



ofgorganic.org



Newsletter

May 2021 Issue 135

General News

OF&G's National Organic Combinable Crops 2021

We are very pleased to confirm that John and Alice Pawsey and their family will be welcoming guests to their mixed organic arable and sheep farm at Shimpling in Suffolk on 6 July 2021.

This annual on-farm conference has grown since it began in 2008 and is a popular event with delegates and speakers coming from all over the UK and beyond.

At this time the government ambition is to roll back restrictions on gatherings as the year progresses and while we must remain cautious we're optimistic that people will be able to meet at Shimpling Park Farm in person in July.

We are planning to hold the event as an in-person on-farm conference with a cap of 100 guests, which will help us ensure that we have space and capacity for everyone's safety.

The event will be filmed and we will be posting conference material online in the days and weeks following the



event with presentations and discussions and a look around parts of the farm.

This year we will be joined by Defra's Future Farming team, the crop research team from the Organic Research Centre and NIAB, who will be on site to talk about seeds and soils.

<https://ofgorganic.org/events/of-gs-national-organic-combinable-crops-2021>

More details to be announced soon.

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NOCC21 will be 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/>

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/>

GROUNDSWELL

OF&G have again teamed up with Abacus Organic to host a stand with **OASIS - the Organic Advisory Information Service** at the Groundswell event 23 & 24 June 2021

<https://groundswellag.com/exhibitor/oasis/>



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/organicfarmers

IFOAM Organic Europe's response to the European Commission document on 'New Genomic Techniques' (NGTs)

As members of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements we support IFOAM Organics Europe in raising very serious concerns around any move to deregulate gene edited plant and animal material

The following is from a recent IFOAM OE article: <https://www.ifoamorganicseurope.bio/news/political-hotspot-may-2021-newsletter/>

On Thursday, 29 April, the European Commission released their long-awaited in-house study on the 'status of new genomic techniques under Union law and in light of the Court of Justice ruling in Case C-528/16' and an accompanying press release.

What is evident from this report is that the Commission appears to be convinced that new genetic engineering techniques are an important part of their wider sustainability agenda and in line with the EU Green Deal and the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

IFOAM Organics Europe has made it very clear that this report by DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) is largely based on assumptions on the future "benefits for society" of new genetic engineering techniques and does not contain solid arguments to back up its conclusion that the current GMO legislation is "not fit for purpose" for the new techniques.

Based on these assumptions, the Commission is seeking to propose new legislation to promote new genetic engineering techniques and launch a wide-ranging consultation with stakeholders and Member States to discuss a future legal framework.

If the Ministers of the Member States go along with the line of the Commission and give their green light, a new legal framework could create a challenging situation. This is because on the one hand, the Commission seeks to increase organic land and

agroecological production, and on the other hand they also intend to promote farming systems relying on GMOs.

Currently, and in line with the ruling of the European Court of Justice, varieties developed using these new techniques can only be marketed and/or cultivated if they go through the same approval process as other GMOs, including risk assessment, traceability along the production chain and labelling.

In a press release, IFOAM Organics Europe expressed the concern that weakening the rules on using genetic engineering in agriculture and food is worrying news and could leave organic food systems unprotected – including the ability to trace GMOs throughout the food chain to avoid contaminations that lead to economic losses and to live up to organic quality standards and consumer expectations.

Furthermore, the EU organic movement's press release calls on the EU Commission and Member States to maintain the existing regulatory framework and seriously consider the impact of the proposed regulatory scenario on organic food & farming, consumer choice and access to agrobiodiversity.

While consumer groups and environmental NGOs would like to see the current regulation maintained and properly implemented, the farming lobby of the conventional sector (Copa-Cogeca) calls on the Commission to speed up the process of developing new legislation.

While impacts on the organic sector are mentioned several times in the

Commission study, no concrete solutions are proposed on how the Commission would intend to preserve the integrity of the organic supply chain in case they went ahead with plans to take the new genetic engineering techniques out of the current legal framework applying to GMOs.

