

# Newsletter

ofgorganic.org

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## **General News**

## **OF&G** welcomes Organic for All and **Reboot Organic initiatives**

OF&G welcomes the Soil Association's timely announcement of their new vision for organic in the UK - Organic for All - and offer our full support and collaboration to ensure the success of the organic sector. It builds on and complements the Organic Manifesto - Championing organic within agricultural policy released by OF&G last year, and the Reboot Organic campaign launched at The Organic Growers Gathering in early October.

It is clear that the major organic organisations in the UK need to work together to make this vision happen and it adds new impetus and complements the work done to date by UK Organic (previously the OTB) in building sector-wide collaboration to make organic more accessible and

Organic farming is a globally scaleable high welfare, nature-positive, carbon-negative food production system that at its heart seeks to work with and enhance natural processes and ecosystems. There is well-documented evidence that demonstrates that it is capable of

making a significant cost-effective contribution to achieving the Government's environmental targets. This surety is underwritten by clearly defined and auditable legal standards.

We agree that:

- Organic must be valued by policymakers, by the financial sector, by the public and by our economic system
- Organic must be supported by policy, by farmer support and knowledge sharing, by innovation support, by effective standards and regulation,
- Organic must be available in retail outlets, in public settings, in local communities and through sufficient supply chain infrastructure.

We would add that organic research is also key to driving change and to help the food sector fulfil the organic principles of health, ecology, fairness and care. See ORC's research approach.

#### Organic Farm Management Handbook

At a time where external agricultural inputs and market volatility are at a high, organic production has never seemed more logical as a solution to the transition to low input systems.

After a tumultuous few years for the food and drink market, the hope is that the latest version of the handbook will better equip organic farmers, growers, and prospective entrants with reliable market data, specific sector budgets, and sources of information and advice.

Copies of the Handbook are available

## **OF&G Office Hours** over the Christmas break

The office will be closed from 1pm on Friday 22 December to 9am on Tuesday 2 January. The contact number - for emergencies only - outside these hours is for Stephen Clarkson on 01939 292002

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## A Role for Organic in Scotland and Beyond

#### Adam Forrest - Organics Development Manager at Scotland Food and Drink

In recognition of the benefits organic agriculture can bring to biodiversity, climate, soil, animal welfare and human health, the Scottish Government in its vision to be a leader in "sustainable and regenerative agriculture, high-quality food production and nature restoration" and a "Good Food Nation," has committed to doubling the area of land under organic management by 2026 and developing a new Organic Food and Farming Action Plan in 2024.

With a global market for organic worth €130 billion underpinning the economic opportunity for producers, internationally, organic is being used as a key policy tool for agricultural and food system transformation. The USA have recently announced a \$300m Organic Transition Initiative. Ireland has committed to tripling its organic farmland by 2030, Germany is targeting 30% organic land and 30% organic public procurement by 2030. The EU's Farm to Fork Policy is targeting 25% organic farmland by 2030 and each EU country now has its own organic action plan.

The forthcoming Organic Food and Farming Action Plan for Scotland will be developed through a partnership approach led by Scotland Food & Drink, commencing in January 2024. Drawing on the groundwork laid by the Scottish Organic Stakeholder Group (SOSG), the plan will incorporate recommendations from their 2022 report, "Pointing the Way to a Scottish Organic Action Plan." Stakeholders and producers will play a pivotal role, working in partnership with the Scottish Government to transform their own recommendations into actions and delivery.

Working across key areas, including policy support, research, advisory services, supply chain development, and public procurement, the new action plan should foster cross-agency collaboration to realise the benefits of organic food and agriculture for all, recognising its ongoing role driving change across all of food and farming.

## **Welsh Organic Scheme**

Following news that all Glastir schemes, including organic, would cease at the end of 2023 and be replaced by a much reduced support package, the Welsh Organic Forum led calls to Agriculture Minister Lesley Griffiths and First Minister Mark Drakeford to take stock of what the cost to Wales would be if they removed critically needed support for farmers and for the environment at such a crucial time

The Forum has since learned that the decision is indeed under review and have thanked the team at the Agriculture, Sustainability and Development Division within Welsh Government for seeking early views from the Forum regarding an organic farm support scheme for 2024. However, we are extremely disappointed on how payments will be structured and the basis for their calculation.

We do not believe that using a costs incurred and income foregone approach will fairly reward the public goods that organic farming secures in line with the policy intent of the incoming Sustainable Land Management framework. We appreciate that Welsh Government is operating under significant budgetary constraint, and the Minister's offer of support is welcome.

We are also pointing out that Defra have moved away from the European Commission's treatment of income foregone in order to better reflect the typically smaller and more mixed farm types found in England. Defra also consider units of labour as well as/instead of output. We suggest that Defra's treatment of income foregone is relevant to Wales and could offer a fairer approach to payments. Furthermore, the Forum requests that income foregone calculations should include the 'transaction costs' of organic certification and note that there is legal precedent for this within the UK. Now is not the time to look away, food supply chains in Wales must be made more resilient. The consensus from climate scientists is that extreme weather conditions are likely to continue and could become even more severe in the years ahead. We will be in close dialogue with the Welsh Government in the coming weeks as we continue to work to help government in the serious situation with regard to funding and at the same time ensure that organic farmers in Wales are supported in their delivery of positive outcomes for the environment in this time of climate and nature crises.

Steven Jacobs, Co-deputy Chair, Welsh Organic Forum.

## The Oxford Real Farming Conference - 4-5 January 2024

The largest Agroecology conference in the world will again be hosted in Oxford Town Hall in the New Year and OF&G will be there

ORFC have just announced their programme - https://orfc.org.uk/orfc-2024-in-person-programme and we can announce that OF&G are taking part in a session on Thursday 4 January at 2pm. UK Grain Lab will host an interactive workshop to imagine a new cereal seed system. The session will be led by Charlotte Bickler (ORC & UKGL) and Steven Jacobs (OF&G & UKGL), with Fred Price (Gothelney Farm), Josiah Meldrum (Hodmedods),

Henrietta Inman (Wakelyns Bakery), Rosy Benson (Field Bakery), and Ruth Levine (the Sheffield Wheat Experiment). Hosting not one but two





farming conferences simultaneously, the city of Oxford will be very busy, buzzing with people working in food and farming from all over the country and around the world. Let us know if you are going to either of the Oxford conferences in January.

