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Newsletter

July 2021 Issue 136

General News

OF&G's National Organic Combinable Crops 2021

Now in its fourteenth year, OF&G's #NOCC21 was in a revised format due to the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions still in place at the time.

Around 100 delegates joined the OF&G team and our hosts John and Alice Pawsey on Shimpling Park Farm in Suffolk on 6 July this year.

The reduced delegate numbers enabled us to encourage social distancing for everybody and helped us to ensure sure that all of the people who came could relax and enjoy the day.

The day was divided as usual between the talks in the morning and the guided farm walk in the afternoon. The break between these two sections was the renowned NOCC organic lunch, prepared and served this year by the team from Wakelyns Bakery.



The feedback from conference delegates has been very positive. NOCC gives everyone the chance to catch up with old friends, make new acquaintances and to learn about the latest developments in food and farming generally and organics in particular.

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OF&G's NOCC will return next year, provisional date 5 July 2022

A brief overview of the day - more details on page 2

Welcome to OF&G NOCC 2021

The day's proceedings - Charlotte Smith

1. Food from the Farm – Today's menu
2. Organic Trade Board – market update (see page 3)
3. Mark Russell - Carter Jonas *Economics of farming – organics, tenancies and new farm payment schemes*
4. Dr Ambrogio Costanzo – Organic Research Centre *LiveWheat*

Q & A session

The Panel:

- John Pawsey – Host Farmer
- Sue Walker – Triodos Bank
- Richard Gantlett – Yatesbury House Farm
- Josiah Meldrum – Hodmedods
- Mark Russell – Carter Jonas
- Ambrogio Costanzo – ORC
- Janet Hughes – Defra

John Pawsey - Introduction to our Farm and to the Farm Walk

LUNCH

The Farm Walk

Four groups headed out to different parts of the farm, with each group rotating around the circuit.

1. Seed breeding - Dr Ambrogio Costanzo (ORC) & Nick Fradgely (NIAB)
2. Soil Health Score Cards - Dr Elizabeth Stockdale (NIAB)
3. Agroforestry - Jonny Ball (Woodland Trust)
4. Machinery - John Pawsey



OF&G CIC
Old Estate Yard
Shrewsbury Road | Albrighton
Shrewsbury | Shropshire
SY4 3AG

01939 291 800

@ofgorganic

info@ofgorganic.org

/organicfarmers

www ofgorganic.org

Wakelyns Organic Agroforestry farm

Henrietta spoke about the importance of how their ingredients were produced and where they come from.

"In our bakery we make use of all the produce from the crop and tree alleys. On today's menu we want to tell the story of Wakelyns, of Martin and Anne Wolfe and what they created there and what's continuing to evolve now thanks to their sons David and Toby Wolfe.

We want to celebrate the YQ - the Organic Research Centre Populations wheat, and the agroforestry, both of their vast diversity, resilience and productivity and total beauty and we hope that you see that in today's food".



"And it's really wonderful to be here on an agroforestry farm as well and for you to see all of that this afternoon."



LiveWheat at NOCC 2021 - Farm-based organic variety trials network

Two years ago at NOCC in East Yorkshire Dr Ambrogio Costanzo introduced this project and this year they presented the first set of results.

The LiveWheat project came out of discussions with official variety testing systems about the importance of undertaking variety testing for organic.

Ambro explained,

"This is a collective experiment among a network of farmers. Varieties are the interface between two systems including two business models that diverge quite a bit. On one side the farms, each one is unique with own management and environment.

On the other side is the breeders who produce the variety. While each farm ideally would have their own varieties, that is not practical for the breeders.

What we are trying to do in this project is to bring together the genetics, the environment and the management all at the same time."

NOCC21 was held in association with:

Agriculture - <https://www.agricology.co.uk/>

The Organic Research Centre - <https://www.organicresearchcentre.com/>

Organic Arable - <https://www.organicarable.co.uk/>

Economics the Landowner's perspective: Organics, Tenancies and New Farm Payment Schemes.

Mark Russell is a Land Agent with Carter Jonas and heads up the partnership's thinking on Natural Capital with a focus on monetising the opportunities for clients including Carbon Trading and Biodiversity Net Gain.

Mark explained, "This talk comes from a conversation that was set by Steven with John as well which was to do with how the organic industry can encourage people like me in the land agency



side of advice to bring organic farming more into our clients' minds and their mindsets and be open to organic farming on their land."

Mark looked at the tender process with price ranges, rent review periods, and the farm cropping plan which as Mark said, "I think that is where you as organic farmers can bring something to the party, because you can be coming with alternative proposals and alternative markets which can show a premium. And that can go across Farm Business Tenancies and Contract Farm Arrangements."

But the main theme Mark wanted to develop was, "the confidence that the landowner will have in delivery on the farm."

The data showed differences in weed suppressive ability, with a strong link between Nitrogen Use Efficiency and competitiveness against weeds.

For instance hoeing reduces weed pressure and also mobilises nitrogen for the crop and not for the weeds. One caveat is that in reducing weed pressure hoeing also reduces weed diversity. So, one weed will dominate for example with wild oats. A more diverse weed community will also have more balance and offer many more flowering varieties.