This includes the question of how and whether traceability of these organisms would be maintained for (organic) food producers and seed producers and enabling them not to use products from genetic engineering in their production process.

In the next step, the Commission will present their plans to the Ministers of the Member States at an Agriculture Council meeting on 31 May, to members of the European Parliament and stakeholders.

National positions on how new genetic engineering techniques should be regulated will be crucial in the coming months to decide whether the Commission will go ahead with its suggested plans to develop a new and specific legal framework for "novel genomic techniques".

IFOAM Organics Europe will be heavily involved in this policy debate, representing the European organic movement's voice.

The OF&G response to the UK government's public consultation on the regulation of genetic technologies can be found online - <https://ofgorganic.org/news/of-g-response-to-govt-consultation-on-regulation-of-genetic-technologies>

OF&G Organic Conversion Information Page

We have assembled information online to help guide people who are considering converting their farm businesses to organic.

<https://ofgorganic.org/of-g-organic-conversion-information>

If you have any additional queries please contact the OF&G office.



Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) organic teaching 21 years

SRUC's online postgraduate programme in Organic Farming

SRUC has over two decades experience of postgraduate teaching in Organic Farming. The programme was established in 2000 and converted to its current online distance learning format in 2002.

SRUC delivers sector-leading research, education and consultancy and students on the Organic Farming programme have the benefit of teaching input from all three of these complementary strands, alongside input from other sector experts.

Since 2015 this has included a formal teaching partnership with the Organic Research Centre.

The Organic Farming programme uses part time online distance learning which (in non-Covid times) is blended with residential study weekends and study tours and allows students to gain a PGDip qualification in 2 years or an MSc in 3 years, as well as the option to study single modules as CPD.



If you are interested in studying Organic Farming with us, please contact Programme Leader Dr Lou Ralph on

lou.ralph@sruc.ac.uk or visit our website for more information and to apply.

www.sruc.ac.uk/pgorganicfarming

BASIS Foundation Award in Organic Farming

OF&G (Organic Farmers & Growers) has teamed up with Abacus Agriculture and the independent awarding body in food production and land management, BASIS, to deliver the new Foundation Award in Organic Farming, which will be officially announced at the Groundswell event on 23 and 24 June 2021.

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 to six 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.

We can offer a discounted rate to a number of OF&G licensees who would like to complete a pilot course starting in mid September.

To express your interest in enrolling on the pilot course or for more information about the award that will be open to all candidates later in the year, please contact OF&G at : admin@ofgorganic.org.

BASiS

BASIS Foundation Award in Organic Farming

Market Information

Grain Prices: Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable

The dominant effect on the UK organic cereal market is organic soya. The price of organic soya has risen over the last 12 months by about 60% which is having a significant impact upon the livestock sector with pigs and poultry particularly impacted as they have limited other options for their diets whilst dairy farmers can look to use rapemeal or even domestically produced proteins. With this increase in price comes a challenge for feed manufacturers as they seek to keep their feed costs affordable. In the conventional market we have seen feed companies maximise barley usage to reduce costs but not so in the organic sector despite the discount barley provides. The reason behind this price is a reduction in supply from China and so a shift in sourcing to Indian soya expeller which is typically more expensive and we are now largely reliant upon India for our feed. Another shift reported is that the US market is now importing soya expeller for its livestock sector. Historically the US have imported beans which they have processed domestically into both human consumption and animal feed markets. The growth in demand for human consumption soya in the US means US beans are now used for the human consumption market and the livestock market is importing soya expeller. The US is now a direct competitor for our soya expeller and with the US being 40% of the organic market their demand is huge and growing. This additional demand means it is likely to keep soya values high for a period until additional supply can be grown.