# The Soil Association Charity, OF&G and Soil Association Certification collaboration

The Soil Association Charity, OF&G and Soil Association Certification have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines how the Parties will work together to jointly promote the interests of Organic and agroecological farming and food to deliver positive outcomes for climate, nature and health, in the UK and internationally that otherwise would not be achievable as independent actors.

The practice-based outcomes of the Organic system, and the consequent saving on synthetic input use – pesticides and fertilisers – with the associated reduction in GHG emissions and increase in biodiversity, improved water quality and other natural capital benefits associated with Organic production systems would make a 25% uptake of Organic at farm level transformational.

The Parties therefore wish to work better together, in a spirit of co-operation, to promote Organic within this new, dynamic and evolving landscape, whilst also encouraging materially improved practices and outcomes from non-Organic farming

The collaboration between the Parties on ELMS and other policy issues has already provided the right focus for sector-wide promotion of Organic with Defra and others (including the environmental NGOs). In addition, all Parties believe that signposting an 'Organic' pathway on the Agroecological/Regenerative journey is important.

Building from these two foundations, the Parties agree on the following further key areas of alignment and cooperation:

- To jointly communicate the ambition and need for transformational (not incremental) change in our food system through the widespread adoption of Organic farming;
- To work toward Organic becoming increasingly available, acceptable and affordable "for all";
- To work toward a joint line on countering 'anti-Organic' narratives.

The Soil Association Charity, OF&G and Soil Association Certification - Memorandum of Understanding.

# Food Standards Agency "Misleading" and "Flawed" GMO Consultation

The Food Standards Agency have launched a consultation on proposals for a new framework in England for the regulation of precision bred organisms used for food and animal feed.

The Foods Standards Agency is seeking views on proposals for a new framework that will regulate the use of precision bred organisms (PBOs) for food and animal feed.

We will be responding to the consultation and we ask that you also consider responding.

OF&G's Steven Jacobs, has signed a letter of complaint stating that the consultation does not meet standard regulatory requirements. The letter was coordinated by the group Beyond GM.

OF&G continues to have concerns around the regulation and release of new GE material into what is already a depleted environment. Any new technology carries risk and using a technology designed to artificially disrupt the genetic material of an organism on products that people will eat without a rigorous, transparent and independent assessment framework carries obvious risks.

Given the current minimal level of oversight proposed we are asking that the FSA fully recognise the need to alert the public and the business community to these risks, some of which have already been recorded (FDA finds unexpected antibiotic resistance genes in 'gene-edited' dehorned cattle).

Evidence is building that when using 'CRISPR' technology to make the alterations to animal and plant DNA there can be a propensity to highly unpredictable and much greater disruption of the DNA than is often intended.

Organic regulations strictly prohibit all GMOs, including

these new genetically engineered or 'Precision Bred' organisms because we prefer to work with and enhance natural processes and ecosystems.

The FSA has for more than two decades protected the public and guarded against the removal of vital safeguards around the safety and security of our food supply.

Without full disclosure and proper rigorous independent oversight of the benefits and potential risks of releasing this material, that will be unknowingly consumed by the whole population, there are justifiable concerns that the FSA cannot fulfil their mandate.

If you have any comment or questions around the use of genetic engineering in food and farming please contact Steven Jacobs on steven@ofgorganic.org

- The Beyond GM news article on this https://beyond-gm.org/food-and-farming-business-experts-food-standards-agency-consultation-on-precision-bred-organisms-is-misleading-and-flawed/
- The letter https://beyond-gm.org/wp-content/ uploads/2023/11/Stakeholder-Complaint\_FSA-Consultation\_PBO-Regulatory-Framework\_181123\_Final. pdf

Guidance on the FSA Consultation on Precision Breeding -

 ${\bf https://beyond\text{-}gm.org/guidance\text{-}on\text{-}the\text{-}fsa\text{-}consultation-} \\ {\bf on\text{-}precision\text{-}breeding/}$ 

- FSA under fire for 'misleading' post-Brexit precision breeding proposals - https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/food-safety/fsa-under-fire-for-misleading-post-brexit-precision-breeding-proposals/685601.article



## **OF&G** and Organics in the News

# Organic farms class presentation - Wem and District Agricultural Association

The Wem and District Agricultural Association organise a farms competition through late spring into early summer which incorporates 40 or so different classes covering the variety of farms in the area. This year they are launching an organic farms class with well known organic farmer John Downes judging and the first winner is Sam Jones of Tilley Park Farm in Shropshire.

Sam and his family, including father Barry Jones, run an organic farm in Shropshire that has been licensed by

OF&G for many years.



OF&G are very proud of Sam and his family and send our congratulations for this recognition of their hard work.

We would like to give a big thank you to the Wem and District Agricultural Association and their chair, Rory Lay for inviting OF&G to support this award.

#### **Nuffiled Scholar**

## https://www.nuffieldscholar.org/scholars/2024/sophie-gregory

Sophie Gregory is an OF&G licensed organic dairy farmer in Dorset and will be a Nuffield Scholar for 2024.

Sophie will study "What is the future for organic farming?"

#### The Cows Are Mad - By Lucy Proctor

A programme on BBC Sounds has been looking at the 1990s epidemic of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), also known as Mad Cow Disease.

In episode Seven the programme features Nigel Purdey. Nigel's brother Mark worked for years to prove the disease was directly linked to organophosphates.

Mark Purdey was an organic farmer who did not believe the government's line on BSE and started his own investigation. He was heavily criticised and disbelieved but many stood by his side. And of course since the nineties organophosphates have been found to be harmful to health and are linked to serious medical conditions.

