



ofgorganic.org



# Newsletter

March 2023 Issue 146

## General News

### Time to step up - Organic Trade Board gears up for 2023 and beyond



On 22 March the Organic Trade Board held their Annual General Meeting at the Food and Drink Federation, Bloomsbury, London. You would have to have been living under a rock not to know that the last year has been challenging for many parts of the organic sector, with rising costs and consumers trading down to cheaper products in the face of what has been (certainly in recent times) alarming inflation. These recent challenges underline the reason for the OTB and demonstrates how critical its existence is now. The need to communicate a single, unequivocal and clear message about organic is more important than ever.

For those that have been watching "Wild Isles", Sir David has been continually impressing on viewers the parlous state of the UK's natural environment. Add to this the IPCC's

recent report that delivered a 'final warning' on the climate crisis, as rising greenhouse gas emissions push the world to the brink of irrevocable damage that only swift and drastic action can avert and the current crisis in human health. 28% of us are now clinically obese; a startling fact when you compare that with just 1% of the population in 1950, a time when the planet was also in far better shape. Highly processed foods make up 57% of our diet, a higher proportion than any other European country. The consequences are stark. Henry Dimbleby, (author of the 2021 National Food Strategy), recently wrote that studies have shown that a "10% increase in the proportion of ultra-processed foods in a person's diet is correlated with a 12% increase in cancers, a 21% increase in depressive symptoms, and a 12% increase in

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cardiovascular disease risk".

All this confirms a need for a transformational change in our approach to food and farming. This is now more urgent than ever and organic represents a proven, real world pathway to achieving that; and the OTB represents an opportunity for the whole organic sector to coalesce around that single message. Regardless of who you are certified by, whether you are a farmer or a processor or a retailer, whether you sell products for babies, toddlers; for personal care, dairy and meat, flour, drinks, snacks, pantry, textiles - you name it, if it's organic, OTB aim to be there. Their focus has always



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been and remains solely on promoting organic.

There is much talk of regenerative farming but regenerative comes in many shapes and colours, some more closely aligned to organic, some less so. Recent research undertaken by Wageningen University, taking a deep dive into how companies and researchers are defining regenerative on all continents, concluded "It is possible to affirm, in the light of the literature available, that the social and political dimensions, or the transitional and transformational processes necessary to arrive at future sustainable food production are virtually absent, so far, from most definitions of regenerative agriculture." This is further evidence of the need for that single unequivocal, positive organic message.

To that end OTB is bolstering its Board and changing its operating structures to become more inclusive and more responsive. It is converting to a Community Interest Company to more clearly demonstrate its purpose in working for the whole organic sector, and in doing so allow it to secure funds from foundations and external sources to support its work. It is also

working on creating a new toolkit to present a clear story and message about organic and also on gaining a much greater understanding of consumer motivations and intentions and how we can translate that into action.

At the AGM Organico presented their work on incorporating the Planet-score® seal on their labelling. There is a plethora of potential new sustainability labels coming down the track, that are in the main based on Life Cycle Analysis. By using basic metrics these tend to support an intensive agricultural approach, by looking at production as a function of the land used. We know there is an environmental cost to externalities to this so it is vital that the organic sector adopts a label/seal that effectively communicates the multiple benefits of organic.

Planet-score® is an environmental rating system based on ADEME's Agribalyse database and other complementary key elements, such as biodiversity, pesticides and IPCC updates of climatic elements amongst others. It integrates the environmental impact from farm to fork (ingredients, their origin, cultivation or rearing

methods, packaging, and transport). The Planet-score® seal provides a clear visual key to consumers enabling them to make informed choices at the point of purchase. It offers a simple cue to companies and consumers to help them make positive choices to fight against climate change, the decline of biodiversity, deforestation, water and air pollution. One of the most challenging aspects of organic is communicating its benefits at the point of purchase; Planet-score® does just that. The OTB are working to facilitate its roll out across the sector as soon as possible.

