



ofgorganic.org

Technical Newsletter

May 2018 Issue 117

General News



Defra Consultation (OF&G response)

In February this year Defra published a consultation document on the future of UK domestic agricultural policy and requested responses by 8th May. OF&G were involved in the English Organic Forum and the Organic Trade Board's response and asked licensees to respond directly. Steven Jacobs also attended a number of consultation events around the country coordinated by Defra to ensure our voice and thoughts are heard.

We sent out a short questionnaire last month ahead of our own written submission to gain insight into our licensee's views on various topics the results of which we included in our responses – a copy of our full response is available on our website.

The consultation asked a number of questions and so the second half of the document is our response to these

specific questions with the first three pages giving an overview. In the initial consultation paper 'organic' was only mentioned once in the body of the text and then only as an illustration so our immediate challenge is to ensure organic is a recognised and supported as part of future UK agricultural support (in the broadest terms).

While the organic market is in growth both here and elsewhere, OF&G have chosen to focus on the value to Government of the simultaneous delivery of public goods from organic production alongside the business case for organic in terms of reduced variable costs and working capital that allows for greater financial resilience and an easier access for new entrants.

We have been told that Defra will read all 44,000 submissions line by line. When and in what way they will publicly respond we do not know but the first reading of the Agriculture Bill will be in July although this will be an enabling bill (in so much as it will give

Office Closure for NOCC18 - 3 July

With NOCC18 being so near to the OF&G offices this year we felt it would be worthwhile if all available staff came to the event. It is an excellent opportunity for the OF&G staff, not normally involved in NOCC, to be able to meet our licensees and those involved in the sector and be involved in the day.


It will mean that the OF&G offices will be closed for the duration of the event and limited telephone support will be available. On the day of the event the telephone number for technical support is Steve Clarkson on **07929 623 118**.

For any other issues such as to discuss attendance at the event please call a dedicated mobile **07707 494 715**. If you have any queries prior to NOCC please either contact your certification officer or the usual OF&G general enquiries telephone number.


the Secretary of State powers to do things) rather than a detailed policy document.

In the words of Winston Churchill "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end, but it is perhaps, the end of the beginning". The discussion has only just begun...





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

 01939 291 800

 info@ofgorganic.org

 ofgorganic.org

 @ofgorganic

 /organicfarmers

Contents

- 2. New EU Regulation Update
 - Extension to Countryside Stewardship claims deadline
- 3. Grain Prices
 - Livestock Trends
 - OF&G Privacy Notice
- 4. Biofach
 - Brexit
 - IFOAM UK Rep
- 5. Rural Mental Health
 - OF&G in the News
 - Staff News
 - OF&G Licensees in the News
- 6. Technical News
 - Producers
 - Processors
- 7. Stop the Dock - new technical guide
- 8. Approved Inputs - recently awarded and updated.
- Insert: Classifieds

New EU Regulation Update

The new regulation was formally adopted at a Parliament Plenary on 19 April 2018 and by the Council of Ministers on 22 May 2018 and will be applied from the 01 January 2021.

After the significant concerns expressed at the outset of the process the new regulation is shaping up now. Below is a very quick summary of what is good, what is not so good and what needs further work.

What's new and good

- Soil-related crop cultivation concept is strengthened
- Possibility to use heterogeneous material
- References to the contribution to a non-toxic environment
- More transparency in the process to allow new inputs
- 5% flexibility on the origin of ingredient for labelling
- Restriction on the use of flavours
- Clarification on supplementation for baby-food
- Ban of engineered nanomaterial

What's new and still to be evaluated

- Procedure in case of suspicions and non-compliances
- Group certification in the EU
- Definition of "organic variety"
- Databases (will there be too many?)

- Exception for small operators selling small amounts of organic products
- Labelling of inputs (plant protection products, fertilisers,...)

What's new and negative

- Transitional rule for national approaches for residue findings management - continued lack of consistency across Member States
- Still a number of inconsistencies across the regulation leading to a lack of clarity of what is actually required
- Annual inspection with exceptions
- No flexibility for aquaculture juveniles
- Inclusion of salts
- Authorisation of all synergists allowed in conventional

OF&G will be working with the rest of the sector on securing the best possible outcome for UK organic businesses.

Extension to Countryside Stewardship claims deadline

The deadline for Countryside Stewardship (CS) payment claims for the 2018 claim year has been extended by one month, to 15 June. This extension applies to existing CS agreement holders and to CS applicants who are still waiting to receive offers of an agreement due to start from 1 January 2018.

