues more generally, our chief executive, Roger Kerr has been quoted in articles across the news media.

In a Farmers Guardian article Roger is quoted alongside the concerns of both Christopher Price of the Rare Breed Survival Trust and Dr Adrian Ely of Sussex University. The comments of Mr Price and Dr Ely are notable and we include those here for your reference :

Public opinion

Rare Breed Survival Trust (RBST) chief executive, Christopher Price warned while there may be benefits for food, farming and conservation from the

use of GE in farmed animals, demand, public acceptability and animal health and welfare is likely to be the limiting factor in its use.

He said: "As matters stand, we consider that there is potential for genome editing in the limited circumstances of a deleterious mutation threatening a breed's survival, or there being an inadequate breeding population.

"However, there are greater risks to livestock biodiversity from the unplanned use of the technology. Accordingly, RBST will be engaging with Government to ensure any changes to the regulatory framework

meet identified needs and maintain all necessary checks and balances."

Uncertainties

However, Dr Adrian Ely, reader in Technology and Sustainability at the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex, said: "Claims about gene editing's benefits for the UK's nature and the environment are subject to numerous assumptions and uncertainties. We need to take the time to consider these carefully, rather than accepting them without interrogation.

"Global Britain has a responsibility to consider the implications of its

technological choices alongside partner countries across the world.

"WTO rules prohibit us from regulating the safety of foods differently on the basis of whether they are produced domestically or come from overseas. Allowing gene editing in the UK would require us to open up indiscriminately to GE food imports from around the world."

The full article is available online but requires a Farmers Guardian subscription -

<https://www.fginsight.com/news/industry-reacts-to-potential-roll-out-of-gene-editing-115834>

RABI farm survey - Take 15 minutes to complete the Big Farming Survey

RABI has launched the largest ever research project relating to the wellbeing of farming people. The Big Farming Survey aims to identify how increasingly complex challenges within the sector are impacting people's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as the health of farming businesses.

RABI has set an ambitious target of gathering 26,000 survey responses in the weeks up to 31 March 2021. RABI's Chief Executive Alicia Chivers is urging all farming people to support the project.

"Having supported the sector for over 160 years to ensure we continue to serve our community effectively, we require a greater understanding of how the pressures on farming people are affecting daily life," explains Alicia.

"Everyone who participates will be making an important contribution towards building a comprehensive picture of a generation of farming people."



"It only takes 15 minutes to complete the questionnaire. This important research will enable RABI and our partners to develop more effective tools and services to enhance farmer wellbeing now and into the future."

Delivered in partnership with the Centre for Rural Research based at the University of Exeter, the Big Farming Survey will provide broad-scale data and deliver reliable insight into the sector. The results of the survey are anticipated in the Autumn.

"Please set aside time to complete the survey and ask the other members of your household or farming network to do the same. It's vital the voices of all farming people are heard," concludes Alicia.

Open to all farming people and their families, the survey can be accessed via <http://ex.ac.uk/BigFarmingSurvey> until 31 March 2021. Alternatively, request a printed copy from FarmSurvey@exeter.ac.uk

Classified Advertisements

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.

DAIRY CATTLE FOR SALE				
Dairy spring calving cows and heifers	Selection 40 ICH and cows calving March 2021 surplus stock TB restricted. Call for details.	Matthew Senior	07855 323194	Yeovil, Somerset
Organic, Pedigree Ayrshires freshly served, bulling and near to bulling age,	Very well bred Ayrshire young stock, 30 available due to being over stocked situated in East Devon, please phone for more info, preferably as one group but will split if needed.	Mark Evans / Bert Lawrence.	07866 267189 / 07377 639775	Honiton, Devon
Surplus dairy heifers/cows	In-calf/freshly calved cows and heifers available from herd producing 7500L from grass plus 1100kg cake. Good herd health and longevity means we have stock surplus to our own requirements. Clear herd TB test 15th January so ready to go. BVD Free, Herdwise Johnes monitored, BVD, Lepto and IBR vaccinated.	Ed Ogborne	07766 493536	Bristol, North Somerset