While there is a necessary focus in the wider agricultural community on Nitrogen Use Efficiency when artificial inputs are withdrawn including ammonium nitrate and chemical herbicides then this type of research can help to inform future policy.

Crop breeding must, therefore, take into account traits such as weed suppression. Organic farming then is at the heart of the debate with a fresh look and new knowledge on crop variety breeding in no or low input farming systems.

OASIS - the Organic Advice, Support and Information Service - <https://organicinfo.org.uk/>

The Woodland Trust - <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

With catering supplied by Henrietta Inman and the team from the bakery at Wakelyns Organic Agroforestry Farm. - <https://wakelyns.co.uk/bakery/>

Recently the EU COM wrote to all six UK CB's explaining that they intend to remove them from Annex IV of regulation 1235.

Annex IV relates to CBs specifically where they are recognised by the EU COM, which allows them to operate in a third country (in our case GB) and certify to the EU regulation. All six UK CBs applied, and were granted recognition for this last year ahead of end of the transition period to ensure that in the event that the UK and EU could not negotiate a trade agreement imports and exports to UK would not be impacted. The UK and EU did however agree a Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) at the end of last year and consequently the TCA took precedence and the six UK CBs had their recognition under Annex IV removed from TRACES NT (although they stayed on Annex IV). It became apparent however that the TCA did not cover products that were not processed or further processed from third countries into the EU/UK to be reexported from either GB to the EU (NI) or vice versa. On recognising this all six CBs applied to be reinstated onto TRACES NT under their individual Annex IV recognitions. The EU COM reinstated the Soil Association but

have refused to reinstate the other five CBs.

Annex III relates to countrywide equivalence instead of individual CB equivalence and the country would be bound by any existing trade agreements. If UK CBs were removed from Annex IV and instead GB was placed on Annex III then only trade that falls within the terms of the TCA would be allowed which would exclude any third country products that were not 'further processed' in GB from being exported to the EU or NI.

Further to letter the UK CBs received, at the last EU Committee on Organic Production (COP) meeting in early July there was an agenda item regarding the removal of UK CBs from Annex IV. In the end there wasn't a vote on removing UK CBs from Annex IV as a number of MS representatives voiced their concerns. The EU COM did however instigate a remote vote (closing 27th July) to remove UK CBs from Annex IV.

We understand however that Belgium sent in written objection to the removal

of UK CBs from Annex IV. If the EU COM receive a written objection EU statute states that the process must be paused while a meeting (now scheduled for mid-September) regarding the issue is convened, and the issue discussed.

This gives hope that UK CBs will remain on Annex IV while being listed in Annex III as there is a precedent for this with other CBs in other third countries. For example - in the latest consolidated version of 1235 (dated 18 March 2021) Chile is listed under Annex III for categories A, D and F and within that Ceres are listed with code CL-BIO-005 while in Annex IV Ceres listed for Chile under categories A, B, C and D under code CL-BIO-140. In Annex IV it then states "An exception - in conversion products and products covered by Annex III"

Assuming the EU COM make a conscious decision to keep UK CBs on Annex IV then that should open up TRACES NT again. We have some way to go before that happens but we will let you know when we hear more.

Organic Trade Board - Market Update



The OTB is an independent membership funded body that represents the whole of the organic sector.

Over 10 years the OTB ran a series of successful marketing campaigns partly funded by OTB members and with funding from the EU.

Now the UK has left the European Union the OTB is focused on member-only funded campaigns. And this now includes non-food.

Headline data:

- Organic produce has grown 15% in the last year, well ahead of non-organic.
- More people are buying, they're buying more often, & spending more per trip.
- Grocery market penetration is has increased to 88.9%.
- Eat at home since lockdown has increased by 21%.
- Number of trips to the supermarket has increased by 9.7%.
- Volume increased 15% by and value by 7%.

BASIS Foundation Award in Organic Farming

The first course will run from 21-24 September 2021 and will take place at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

Open to all farmers and advisers looking to enhance their knowledge and expertise specific to organic systems, the qualification will act as a stepping-stone towards more advanced certifications in the future.

The award will provide a comprehensive introduction to organic farming and organic legislation, primarily crop and livestock production, soil management and conversion planning.

Candidates will complete five modules via training delivered in small groups, supported by independent study, over four days.

Successful completion of the training, followed by a written examination, will allow candidates to join the BASIS Professional Register of Organic Farmers and Advisers as associate members, which demonstrates a commitment to professional development in the organic sector.

To express your interest in enrolling on the pilot course or for more information about the award please contact OF&G at : admin@ofgorganic.org or go to <https://ofgorganic.org/events/basis-foundation-award-in-organic-farming>

DEFRA UPDATES

Sustainable Farming Incentive pilot

In June Defra launched the scheme by inviting Expressions of Interest in the first SFI National Pilot.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainable-farming-incentive-pilot>

If you've offered an Expression of Interest please let us know. Building our knowledge of how organic farmers approach schemes, especially those currently being designed, helps us to guide the teams at Defra, the RPA and Natural England.

At the end of June Defra published an update to their Sustainable Farming Incentive. They have said their ambition is to encourage Countryside Stewardship scheme holders to apply to the SFI 2022 and they have now put some more detail up online.