The extension did not apply to Environmental Stewardship claims or Basic Payment Scheme 2018 claims, and the deadline for these remained 15 May 2018. A letter and Q&A has been sent to all CS customers.

If you have any further questions, please contact Natural England on 03000 200 301.

Deadline approaching for Mid Tier
The deadline to request an application pack for Mid Tier (including the new offers) is 31 May. **The deadline for application submission is 31 July.**

Countryside Stewardship and organic farming

Defra and Natural England (NE) are working with the organic sector as part of their work to improve uptake of Countryside Stewardship (CS) funding, as currently around a third of organic farmland in England is not under agri-environment schemes. Organic farmers can access funding by applying for the Mid Tier or Higher Tier of CS, accessing conversion and maintenance payments, bespoke organic options

and any other CS options compatible with organic farming.

Applicants to CS can combine the organic options with other environmental land management options to access additional funding and do more for wildlife on their farms. The application process has been improved for 2018 and we are looking at how we can simplify the evidence requirements of the scheme so farmers can more easily access the funding available.

Further information on all the Countryside Stewardship schemes is available here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/countryside-stewardship-higher-tier-manual>

Grain Prices: Courtesy of Simon Tubbs, Saxon Organic:

01760 725516

Markets have been fairly quiet recently, although as we go to press, some feed buyers have been active very recently through the summer and autumn.

The very high Organic premiums seen virtually throughout the 2017/18 marketing season are now starting to slip a little, as sellers are now actively trying to clear any unsold balances that inevitably arise. The big question is where values will be from harvest – on the one hand we think there will be a smaller domestic crop, so we expect values for Oats and Barley in particular should be well supported. UK Organic retail growth also continues to grow, so we anticipate good buying interest to develop through the year. The non organic market appears to be very firm presently, so our premiums could however be kept in check, but as always, quality and quantity of new crop grain will be the key drivers in price determination.

There will be the usual carryover of old crop imported material into the autumn, which may limit values initially, but this is a regular feature of our marketplace. There are also reports of potential increased availability of Organic grain from within the EU as more land will be fully Organic as from this harvest, but how much of this finds its way into the UK will depend on exchange rates.

There is currently some concern after a large maize vessel came to the UK after being rejected from the USA - this could conceivably encourage some feed wheat buyers to increase their maize usage if it trades at substantially discounted levels. We expect however that the bulk of this will be re-exported as there have been some integrity issues raised.

In any event, this cargo must be relatively cheap, which is clearly not helpful to prices.

We would very much like to hear how your crops are developing after the cold winter and assorted 'beasts from the east(s)', and the delayed spring drilling campaign. It appears that autumn crops generally look well and are more advanced, but we are aware that some regions could use some showers to establish spring plant growth. More reports please!

If you care to call for latest pricing information kindly give Alastair or myself a call.

Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC

OLMC will be staging an organic seminar at the Beef Expo event being held at Shrewsbury Auction Market on the 25th May 2018.

The seminar entitled "Organic Beef Production and Marketing" is the third organic seminar we have hosted at the annual event which is held at different venues throughout the UK. This year we have managed to secure some very high profile speakers and we look forward to their presentations. The speakers include Simon Tomlinson, OLMC Chairman and Director of OMSCO, Stevan Feehan, Group Livestock Manager for ABP, Richard Thompson, Chairman of O F & G, Richard Smith, Senior Manager at Daylesford Organics, Tim Leigh, OLMC Finished Stock Manager and Clare Hill, Agricultural Strategy Manager at FAI Farms.

The seminar will provide informative discussion on the techniques, opportunities, practicalities and benefits of organic beef production.

Meanwhile in the market place the demand for organic store cattle to graze continues to be strong despite a disappointing finished price. After a late Spring grass has suddenly burst into growth and demand is reflecting

that heavier cattle to finish in the summer months are also in demand.

We also have demand for organic dairy cattle in all areas. David Bostock manages the organic dairy stock and can be contacted through the office on 01829 730580 or mobile 07734 808050

Please ring us if you have any store cattle for sale or wanted. Contact Peter Jones on 01829 730580 or mobile 07720 892922. We would also encourage you to visit our web site www.olmc.co.uk.