CATTLE FOR SALE				
Charolais cross store cattle for sale	20 charolais cross 7 to 11 months old all out of proper beef cows would sell smaller number	Ian Smith	01566 86155 / 07779 987580	Launceston, Cornwall
South Devon Stores	Store cattle for sale South Devon X out of mostly Hereford X British Friesian cows. Entirely grass fed born Jan - April 2020. 23 available approx 350kg. Good herd health status on Johnes, IBR and BVD.	John Cullimore	07808 306812	Gloucester, Glos
Angus cattle beef bred	Steers growthy types no dairy in them some 17mo and some 6mo	A Smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall

FEEDSTUFFS AND FORAGE FOR SALE				
Spring cereal seed (C2) & Mobile cleaning service.	C2 Spring Barley - Westminster and Evelina. Spring Oats, Wheat, Trit can quote. Mobile cleaning service available throughout Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.	Stephen Webster	01208 881198 / 07984 666415	Port Issac, Cornwall
Small bale meadow hay	Lovely organic meadow hay, cut July 2020 and barn stored. 200 bales available	Claire Taylor	07802 432539	Honiton, Devon
Organic wholecrop silage	Organic wholecrop silage - clamp not bale. Undersown spring barley, organic approved additive applied. Clamped well, well consolidated. DM 36; 'D' value 68; CP 8.3; ME 10.9; Starch 26.6. - full analysis available. Can load artics no problem. Can arrange delivery by tractor and trailer or by artic bulker if required. References required for purchasers not known to the vendor - once bitten twice shy!	Colin Bowen	07539 545851	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
Organic grass silage - dairy	Organic grass silage - clamped not baled. Loading not problem - artic access. Can arrange transport by tractor and trailer or artic bulker. DM 35; CO 19.2; 'D' value 64; ME 10.3 - full analysis available. References required for any purchaser not known to the vendor - once bitten twice shy!	Colin Bowen	07539 545851	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
In transition hay and silage bales Bucks/Oxon border	7 foot 4 string big bales of hay for sale. Round bale silage for sale - made from herbal leys this year. Second year of transition to organic.	Rose	07535 611919	Thame, Buckinghamshire
Stock feed potatoes	Stock feed potatoes for sale Herefordshire	Phil Houlbrooke	07970 540092	Ledbury, Herefordshire

OTHER LIVESTOCK FOR SALE				
Organic poultry litter	Organic poultry litter available (40 tonne)	John Richmond	07704 624022	Ballymoney, Antrim
Deer hinds and calves, retirement sale	For sale due to retirement; 38 red deer hinds of various ages, running with Woburn stag (also for sale). Due to calf June onwards. Also available, 33 last years calves. Very smart looking animals.	Giles Maddever	07971 572111	Looe, Cornwall

LAND AND GRAZING FOR SALE				
Organic Dairy Farm	Organic dairy farm for sale in North Wales https://www.uklandandfarms.co.uk/rural-property-for-sale/wales/north-wales/rossett_wrexham-prdoep66/ Further details from Peter@jbradburneprice.com	J Bradburne Price and Co	01352 753873	Wrexham/Chester
Grazing for organic cattle	Grazing for organic cattle near St Clears available now	Roger Morgan	07970 178598	Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire

Items wanted

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CATTLE & DAIRY CATTLE WANTED				
Organic continental calves	Hi. I'm looking for some organic calves to rear. I'm near Ludlow Shropshire. Does anybody have any?	Alan Smith	07971 086262	Ludlow, Shropshire
Organic milk supply wanted North Yorkshire Moors	Organic milk supply (approximately 1000 litres) per week wanted by award winning cheesemaker in Whitby area for the setting up of a micro creamery.	Alastair Pearson	07866 208828	Castleton, North Yorkshire

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
Pre-Treatment Solutions Ltd	http://www.healthyhooovesuk.com	Animal Health Product
Salt Lake Potash PTY Limited (SO4)	https://www.so4.com.au	Fertilisers