This means that farms - organic and non-organic- with an option within a Countryside Stewardship Scheme may be able to apply to the SFI where the land meets the eligibility criteria and where the option does not attract 'double-funding':

The scheme will also be open to farmers eligible for BPS, who already have an agreement under an existing agri-environment scheme (such as Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship) – provided the Sustainable Farming Incentive standard they choose is compatible with their existing agreement and does not result in them being paid twice for similar activities.

It is also worth noting that Defra have also included a paragraph on Earned recognition.

At OF&G we are working with teams across Defra including the Future Farming team, the RPA and NE and also with colleagues in Defra's organic branch to help them look at how they can recognise and formally incorporate certified organic land within the SFI.

We've put an extract of the Defra SFI 30 June update [here](#).

Go to GOV.UK for more details including payment rates:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-transition-plan-june-2021-progress-update/agricultural-transition-plan-june-2021-progress-update#details-of-the-sustainable-farming-incentive-offer-in-2022>

Rural Payments Agency - New schemes updates July 2021

Policy paper - Progress update on the **Agricultural Transition Plan**, including the early rollout of the Sustainable Farming Incentive in 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-transition-plan-june-2021-progress-update>

Policy paper - Environmental land management schemes: payment principles (The principles which Defra will use to set payment rates for environmental land management schemes.)

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme is a part of Defra's Agricultural Transition Plan.

It will offer funding to farmers and land managers in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), National Parks and the Broads. It is not an agri-environment scheme.

The programme will fund projects that:

- support nature recovery
- mitigate the impacts of climate change
- provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
- support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme has been developed by Defra with the support of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and National Park staff across England. It will run from July 2021 to March 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-payment-principles>

If you're a farmer or land manager, you can get funding to support and improve Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), National Parks and the Broads.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers-in-protected-landscapes>

Lump Sum and Delinked Payments

The Landworkers' Alliance

In March, Defra released a consultation on the two new proposed schemes that are intended to replace the current Direct Payment scheme – LWA want to make sure they link with New Entrant support.

The phasing out of Direct Payments is likely to cause some restructuring of the farming sector in England. In order to help 'unproductive' or retiring farmers to leave the sector, Defra are considering two new payment schemes: Delinking and Lump Sum. These schemes will replace Direct Payments and support farmers if and when they decide to leave the farming sector.

For more detail including an explainer on both 'Delinked Payments' and 'Lump Sum' and an overview of issues involved and a link to the LWA consultation response please go to the LWA website -

<https://landworkersalliance.org.uk/lump-sum-delinked-payments-consultation-2021/>

Organic Growers Alliance

Small-scale machinery: is it unusual to be small-scale & using machinery in these days of no-dig popularity? Please let us know if you use machinery other than hand-tools, and you're on less than 5 acres or so. We want to find out what people are using and what the benefits are to crops, time-management, labour time and lifestyles.

FarmHack. Do you have a tool or implement hack that has worked well for you? Could you share designs and experiences?

Please contact the OGA. <https://organicgrowersalliance.co.uk>

National Food Strategy

<https://ofgorganic.org/news/national-food-strategy-of-g-statement>

Henry Dimbleby's eagerly anticipated independent review is ambitiously headlined 'The Plan'. Containing 14 comprehensive recommendations there is much to applaud.

To effectively tackle the complex crises in consumption that our current food systems inflict on our planet and our people, we desperately need transformative, innovative proposals that are fully integrated into every area of policy-making – health, trade, environment, and agriculture.

Thankfully, the National Food Strategy (NFS) outlines opportunities for systematic reform, while promoting a holistic approach to addressing the challenges we face. Government leadership in this area is vital to enable a move towards a new system for food production; where sustainable and nutritious food is the norm and the true cost of our domestic and imported food is reflected in the price we pay.

Building a robust and diverse farming sector is therefore fundamental if the NFS proposals are to succeed. The review supports a three-compartment model for agricultural land: semi-natural land, high-yield and low-yield farmland.

One concerning aspect of the NFS is that farmers who adopt a 'land sharing' approach (organic, high nature value, agroecological) have been categorised as low yielding and 'blurry at the edges'. As the UK's first organic certification body, this has not been our experience of organic farming over the past 29 years.

Additionally, the NFS affords considerable weight to 'Sustainable Intensification', which is even more 'blurry' and ill-defined. 'Sustainable Intensification' has the potential to be

far more damaging to the environment and its validity has been called into question by many.

It's an approach that, at best, only partially addresses reducing input use and agriculture's consequent dependence on fossil fuel while doing nothing to challenge the underlying problems inherent in our current food and farming system.

'Sustainable Intensification' appears to advocate the current 'business as usual' model, so whether it delivers any real change remains to be seen. It certainly does not provide a credible alternative that displaces an organic / agroecological approach.

OF&G believes that better representation of organic agriculture in a life cycle assessment^[1] must be incorporated into future policy developments. Our European counterparts have made significant headway in this regard. Consequently, the UK is being left behind despite growing consumer demand and market share for organic food.

The issue of consumer demand leads us to consider the 'organic premium' that is also highlighted in the review. The report fails to recognise that any price premium paid by consumers seldom makes its way back to the farm. This means 'expensive organic food' is as much a market dynamic as a reflection of production costs.