The organic cattle trade has continued to be difficult with many abattoirs having reduced kill numbers which has led to a back log of animals waiting for slaughter. However, this situation is easing a little and should get better as the warmer weather arrives and demand for beef hopefully improves. Keeping on top of ages of your cattle is crucial at this time as killing space is at a premium at abattoirs. In most cases extra cattle are not currently being accepted.

The demand for organic cull cows has remained strong during the past few months and this trade looks to continue during the early Summer months.

Average R4L Organic UTM in spec @ 420p/kg deadweight

Average R4L Organic OTM Cow in spec @ 320p/kg deadweight

A very slow growing and cold start to Spring has held organic hoggets back which has created a shortage in supply. However with the warmer weather numbers are improving and it was good to see prices increasing over the Easter period. Currently hoggets still remain in short supply and prices remain strong.

Average R3L Organic OSL in spec @ 585p/kg deadweight

For further information on the marketing of finished stock please call Tim Leigh on 01763 250313 or mobile 07850 366404.

OF&G Privacy Notice

On 25 May 2018, the way in which we are required to treat your personal data changed, as a result of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We take your privacy very seriously. Please read our privacy notice on our website at <http://ofgorganic.org/>

ofg-organic-scotland-privacy-notice/ or contact us for a paper copy. It contains important information on how and why we collect, store, use and share your personal data. It also explains your rights in relation to your personal data and how to contact us or supervisory authorities in the event you have a complaint.

We use your personal data primarily to provide certification services to you, but

also for related purposes, as described in our privacy notice.

Our use of your personal data is subject to your instructions, the GDPR, other relevant UK and EU legislation and our professional duty of confidentiality. Please contact us by post, email or telephone if you have any questions about the privacy notice or the information we hold about you.

Biofach

Our Business development manager, Steven Jacobs went to the largest organic trade show in Europe in February. Biofach is held each year in the city of Nuremberg in southern Germany.

With many OF&G certified organic businesses attending it provides a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make forge new links with people in the organic world from Europe and beyond.

Within the food fair is a section for organic non-food which includes health and beauty products made from organic ingredients. And alongside the trade fair is the Biofach congress with a programme packed with presentations and discussions from leading contributors from around the world, from the US to China.



<https://www.biofach.de/en/exhibition-info/exhibition-profile/exhibition-description>

With many countries presenting their organic data the organic academic institute FiBL presented the following statistics -

Worldwide, a total of 57.8 million hectares were organically managed at the end of 2016, representing a growth of 7.5 million hectares over 2015. This is the largest annual growth ever recorded.

The market research company Ecovia Intelligence estimates that the global market for organic food reached 89.7 billion US dollars in 2016 (more than 67 billion pounds).

<https://www.ifoam.bio/en/news/2018/02/14/booming-organic-sector-578-million-hectares-organic-agricultural-land-organic-market>

<http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018.html>

IFOAM EU carry the European data as an infographic -

<http://www.ifoam-eu.org/en/organic-europe>

Steven also took part in meetings at BioFach as part of OF&G's membership of IFOAM.

The IFOAM International and IFOAM EU have a great deal of work to do now that organic is seen as coming of age globally. The push for more organic food now coming from China, where huge demand is pushing their burgeoning organic market onto the global stage, is a major development.

For reference on posts relating to the trade show and conference look out for #BioFach2018 on Twitter.

BREXIT

There remains a huge level of uncertainty around when and how the U.K. will finally leave the EU and the nature and breadth of any subsequent trade arrangements. It took no small effort to win support for an extension to the implementation period from her Cabinet but every indication is that Theresa May's alternative backstop solution (at the time of writing) to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland (and thus unlock the Brexit talks) is not finding favour in Brussels. It would seem Theresa May's proposal of a time-limited customs arrangement extending beyond the current proposed implementation period, which has not yet been formally presented to EU negotiators, has not been well received. "It would be a very, very complicated thing to negotiate," one senior EU official said. "I really don't see how you get there." The debate and votes (15 in one day) next Tuesday 12 June when the Withdrawal Bill returns to the Commons will hopefully gives us some sense of where we are going.

This has to be viewed from the fact that the June European Council, at which Brussels and Dublin want to see significant progress on the border question, is less than a month away, and that after that there's only four months left to negotiate the rest of Brexit.