Mark himself died some years ago and, according to the programme, his theories have not been categorically proven. However, as Lucy Proctor explains, three decades later scientists are still not certain where mad cow disease originated from and how humans were getting infected.

The Cows Are Mad - 7. Factor X (BBC Sounds)

## https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001rydk

## Pitch Up! project providing unique access to land launched in Scotland

Tim May is an organic farmer licensed with OF&G, and will also be hosting the 2024 National Organic Conference in July. (See next page)

Tim started an initiative on the Kingsclere Estate in Hampshire to encourage new entrants to farming and help him build an economically diverse and potentially a more resilient farm business. A few years on and Kingsclere have now partnered with Balcaskie Estate in Fife.

"The project invites sustainable businesses and start-ups to present their plans. Those that are successful are given access to fertile land, business expertise, retail opportunities and investment. Placing the emphasis on collaboration, Pitch Up! is above all an opportunity to be part of a likeminded community that grows together."

https://foodanddrink.scot/ourindustry/news/pitch-up-projectproviding-unique-access-to-landlaunches-in-scotland/

## Organic farmers 'better off' under SFI and CS

OF&G has published a technical guide outlining how the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and Countryside Stewardship (CS) payments can be combined to deliver increased payments of up to 50% to organic

farmers compared to historic BPS rates. The calculation is based on two farm case studies (one predominantly arable, the other mostly livestock) of 210 hectares, the average size of organic farms certified by OF&G.

In this Farmers Guardian article the new document is featured showing the income comparison between old BPS and the combined CS and SFI; payments can lead to an increase from £48,510 to £68,671 for a livestock farm. On an arable farm rates would rise even more, from £48,510 to £73,061, which equates to a 50.6% increase.

https://www.farmersguardian.com/ news/4126590/organic-farmers-sfics

#### **Slade Farm Organics**

Graeme Wilson and Polly Davies run the 260ha third-generation family farm Slade Farm Organics in South Wales with arable, livestock and horticultural enterprises.

The farm has been licensed by OF&G for many years. In an opinion piece in Farmers Weekly Graeme describes what he refers to as a "Welsh farm policy riddled with contradictions".

https://www.fwi.co.uk/news/opinionwelsh-farm-policy-riddled-withcontradictions

If you are involved in an event please let Steven know and we can add it to our list to share via the newsletter and online at ofgorganic.org

steven@ofgorganic.org



### Help spread the word about the importance of organic growing

**Garden Organic** is on a mission to get as many people as possible to follow organic practices in their gardens, allotments and balconies. The charity, formerly known as the Henry Doubleday Research Association, has been helping people to go organic at home and in their community for over 65 years, carrying out research to inform best practice and sharing their expertise via practical growing advice

In 2024 Garden Organic would love to collaborate with companies with a similar ethos on a range of different projects to demonstrate how gardeners can support biodiversity through sustainable organic practices such as composting, seed saving and organic growing.

Top of the charity's priority list for 2024 is a show garden at BBC Gardeners' World Live. Having attended for two years running, they want to go even bigger and better next year! Co-hosted with the BBC Good Food Show at the NEC in June, the event attracts up to 100,000 consumers. With plenty of shopping opportunities, expert talks and inspirational displays plus potential exposure in other BBC

outlets (Gardeners' World magazine and TV, BBC Good Food magazine) it's a great way to reach many thousands of people.

#### **Heritage Seed Library**

Garden Organic is also looking for companies who can help with their **Heritage Seed Library** conservation project, protecting and sharing the UK's National Collection of vegetable varieties. There are many ways you could help with this work, from a corporate volunteering day or a one-off donation, supporting a specific vegetable variety, or to a long-term relationship to secure the future of this vital conservation initiative, described by Monty Don as 'heroic'!.

If you're interested in exploring ways you could work with Garden Organic, please contact Hannah Rogers at **hrogers@gardenorganic.org.uk** or 024 7630 8210. The charity would love to talk to potential partners and to show you around their beautiful organic demonstration garden near Coventry.

## Marketing of Organic Heterogeneous Material: consultation

The Scottish Government have launched a consultation on a proposal using secondary legislation which would align with the EU organic regulation.

This is an interesting development which would have implications for growers in Scotland and for Organic Control Bodies certifying in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

From the consultation pages -

Scottish Government's proposal to:

 Introduce secondary legislation that will permit and regulate the production and marketing of plant reproductive material of an organic and heterogeneous nature in Scotland.

- 2. Method of delivery:
- The legislative mechanisms by which OHM might be marketed
- The scope of species any new legislation should apply to

The consultation opened on 31 October 2023 and is due to close on 23 January 2024.

https://consult.gov.scot/agriculture-and-rural-economy/marketing-of-ohm/

## **UPCOMING EVENTS - National Organic Conference 2024**

NOC24 will be held at Tim May's farm on the Kingsclere Estate in Hampshire.

Tim farms 1,000 hectares, all under an OF&G organic licence and located on the Wessex Downs. The crop rotation includes diverse herbal leys and arable cropping.

#### Host

Tim May, Pitt Hall Farm, Kingsclere Estate near Basingstoke in Hampshire.

#### Date

To be confirmed but early July, usually the first Tuesday.

#### Chair

Sarah Dickins is an ex-BBC journalist and broadcaster. Sarah and her husband run an organic farm in Wales https://blackwelshlamb.com/

#### Caterer

Aimee Collins of Five Little Pigs, 'a charming little neighbourhood bar & restaurant, and that we delight in serving people thoughtful, seasonal & locally-sourced food and drink.' - https://www.fivelittlepigs.co.uk/about-us

The farm is biologically diverse and the farm business is brimming with economic diversity. Tim sells grain through Organic Arable and is one of the Wildfarmed contract growers.