Both the first and second parts of NFS contain many recommendations to commend, although the overarching position seems to have shifted considerably. The original review set out with an intention to address the negative impacts from energy dense foods on the nation's health, climate change and food waste. Yet, this new strategy effectively promotes high yield, high volume cropping.

Food system complexities, and how

we address current inequalities are two of the reasons why the NFS has been so eagerly anticipated.

Addressing human and ecological health are entirely dependent on each other and both have reached a critical point.

We need a clear pathway for a transition to agroecological farming laid out for farmers, one that is supported by governments and the market. As a first step, policy needs to ensure on-going support for organic farming systems that provides the signposting for broader agroecological and environmentally benign approaches.

Therefore, OF&G advocates maintaining diversity in agricultural systems. If Mr Dimbleby is setting out his foodtopia – then organic, as he has previously stated, needs to be part of it.

[1] van der Werf, H.M.G., Knudsen, M.T. & Cederberg, C. Towards better representation of organic agriculture in life cycle assessment. *Nat Sustain* 3, 419–425 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-020-0489-6>

The National Food Strategy is available online.

Further reading -

Stop Misrepresenting the Benefits of Organic Farming

<https://www.organicwithoutboundaries.bio/2020/03/25/dont-misrepresent-organic-farming/>

Genome editing (hopefully) simplified

Lawrence Woodward O.B.E. has published an explainer on Genome editing on the Whole Health Agriculture website.

Lawrence writes:

In a recent article we outlined concerns about genome editing. Since then we have been asked to give a simple guide to what it actually is.

Well...deep breath and fingers crossed, and referring to far more knowledgeable people than I am, here is a shot it.

The full article is available at -

<https://wholehealthag.org/news/genome-editing-hopefully-simplified/>

Market Information

Grain Prices: Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable

Some really exciting news this month as a major user of organic feed wheat has stated a commitment to switch from using imported to UK organic wheat. In due course they will also be reducing their maize usage in favour of barley. This provides a huge opportunity for the organic cereal market to once again grow organic wheat confident that they have a market that won't be subject to being replaced by a cheap cargo of imported organic grain. Feed wheat stacks up organically as it has a good yield potential if grown well and in an appropriate place in the rotation. It is time to review rotations to respond to this opportunity to grow for a customer confident of a market. The organic wheat area has declined from about 18000 ha to just over 8000 ha in recent years due to a lack of support in the feed market and so it will be great to see this trend reverse. The reason for the decline in the area grown is largely due to the uncertain market and this commitment helps to reverse this.

In a happy coincidence we have heard recently too that Defra have extended the LiveWheat research project which is assessing varieties best suited to organic farming systems. Information about this project is available at www.organicresearchcentre.com along with a wealth of other valuable resources. So the good news is you have support from both the market and researchers coming together. If you have feed wheat to offer please let us know on enquiries@organicarable.co.uk

We have only heard of one organic crop harvested to date - some winter barley - that was described as "flattering to deceive" as the yield was not as good as had been expected as the crop looked well throughout the season. Most farms are indicating that they will be starting in anger next week (w/c 02/08). Crops seen recently have looked good with still plenty of green leaf and recent warm sunny weather should have provided

good conditions to ripen and fill grain and so fingers crossed for a good harvest. We now need some fine combining weather!

Please share your harvest experiences on Twitter using #organicharvest21

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)

Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC

ORGANIC PRIME BEEF CATTLE

The trade for quality prime organic heifers and steers continues. Prices have firmed as the supply has tightened. Cattle are starting to finish off grass but had a slow start with the cold spring. The change in weather to hot and sunny brings further challenges of reluctance for the cattle to graze effectively in the heat, while being bothered by flies!

Grass crops have shot to head quickly, quantity of forage is unlikely to be a problem, quality will inevitably be detrimentally affected.

ORGANIC CULL COWS

The demand for organic cull cows remains strong. Again it would seem that supply is not meeting the current demand. With reasonable quantities of grass and aftermath available, some will look to graze the cows over the summer to get more weight and finish on them.

Average R4L Organic UTM in spec @ 475p/kg deadweight

Average R4L Organic OTM Cow in spec @ 330p/kg deadweight

FINISHED LAMBS

Lamb prices have come back which was to be expected as more came on to the market. However the trade for the time of the season still remains fairly good. Producers supplying in specification lambs are seeing better

than expected finishing and weights considering the slow start to the grazing season.

Average R3L organic NSL in spec @ 5.90p/kg

For further details, please call:

Tim Leigh: 07850 366404

ORGANIC STORE REPORT - by Peter Jones, OLMC Store Stock Director

For the last three years I have been reporting seasonal, regional and national droughts causing major challenges for organic livestock producers with poor grass yields. This year couldn't be more different with record breaking grass growth. The wheat, barley and oat crops also look remarkable. Early harvesting reports show some higher than normal yields and quality of straw, but in some cases slightly lower grain yields than was expected. But overall, it looks like we will be heading into winter with good stocks of forage, bedding and grain.

The cattle and sheep trade has been and looks like continuing to be very strong across the board. Red meat sales have continued to be strong with the varying degrees of "lockdowns" and the recent European football matches and Islamic festivals have kept beef and sheep meat selling very well.

While the conventional finished price has been very strong, the gap between the organic price and the conventional price is not, in my opinion, wide enough with organic producers having to pay inflated store prices to obtain store cattle and with concentrate prices reaching new highs.