Updated approved inputs

SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
SBM Life Science	https://sbm-company.com	Fertilisers
Ecoworm Limited	https://ecoworm.co.uk	Fertilisers
B & W Feeds (Mobile) Ltd	https://www.bwfeeds.com	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements, Animal Feed Additives
Realistic Agri Ltd	https://www.realisticagri.com	Processing Aids
Arden Wood Shavings Ltd	https://www.ardenwoodshavings.co.uk	Bedding Material
Strathmore Renewables Ltd	01833 660302	Animal Health Product
Herban UK Limited	https://www.herban.co.uk	Animal Feed Supplements
Gromax Industries Ltd	http://www.gromax.co.uk	Weed Control
Celtic Sea Minerals	http://celticseaminerals.com/wordpress1	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements, Fertiliser
Aphaeas Agriculture Ltd	https://aphaeas-agri.com	Soil Conditioners
Greenworld Sales Ltd	david@greenworldsales.co.uk	Soil Conditioner, Compost

Website and Social Media <http://ofgorganic.org>



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

<https://twitter.com/ofgorganic>

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

<https://uk.linkedin.com/company/ofgorganic>

We welcome your views and comments, we're always keen to share good knowledge and experience. Exchanging the insights of hard working organic farmers and food businesses is essential in helping us all continue to build the organic movement.



ORGANIC GROWERS WANTED

The British Quinoa Company is the UK's largest quinoa producer, supplying supermarkets and food manufacturers alike with our British grown quinoa grains. Due to an increase in demand we're looking to take on additional organic growers for the 2021 season.

We are seeking organic growers with:

- Well-structured and fertile soils
- The ability to sow at precise seeding depths
- A low weed burden and the ability to control weeds
- Batch drying facilities
- A high level of attention to detail

Growing quinoa can provide the following benefits:

- A new spring sown broad-leaved combinable crop
- An excellent break for wheat
- High potential returns to the grower
- Harvest takes place after wheat

If you would like to learn more about this opportunity and how it may fit within your rotation, then please feel free to contact Stephen Jones on 01939 270777 or email stephen@britishquinoa.co.uk.

We are looking to expand our organic production area in 2021 by offering a limited number of production contracts to additional growers.

The British Quinoa Company Ltd | Sycamore House | Hordley | Ellesmere | Shropshire | SY12 9BH

Organic Arable Weed Survey

Philip Day, as part of his MSc in Organic Farming at SRUC, Aberdeen, is conducting a survey of UK organic arable farmers to assess how they manage weeds in their crops.

The aim is to determine whether there are factors and techniques which are more successful than others. It is hoped that such information may be useful in improving organic arable weed management.

If you are able to help, please complete the survey at:

<https://sruc.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/weed-management-strategies-for-uk-organic-arable-crops-ph>

General

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

EU/UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

On 24 December 2020 the United Kingdom and the European Union agreed and published the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) in order to allow the trade of both goods and services between the two parties. This TCA effectively superseded the control body recognition agreements approved by the EU in November 2020. There are some definite positives as a result of the agreement.

- When labelling organic products for sale in either GB or the EU/NI you may continue to use the EU logo. If you choose to use the

EU logo you will need to ensure that the CB code GB-ORG-02 is used together with the relevant EU statement of agriculture (in compliance with the rules of use). You will also be required to use the UK statement of agriculture on the packaging.

- However, if you choose not to use the EU logo you will still be required to ensure the CB code GB-ORG-02 and the UK statement of agriculture is used on packaging.

Defra has agreed a temporary easement to the labelling changes. If your labels were produced prior to 1 January 2021, and are compliant with the requirements of the regulation at that time, you may continue to use the labels until stocks have been exhausted or at the latest, 30 September 2022. If you are making changes to labels after 1 January 2021 these must comply with the new requirements.

For further details please contact your Certification Officer.

Producers

Grass Seed Approval

As we move towards the spring OF&G expect to see more grass/forage seed approvals through the office. If you are purchasing a mixture the organic percentage for grass and/or forage seed mixes used during 2021, proposed by the seed working group and approved by Defra, has been set at 70%, as detailed in the December 2020 Technical Newsletter. It was also noted that where a farmer purchased a mixture with 50% organic content prior to 18 November 2020 this mix could be sown during the spring of 2021. Seed companies have been asked to reformulate any mixtures they had in stock after 18 November 2020 to ensure these meet the minimum 70% organic content. It must be noted that grass and/or forage seed mixtures must not contain the same variety as both organic and non-organic.