He is also trialling different crop varieties for Organic Research Centre and Organic Arable. This year Tim also has varieties that are part of the new UK Grain Lab Diverse Cereal Seed project.

Plus of course there is the 'Pitch Up!' new enterprise project, notably with the Roaming Dairy, run by Oliver Chedgey. For more details on 'Pitch Up!' see page 4.

In his own words Tim says - "The *Pitch Up*! scheme connects holistically-managed estates and regenerative farmers with sustainable food producers and other likeminded businesses – to share land, raw materials, retail or production space, by-products, ideas, knowledge, contacts, equipment, costs, and whatever's needed to help good ideas grow into successful businesses". Find out more at **pitchupandgrow.com** 



## **Market Reports**

## **Grain Prices:** Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable

The organic market has a more settled air at present. Following the price uncertainties that generally abound around harvest values have found a level with organic wheat at around £270 - £280 ex farm. The impact of the high inflation has resulted in a fall in organic food sales and there has been a level of decertification in the livestock sector as a result which has in turn reduced demand. Because the organic feed sector is so reliant upon imported supplies there should always be a buyer for UK organic feed grains but liquidity in the market is the challenge. The feed sector, with a recent experience of expensive stock and falling demand remains cautious and so are buying less readily than in more buoyant times which makes placing grain at the time the farmers wishes to sell more challenging.

With winter wheat varieties such Extase and Mayflower performing consistently organically we are seeing the wheat area grow again following many years of decline and in order to continue to encourage this trend we need to see buyers respond and encourage this trend by leaving gaps in their imported buying programme for domestic

supplies. We know from a study completed in 2021 the role UK supplies can have in reducing the carbon footprint of grain.

There is some positive news with one dairy commentator suggesting that the milk supply can't be allowed to drop and so milk prices can't fall further and positive rumblings from the poultry sector too that additional supply is required give some cautious optimism as both these messages should help to support demand for organic feed.

Milling wheat proteins have been good this season with some of the highest protein levels experienced in recent years with many samples over 14% which have sold at good premiums over feed. The consistency of new winter wheat varieties means the yield penalty for spring wheat production is growing and so millers may need to respond to this by maintaining these higher premiums over feed in future too.

see https://www.organicarable.co.uk/arable for more information. Please keep an eye on our blog www.organicarable.co.uk/blog

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## Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC

#### ORGANIC STORE REPORT

Finished cattle prices continue to hold albeit with a slight drop at the end of October. The ROI price is almost £1.00 per kg lower than the UK price which is a concern. The organic price seems to be holding up well although there now seems to be a decline in the difference between the conventional price and the organic price. This is not a reflection on the unpopularity of organic meat but it is an indication of the strength of the conventional price at the moment. Going forward I predict prices to hold well into the New Year.

Store prices again, continue to hold, despite the fact that we have now reached the end of the main autumn buying period. We are now taking orders for grazing cattle in the spring, last year we were swamped with orders and did not fulfill everyone's requirements. I'm confident this year, that provided we get orders in early enough, we should have adequate supplies, but we do need to know well in advance of what you are looking for.

Store lamb prices continue to be very buoyant with numbers seasonably short. Prospects for hog prices look favourable post Christmas as supplies look like being tight.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or David Bostock to discuss the best way to sell your cattle and store lambs.

Contact the office on 01829 730580 or:

Peter Jones: 07720 892922 David Bostock; 07734 808050

OLMC FINISHED STOCK

#### Organic Prime Beef Cattle

The trade for quality prime organic heifers and steers continues to strengthen marginally. Prices have definitely firmed as the supply has tightened in past weeks. In some cases cattle had done well on early autumn grass only to be knocked back by the incredibly wet weather we have

since experienced.

Forage stocks are on the whole in good supply, the quality of the forage is very variable.

The New Year would look to hold similar or better levels of price depending on continued or improved retail demand.

#### **Organic Cull Cows**

Cull cow prices have eased back from the dizzy heights we experienced mid summer. The demand is still reasonable but the numbers coming forward are proving more than currently required thus weakening the trade.

The prices for cows both conventional and organic will likely strengthen into the New Year and often improve with colder weather.

## Average R4L Organic UTM in spec @ 530p/kg deadweight

Average R4L Organic OTM Cow in spec @ 350p/kg deadweight.

#### <u>Lamb</u>

Lamb prices have strengthened in the past few weeks. There is generally this time of the year a few retailer promotions for the Christmas period which push things on. Also with many areas of the country experiencing very wet weather, lambs have struggled to finish which has created a lull in the supply coming on to the market.

The price is expected to get better in the New Year, lambs will undoubtedly be harder to source the closer we get to the spring. All of which could contribute to similar levels or even stronger prices than we experienced last spring.

Average R3L organic NSL in spec @ 600p/kg Finished Stock Marketing office: 01763 250313 /

olmc@olmc.co.uk

Tim Leigh: 07850 366404 /James Doel: 07741 248928



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

The Irish dairy herd is, it is fair to say, in a muddle. Between 1995 and the mid 2000's the Celtic Tiger was running rampant across the country, and the country was booming. Come 2010, though, and the tiger was dead. Ireland was economically on its knees. The property boom had burst and it was time for Plan B.

That came in the form of Food Harvest 2020 – a political manifesto to significantly increase the agricultural output of Ireland's farmers. Within that there was a plan to increase milk production by 50% by 2020, or by 2.75 billion litres. It was manna from heaven for dairy farmers, and they seized on the political support with relish. Volumes increased by 67% between 2012 and 2022, from 5.2bn litres to 8.7 billion.

However the success of that came with an environmental cost. Cow numbers increased 40% and 456,000 head, with those in the biggest county, Cork, increasing by 85,000 and 26%. Aside from the obvious greenhouse gas emissions water quality in several catchment areas in Ireland have deteriorated significantly. A decade after Ireland's politicians led their farmers to the top of the Food Harvest hill they are now throwing them off the cliff, by insisting on a significant cull of cows to reduce the environmental loading. Proposals have been floated to cull as many as 200,000 cows, or 65,000 cows a year for three years, in order to help Ireland achieve its climate goal of a 25% reduction in emissions by 2030. There is also talk that 41,000 cows could be culled in the next three months to help meet legal nitrate levels.