This leaves us all in a somewhat invidious position. OF&G are however working on contingencies and have applied to the EU Commission for an extension of scope to cover OF&G operators in the U.K. under Annex 4 of the commission regulation 1235. We are also working with the other U.K. CB's and DEFRA and IFOAM EU to help progress this process. OF&G are also in discussions with other businesses across the EU to try to ensure that whatever the outcome of discussions between the EU and the U.K. the impact on OF&G licensees is minimised.

IFOAM UK Rep

After a number of years Chris Atkinson has stepped down as the UK representative on the IFOAM EU Council.

OF&G Chief Executive Roger Kerr has recently been elected in his place and will represent the UK for the coming three years. It is incumbent on us all to thank Chris for his hard work over the last few years and also to thank the Soil Association for allowing him to fulfil this role so successfully. Chris will remain as a deputy and will continue his work on IFOAM's regulation task.

It is critical at this time, however, that the work of IFOAM EU is disseminated to IFOAM EU's UK members and the wider organic movement. There are many initiatives that IFOAM EU are engaged which we need to be fully aware of and as the the UK representative Roger will be communicating these and feeding back collectively on our behalf.

With our imminent departure from the EU and with Defra's stated policy of, certainly initially, aligning a UK regulation with the EU regulation the need for stronger links to European groups is critical as the UK will no longer have a seat at the top table and so will lose the ability to influence developments directly. Consequently the need to be seen to be active and engaged members is going to be critical if the interests of UK operators are to be protected.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of IFOAM EU and lending their voice please call the office on 01939 291800 or email Roger on roger@ofgorganic.org

Rural mental health

Recent research has found that one in five people from rural areas have or struggle with mental health issues at some point in their lives, many saying they keep them to themselves because they don't know anyone that would understand or didn't want to burden someone with their problems.

On the other hand many people say that they feel good about themselves when they are there for people they care about. People do care and they do want to help.

If you feel like things are getting too much for you or you know someone who you feel may benefit from some help then there are places to go and people to talk to.

If you are a farmer member of the NFU, then you will be able to find your local NFU County adviser [here](https://www.nfuonline.com/about-us/our-offices/) (https://www.nfuonline.com/about-us/our-offices/) who will be able to put you, or someone you know, in touch with a group secretary, who should be able to just pop over and have a chat through things and help point you or them in the right direction.

Otherwise here are some other useful links:

Papyrus, is a mental health charity for young people and whose work centres around preventing suicide in young people. They deliver awareness and prevention training, provide confidential support and suicide intervention through HOPELineUK. <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/>

The Farming Community Network (formerly Farming Crisis Network). FCN is a network of over 400 volunteers, many of whom are involved in farming, or have close links with agriculture and therefore have a great understanding of the issues farmers and farming families regularly face. FCN runs a confidential national helpline and e-helpline which is open every day of the year from 7am-11pm. Volunteers provide free, confidential, pastoral and practical support to anyone who seeks help, whether the issue is personal or business-related. <http://www.fcn.org.uk/help/health>

Young Minds, the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people. <http://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (R.A.B.I.), which helps farmers and farmworkers of any age and has a contact number staffed during office hours. <http://rabi.org.uk/need-help/>

OF&G in the News

<http://www.naturalproductsonline.co.uk/news/ofg-organic-offers-opportunity-to-deliver-green-brexite/>

Natural Products - OF&G: organic offers opportunity to deliver green Brexit.

Excerpt from article:

Organic Farmers and Growers (OF&G), in partnership with organisations across the organic sector, is urging the UK Government to recognise the opportunities organic can offer to deliver a green Brexit.

As part of its response to the Defra consultation on the future of UK food and farming outside the European Union, a letter was sent to Michael Gove last month – signed by OF&G and members of the English Organic Forum – explaining that organic production offers

huge potential to help the Government deliver its ambitions of a green Brexit and calling for organic production to represent at least 10% of UK food and farming.

Commenting on the Defra consultation, OF&G CEO Roger Kerr says: "OF&G and the other members of the English Organic Forum are surprised that organic wasn't more widely identified in the consultation documents. We would like to have seen organic farming, with all the benefits it offers, as part of the consultation proposals on food and farming policy."

"Organic production is backed up by a legal regulation with annual inspections, certification and verification," he adds. "With this robust approach, Defra can have confidence in organic food and farming delivering economic and public goods for all."

As a country we need to produce safe food, but it's important that we also ensure the protection of natural capital. I believe that organic farming offers these benefits, and it's these farmers who need to be properly rewarded for the protection of our landscape and food production.