This also raises an interesting question for the organic sector about how we continue to manage our feed supply chains. Our reliance on soya is putting us in a strategically weak position as a massive price increase undermines profitability. A buyer recently indicated to me that their response to this shock in their imported soya supply was to focus their cereal purchase on imports

too completely failing to appreciate the paradox that their response to a significant risk to their business was to build additional risk into their feed supply chain replicating their reliance on imports. Through this season imported wheat has increased by perhaps £80 per tonne. Perhaps a more resilient response would be to seek a supply of domestic cereals without pushing values low early in the season and then having pay much higher values later. There is a debate to be had about how feed grains are sourced.

We have a paradox that in a growing market John Pawsey as "Farmers of the UK" on Twitter stated, "at the moment I wouldn't encourage anyone to convert until this problem is sorted out. It's never been more difficult to market organic combinable crops". How can this situation have arisen? Consumers of organic dairy and meat want the product they buy to support UK environmental benefit and yet largely they don't. This is a problem we need to address. It is necessary that individual livestock farmers question their own feed sourcing and the wishes of those that buy their milk or meat and reflect on whether they are serving their customers' demands? It is time for individuals to take some responsibility for feed grain sourcing rather than simply delegating that responsibility to a feed company. That does not mean buying straights and home milling (although we can supply you if that's your preference) but questioning your feed company as to how they source their grains.

We face a climate crisis and need to reduce our carbon footprint. Research Organic Arable have commissioned shows importing products from the Black Sea has a carbon-footprint, in its logistics twice that of UK sourced product. In a world in which we need to reduce carbon we need to restructure these supply chains and source more locally. It will not be easy or linear to build the UK organic feed grain supply but it is necessary and can be done as there is potential additional supply that can join the market if the correct signals are given to these farmers. However we need these

signals to be sent so John Pawsey can change his advice and encourage these new entrants into the sector.

The old crop market is largely complete with some buyers reporting they have small volumes of grain to buy and others that they have cover in place. Most grains on-farm are pretty well sold and there remains very little wheat, oats or beans unsold however there remains a volume of barley left unsold on-farm which may struggle to find a home this side of harvest. There is a bit of interest in new crop but the market has yet to really form. A small volume of business was reported at £260 ex farm and so it seems the lows of last year are hopefully past. The soya price is likely to support bean values.

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

A strong trade for all cattle has continued with good prices attained for quality in specification stock. The effect of gradual unlocking and the road map to lifting restrictions will be causing headaches in the supply chain. Abattoirs have been keen to ensure that they have product to supply, while at the same time uncertain of customer demand as we progress through the unlocking. Until now supplies have just about met current demand but will undoubtedly be challenged as we go into the summer. The weather has disrupted early finishing of cattle from grass, a factor which could well bring about supply shortage and stronger prices. If we see a similar situation as last summer of family "staycation" and good summer weather, all meat sales could rise sharply..

ORGANIC CULL COWS

The cow trade is reflective of the prime job. Good demand with good prices, there seems little reason to see that the trade will change too much with shorter supply probably helping maintain a strong trade.

Average R4L Organic UTM in spec @ 460p/kg deadweight

Average R4L Organic OTM Cow in spec @ 325p/kg deadweight

FINISHED LAMBS

A record period of lamb trade has seen producers achieve some of the highest returns they have probably ever had. The longer term picture will probably see an easing in prices as more lambs come on to the market. In most cases lambs are slower to come forward with such a cold, slow grass growing spring and early summer causing issues for graziers.

Average R3L organic NSL in spec @ 7.00p/kg

Average R3L organic OSL in spec @ 6.60p /kg

For further details, please call:

Tim Leigh: 07850 366404

James Doel: 07741 248928

ORGANIC STORE REPORT

Since March the weather has been, to say the least, challenging. April had the lowest average minimum temperatures for April in the UK since 1922, as air frost and clear conditions combined for a frost-laden, chilly month despite long hours of sunshine. Conversely April has been very wet with some areas experiencing twice the normal rainfall by the middle of the month. The cold has continued to prevail with the wind in the north and north east producing temperatures well below normal. These conditions have proved difficult for farmers during the last two months with poor grass growth.

The forecast for June looks much more promising and let's hope better grass growing conditions prevail for the rest of the summer. Buoyant cattle and sheep prices have been a factor, that, if anything, have in some way made up for the poor weather.