And there's now a Plan C in play. Minister of State at the Irish Department of Agriculture — Pippa Hackett (an organic farmer herself) - wants dairy farmers to ease the load by... going organic. Ireland's Organic Farming Scheme funding pot opened to new applicants from Friday November 3, and closes next week. She says the level of interest in organic is "unprecedented."

"Earlier this year the price for milk was high, and that there was no consideration for the vast majority of dairy farmers to switch to organics. Now the price might be a little bit more at where it naturally sits, so that might give food for thought for dairy farmers," Hackett recently said. In the last year, the number of organic farms in Ireland has apparently doubled on the back of Government incentives and narratives, although it is not known how many of those are dairy farms. There isn't much of a provision by processors in Ireland for organic milk. Still, that's just a minor issue for big talking "organic is the solution" politicians.

Any Irish farmer thinking of converting might like to take a glance over the Irish sea before they do, however. It wouldn't take long or many conversations with organic dairy farmers to realise that organic dairying has been damn hard work, and continues to be. It has been no panacea for higher profits at all. Dozens of UK organic dairy farmers have converted back to conventional in 2022 and 2023, because they couldn't make ends meet. Although the milk price differential between organic and conventional is back to the normal 30% premium – the average conventional milk price being 34.4p and the

organic 45.8p – farmers producing organic on a level supply say they still can't make ends meet at some of the lower prices being paid. Spring producers might – but what the organic consumer market really needs is level supply, not an all-or-nothing profile. And further afield in Europe the situation is even worse than that in the UK, as organic milk supply continues to out-pace demand. There has been a blood bath in some countries there.

In order for organic to have a successful future it needs buoyant markets based on long-term consumer demand. Ireland, as we know, doesn't have that many people living on the island and a substantial part of what it produces has to be exported – probably into Europe since that is their nearest neighbour (the UK aside). That'll be product exported onto an already over-supplied market. In addition Ornua (for dairy) is geared up to export large quantities of commodity products, not niche and elite ones like organic. Will it be interested in a few hundred tonnes of organic dairy products? I doubt it.

To support this however the Irish government has 27 cross sectoral actions including marketing and value chain analysis. We will have to wait and see how that all joins up.

01327 264962 / 07815 741547 rob@daykinpartnership.co.uk

# Review of 2023 Lamb Trading by Iain Turner

Looking back over the past 9 months the hogget and lamb prices have held up pretty well, considering that the tonnage of new season lamb was 7.9 % above the 2022 tonnage to the end of August, and the cost of living increases have put a limit on consumer spending.

Although these prices are positive, producers still need to bear in mind two very important points. Firstly, they, like everyone else, have suffered from inflation, and although feed prices have fallen and grass has been abundant, most of their general running cost have risen.

The second point to note is that there have been less lambs to sell. The lamb crop was considerably smaller as a percentage of ewes put to the ram so producers have had some barrens to sell to help with their cash flow which doesn't alter the fact that profitability per ewe put to the ram will have decreased.

Prices going forward should remain firm with Europe generally short of lamb, and the increase in Australian production finding markets in Eastern Asia.

A massive bone of contention to farmers, and anyone trying to run a business in the countryside, is the poor mobile phone signal in far too many areas. It would appear that the networks, seeing most of their income generated in the more densely populated areas, have simply left parts of the countryside to make do with this totally inadequate service. For farmers, a good mobile phone signal is a vital tool in running their business, and the organisations representing them, such as the NFU and the CLA should be making a lot more noise on this important subject.

## OF&G policy activity - what we have been up to

SJ - Steven Jacobs / CS - Christopher Stopes

NAME	ACTIVITY	DATE	COMMENT
CS	Organic Growers Gathering	5-6 Oct 23	In person
CS	Defra Organic Regulation Review	9 Oct	Online
CS	FSA Precision Breeding meeting	9 Oct	Online
CS	Defra / EOF Policy Group	12 Oct	Online
CS	Defra / EOF Sustainable Farming Incentive & Organic webinar	13 Oct	Online
CS	Defra Account Management	16 Oct	Online
CS	Wildlife & Countryside LINK Reducing Pollution webinar	30 Oct	Online
CS	Defra SFI Precision Farming Actions	31 Oct	Online
CS	Wildlife & Countryside LINK Soil Health webinar	31 Oct	Online
CS	Soil Association Certification Trade Conference	2 Nov	Online
CS	Food & Drink Federation - Organic & the SFI	9 Nov	In person
CS	Wildlife & Countryside LINK Climate change, net-zero & agriculture webinar	10 Nov	Online
CS	Wildlife & Countryside Link (WCL) Agriculture Group	16 Nov	Online
CS	SA & OF&G Defra ELM Test & Trial Farmer meeting	24 Nov	Online
CS	Regenerative food solutions for African smallholder farmers	28 Nov	Online
SJ	Welsh Organic Forum	29 Sept	Online
SJ	RPA Industry Partnership Group Meeting	04 Oct	Online
SJ	Wales Real Food & Farming Conference steering group meeting	05 Oct	Online
SJ	Fruit & Veg Alliance	05/10/23	Online
SJ	Green Party Autumn Conference	06/10/23	In-person
SJ	Pesticide Collaboration Fringe meeting at the Labour Party Conference	09/10/23	In-person
SJ	Implementation of Precision Breeding Discussion - (FSA/Organics Stakeholders) -	09/10/23	Online
SJ	RPA AESWG (Agri-Environment Stakeholder Working Group) - for the English Organic Forum	11/10/23	Online
SJ	Farming Connect organic conversion Webinar	11/10/23	Online
SJ	Defra / EOF Sustainable Farming Incentive & Organic webinar	13/10/23	Online
SJ	NFU Organic forum	18/10/23	In-person
SJ	Welsh Organic Forum	25/10/23	Online
SJ	GM Freeze board	25/10/23	In-person
SJ	Diverse Cereal Seed Project	26/10/23	Online
SJ	Wildlife and Countryside Link meeting	30/10/23	In-person
SJ	Wales Real Food & Farming Conference	01/11/23	In-person
SJ	Moving to more regenerative food and farming systems in the North of England - NRFC	01/11/23	In-person
SJ	Protecting Organic and Non-GMO Supply Chains following deregulation of gene editing	07/11/23	In-person
SJ	RPA AESWG (Agri-Environment Stakeholder Working Group) - for the English Organic Forum	08/11/23	Online
SJ	Sustain: Bridging the Gap Policy Advisory Group	08/11/23	Online
SJ	WCL: Climate Change/Net Zero and Agriculture	10/11/23	Online
SJ	Gaia Seed Sovereignty meeting	15/11/23	In-person
SJ	IFOAM Organics Europe - Farmers Group	16/11/23	Online
SJ	Shropshire Good Food Partnership AGM and food share	17/11/23	In-person
SJ	IFOAM Organics Europe - Legislative Process for New Genomic Techniques: Advocacy Update	20/11/23	Online
SJ	Country Land and Business Association (CLA)	20/11/23	Online
SJ	Foodlevers project	20/11/23	Online