If you are interested in joining the OTB or interested in the Planet-score® seal, both of which are remarkably inexpensive, please contact Cristina (cristina@organictradeboard.co.uk) or Maria (maria@organictradeboard.co.uk) at the OTB or check out the following websites:

<https://www.organictradeboard.co.uk/join-us/>

<https://www.planet-score.org/en/>

## Windsor Framework

The Northern Ireland Protocol has been the source of acute political, economic and societal difficulties in the two years since it has been operating, with the prospect of the rigorous implementation of the Protocol being regarded by communities and businesses in Northern Ireland as unworkable without lasting economic and political damage.

The recently ratified Windsor Framework fundamentally amends the text and provisions of the original Protocol to uphold Northern Ireland's within the United Kingdom. The agreement delivers a form of dual

regulation that will work for business and consumers in Northern Ireland, based on the fact that by far the greatest proportion of Northern Ireland's economic life will continue to be based on trade within the United Kingdom. As a result over 1,700 pages of EU law - with accompanying European Court of Justice (ECJ) jurisdiction - are disapplied, meaning that core UK trade is based on core UK internal market rules, whether citizens and businesses are based in Belfast or Birmingham. This will ensure, for example, that the same UK food safety laws apply for retail goods moved into Northern Ireland and that VAT and excise rates apply UK-wide.

For the organic sector the new framework should allow easier transport of goods between Northern Ireland to the rest of Great Britain. However, we have been told by Defra that the EU organic regulation (2018/848) will still be applied to Northern Ireland operators. This is disappointing as it means that additional bureaucracy will remain and there will not be alignment across the UK on organic regulation. While it is still early days, OF&G (along with the other UK CBs) is talking to Defra to understand any implications regarding this specifically and also from the new wider framework.



## Website and Social Media

<http://ofgorganic.org>

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

<https://twitter.com/ofgorganic>

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

## OF&G's National Organic Conference 4 July 2023

Our host this year is an organic farmer who has held organic certification with OF&G for more than twenty years.

**Mark Lea** has developed a set of innovative enterprises on his family farm in Shropshire.

These include a flock of New Zealand Romney sheep, oats for Organic Arable and oat miller, White's, and peas for Hodmedods, a small but growing independent business founded in 2012 to source and supply beans and other products from British farms.

Mark will also have two dozen cereal varieties for visitors to look at. These include some of the oldest wheats recorded in Britain, plus modern varieties and populations mixing both old and new.

A recent tree-planting project has been completed at **Green Acres Farm** and The Woodland Trust will be on site to talk about the support they can offer to farmers thinking of planting trees on their farms.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Co2bsuRizEU/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y%3D>

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

NOC23 will look at the whole of the farming experience from seed to shelf.

To help us focus on soils we are very pleased to announce that we have two of the most experienced and highly regarded soil educators in practice today.

Dr Julia Cooper has taken part in our annual conference before and it's great to welcome her back. Julia has had a long career as a lecturer in soil science notably at Newcastle University, and recently joining the senior research team at the Organic Research Centre.

<https://twitter.com/JuliaSoilsister>

Joel Williams is also a friend of our conference having addressed NOC audiences previously. Joel will be coming from his home in Canada where he runs the independent consultancy, Integrated Soils. Joel describes himself as a "Soil health educator, rethinking soils through a lens of biology".

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

<https://twitter.com/integratedsoils>

The full line-up will be released soon. Booking is due to open in April.

OF&G Certification Officers will be on the farm all day, giving you the opportunity to have a chat. For some of you and some of the team here at OF&G it will mean being able to meet in person for the first time.

If you want further details or to talk about sponsorship and event partner opportunities please contact [steven@ofgorganic.org](mailto:steven@ofgorganic.org).

<https://ofgorganic.org/events/national-organic-conference>



## New Payment Rates for Organic Farmers

The Rural Payments Agency have announced applications have opened again for some elements of the Countryside Stewardship.

They have also announced new payment rates, the average increase is around 10%, some organic options have seen a much larger increase while some have remained static.

**Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier and Wildlife Offers** now open for applications -

<https://ruralpayments.blog.gov.uk/2023/03/21/countryside-stewardship-mid-tier-and-wildlife-offers-now-open-for-applications/>

The application window for Countryside Stewardship (CS) Mid Tier and Wildlife Offer agreements, to start from 1 January 2024, opened 21 March 2023.

The closing date for CS Mid Tier applications is 18 August 2023.

There's still time to apply for a CS Higher Tier agreement for 2024.

<https://ruralpayments.blog.gov.uk/2023/02/07/countryside-stewardship-higher-tier-now-open-for-applications/>

**RPA will be accepting applications until 28 April 2023**



# OF&G and Organics in the News

## Countryside Alliance Rural Oscar Northern Champion

A family farming business licensed with OF&G and based in Lancashire, Gazegill Organics, have been named as the Countryside Alliance Rural Oscar Northern Champion.

Well done to all those taking part and a very big congratulations from us to Emma and Ian and their family -

<https://www.gazegillorganics.co.uk/blogs/we-won--countryside-alliance-rural-oscar-northern-champion>

## Continued global growth for organic market

OF&G has welcomed the latest world organic data published by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and IFOAM Organics International.

The figures show strong worldwide growth in the sector, including a 1.7% increase in organically managed land at the end of 2021, with both France and Spain reporting an increase of more than 8% compared to 2019.

<https://ofgorganic.org/news/continued-global-growth-for-organic-market>

## Government changes to ELMs could be "too little too late"

OF&G's chief executive, Roger Kerr is among industry leaders quoted in articles reporting on the changes in government support for farmers that

were announced in January.

<https://www.specialityfoodmagazine.com/news/government-changes-elms-too-late-farmers>

You can read OF&G's statement published in February highlighting our concerns with the government's new Environmental Improvement Plan

## EIP falls short in addressing biodiversity decline

OF&G welcomes the new Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP), but we argue that policy would be strengthened by further encouragement of organic farming to deliver against the goals set out by Defra.

<https://ofgorganic.org/news/eip-falls-short-in-addressing-biodiversity-decline>

## Advocating for Heterogeneous Seed Legislation

In February the Gaia Foundation held their annual Seed Gathering. Steven Jacobs joined one of the panels to discuss work currently being undertaken advocating the importance of diverse grain and cereal production within food and farming systems, and for it to be supported through appropriate legislation.

Steven sat alongside Fulya Batur, a legal expert on seed and intellectual property, Kate McEvoy from Real Seeds and Dr Charlotte Bickler from

the Organic Research Centre.

## 'Be Heard! Legislation Action Workshop.'

<https://www.agricology.co.uk/field-blog/be-heard-reflections-seed-legislation-workshop>

## EVENTS

We try to get to as many events around the country as we can. Here are some events OF&G will be participating in:

### 22 - 25 June, Royal Highland Show

On the SOPA stand next to Ingliston House

### 28-29 June, Groundswell

<https://ofgorganic.org/events/groundswell-agriculture>

4 July, National Organic Conference in Shropshire <https://ofgorganic.org/events/national-organic-conference>

6 July, Down To Earth North in Cumbria - <https://ofgorganic.org/events/down-to-earth-regenerative-livestock-event-north-2023>

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](mailto:ofgorganic.org) [steven@ofgorganic.org](mailto:steven@ofgorganic.org)

## Organic arable crop yield survey

The Organic Research Centre are collecting data for the Arable Section of the next (12th) edition of the Organic Farm Management Handbook, the benchmark for all organic business analysis and planning, market trends, grant scheme information and the data used for the calculation of Defra grant schemes.

Please help them improve the reliability of the data by supplying your arable crop results from last harvest. Questionnaires can be tedious and time consuming, but this is only a short survey and you only need to provide the yield and price data that you have readily available. No individual farm data will be published, only the collated data.