Both breeding sheep, hoggs and cull ewe prices have been extremely high. Store cattle have reached highs not seen for many years and

finished cattle returns have boosted confidence in livestock producers.

The last week in May has seen store cattle numbers on the market, and prices ease back as grass has run short. Looking forward demand for organic beef and lamb looks promising with the numbers of holiday makers staying in the UK which means more mouths to feed at home and is likely to repeat last summer.

We continue to have strong demand for store cattle, breeding sheep and lambs and particularly organic dairy cows and heifers

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.

At the time of the last report in March the industry were hailing Arla's latest organic price move of 1.3p for April, and propelling its price above 38p for the first time since April last year. Since then it has got better! It's latest price move of 0.44ppl for June rockets the organic price to over 41.5ppl on a manufacturing litre and to over 40p on a conventional standard litre basis. It is the first time it has crossed this threshold since October 2019. Muller's organic price has also continued to hold, at just under 40p for a standard litre, and in Northern Ireland Dale Farm's price is 39.3p, but it only has a tiny number of producers. In Euro terms 40ppl equates to around 46 cents per litre, which is still slightly below the prices being quoted in Germany, Spain, and Italy, and comparable to those being paid in France and The Netherlands.

OMSCO doesn't publish its price, but it's situation is not being helped by difficulties with exporting very high value organic product to the EU in the new post Brexit world, with an article in The Grocer magazine recently stating that "The UK is in

effect banning itself from selling raw milk to the EU due to a refusal to license certain storage premises for export", with the problem being due to officials in the UK not licensing and authorising depots. The article quoted the difficulties OMSCO is facing, with £10,000 a week in lost exports, and up to half a million pounds year if it remains unsolved. Being a farmer owned co-op it will be reflected in the milk price somehow, sometime.

That aside, though, organic dairy farmers will be ecstatic with their rising prices then? Well doubtful! Although the recent price increases means the percentage differential between the organic price and the conventional price is now back over 30%, having dropped below it last October, it is still down on the rolling three-year average of 35% and the five-year average of over 40%. The rolling 12 month price is still below the previous year's price due to Brexit and other issues, equating to between £100 and £140 per cow across the sector.

But the fact of the matter is that several conventional farmers producing high solids for the likes of Arla will be getting a price in the mid 30p's, and they don't carry the costs that organic farmers do with feed prices continuing to increase and constraints increasing on what can be allowed, for example with soya. Some dairy farmers struggling with the margins have already converted back to conventional because of the difficulties, but it is not known how many.

What is clear, though, is that current milk prices may look better than they have been recently, but rising costs, pretty decent conventional returns and increased production challenges - not least with this year's silage crop and the rapidly rising costs of raw materials - means that the margin pressure is still firmly on many farmers, with the cost of production up 2ppl on last year, and effectively equating to typical milk prices. Although the long-term organic prospects are promising the short to mid-term is still difficult.

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www.daykinpartnership.co.uk

OF&G and Organics in the News

Organic farmers and OF&G licensees **Great Berwick Farm** featured in The Independent '12 best meat boxes from ethical farms delivered to your door'

Best for steaks – Great Berwick Organics secret 7 steak box: Great Berwick specialise in rearing English Longhorn Cattle with majestic horns. They have a 100 per cent grass-fed diet and live a stress-free existence in fields next to the River Severn. Longhornbeef.co.uk

Ocado Rising Stars Award:

Raw Halo who are licensed by OF&G have won Best Organic Product at the Ocado Rising Stars Awards with their Mylk & Pink Salt Bar

<https://www.ocado.com/browse/rising-stars-310380/best-organic-product-310363>

John Pawsey, OF&G licensed organic farmer and host of OF&G's National Organic Combinable Crops took over @FarmersOfTheUK - <https://twitter.com/FarmersOfTheUK> - account on Twitter from Monday 24 May 2021.