Approval Requests must be sent in good time

For some time the following approval requests have required final sign-off by Defra as the competent authority rather than OF&G.

- Non-organic day old chicks;
- 'Part-organic' pullets for egg production;
- Brought in non-organic animals up to 40% (over 10% bovines, 20% sheep/pigs/goats);
- Non-organic feed and/or livestock due to catastrophic circumstances;
- Synthetic vitamins A, D or E in the diet of ruminants.

As your control body OF&G is required to collect the information required for the approval request, ensure it is correct and appropriate and then forward to Defra for final approval before notifying you of the outcome. This three step approach adds both time and complexity to the approval process. Therefore it is important that you ensure any request you make to OF&G includes all the necessary information and is made in good

time to allow OF&G to undertake a preliminary assessment and either request further information or pass to Defra for final approval. Defra has been very clear that requests that are deemed to be retrospective (after the event) will not be approved and the livestock or product may lose its organic status.

Loss of organic forage due to adverse weather

Now we are into the New Year it's a very good time to reassess how much forage you have in stock and if this will last through to your expected turnout. If you feel you will be short of forage due to adverse weather conditions, either at the time of making your forage during 2020 or the need to feed more than expected in the snowy weather, you will need to check the relevant market places to see if organic and/or in-conversion forage is available.

<https://ofgorganic.org/classifieds>

<https://www.soilassociation.org/farmers-growers/market-information/organic-marketplace/>

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If organic forage is not available you may apply to OF&G for approval to use non-organic forage. As said previously, this approval, once assessed by OF&G, must be sent to Defra for final approval before any non-organic forage can be used. If you are having difficulties you will need to send as much information as possible to your Certification Officer.

This must include the following:

- Location of the farm (including the parish);

- The situation - details as to why you are requesting the use of non-organic forage;
- The livestock for which the authorisation is being requested (e.g in-calf heifers);
- The type of non-organic feed you wish to use;
- The effect of the current situation on the welfare of your livestock;
- Details of the attempts made to obtain organic feed from

alternative sources and why these were unsuccessful;

- Whether any organic alternatives to the feed are available;
- The length of authorisation requested.

Any request must be sent to your Certification Officer.

Processors

TRACES NT

If exporting organic products to the EU or Northern Ireland you will now be required to use TRACES NT to produce the Certificate of Inspection (COI) required when exporting.

In the first instance, if you have not already done so, you will need to register on TRACES NT as an Organic Operator. Once completed you will have the option to assign an activity as an Organic Exporter. Only when you have completed this process will OF&G be able to validate your access to allow completion of the COI.

For each shipment destined for the EU/NI you will need to complete a COI and upload supporting information or documentation to allow OF&G to make the necessary checks and stamp/sign the COI.

Please ensure you have notified your Certification Officer if you are exporting or importing organic products so that this can be added to your certification scope.

Please see the link to the guidance on how to do this below, once done OF&G will be required to validate the access.

[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cfcas3/tracesnt-webhelp/Content/D_User Management/request-an-access-profile-in-TRACES.NT.htm](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cfcas3/tracesnt-webhelp/Content/D_User%20Management/request-an-access-profile-in-TRACES.NT.htm)

The following link might be of help to you in creating a COI;

[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cfcas3/tracesnt-webhelp/Content/E_COI/I. How to create a new COI .htm](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cfcas3/tracesnt-webhelp/Content/E_COI/I.How%20to%20create%20a%20new%20COI.htm)

Fraudulent Certificate

We have been notified via Defra of the following fraudulent certificate that is currently in circulation;

BIOCERT

Proveta Nutrition LTD, valid until 10/06/21

The certifier has noted that they did not issue this certificate and do not certify this operator. If you receive or have received a certificate in the above name, please contact your Certification Officer.



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