<https://form.jotform.com/organicarable/organic-farm-management-handbook>



## Agroforestry Open Weekend

19-21 May 2023



## English Organic Forum Dairy Sector Resilience Webinar

12th April from 1pm - 2.15pm via Teams

Speakers will look at the prospects for the coming twelve months around purchased feeds alongside some of the innovative work that has been undertaken on home-grown protein production. Within the recent ELM/SFI prospectus there appear to be potentially significant payments for the establishment of herb-rich and legume-rich leys which will support establishment costs and provide financial recognition of their importance in delivering the public goods that organic has historically so often provided.

This is an online Event hosted on Microsoft Teams - Joining instructions will be in an email once you have registered.



### Agenda

- Introduction at 1pm - **Christopher Stopes (Co-Chair of English Organic Forum)**
- Prospects for imported feeds in the coming 12 months - **Charlie Brinkley (Gemcom)**
- Sustainable Farming Incentives- an update on opportunities - **Adrian Steele (Co-Chair of English Organic Forum)**
- Impact and opportunities for home-grown protein production on farm - **William Waterfield (Farms Consultancy Group)**
- Seed suitability and availability - **Paul Totterdell (Cotswold Seeds)**
- Panel discussion and questions
- Event finishes at 2.15pm.

If you are interested in attending please go to the Eventbrite link - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dairy-sector-resilience-event-tickets-595728498977>

## LORAIN TRUST 2023

### Attention : Smaller Farmers & Growers

Do you have any ideas or projects that could benefit the wildlife on your holding?

If so, the Loraine Trust is awarding grants of up to £2,500 towards deserving projects that would directly benefit and enhance the wildlife on your holding.

If interested, you can apply, providing you can meet the criteria outlined below :

- You must be a Certified Organic farmer or grower.
- Work between 1 and 150 acres of land.
- Have some horticulture included in your enterprises.
- Have a net annual HOUSEHOLD income not exceeding £25,000.
- The project must have direct benefit to the wildlife on your holding, e.g. creation of ponds, meadows, hedges, woodland etc.

Application forms are available from [info@lorainetrust.org](mailto:info@lorainetrust.org) or by post from

The Loraine Trust, Rob Usher, Y Fron, Cwmann, Lampeter, SA48 8HE

Closing date for 2023 grants: **31 May 2023.**



Contact The Farming Community Network to speak in confidence with a sympathetic person who **understands** farming life.

Our volunteers in England and Wales **help hundreds of farmers and farming families each year** with a wide range of issues.

We've been described as a **lifeline** and a **trusted friend**.

**FCN** THE FARMING  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK

Call 03000 111 999 or email [help@fcn.org.uk](mailto:help@fcn.org.uk)  
(Helpline open 7am-11pm, 365 days of the year)

# Market Reports

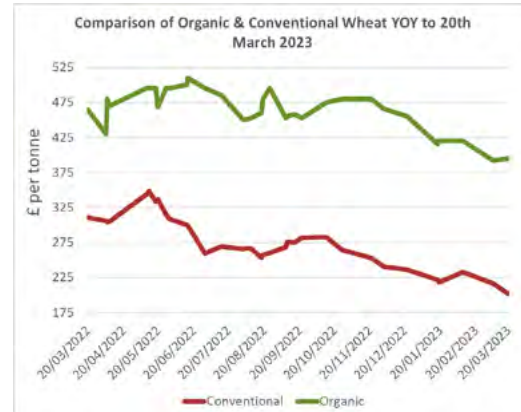
## Grain Prices: Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable

The conventional market has been falling sharply in recent weeks losing £28 since the 1st March closing on £191 on Friday. This significant fall in value has effected the organic market with buyers seeing organic values far lower than they have been. Falls in the conventional market impact organic values as imported offers are generally based on the Paris wheat value. The market is moving back towards more usual values may fall further as we get closer to new crop.

We have seen some buying interest in wheat at a value of about £350 ex farm which although well down on values seen earlier in the season do represent strong prices against 5 year averages and good premiums over conventional. The barley and oat markets remain challenging with little demand.