John's time on Farmers of the UK begins here:

<https://twitter.com/FarmersOfTheUK/status/1396706029610668033> -

John's Twitter accounts - @hanslope and @ShimplingPark - looks at his farm on a business and personal level.

EU to reconsider rules on gene editing

OF&G chief executive Roger Kerr was featured in an article recently looking at the European Commission review of GMO rules.

He said: "There is a real concern for the direction of travel in farming.

The evidence from 25 years of GMOs is that they don't significantly outperform conventional crops and they do raise issues of real concern such as increased pesticide use on those crops engineered to withstand repeated sprayings of pesticides.

"There is an acute lack of robust independent research to support claims that these new gene-edited GMOs perform better than conventionally bred plant varieties or to assess the impacts of releasing these genes into the environment. The recent first application to the EU of a gene edited crop has been for pesticide-resistant maize."

The article is available to read online -

<http://www.fruitnet.com/fpj/article/185110/eu-to-reconsider-rules-on-gene-editing>

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.

Classifieds

CATTLE FOR SALE				
20 Bulling/early in calf heifers for sale	20 Bulling/early in calf heifers for sale. Pedigree Holstein and Viking cross heifers for sale. 10-16 months old. Johnes, BVD free, IBR vaccinated.	Phil Brooke	07838 381 317	Leominster, Herefordshire
Stabiliser bulling heifers	Stabiliser bulling heifers ready to bull in June. March/April born approximately 400kg at 12 months old. BVD accredited, also screening for IBR, Lepto and Johnes.	Alan Derryman	07976 624611	Sidbury, Devon
Stabiliser Heifers	Stabiliser Bulling Heifers born March/April 2020. Ready to go to the bull mid June onwards. High herd health.	Rob and Liz Priest	07887 886354	Holsworthy, Devon
Angus, British Blue	93 Angus, British Blue Hereford, and Limousin weaned calves/store cattle. Home grown, aged between 2 & 10 months. Fit Healthy stock.	Ken Samuel	07853 870282	Tewkesbury, Glos
Organic dexter cattle	Choice of 3 pedigree organic dexter cows, 2 with calves, and up to 9 heifers for sale. Due to lack of organic grazing	Richard Thomas	07967 378721	Hay on Wye, Powys
Organic bulling heifers	8 Pedigree Hereford bulling Heifers. High health status. No TB	Gareth Jones	01446 781256	Cowbridge, South Glamorgan
Traditional Hereford heifers for sale	Eight Pedigree, rare breed, Traditional Hereford heifers (18 - 22 months) for sale. By Laxfield Amadeus. Organic. Axiom Cattle Health Scheme full accreditation. Top quality stock from the COW HALL herd of rugged Herefords from the Welsh Borders.	Joy Measures	01588 640307	Craven Arms, Shropshire
Organic dexter heifers	Choice of 6 organic 2 year old dexter heifers for sale. TB tested and BVD free herd. Polled and horned	Richard Thomas	07967 378721	Erwood, Powys

FEEDSTUFFS AND FORAGE FOR SALE				
Organic Meadow Hay	I have 400 small organic meadow hay bales for sale. Cut July 2020. First cut. Stored right away and in excellent condition. Can help load. Bales sizes are: 500mmW : 1000mmL : 400 mmH. Each bales weight about 23-15 kg. Very easy to handle and good access.	Farokh Khoroshi	07798 822524	Buckingham/ Milton Keynes
Round bale silage	150-200 round bale silage for sale near south molton devon	Kelly	07983 523487	South molton, Devon
Stock feed potatoes	Washed stock feed potatoes	Phil Houlbrooke	07970 540092	Ledbury, Worcs