Demand and price for store cattle is stronger than I have ever seen with the bigger and better end of the market making £1,200 -£1,400 with even small, plainer dairy bred stores making £700-£900 with a lot in between.

I'm convinced that as a surge of numbers of cattle come onto the market in the Autumn we will see a readjustment of price levels, but believe that the forage and feed availability being as plentiful as it is there will seasonally still be a very

strong trade. Although it's early yet for store lambs to come onto the market I'm expecting there to be a strong trade in the coming months.

We continue to have demand for dairy cattle of all categories and David Bostock is always available for advice on what is available and your marketing options if you have dairy stock to sell.

For any marketing enquiries please contact Peter Jones, David Bostock or Manon Parry on 07500 747886 and Chris Bailey in the South West on 07778 538030

For further details contact:

Store cattle; Peter Jones 01829 730580 or 07720 892922

Dairy cattle; David Bostock 01829 730580 or 07734 808050

Sheep and lambs; Iain Turner 01829 730580 or 07970 197619

Organic Dairy Report: Courtesy of Rob Daykin, Daykin Partnership Ltd.

Organic milk yields rise, but 2021 margin hits seven year low

According to the latest figures from Kingshay, organic milk yields hit a record high through to March

2020/2021 of 6,847 litres/cow, which is 250 litres and 4% more than last year. To put that in context, though, it is only 300 litres per cow up on a decade ago and nearly 800 litres more than 20 years ago.

The average herd size of the units costed was 222 cows, slightly down on 2020 with the stocking rate at 1.69 cows per hectare.

In a year which saw high feed costs, yields from home grown forage were at their highest level since 2012 at 3,288 litres/cow, so just under half of the milk came from forage. This was the second highest amount in 15 years. Feed costs per litre were the third highest since the year 2000 at 10.18p/litre. On a per cow basis purchased feed costs were the second highest level since 2000, at almost £700/cow.

Thanks to the forage, though, butterfat also hit a record high this year at 4.12%, with protein levels at 3.31%, which is down from 3.36% last year. It means that total milk solids were just over 500kg per cow, compared to 490kgs last year. This helped to bolster the milk price, but with market forces negative it means that the organic price had dipped by 0.76pppl to 37.57p. Margin over purchased feed per cow increased marginally from £1856 to £1874 as higher yields offset lower milk prices. But margin per litre contracted from 28.12p last year to 27.37p this year. To

put those in context, back in 2015 the margin was over 29p.

Comparing organic to other sectors on a margin per cow basis shows that it is more profitable to have large Holstein Friesian units than organic, possibly because they benefit from larger volume bonuses. Organic was mid-table in terms of its profitability:

All in all, 2021 saw the fifth lowest milk price of the last five years, but the lowest margin. Ranking the performance of organic herds on the margin per litre as a percentage of the milk price gives an indication of how much of the milk price is being retained within the margin. This year organic was second in the table, at 72.8%, way behind that for cross bred herds at 78%, and not significantly different to large Holstein Friesian or Channel Island herds.

Looking back over time paints a sobering picture - back in 2015 and 2016 the margin as a percent of the milk price was over 77%, but there has been a steady decline since, until a low point was reached in 2019. Although the corner looks to have been turned, 2021 was still the second lowest out of the last seven years.

Office 01327 264962

Mobile 07815 741547

www.daykinpartnership.co.uk

OF&G and Organics in the News

BASIS Foundation Award in Organic Farming

OF&G has teamed up with independent awarding body in food production and land management, BASIS, to deliver the new Foundation Award in Organic Farming, which was officially launched at the Groundswell event on 23 & 24 June 2021.

OF&G's business development manager Steven Jacobs joined Greg Hopkinson head of business development of BASIS to speak with Farmers Weekly journalist and podcaster Johann Tasker at Groundswell in June.

The podcast is worth a listen and for reference Johann's interview with Steven and Greg starts at 31:16 minutes.

Groundswell: Regenerative agriculture – does it work? Sustainable Farming Incentive, carbon farming, min-till drills, & Secrets of Soil

<https://www.fwi.co.uk/farmers-weekly-podcast>

New Defra data shows organic growth 'in the pipeline'

The OF&G comment on the latest organic farming figures that were published towards the end of May is available online -

<https://ofgorganic.org/news/new-defra-data-shows-organic-growth-in-the-pipeline>

OF&G chief executive, Roger Kerr was subsequently quoted on a number of news outlets including -

https://www.farminguk.com/news/new-defra-data-shows-organic-growth-in-the-pipeline-_58314.html

<https://www.farmbusiness.co.uk/business/marketing-matters/new-defra-data-shows-organic-growth-in-the-pipeline.html>

Lancashire farmer hopes to keep medieval meadow family-run

Emma Robinson and Ian O'Reilly who run OF&G licensed Lower Gazegill organic farm in Lancashire appear in a short film on BBC news website describing the biological heritage of one of their meadows