### Some reflections on the last 12 months

The graph compares the quoted conventional wheat value [source AHDB] against the organic delivered wheat value on the dates that Organic Arable traded wheat. Unlike conventional wheat we don't trade wheat every day, this shows days on which organic wheat traded with multiple trades on some days. The graph shows that the organic market largely tracks the conventional market but what is worth noting is the premium the organic market has delivered this season. Removing the outlier values the organic premium range for this year was from £132 - £222 per tonne which is a larger figure than would usually be expected with the average premium being £191. A more usual range would be £90 - £120 per tonne so you can see premiums have been high this year. I suggest this is because our over-reliance on imports increases prices when global events effect supply or importation costs. In



this case the challenges of accessing Black Sea grain and the increase in freight costs because of high insurance rates and fuel costs.

Do not expect to see these values maintained. The expectation is that new crop values will trade in a range from £320 - £340 ex farm depending on who one speaks with. This would be a premium of about £130 over the conventional market which is higher than the longer term trend and perhaps reflects continued higher costs of imports.

These values are ones that gives more confidence to the livestock sector which is helpful if it helps maintain demand which has been significantly affected by this year's record high values.

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

Please keep an eye on our blog [www.organicarable.co.uk/blog](https://www.organicarable.co.uk/blog)

**01638 744144 / 07980 955490**

**@organicarable**

## Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC

### ORGANIC STORE REPORT

The demand for all categories of organic store cattle continues unabated. The week on week rise of the finished price along with strong demand from processors is keeping the requirement for store cattle relentless.

As I have reported on a number of occasions, the high value of barren cows and the lack of profitability in some breeding herds is causing a reduction in cow numbers in organic herds throughout the UK. The position is simple to see – less cows means less calves, less store cattle and less finished stock available to keep adequate supplies of organic beef on the shelves.

OLMC are routinely monitoring store cattle prices and our analysis of prices between the New Year and now show an increase in average prices of at least £100 per head and more in some cases. Beef prices have made a quantum leap in the last two years and whilst there may be a period of stability and small 'peaks and troughs', current levels look likely to be the new norm.

The organic lamb finished trade continues to be subdued with prices well back on recent years and at times below the five year average. After four or five years of good returns for producers the national flock has increased to very high levels and simply producing more lambs than the market can absorb. In the short term, Easter, the King's Coronation, and the Festival of Eid should bring back some bite to the trade. Going forward it is noticeable that the ewe scannings are showing a trend of lower lamb yields so price predictions for the next year are more optimistic

We are always happy to discuss your marketing options for any class of stock.

**Contact 01829 730580 or:**

**Peter Jones - 07720 892922**

**David Bostock - 07734 808050**

### OLMC FINISHED STOCK

#### Organic Prime Beef Cattle

We are seeing finished cattle supplies tightening a little. The demand has stayed much the same with most abattoirs currently reporting a balance in their requirement. As we move towards turn out, finished cattle could well get shorter



in supply.

Generally the slaughter cattle are hitting grade and fat class with a few exceptions. Cattle hitting specification are returning well to the producer..

**Average R4L Organic UTM in spec @ 520p/kg deadweight.**

#### **Organic Cull Cows**

A continued strong trade for organic cull cows has fueled quite an increase in price.

Supplies are very short, thus pushing the price forward. This would look to remain with us well into the spring.

**Average R4L Organic OTM Cow in spec @ 440p/kg deadweight.**

#### **Prime Lamb**

This years old season lamb prices have been lower than

expected. The demand for lamb has been average to say the least. This has not been helped by home grown being challenged by imported organic lamb products arriving in the main from New Zealand.

Prices look to rise marginally just before Easter, hopefully this will be the catalyst to move the price on.

Lambs have for the most part been hitting specification, some leaner lambs have come through where forage has run out and producers have decided to sell lighter and leaner rather than buy feed.