# Classified Advertisements

## plus Updated and Recently awarded Approved Inputs



Nov 2023 **Issue 150** ofgorganic.org

## 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.

Hay	90 tonnes organic hay in big square bales. Meadow and clover hay, 2023, all excellent quality.	James Norman	07867 657156	Reading, Oxfordshire
Organic Winter Wheat	Approx 12 tons of Organic winter wheat for sale in a trailer Moisture 14.7%	P Herbert	07403 731661	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
Haylage	300 haylage bales in 80x90 square bales available. Made from well managed permanent pasture. Cut mid July. £45/bale. Can load with a squeezer. No problems with access.	Simon Best	07816 386945	Gloucestershire
Meadow Hay	4 string 80x65x2400 cm hay for sale, £30 per bale ex farm approx 3 to ton	lan Bowman	07847 300320	Tunbridge Wells, Kent
Organic Silage - Certified, located in Street, Somerset	128 x Silage Bales. 2023 cut, excellent access. Collection from Street, Somerset. Loading/haulage can be arranged for extra fee.	James Clipsham	07835 568651	Street, Somerset
Feed beans	Approx 20 tonnes of feed beans available	Daniel Seaborne	07967 208818	Holme Lacy. Herefordshire
Organic Fodder Beet £55/tonne	Cleaned Organic Fodder Beet for sale £55/t ex farm.	Simon Hayes	07711 616303	Shifnal, Shropshire
June made organic small bale meadow hay	Large quantity of organic small bale hay made June 2023 with no rain, suitable for horses, sheep. Very fine quality meadow hay. Tidy bales with plenty in them. Can deliver locally.	Jamie Cullimore	07717 534933	Gloucester, Glos
Organic Fodder Beet	Organic fodder beet, can be dug to order. Chopping offered at extra price.	Rob Houlbrooke	07792 685696	Ledbury, Herefordshire
Organic Fodder Beet	Shed stored in November 2023, Cleaned Organic Fodder Beet for sale. £55/t ex farm. Delivery at an additional cost via tractor/trailer within 30 miles of Penkridge/Staffordshire. Call to discuss **Organic accreditation can be sent once purchase made.	Will Woodhall	07825 505722	Penkridge, Staffs
Organic Hay	Hay for sale. Four String big bales and Round bale (4ft) available. Rye grass/Red clover or softer mixture. Well made and stored. Fully Organic located at Swindon very close to M4 J15. Please call for any more details.	Harry Williams	07831124968	Swindon, Wiltshire

DAIRY CATTLE FOR SALE				
12 Organic Dairy Shorthorn x Holstein In-calf Heifers.	For sale 12 Organic Dairy Shorthorn x Holstein in-calf heifers sired by Churchroyd Pure Class, Bushmills Jazz ET, Kilsally Redford and Thunder. In-calf to a Pedigree Aberdeen Angus Bull, Due to calf October/November. Vaccinated for BVD, IBR and Lepto and herd has been monitored for Johnes. Well grown and easy to handle.	Thomas Harvey 01404 841341	Tom 07712 770168 Steve 07834 096966	Honiton, Devon
3 calved and 3 in-calf Organic Pedigree Holstein Friesian Dairy Heifers.	For sale 3 calved and 3 in-calf Organic Pedigree Holstein Friesian dairy heifers, sired by Overside Flinch, Edg Bob Cyprus 15120, NH Subview Fantastic and Col Dg Mambo, in-calf to a Pedigree Aberdeen Angus Bull. Due to calf October, IBR vaccinated and from a johnes monitored herd.	Thomas Harvey 01404 841341	Tom 07712 770168 Steve 07834 096966	Honiton, Devon
50 in calf organic jersey cross heifers for sale	50 in calf organic jersey cross heifers. In calf to jersey cross stock bulls. 6 week calving period due to start mid Feb 2024. TB free herd for 7 years, BVD free, IBR free, Vaccinated for lepto.	Nick Cavill	07890 091207	Wells, Somerset
In calf heifers	2 in calf Holstein cross heifers due to calve January and February that have slipped out of our block both in calf to AA stock bull.	Ottis Haines	07584 667895	Chichester, West Sussex
Organic Normandy Friesian 2nd Calvers	We have 6 second calvers offered for sale. They are due November/ December. Based in Llanymynech. For more information please contact us.	Simon Hodgson	07970 228092	Llanymynech, Powys