Staff News

Many will already know that our popular producer certification officer, Thomas Powell Jones, left us for pastures new at the beginning of the year. Such was his popularity with both operators and the office team he has proved to be quite difficult to replace.

However, we now have a replacement and she will be starting very soon, but it will take some time for her to get to grips with our processes and the organic standards.

As you can imagine the existing producer certification officers' workload has increased significantly whilst they try and cope without a key member of their team.

We therefore ask that you bear with us and the team whilst we train our new member of staff and get her up to speed with the complexities and subtleties of the organic certification and inspection system.

OF&G Licensees in the News

East Anglian Daily Times: **Organic farmers call on government to get behind sector** <http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/east-anglian-combinable-crop-growers-reluctant-to-go-organic-says-farmer-1-5464337>

There is a reluctance to convert to organic farming in East Anglia, despite the obvious financial benefits, a prominent Suffolk organic farmer claims. (OF&G Licensee John Pawsey) Excerpt from article: "Combinable crop farmers, especially in the east, are reluctant to convert even though the opportunities are there as currently we are importing 70% of organic feed fed to organic animals in the region and supermarkets are increasingly wanting those animals to be fed on UK produced grains. Although the demand for organic produce is going up, the land converting to organic is still dwindling or is static at best.

"I believe that some positive words and financial support from the Government might give some farmers the confidence to convert. Certainly our own business has increased by 30% in organic area over the last 24 months, but we are not typical."

According to the Organic Trade Board, the UK organic market is worth £2.2bn, the European organic market more than £30bn and globally it has reached £70bn.

Technical News

Producers

Copper fungicides (potatoes)

For many organic growers the use of copper products are an essential part of disease control in their crops and the removal of copper as a fungicide has had a significant impact on the crops being grown. In 2017 the AHDB together with a manufacturer were successful in gaining an Emergency Application for Minor Use (EAMU) for copper on potatoes and apples/pears. In April 2018 the AHDB again submitted an EAMU application for the use of Cuprokylt to the Government's Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP). On considering the application the ECP requested further information and clarification before it is able to make its decision. The AHDB submitted their responses to the ECP and have, in the last couple of days, been informed that this application was successful. The official authorisation paper (Authorisation Number: 1239 of 2018) has now been issued detailing the conditions and restrictions for use, it must be noted that only Cuprokylt made by Certis can be used under this authorisation.

If you wish to use Cuprokylt for late blight control on your potatoes please contact your Certification Officer for further information.

Seed Approvals (organicxseeds.com)

It that time of year when farmers have been sowing spring crops, planting leys and overseeding existing pastures. As a result we see the requests for non-organic seeds increase especially as the available stocks run low.

If you are looking to use non-organic seed you must apply for approval, for all non-organic seed use you must complete all relevant sections of Record Sheet 4a (this can be found in your manual or downloaded from the OF&G website under Useful Docs).

Grass/Forage Seed Mixes

If you are using a grass/forage (arable silage) mixture these must contain at least 70% organic seed. Where this is the case you may sow the seed prior to gaining the approval but the approval must be sought prior to your next annual inspection. To be classified as a 'mix' the contents must be mixed prior to sowing and the same variety of seed may not be present in both

organic and non-organic form.

If you wish to use a mix that does not contain a minimum 70% organic content you must apply for approval to use each individual variety prior to sown as below.

Single Seed Varieties

If no organic seed of the species you wish to grow (barley, wheat etc...) is available an approval may be granted for non-organic, untreated, seed under certain conditions. If the variety you wish to grow is not available in organic form but another variety is available organically, you must be able to demonstrate why the available organic varieties are not agronomically suitable. In all circumstances a seed approval request form must be sent to your Certification Officer in good time before you wish to sow the seed.

Seed for Seed Production

In addition to the above information to justify your approval request, please also supply a copy of your seed contract or home saved seed plan. Your Certification Officer will aim to contact you within three to five days of receipt of your approval request. Hopefully this will be to inform you that the request has been approved. However, if the forms have not been completed correctly or important information is missing, the process will be delayed whilst we obtain the relevant information.

Processors

Fraudulent Certificates

We were notified in May by the EOCC - (European Organic Certifiers Council) of the following fraudulent Organic certificates:

The first was apparently issued to the ELLEN CANTERO GROUP claiming to be issued by the Control Union Certifications BV under the Control body code PE-BIO-149 in the Philippines. The certificate is valid until 20th December 2019. However, the CUCB have no connection to this company nor have they issued this certificate.