**Average R3L organic OSL in spec @ 540p/kg**

**Finished Stock Marketing office: 01763 250313 / [olmc@olmc.co.uk](mailto:olmc@olmc.co.uk)**

**Tim Leigh: 07850 366404**

**James Doel: 07741 248928**

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

### **OMSCO restructure needs to work to bolster organic dairy fortunes**

It's all looking great for organic! According to the latest data and commentary the UK market showed growth of 1.6% and was worth a total of £3bn in 2022. This was on the back of 25.4% growth in three years, and 11 consecutive years of growth! Apparently eight out of ten supermarket shoppers buy organic, and collectively spend £8.5m a day on organic products. So says the latest Organic Market Report from the Soil Association, anyway. The only way is clearly up!

Dairy farmers, though, might wonder what planet these statistics have come from. Because they don't reflect what has happened to their sector over recent months. The reality has been disaster rather than success, with profitability non-existent, confidence at rock bottom and milk volumes falling markedly. Back in January volumes were down by 12 to 15%, for example, and they have not picked up since then – they are still down 13% on last year, and there are few signs of progress.

On top of that, when the flagship of organic dairy that is Yeo Valley has a tough, loss making year (and it has, according to its latest accounts and Directors report), then you can bet your last Pound that dairy farmers up and down the country have suffered similarly.

But is it going to get any better? That is the question!

Well optimism or pessimism relies on confidence, and that comes from profitability and belief in the sector. In turn that

largely relies on the success of companies operating in the sector.

For farmers the economics have been tough, and they are set to remain so as feed prices remain high, and milk prices are dropping. Milk prices were averaging well over 50p in January for a standard litre, but they are below that threshold now. Meanwhile compound feed prices have also dropped, but as with the conventional sector feed prices are dropping slower than milk prices seem to be falling. So major challenges remain.

But changes are happening in the co-operative OMSCO, which, it is fair to say, has suffered from a crisis of confidence over recent months. It has borne the brunt of those volume losses, with farmers leaving because they no longer believed in the business, and organic. Now,

though, the Board of OMSCO has announced a management change and structure "to drive forward its business strategy and deliver on its goal of achieving operational and commercial excellence". The current roles of Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive will be combined to create a "more operationally focussed CEO role to be undertaken by (current COO) Martyn Anthony. He will replace the current Chief Executive David Williams, who will continue to provide advice

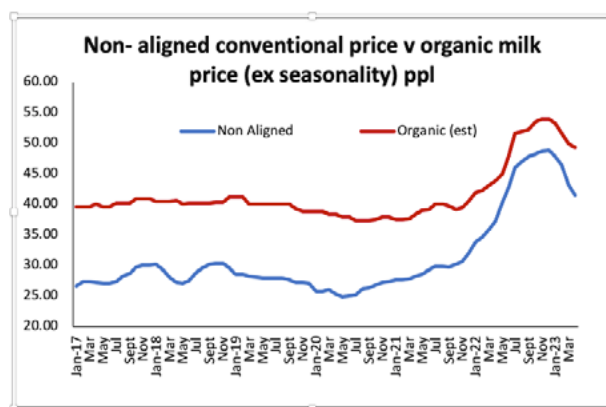
to the Board. As a result, the organisation believes it is now in a position to "ride out this latest storm and to build a long term, value-added, organic dairy business".

We can but hope that the changes will work, and that confidence will return to the sector. Because something has to happen to stabilise what has clearly been a significant decline in the fortunes of the sector recently.

Dairy is vital to the overall wellbeing of the organic sector.