North of England Mules	Organic North of England ewe lambs for sale. Please phone for further details	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, N York
Swaledale Ewe Lambs	Organic Swaledale ewe lambs for sale. Please phone for further details	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, N York
Organic store lambs	Organic 250 plus store lambs - North Devon	Tom Floyd	07515 465914 / 01598 741201	Lynton, Devon
Organic Welsh Mule X Store Lambs	274 store tup lambs and 160 store ewe lambs all Welsh Mule X. Average 30-38kg. Ovivac P Plus system.	Zara Day	07786 513841	Fakenham, Norfol
Store lambs	120 mixed lambs (males have been castrated) Suffolk and Charolais X. Heptavac twice, and wormed. Weight between 28 - 35 Kg.	Trevor Wheeler	07799 681134	Newcastle, Crave Arms, Shropshire
Organic Winter Tack Grazing	4.64 Ha Flat field near Nevern, North Pembs. Available from now until end March. In Biodynamic conversion. Good stock fencing, water tank, max 60 ewes. Prefer no wormers while on this land.	Jessica Seaton	07771 760090	Nevern, Pembs
90 ORGANIC ROMNEY 2ths	90 organic Romney 2ths, they are on the Heptavac P system. Strong sheep, all bred from doubles, they have only ever grazed cliff ground on the Rame peninsula, south east Cornwall. Sale due to loss of grazing.	David Turner	07789 697251	Torpoint, Cornwal
Organic Store Lambs	Organic Easycare store lambs for sale	Robert Jeynes	07805 417231	Worcester, Worcs
In lamb ewes	75 Flock mated Pedigree registered Poll Dorset/Dorset Horn ewes to lamb January/February	Joe Dufosee	07525 208053	Warminster, Wilts
OFG Approved Mineral Blocks	9 unused blocks 2 x 10kg of Hi Phos Rockies, wrongly bought for cattle but contain no copper so for sheep. Cost £60 each. Offers invited	Terry Organ	01427 788629	Gainsborough, Lincs
CATTLE FOR SA	ile			
CATTLE FOR SA 20 certified organic Devon steers	20 certified organic Devon steers off top of exmoor for sale ring or email for more details	tom floyd	01598 741201	Lynton, Devon
20 certified organic Devon	20 certified organic Devon steers off top of exmoor for sale ring or	tom floyd  Arwel Davies	01598 741201 07800 505143	Lynton, Devon  Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire
20 certified organic Devon steers 20 Organic Beef Calves Hereford X British Fresian	20 certified organic Devon steers off top of exmoor for sale ring or email for more details  20 Organic Hereford X British Fresian Calves. Registered Sire. Born	Arwel		Carmarthen,
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20 certified organic Devon steers  20 Organic Beef Calves Hereford X British Fresian Carmarthenshire Store cattle  Organic Pedigree Hereford Polled bulls for sale	20 certified organic Devon steers off top of exmoor for sale ring or email for more details  20 Organic Hereford X British Fresian Calves. Registered Sire. Born from last week of September onwards  8 Hereford Bullocks. 7 Hereford Heifers.Will split. Around 30 months. Need going on to fatten. Ideal for butcher or restauant owners to finish. Photos and video can be provided.  3 Organic Pedigree Hereford polled bulls for sale. Approximately 18 months of age, very quiet temperament. Please contact for more details.  2ING FOR SALE  Approximately 25ha of good quality clover/ grass leys available to graze, close to Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire. Could be on a long term basis in rotation with vegetable production.	Arwel Davies  Trevor Wheeler  Emlyn Evans	07800 505143 07799 681134 07989 176994	Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire  Craven Arms, Shropshire  Ellesmere, Shropshire  Stratford upon Avon,
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VARIOUS WANTED				
In calf heifers wanted	Heifers wanted nov/dec Calving Freisian/Holstein preferred	Adrian lambourne	07860 356734	Bicester, Oxon
Land wanted to buy or rent for sheep	Land to buy or rent for sheep in Cornwall or Devon	A Smith	07960 738791	Launceston, Cornwall



## **Items wanted**

CATTLE WANTED				
Organic Store Cattle and Store Lambs Wanted	The Organic Livestock Marketing Co-operative (OLMC) are looking for all categories of organic store cattle and store lambs from all over the UK	Peter Jones	07720 892922	Tarporley, Cheshire
British White Cattle Wanted	Looking for 4 quiet organic cows or heifers to expand our small herd near Leeds must be TB4, BVD free.	Jo Cartwright	07975935842	Swillington, Nr Leeds, W Yorks
GALLOWAY HEIFERS	Wanted. Up to 20, 6-18mth Galloway heifers suitable for breeding.	Lloyd Mortimore	07977 141950	Newton Abbot, Devon
Pedigree welsh black heifers	Looking to purchase organic pedigree welsh heifers	Alison Kennedy	07821865824	Maesteg, Bridgend
Store cattle wanted-UTM.	Store cattle wanted- native breeds preferred but all breeds considered. All ages.	Rhys Parry	07896 330918	Chepstow, Monmouthshire