The couple are on twitter -

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

Items for sale

Classifieds

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

CATTLE FOR SALE				
Organic Pedigree Hereford Cows with calves at foot	Cows with 2-3 month old calves at foot, 12 couples available. Worcestershire	Mark Steele	07717 366560	Worcester, Worcs
Hereford x Aberdeen Angus x Store cattle	Hereford x Aberdeen Angus x Store cattle. TB4 area. Please phone for further details.	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, North Yorks
4 yr old pure bred AA bull	Sire:- Standlynch Ragtime P790 (ET). Fit and ready to go. Cubicle trained. Sisters in herd.	lloyd Mortimore	01364 631238	Newton Abbot, Devon
Angus steers	Angus steers 13mo out of proper beef cows by ped angus bull quality cattle	Andrew Smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall
Hereford calves	25 Organic Hereford Calves for sale male and female. 2-3 weeks old. Out of British friesland cows and registered Hereford sire	Arwel Davies	07800 505143	West Wales
Store cattle for sale	10 organic charolais and south Devon cross steers and heifers around 15 months old. Good shape out off proper beef cows by pedigree bulls. Please ring for more information.	Ian Smith	01566 86155 / 07779 987580	Launceston, Cornwall

DAIRY CATTLE FOR SALE				
40 British friesland & jersey x cows for sale	40 British friesland jersey x & dairy shorthorns for sale February-may calved. 1st-5th lactation	Gruffydd Lewis	07837 207211	Cardigan, Ceredigion
Fresh Calved Heifers	4 Fresh calved Pedigree Holstein Heifers from 7000 litre herd. Would qualify for PWAB herd.	Chris Grainger	07710 508558	Bewdley, Shropshire
Organic Cows for sale	21 organic crossbred cows, lactation 1 and 2. All have been running with our pedigree Hereford bull since the beginning of April, all are proven cows and are PD+ calving in the new year. All cows are of high health status, TB clear and are screened for Johnes Disease of which they are clear. We are selling them as they do not fit our autumn block calving pattern.	Thomas Marsh	07896 428130	Dorchester, Dorset
16 In Calf crossbred cows	16 in calf cows - calved in Autumn 2020 and missed our tight autumn block so put in calf May & June 2021 for Feb/March 2022 calving. All still in milk at the moment. Vaccinated for BVD, Lepto & IBR. Some fully organic and some are converted breeding stock.	Chris North	07811 565 605	Newnham on Severn, Glos

SHEEP FOR SALE				
Organic North of England Mule Ewe Lambs	400 North of England Mule Ewe lambs for sale. Born 2021, well grown will breed first year. Ready August. Please contact early to secure purchase.	Mark Jenkinson	07970 325502	Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria
North of England Mule Ewe Lambs	North of England Mule Ewe Lambs. Please phone for further details.	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, North Yorks
Swaledale Ewe Lambs	Please phone for further details.	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, North Yorks
Easycare store lambs	160 organic farm assured lambs off high farm	Andrew Smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall
Organic store lamb	Store lamb scotch black face and cheviot. Some would kill now but would rather sell together. Please ring for more details.	Ian Smith	01566 86155 / 07779 987580	Launceston, Cornwall
Zwartbles x ram lambs	5 Zwartbles x ram lambs for sale. 6 months old. Lovely and friendly. £100 each.	Jenny Jones	07956 006616	Looe, Cornwall

OTHER LIVESTOCK FOR SALE				
Chicken manure for sale	Approx 18 tonnes of chicken manure. Very restricted access, only suitable for small tractor and trailer.	PJ and CS Barrell	01544 318510	Leominster, Herefordshire
Organic Point of Lay Pullets	I have 7300 point of lay Pullets available due to a cancelled order. Hyline Brown, fully beaked, reared on HiPeak on our multi tier rearing equipment. 16wks old week commencing 25th July. Ideally selling the full amount in one lot, but sale of commercial numbers of 3000 or 6000 considered. We can hold the birds on the rearing farm up to 18wks	Simon Bowden	07707 423579	Louth, Lincs

FEEDSTUFFS AND FORAGE FOR SALE				
Grain Feeds	Feed wheat available Shrops/Staffs area. Can deliver in bulk locally or delivery arranged via blower lorry. Red Tractor assured. Please phone for details.	Ed or Joe	07985 941735 or 07527 174420	Shrewsbury, Shrops
Organic Seed and Meadow Hay	Organic seed hay and meadow hay, quadrant 6 string bales, off the field.	Graeme Burrowes	07917 404151	Welshpool, Powys
Organic Haylage	Organic haylage, high dry matter, film on film, from the field	Graeme Burrowes	07917 404151	Welshpool, Powys
37 acre standing grass available	Certified organic. Available to be cut and baled in June.	Svante Larsson	07802 882662	Haverfordwest, Pems
Organic Meadow Hay	About 5 acres of standing meadow hay for sale. Grazed by organic sheep only. One cut per year. We can arrange for cutting and balling for you to any size bale that you require. Good access and can help load by arrangement.	Farokh Khoroshi	07798 822524	Buckingham, Bucks
2021 Grass Silage for Sale	1st Cut IRG and Red Clover Grass Silage for Sale. Good Quality. 120x70 6ft bales. 1st Cut PRG and White Clover Grass Silage for Sale. Very Good Quality 120x70 6ft bales. Large Quantities Available. Great Access for Lorries.	Simon Best	07816 386945	Tetbury, Glos
Organic hay or haylage available for cutting and harvesting	33 acres standing organic hay or haylage available for cutting and harvesting 2021. White Clover and ryegrass, located in Anglesey LL65 4BT. Four Fields whole or part.	Gwyndaf Evans	01407 740322	Holyhead, Anglesey
Organic wholecrop - mixed forage	Organic wholecrop for sale. 40 acres of forage mix of barley and peas, undersown with ryegrass and white / red clover. Ready from 30th July. Can big bale or clamp as necessary. Please ring for more details and to price as necessary.	James Mutton	07787 184226	Bodmin, Cornwall
Quality round bale organic hay	Quality round bale hay. Cut, baled and stacked in shed with no rain. Up to 200 available. Looe.	Giles Maddever	07971 572111	Looe, Cornwall