DAIRY CATTLE FOR SALE				
Organic Cows for Sale	10 BF Type cows. All Freshly calved in April. Young Cows. Out of calving pattern. BVD and LEPTO vaccinated. Johnes screened.	Toby Ansdell	07785 397678	Barnstaple, Devon
10 Crossbred heifers/cows	Calving May-Aug. High milk solids and high fertility herd. 100% pasture fed certified. Johnes and BVD negative. TB tested ready to go	Mat Boley	07786 638707	Weston super mare, Somerset
Bf/xbred dairy Bulling Heifers	35 BF / xbred bulling heifers , from high health grazing herd. Bvd, lepto , lbr vaccinated. Low TB area. Never had TB.	Rhodri Ellis	07900 937262	Denbigh, Denbighshire
Dairy cows	45 autumn calving cows for sale due 1 September	Oliver Chedghey	07977 248453	Basingstoke, Hampshire
15 Kiwi Cross heifer calves	Grazing type calves 3 months old. Outside and grazing. Ready to wean. Pre movement tested.	David Thornley	07974 374027	Hereford, Herefordshire

LAND AND GRAZING FOR SALE				
Organic grazing land to rent	370 acres of organic grazing land to rent. There's also access to a 24:48 milking parlour and there are cow tracks in place.	Tom Morris	01823 432668	Taunton, Somerset
Full organic grazing available for 6 months	Full organic grazing available for 6 months from May 1st, South Wales near Cardiff. 50 acres. Mains water on a meter. £60 per acre. I can check stock every other day. Fenced for sheep.	John O'Dwyer	07817 786087	Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan
Organic grazing North Cotswolds	Approx 200 acres (6 large fields) Certified Organic Standing Grass. August 1st Cut. Whole or part	Stewart Bell	07941 339709	Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE				
Farmyard manure	For collection. 100 tonnes. Offers please	Anna Bryant	01225 752253	Trowbridge, Wilts
Poultry manure	100 tonnes of poultry manure for sale	Viv Powell	07786 964331	Builth Wells, Powys

Items wanted

LAND AND GRAZING WANTED				
Land wanted	My partner and I are looking to rent two to ten acres of arable land to start an organic market garden, growing vegetables. We require water and road access and a site that is fairly sheltered, with adequate drainage. We are looking for a long-term Farm Business Tenancy, or similar. We currently live in East Sussex but will relocate if the opportunity is suitable.	Andrew	07736 957877	Lewes, East Sussex
Organic Farms Wanted	Organic Farms wanted to grow Organic Chicken. 10 acres required per farm with long term growing contracts. Ideal Extra Income.	Viran Abeysena	07832 854012	Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire
Organic Pig Finishing Opportunity	Pig Finishers Wanted. Are you looking for extra income (£25k per year), extra fertility and weed control? We are looking for extra outdoor organic pig finishing accommodation in batches of 450. Preferably in the NE of England. You will need free draining land, accommodation and basic stock skills. We will provide the pigs and feed. For more information call or email neil@mathesonstld.co.uk	Neil Wright	07798 766945	Elgin, Moray

MISCELLANEOUS WANTED				
Livestock Farm Worker / Shepherd	We are looking for a new member of staff to join our team, focusing on our livestock enterprises - Beef, Sheep and pigs. For the full job description and how to apply please see our website on https://www.sladefarmorganics.com/jobs	Polly Davies	01656 880799	Bridgend, Glamorgan
Self employed looking for farm work	I am self employed farm worker who has just moved to Shropshire from Hertfordshire where I have worked on farms from 500-6,000ac with experience with arable, beef & sheep. I am looking for any farm work available. My CV and references can be provided. I also run a small contracting business specialising in cover crops, herbal leys and environmental grass mixes. I can establish them using broadcasting from an Atv so there is no soil disturbance and cheaper cost to you. Organic and Conventional seed mixes are available.	Matt Carpanini	07948 324879	Wem, Shropshire
Stroud Community Agriculture is looking for a new Head Grower.	We are a 350 member CSA farming 70 acres of land on 3 sites in Gloucestershire, producing both vegetables and meat for our community of members. The horticulture unit consists of 9 acres of field vegetable and 1,000 square metres of polytunnels on two separate sites. The livestock is managed by our farmer, and the horticulture unit by our head grower. Please send a covering letter and copy of your CV to membership@stroudcommunityagriculture.org Deadline for application is 31st August, though early applications are encouraged. We will invite shortlisted applicants to come and join us for a trial day. Full details: https://www.stroudcommunityagriculture.org/farm_news/sca-is-looking-for-a-new-head-grower/			Stroud, Glos