The next certificate is for the company BFP LLC in Ukraine control body UA-BIO-108 and is claiming to be issued by Organic Standards to sell Processed agricultural products for use in food. This certificate has a validity of 31st January 2019.

This certificate is fraudulent and has not been issued by the Organic Standards.

The following three certificates were apparently issued by Ecocert to the following:

- JIGRA INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS PLC IN Ethiopia under the US NOP program for oil,seeds,pulses & spices.
- XI'AN KELIKANDA BIOLOGICAL TECHNICAL CO to process and export Camellia Oleifera seed.
- EZIE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS to process and export agriculture/ animal feeds and has been trying to sell to the European market.

If you receive or have received a certificate in any of the above names please contact your Certification Officer.

Updated Guide to Organic Certification - Food Processing

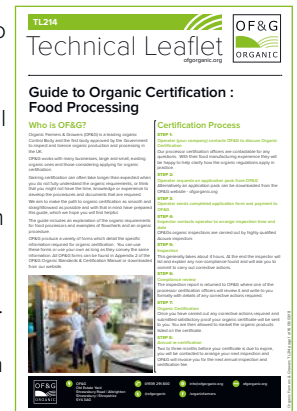
We have updated our booklet on taking you through certification for organic food processors. It has been enormously popular and been distributed in print and online many thousands of times over the years. We have decided to bring the Guide into line with our other documents and so it is now a Technical Leaflet (TL214).

This is available on our [website](#) or from your certification officer - either by email or in the post. If you have any organic certification queries, from how to write an organic

procedure to completing a SIPs form or documenting pest control, or if you just want to find out about the certification process, then this guide will provide a useful resource.

Labels

Please ensure that all new and amended organic artworks are submitted to OF&G for approval prior to printing, along with confirmation of the EU leaf logo dimensions in mm. The minimum regulatory size is 9mm x 13.5mm with an increased ratio of 1:1.5. Proofs can be submitted in pdf format via email to labels@ofgorganic.org



Please ensure that your registration number is included in the subject line of the email for identification.

Once the artwork proofs have been approved by a processing Certification Officer, a stamped 'approved copy' of the artwork will be forwarded to you as evidence of the approval by OF&G. These should be kept on file for viewing during inspections.

Standard turnaround time for artwork is 48 hours. If you require this sooner then please notify us.

TRACES - reminder

The TRACES Electronic Certificate of Inspection (e-Col) system has been introduced for all products being imported into the European Union. If you are bringing organic products into the EU from a Third Country you will now need to be registered on TRACES NT and complete an e-Col using this system. If you are not registered it is likely that the port authorities will not permit your products to enter the UK. You can register your company at

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/> login by completing the relevant sections. Once you have registered OF&G will need to formally validate your registration in order for you to be able to create the e-Col for imports.

At the present moment the system is experiencing some issues with the electronic signature. This means that until this is solved the COI (certificate of inspection) must be raised in Traces, printed, stamped and signed by the exporters control body. It must then be presented with the consignment at Port Health to be stamped and signed.

It is not permissible for the Port Health Authority to sign off the consignment without the printed copy of the EC Certificate of Inspection.

This process will remain in place until the electronic signature is in place.

Freight forwarders and 1st Consignees

- Please note that anybody involved within the importing process such as freight forwarders, warehouses etc will need to register on Traces as an Operator then select 'Responsible for

the load'. The validation must then be carried out by the Port Health Authorities.

Organic vegetable oils as processing aids

At the end of 2016 an amendment to the organic regulation required that, where you are using a vegetable oil as a greasing, releasing or anti-foaming agent you must now be using an organic oil.

We informed operators around the time of the change to the regulation in order that the necessary changes could be made to your systems.

We will be looking at the use of these products as part of your annual inspection, if we find a non-organic vegetable oil has been used we will identify a non-compliance and require a corrective action be implemented using an organic vegetable oil.

If you have any concerns please contact your certification officer.

Stop the dock!

A new technical guide for reducing docks on farmland

The Organic Research Centre in collaboration with FiBL, the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, have recently published a comprehensive technical guide that aims to help farmers reduce the impact of problem docks on their land.

The two main dock species, broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and curly dock (*Rumex crispus* L.) are a major problem for most farmers, particularly organic farmers, who without the use of herbicides find the problem particularly challenging.