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR SALE				
Grain Dryer	12 Tonne Vertec LPG fired Grain dryer. Full working order with new ECU fitted last year. Made in Canada. Currently working as a batch dryer but could also operate as continuous. Always stored in the dry so not rotten but rubber seals on horizontal augers are a bit leaky. A fraction of the price of the cheapest, rotten Opico!	William Dyer	07976 692855	Tewkesbury, Glos
Claas Forage Harvester	This was serviced, stored in the dry and kept as a back-up machine but not used for several years. Complete except wheels on optional hitch bogie re-purposed. Mechanically better than paintwork suggests. Should be ready for work. Model 51 or 52. Priced to move as space required. More pictures available.	Carl Gray	07771 985908	Tewkesbury, Glos

Items wanted

LAND AND GRAZING WANTED				
Organic Farms Wanted	Are you interested in diversifying your current organic farming business and earning a substantial regular income. Organic farmers wanted to grow Organic Chicken, 10 acres required per farm with long term contracts.	Viran Abeysena	07832 854012	Haverfordwest, Pems
Winter keep	Winter keep required for lambs from November - April. Must be well fenced	Huw evans	07977 505855	Lake Vyrnwy, Powys
Winter organic grazing required for sheep	Please phone to discuss further.	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, North Yorks
Grass Keep for Lambs	Grass keep must be fenced, 50p per week per lamb paid in advance	Andrew Smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall
CATTLE & DAIRY CATTLE WANTED				
Organic dairy cows wanted	We are looking for organic dairy cows from an autumn block calving herd.	Thomas Marsh	07896 428130	Dorchester, Dorset
Organic Store Cattle Wanted	The Organic Livestock Marketing Co-operative (OLMC) have customers looking for all categories of organic store cattle throughout the UK.	Peter Jones	07720 892 922	Tarporley, Cheshire

Approved Inputs

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

Updated approved inputs

SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
Quality Liquid Feeds Ltd	https://qlf.co.uk/	Animal Feed Additive
Agrimin Ltd	https://www.agrimin.co.uk/	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements
Aiva Limited	https://www.aivafertiliser.co.uk/	Plant Health Products, Slurry Treatment
AB Vista	https://www.abvista.com/	Animal Feed Additive
Envirosystems (UK) Ltd	https://www.envirosystems.co.uk/	Silage additive, Slurry Treatment, Bedding Materials, Manure Treatment, Animal Health Product
GS Agri Systems Ltd	http://gs-agrisystems.com	Animal Feed Supplement
Kilco (International) Ltd	https://www.kilcoint.com/en/	Animal Health Product, Disinfectant/Cleaning Agent
Agri grub Ltd	https://www.agri grub.co.uk/	Fertilisers
Evergreen Garden Care UK Ltd	https://www.lovethegarden.com/uk-en	Biocides, Composts, Fertilisers, Insect Control, Pest Control, Plant Disease Control
Afri Davidson T/A Makro Organics Europe	http://afridaydavidson.com/	Slurry Treatment, Soil Conditioners, Water Treatment
FytoFend SA	http://www.fytofend.com/en	Fungicide
Scotmin Nutrition	https://www.scotmin.com/	Animal Feed Supplement, Vitamins, minerals and trace elements
DryMatter Ltd	http://www.drymatter.org	Bedding Materials
Micromix Plant Health Ltd	http://www.micromix.com/	Fertilisers, Plant Health Products
Dorset Seaweeds	https://www.dorsetseaweeds.co.uk/	Plant Health Products
PP Products	http://www.ppproducts.co.uk/	Foliar Treatment
Alpha BioPesticides Limited	https://www.alphabiocontrol.com/	Insect Control
Northern Agricultural Merchant Ltd	sue.farmsupplies@btinternet.com	Animal Health Product
Tricet UK Ltd	https://www.tricetuk.com/	Soil Conditioners, Foliar Treatment
Chr Hansen UK	https://www.chr-hansen.com/en/	Silage additive
Timac Agro UK Ltd	https://uk.timacagro.com/	Plant Health Products, Slurry Treatment, Soil Conditioners, Vitamins, minerals and trace elements
Pan Agriculture Limited	https://www.sovereignsulphur.co.uk/	Fertilisers

Recently awarded approved inputs

SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
UPL Europe Ltd	https://www.upl-ltd.com/uk	Fertilisers, Fungicide, Plant Health Products
Action Pin	https://www.action-pin.fr	Fungicide
British Organic Bio	sales@eutrema.co.uk	Fertilisers
Microbial Distribution Ltd	https://microbialdistribution.com	Plant Health Products
HL Hutchinson	https://www.hlhltd.co.uk	Fertilisers
Ad Terram BV	https://ad-terram.nl/	Seed Treatment

Technical Newsletter



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ofgorganic.org

General

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

Use of Peat

Since the organic standards were first written, issues around climate ecology have come under much more scrutiny. Where once carbon cycling within organic systems meant an allowance of peat as a substrate ingredient could be condoned that is now much more difficult to substantiate.