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
Calysta UK Ltd	http://calysta.com/	Animal Feed Material
Terragro Kft	http://www.terragro.hu/	Soil Conditioners
PlantWorks Ltd	http://smart.plantworksuk.co.uk	Plant Health Product
Soil Fertility Services Limited	http://www.independentsoils.co.uk/	Plant Health Product, Soil Conditioner, Animal Feed Additives, Slurry Treatment
Dyacare UK Ltd	http://www.dyacare.com/	Soil Conditioner, Fertilisers, Plant Health Product
Neogen T/A Quat-Chem Limited	https://www.quatchem.com/	Disinfectant/Cleaning Agent
Ron Fields Nutrition	https://ronfieldsnutrition.co.uk/	Animal Health Product
Chamcotec Ltd	http://www.chamcotec.com/	Disinfectant/Cleaning Agent
Sadera Ltd	karol.prokopovic@gmail.com	Manure Treatment, Animal Feed Supplements, Seed Treatment, Soil Conditioner, Fertilisers
Divine Imports Ltd	https://batmaster.co.uk/	Soil Conditioner, Plant Health Product, Foliar Treatment
Badger Consultants Ltd	https://www.badgercropnutrition.co.uk/	Fertilisers
The Woodhorn Group	http://www.woodhorngroup.co.uk/	Composts
Klinge Chemicals Ltd	http://www.losalt.com/uk/	Ingredients
Growing Up International Corp	https://www.growing8.com/	Plant Health Product
Danstar Ferment AG	http://verdera.fi/fi/etusivu/	Fungicide
Genus ABS	http://www.genusbreeding.co.uk/	Silage Additive
Fargro Ltd	https://www.fargro.co.uk/	Fungicide, Bio Insecticide, Pest Control
York Potash Ltd	http://siriusminerals.com/	Fertilisers
Salt Express Ltd	http://saltexpress.co.uk/	Ingredients
Nimrod Veterinary Products Ltd	https://www.nimrodvet.com/	Animal Health Product
Interagro (UK) Ltd	https://www.interagro.co.uk/	Fertilisers, Seed Treatment
Circum Minerals Limited	http://www.circumminerals.com/	Fertilisers
Jigsaw Marketing & Media Ltd	https://www.richardjacksonsgarden.co.uk/	Fertilisers
Vitax Ltd	https://www.vitax.co.uk/	Fertilisers, Plant Health Product
Sumitomo Chemical (UK) Plc	https://www.sumitomo-chemical.co.uk	Insect Control
Kilwaughter Minerals Ltd	http://www.kilwaughter.com/	Soil Conditioners
Bio-Ferm Biotechnologische E.P GmbH	https://bio-ferm.com/en/home/	Pest Control
Micron Bio-Systems Ltd	https://www.micronbio-systems.co.uk/	Animal Feed Additives
ANUPCO Ltd	https://www.kela.health/animal-health/distribution/anupco/	Animal Feed Supplements
Material Change Limited	https://www.material-change.com/	Composts, Soil Conditioner
Uniscope (Euro) Ltd	https://www.uniscopeeuro.co.uk/	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements

Recently awarded approved inputs

SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
Oro Agri International B.V.	http://www.oroagri.com/	Soil Conditioners
Koppert UK Ltd	https://www.koppert.co.uk	Biofungicide
Belchim Crop protection	https://belchim.co.uk	Fungicide, Disinfectant/Cleaning Agent, Bio insecticide
ITrade2 Ltd	https://www.itrade2.co.uk	Fertilisers
Nutri Biotech Services Ltd	http://www.nutribiotechmalta.com	Animal Feed Supplements