POULTRY WANT	TED			
Organic Pullets in 2024	30,000 Lohmann Brown Classic, hatch in February 2024. 30,000 Lohmann Brown Classic, hatch in March 2024. 24,000 hatch in April 2024.	Angela Maclean	07801 234251	Berwick Upon Tweed
ORG BBT for POL Sept 23 - Jan 24	Require 8,000 ORG BBT for POL w/c 22 Jan 24. Require 4,300 ORG BBT for POL w/c 22 Jan 24. Require 12,000 ORG BBT for POL w/c 22 Jan 24.	Sarah Moos	01526 378666	Lincoln
Organic pullets wanted	24,000 needed 16wk old, wk 12th Feb 2024 12,000 organic pullets wanted for July 2024	Andrew Barton	07740 724802	Lewes
Organic Pullets Required	Fully Organic 16 week old H&N pullets required. 12000 w/c 11 December 2023. 12000 w/c 18 December 2023.	Vicky Mills	01283 736673	Market Rasen
Full Organic Pullets	Full Organic Pullets 16 weeks w/c 1st Jan 2024 (Lohmann Brown)	Lindsay Haw	07920 543194	Lincoln
Organic Pullets Wanted	5,400 organic 16-week old H&N Pullets required for start March 2024.	Sam Wood	07789 907727	Penrith
Organic Pullets	Wanted, 9000 fully organic pullets. February 2024. H & N preferred	Dawn Mount	07812 389694	Melton Mowbray
Organic Pullets	180 Organic Hyline Pullets to be delivered Nov/Dec 2023.	Jan Dann	01189 073275	Hook
Day Old Organic BBT Chicks	4400 Day Old Organic British Black Tail chicks wanted for week commencing 01 January 2024	Clair Brettell	07980 927839	Shrewsbury
18,000 Organic Lohmann Pullets	18,000 organic 16-week old Lohmann Pullets required for April 2024. Location - Mid Wales	Laura Isaac	07830 282935	Welshpool
8000 Mixed ORG OCL, EBB & DKW	Looking for supply of 2667 ORG EBB, 2667 ORG OCL & 2666 ORG DKW for 16 weeks date March 2024.	Stacia McCallum	01526378666	Lincoln
Organic Pullets	See wanted advert on website for full list.	Sarah Moos	07885 217885	Lincoln
Organic Pullets wanted	30,000 fully organic pullets wanted for January 2024	Andrew Scott	07975 952689	Haddington
Organic Pullets	6,000 fully organic reared Warren pullets required - 16 wks March 2024. Must be from a Lion Code and RSPCA approved rearing site.	Ed Talbot	07980 880 560	Sleaford
Organic Pullets	9,000 organic reared Warren pullets required - 16 weeks March 2024. Must be from a Lion Code and RSPCA approved rearing site.	Peter Myers	07778 307892	Louth
Pekin Parent Breeding Ducks	Looking for 120 day old pekin parent breeding ducks	Mr Daniel Mason	07764 765743	Newton Abbot
Organic Day old chicks and 16 week old pullets required	1900 16 week old Warren pullets required. 2200 Bovan Brown 16 week old pullets required. 1600 Warren day old chicks required. 150 Dekalb White day old chicks required. All need to be fully Organic, available in December and RSPCA assured. Delivery also required.	Robyn Rees or Rupert Langmead	07534 301223 / 07973 621678	Bognor Regis
Organic chicks	25,000 organic chicks per week required	Joe	01437 781247	Haverfordwest
Organic Pullets Wanted	26,000 fully organic reared pullets required. Aiming to be housed on laying sites mid-April 2024. Must be from a Lion Code and RSPCA approved rearing site.	Karen Campbell	01968 675596	West Linton
10,400 organic chicks required	Organic day old Hubbard chicks required , 800 per 4 weekly period, delivered to Perthshire, Scotland.	Caroline	01738 730201	Perth
16 week old pullets	12,200 Lohmann Brown fully organic 16 week old pullets required for w/c 15th April 2024	JSR Services	01250 883232	Blairgowrie

## Approved Inputs

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

## **Updated approved inputs**

SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
Weeding Technologies Ltd	https://www.weedingtech.com/	Weed Control
Central Pharma Biotechnica	https://biotechnica.co.uk/	Plant Health Product, Fertilisers
Virus Shield Biosciences Limited	https://vsbiosciences.com/	Disinfectant/Cleaning Agent
Salutaris, Unipessoal Lda	bsalvador@salutaris.pt	Ingredients
Ilex EnviroSciences Limited	https://ilex-envirosciences.com/	Fertilisers, Weed Control, Plant Health Product
Intracare BV	https://www.intracare.nl/	Animal Health Product
Anpario plc	http://www.anpario.com/	Pest Control, Animal Feed Additives
Greenaway Green Waste Services	http://www.greenawaycomposting. co.uk/	Soil Conditioner
Lallemand Animal Nutrition UK Ltd	https://www.lallemandanimalnutrition.com/en/europe	Silage Additive, Animal Feed Supplements, Slurry treatment, Animal Health Product, Animal Feed Additives
Agritech-IS Ltd	https://www.agritech-is.com	Animal Feed Supplements
Biolevel Ltd	http://www.biolevel.net	Soil Conditioners
Tithebarn Ltd	https://www.tithebarn.co.uk/	Animal Feed Supplements, Vitamins, minerals and trace elements
Sipcam UK Ltd	https://www.sipcamuk.co.uk	Plant Health Product
Legume Technology Ltd	https://www.legumetechnology.co.uk/	Plant Health Product
Ball of Madley Ltd	https://www.ballofmadley-hereford. co.uk/	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements
Volac International Ltd.	https://www.volac.com/	Silage Additive
Natural Feeds and Fertilisers Ltd	https://www.naturalfeeds-fertilisers. co.uk/	Animal Feed Supplements, Vitamins, minerals and trace elements, Fertilisers, Disinfectant/Cleaning Agent
Paddocks Farm Partnership	https://verm-x.com/	Animal Health Product
E Marker A/S	https://grogreen.dk	Foliar Treatment
Crop Solutions Ltd	https://www.cropsolutions.co.uk	Weed Control
Hub Pak Salt Refinery	https://www.hubpak.com/	Ingredients, Animal Feed Supplements
Gaiago S.A.S.	https://www.gaiago.eu/	Soil Conditioner
Crossgates Bioenergetics Ltd	https://www.crossgateshealth.co.uk/	Animal Feed Additives

## Recently awarded approved inputs

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SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
JJS Resources Company Ltd	https://jjsminerals.com/jjs-resources- co-ltd/	Bedding Material, Soil Conditioner
Channelled Atlantic	https://www.channelledatlantic.co.uk/	Fertilisers
Simply Naturally Limited	simplynaturallylimited@gmail.com	Ingredients
Techna Nutrition UK & Ireland	jamie-leigh.douglas@groupe-techna. com	Animal Feed Supplements
Certis USA, LLC (Certis Biologicals)	https://www.certisbio.com/	Bio-insecticide