Peat as a substrate for plant propagation is either being phased out in countries around the world or is mooted to be phased out. The UK government's original date to complete this was 2020 but has now been replaced with a date of 2023.

Alternatives are now more widely available and green waste composting can work very well when done to a sufficient level, besides providing an alternative to peat extraction, it also in promoting green waste costing is helping address climate concerns. However, these alternatives are not what some businesses turn to and still use.

Calls for an end to peat extraction are increasing in volume. It is not deemed possible to have extraction under any form of 'sustainable management' because peat is too important in its role in climate stability and ecological

health. Also, peat is likely to suffer under climatic variation that comes with a rise in global temperatures; where warmer temperatures are seen the peat can lose moisture and health and eventually the carbon within the peat will break down, thus exacerbating climate change.

OF&G are seeking to ensure all substrate used in products approved by us is sustainably sourced. OF&G do not recognise artificially extracted peat from peat bogs as sustainably sourced because the rate of extraction significantly outstrips the ability of the peat bog to regenerate and the process of extraction destabilises the structure of the peat bog, leading to increased losses overall.

OF&G will not approve any product which contains peat that has been artificially extracted unless there is clear evidence that there is equivalent, effective and timely replacement of any material removed and that the natural structure and integrity of the bog where the extraction takes place is maintained throughout and that proven strategies are in place to ensure that the area where extraction takes place will become a net carbon sink within five years from the date of extraction.

OF&G will consider approving products containing reclaimed peat if it can be shown that no artificial intervention has been involved in causing the peat to be deposited.

Under these criteria OF&G would consider reclaimed peat as deemed to be Sustainable.

In line with the recommendations of the UK Committee on Climate Change, the use of unsustainable sources of peat be phased out by the end of 2023. This will allow a period of two and half years for operators to source alternative sources of plant propagation medium before having to meet the requirement of the proposed clarification.

Staff News - Charlotte Benbow

At the beginning of June we welcomed Charlotte Benbow as the newest addition to our team of Producer Certification Officers. In the short time that Charlotte has been with us she is fast becoming an integral part of the team. As usual we'll give Charlotte some more time to settle into her new role before giving you a bit more of an insight into our new CO.

Producers

On-Farm Vending Machines

OF&G has seen a significant increase in the number of on-farm vending machines in recent months as farmers look to add value to their products. Many of these are milk vending machines but others can include eggs and other produce from the farm. Whilst exempting the retail of pre-packaged organic goods from the regulatory framework, it does require the processing to be registered and covered by certification. If you

are considering installing a vending machine on your farm or have already done so and not had this inspected you will need to contact your certification officer to discuss the options.

Where a vending machine is sited on-farm this may be inspected and certified as an extension to your existing farm registration as an on-farm processor. If, however, the vending machine is sited away from the farm

with the potential for more than one you may require a stand-alone processing registration. Inspection and certification of all vending machines must take place prior to the marketing of products as organic.

As noted previously if you have installed a vending machine or are considering the options please contact your certification officer regarding certification requirements.

Cont/..

Processors

Exports to Korea

The Korean Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs National Agriculture Products Quality Management Service has recently written to Defra regarding the import of organic products from the UK to Korea. The letter specifies that

from July if you are sending organic products to Korea a new system of electronic import certificates will be required called e-NAQS. Whilst the import certificate must be completed in e-NAQS the organic products must be accompanied by a paper copy of the

import certificate printed from e-NAQS. To allow for a smooth transition to the e-NAQS paper copies issued prior to July will be valid in parallel to the electronic system until 31 December 2021.

Requirements for importing organic products, Certificate of Inspection

For all operators importing organic products into Great Britain (GB) there are currently two different scenarios depending on the country of export of these products.

If you are importing organic products from outside the European Union you will need to liaise with your suppliers in order that a Certificate of Inspection (Col) is produced according to Defra's procedures for importing organic products. The paperwork required can be found using the following link:

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

Unfortunately, there is no longer a website based system for producing Cols for importing into GB; only a paper system is available. Defra has recently agreed a pdf copy of the original Col may be submitted to the relevant Port Health Authority via email for endorsing and no longer require the paper copy to be submitted.

If you are importing organic products from EU member states, whilst the legal requirements mean a Col is required for those imports as it is for products from outside the EU described above. Defra agreed an easement to those rules specifically for EU imports meaning a Col is not required for a period expiring on 31 December 2021.

This means that from 1 January 2022 all imports from both EU member states and other Third Countries (outside the EU) will require a Col to be produced using Defra's paper based system.

If you have any questions please contact your certification officer.



 OF&G CIC
Old Estate Yard
Shrewsbury Road |
Albrighton
Shrewsbury | Shropshire
SY4 3AG

 01939 291 800

 @ofgorganic

 info@ofgorganic.org

 /organicfarmers

 ofgorganic.org