As well as a series of practical solutions, the technical guide highlights the strengths and weaknesses of this pernicious weed. Docks have a large storage root with regenerative buds at the crown. They also have enormous reproductive potential – and one plant can produce up to 60,000 seeds per year. With its early germination capacity combined with robustness, many farmers may clearly battle to eliminate this problem plant from their land.

Depending on the level of dock infestation, the guide outlines different techniques for removing and suppressing established docks. Only by dealing with the causes of dock proliferation can the reproductive cycle be broken and long-term control achieved. However, the most promising approach is a combination of several measures.

Significantly the guide explains how by understanding the dock's biology it is possible to exploit the plant's weaknesses. For example, broad-leaved dock spreads most rapidly in intensively cultivated grassland with

excessive fertilisation or manuring and over-grazing as well as in under-grazed or poorly managed pasture. Wet fields and soils rich in nitrogen, potassium and magnesium are particularly inclined to encourage docks.

Conversely on poor, shallow soils, docks grow rather poorly. And, dock seeds are dependent on light to germinate, so a dense sward will help prevent them getting established in grassland.

The technical guide gives clear guidance on the strategy's needed to reduce the impact of docks in both permanent pasture as well as arable land. It also outlines techniques for restoring highly infested land and presents the latest technical innovations that have been developed on dock control.

The technical guide has already received praise from the farming sector and Chris Wardle, an organic beef and cattle farmer in Wales, said, "The technical guide is excellent; relevant, practical, clear and useful."

The Technical Guide – Dock Control: Combining the best methods of successful control, can be downloaded from the Organic Research Centre's website at www.organicresearchcentre.com or alternatively, hard copies are available from ORC at a cost of £6.00 including postage.

The technical guide was produced as part of the Organic Knowledge Network Arable project funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union

Recently awarded approved inputs

A full list of approved inputs appears on our website <http://ofgorganic.org/approved-input/>

SUPPLIER	TELEPHONE	CATEGORY
Circum Minerals Limited	07515 984504	Fertilisers
Darlingtons Group	0151 328 5610	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements

Updated approved inputs

A full list of approved inputs appears on our website <http://ofgorganic.org/approved-input/>

SUPPLIER	TELEPHONE	CATEGORY
ECOspray Ltd	01760 756100	Pest Control, Plant Health Product, Animal Feed Additive
Volac International Ltd	01639 814344	Silage Additive
Natural Fertilizer Company	+92 213 5240954	Soil Conditioners
Soil Fertility Services Limited	01366 384899	Plant Health Product, Pest Control, Fertilisers
Meriden Animal Health - a division of Anpario PLC	01234 436130	Animal Feed Additive
Natural Soil	905-751-1086	Soil Conditioners
PanBio Ltd	07890 639241	Soil Conditioners. Compost Additive
Azotic Technologies Ltd	01257 226591	Foliar Treatment
JJS Minerals	07805 982283	Insect Control
Devenish Nutrition	01142 480608	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements
The Woodhorn Group	01243 789284	Compost
York Potash Ltd	01723 470010	Fertilisers
Nimrod Veterinary Products Ltd	01608 652593	Animal Health Product
Verdera Oy	00358 102 173700	Fungicide
Minsups Ltd	01606 556161	Animal Feed Supplement
Klinge Chemicals Ltd	01355 238464	Ingredients
Envirosystems (UK) Ltd	01772 860085	Silage Additive, Slurry Treatment, Bedding Materials
Growing Up International Corp	886-49-2337927	Plant Health Product
Genus ABS	01270 616600	Silage Additive
Interagro (UK) Ltd	01279 714970	Fertilisers
Fargro Ltd	01903 721591	Fungicide, Bio-insecticide, Pest Control
Novozymes France	0033 130 156419	Insect Control
Material Change Limited	01327 706231	Compost
Inserotech Ltd	01227 209901	Weed Control
Interfarm (UK) Limited	01354 741414	Insect Control
Kilwaughter Minerals Ltd	028 2826 2155	Soil Conditioners
Kilco	01576 205480	Animal Health Product, Disinfectant/Cleaning Agent
Heaton (Export & Marketing) Limited	01422 822308	Insect Control, Animal Feed Additive
Micron Bio-Systems Ltd	01278 427272	Silage Additive, Slurry Treatment, Animal Feed Additive, Vitamins, minerals and trace elements
Weeding Technologies Ltd	0203 909 0050	Weed Control