01327 264962 / 07815 741547

[rob@daykinpartnership.co.uk](mailto:rob@daykinpartnership.co.uk)



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

SJ - Steven Jacobs / CS - Christopher Stopes / RK - Roger Kerr

NAME	ACTIVITY	DATE	COMMENT
SJ	Shropshire Good Food Partnership (SGFP) Steering Group	19/01/23	Online
SJ	IFOAM Organics Europe Comms Hub	24/11/23	Online
SJ	NFU Organic Forum	25/11/23	NFU HQ
SJ	DEFRA Future Farming and Countryside Programme Forum	26/01/23	Online
SJ	Wales Real Food and Farming Conference steering group	26/01/23	Online
SJ	The Consortium for Labelling for the Environment, Animal welfare, and Regenerative farming (CLEAR)	27/01/23	Online
SJ	RPA Industry Partnership Group	31/01/23	Online
SJ	NFU trade team	01/02/23	Online
SJ	Farmers Weekly Question Time	02/02/23	Harper Adams University
SJ	IFOAM Organics Europe Farmers Group	03/02/23	Online
SJ	Low Carbon Agriculture Show	07/02/23	Stoneleigh
SJ	Pesticide Collaboration	08/02/23	Online
SJ	RPA AESWG (Agri-Environment Stakeholder Working Group) - representing the English Organic Forum	08/02/23	Online
SJ	Sustain Alliance Farming group	09/02/23	Online
SJ	Gaia Foundation Seed Gathering 2023	12/02/23	Online
SJ	SGFP Advisory Group	16/02/23	Online
SJ	Welsh Organic Forum	17/02/23	Online
SJ	NFU conference	21/02/23	Online
SJ	Agriculture Industry and Climate Change Forum, Welsh Govt.	24/02/23	Online
SJ & RK	FOODLEVERS workshop, Reading University	02/03/23	Online
SJ	Writtle University College Farmers Club launch	03/03/23	Essex
SJ	West Midlands Grain Network	06/03/23	Worcs
SJ	RPA AESWG (Agri-Environment Stakeholder Working Group) - representing the English Organic Forum	08/03/23	Online
SJ	Fruit & Vegetable Alliance	09/03/23	Online
SJ	SRUC Agriculture and Business Management Institution Led Review	14/03/23	Online
SJ	Natural England Farm Advice Discussion	15/03/23	Online
SJ	Land, food & net zero: UK challenges & opportunities after Skidmore review	17/03/23	Online
SJ	IFOAM Organics Europe -Comms Hub Meeting	21/03/23	Online
SJ	Food Standards Agency - Board Meeting	22/03/23	Online
SJ	AgriFood4NetZero Network+	23/03/23	Online
SJ	RPA Industry Partnership Group	28/03/23	Online
SJ	Edible Horticulture Roundtable	29/03/23	Online
CS	Defra Farming and Countryside Programme update	14/03/23	Online
CS	Defra Organic Farming Unit EOF progress	21/03/23	Online
CS	Organic Trade Board AGM	22/03/23	In person
CS	WWF/Soil Association Scaling Up Agroecology conference	27/03/23	In person
CS	Pesticide Collaboration Meeting	08/02/23	Online
CS	Sustain Farming Working Group	09/02/23	Online
CS	Sustainable Food Trust - Global Farm Metric	14/02/23	Online
CS	Defra Organic Farming Pages for SFI/CS	15/02/23	Online



# Technical Newsletter

Plus Approved Inputs - New & Updated



March 2023 **Issue 146**

[ofgorganic.org](http://ofgorganic.org)

## Producers

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

### Defra Approval Procedures

For some time now Defra, as the Competent Authority, has been responsible for giving the final approval for certain aspects of the exceptional production rules. These include:

- Bringing into the herd or flock non-organic replacements over the standard percentages allowed (10% cattle and 20% sheep, goats, pigs) up to a maximum of 40%;
- Bringing in non-organic poultry (layers and table birds);
- Use of non-organic feed in catastrophic circumstances;
- Use of synthetic vitamins A, D or in the diet of ruminants;
- Beak trimming of birds;
- Retroactive (backdated) land conversion.

Defra has recently reviewed the process and supporting information required when applying for these approvals and has updated their CB guidance paper. As a result there are several changes required before an application should be made to OF&G.

For non-organic poultry and a herd/flock expansion supporting evidence must be supplied detailing the need for the non-organic animals, the attempts to purchase organic animals including the names and contact details of those contacted including dates. You should also advertise the need for organic animals on a recognised market place such as OF&G classifieds for at least five days.