Technical Newsletter



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General

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

Moving Back to Physical Inspections

As the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID pandemic ease across the country OF&G is working with our inspection providers to facilitate the move back to physical inspections. As has been said in previous newsletters the retained organic regulation as applied in the UK requires a physical verification of all premises at least once per year. During the COVID pandemic

a derogation has been applied that allows a remote inspection to be undertaken in the first instance with a physical follow-up on the basis of risk. Remote inspections have worked to allow continued certification of operators; they are not seen to be as effective as an inspector visiting the premises and viewing the operation in person. In the coming weeks/

months we would like to see as many inspections as possible being undertaken physically whilst being mindful that this may not be the case for all inspections and a limited number may need to be carried out remotely.

Any move to physical inspections will be carried out in line with any government restrictions and may be subject to change.

Staff News - Jenny Bibb

Over the past few years OF&G as a company has grown into an extremely successful certification business not only undertaking certification in our core organic food and farming work but also taking on new opportunities in growing areas such as compost and biofertiliser and validation/ verification of codes relating to carbon sequestration. As these schemes have

increased so has the complexity of the work undertaken. As a result OF&G have created a new role to aid with the work of the Certification & Compliance Manager. OF&G is delighted to say that our existing producer certification officer Jenny Bibb has been offered and accepted the position. Many of you will already know Jenny as she has not only been a certification officer

for a number of years but is also a qualified farm inspector. We have also recruited a new producer certification officer to take on Jenny's certification work to allow her to take on this new role. Charlotte Benbow will be starting as a producer certification officer on 7 June, we'll give you more information about Charlotte in due course.

Producers

Grass Seeds

Many farmers have looked to sow grass/forage seeds during the last few months. If you are still looking to do so there are some requirements you must take note of. All grass/forage mixtures must contain a minimum of 70% organic content by weight of seed. An approval must be sought for the 30% non-organic part of the mix prior to your next annual inspection (if

not at the time of planting). If the mix contains less than 70% organic content you must apply for approval prior to sowing the mixture and must give agronomist justification as to why the varieties available as organic are not suitable.

A grass/forage mixture must be harvested as a forage crop, arable mixtures harvested as a grain must be

100% organic or approval obtained prior to sowing (if not obtained the resultant crop may lose its organic status).

A grass/forage mixture may contain an organic and non-organic constituent of the same species e.g. organic red clover 'x' and non-organic red clover 'y'. However, it must not contain organic and non-organic of the same variety.

Cont/..

Processors

Charges for COIs

As you will be aware following the UK exit from the European Union on 31 December 2020 the rules and paperwork required in relation to the export of organic products into the EU has changed.

As detailed in previous copies of the Technical Newsletter in order to export products from Great Britain (GB) to the EU and Northern Ireland (NI) you must firstly contact us in order that both your scope of certification and Certificate of Compliance are amended to include 'Exporting'. You must also be registered and validated as an organic exporter on the EU's Trade Control and Export System New Technologies (TRACES NT). Once you have completed these two processes each time you export a consignment to the EU/NI this must be accompanied

by a Certificate of Inspection (COI) produced in TRACES NT and signed/ stamped by us.

As this is a relatively new requirement we have been taking stock of the time necessary to assess and sign/stamp each COI. Unsurprisingly there has been an impact and we have incurred additional costs to deliver this service. However we are keen to limit the impact of this on our licensees. With this in mind we have decided that the fairest way of addressing this is to charge for assessing and signing each COI; the alternative being to increase fees overall to all licensees regardless of whether they require this service or not.

As a result we have published a new fee sheet based on the time it takes for our staff to assess and complete the

COI validation process and whether this is within office hours or outside of office hours. Please note at this stage we are not in a position to offer a 24-hour service of validating and signing COI's due to the very significant investment and cost associated with providing this service. We will however keep this under review.

OF&G implemented the new fees for COI's assessed and signed from 1 May 2021. Invoices are now being issued on a monthly basis by our accounts team.

Please note that due to the introduction of the Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS) there will not currently be any charges for products exported to Northern Ireland.



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