In order to approve the use of synthetic vitamins A, D or E you must supply a copy of the correct application form, the relevant section of the animal health plan justifying the

need and a letter from the veterinary surgeon outlining the justification for including synthetic vitamins (this must be dated within 36 months of the approval request).

### OF&G Record Sheets

Following the update to the process and supporting information required by Defra when applying for certain approvals (detailed above) OF&G have updated our record sheets. The new updated record sheets can be downloaded from the [Useful Info / Downloads](#) section of the OF&G website or by contacting your Certification Officer.

## Processors

### Defra Approval Procedures

Defra has updated the process and supporting information that is required when applying to use a non-organic ingredient (not listed in Annex IX of Regulation 889/2008) whilst continuing to label the food as organic. Where an ingredient is available as organic it must be used regardless of cost, a non-organic ingredient will only be considered in the following cases:

- Organic version is not available;
- Non-organic agricultural ingredient is a single ingredient, not made up of 2 or more different items;
- Product contains no additives or processing aids other than those listed;
- in the annex VIII of Retained Regulation 889/2008;
- Is not a GMO product, or

produced from or by GMOs (Article 9 of Retained Regulation 834/2007);

- Is not irradiated (exposed to ionizing radiation) (Article 10 of Retained Regulation 834/2007).

In order to apply for approval to use a non-organic ingredient you must, in the first instance, search for the availability of the ingredient on both the GB/NI market or whether the ingredient can be imported from a third country as organic, this must also be checked with OF&G.

Where it is determined the ingredient is not available as organic you may apply to Defra for non-organic. You must supply Defra with the following information:

- Copies of letters or emails from at least three potential suppliers confirming that they are unable to

supply the ingredient organically;

- The suppliers should be those who might reasonably be able to source the ingredient organically.

The copies need to include the letterhead or email heading of the company concerned and must be of recent date.

### Exporting Turmeric Based Products to the EU and NI

In the January Technical Newsletter we wrote about the EU Commission's new import controls on organic turmeric/curcuma exported from GB to the EU and Northern Ireland from 1 January 2023.

The reassessment of the risk of occurrence of non-compliances has led to the conclusion that additional control and reporting measures are

now necessary for certain products being imported into the EU. These increased control measures are necessary to ensure the compliance of products with Article 45 of Regulation (EU) No 2018/848.

One of those products is turmeric/curcuma originating from the UK. Any exports of turmeric/curcuma (CN codes 0910 30 00 and 2106 90 92) from the UK to the EU or Northern Ireland are now subject to additional control measures, and operators should plan accordingly.

These new controls will require OF&G to test 10% of consignments before export, to carry out 2 physical inspections of each relevant GB

exporter per year, one of which shall be unannounced and collect additional information on product flows, traceability and financial documentation. The samples taken will be analysed for the presence of substances not allowed in organic production (including ethylene oxide).

OF&G may need to make an additional charge for any sampling and testing and for any additional inspections we are required to carry out.

If you currently export or intend to export these products to the EU or Northern Ireland in 2023 please contact your Certification Officer as soon as possible.

## Fraudulent Certificates

We have been notified of the following fraudulent certificates that are currently in circulation:

### Organic Farmers and Growers

Markham Mountain, LLC  
Valid until 31st December 2022

### Control Union

World Trade Supply Pvt. Ltd.  
Valid until 31st August 2023

The certifiers have stated that they did not issue these certificates and do not certify these operators. If you receive or have received a certificate in the above names please contact your Certification Officer immediately.

## Approved Inputs

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

### Recently awarded approved inputs

SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
Russell IPM Ltd	<a href="https://russellbio.net">https://russellbio.net</a>	Insect Control
Kanters Special Products B.V.	<a href="https://kanters.nl/">https://kanters.nl/</a>	Animal Health Product
Syngen Animal Health Ltd	<a href="https://slurryforsoil.co.uk/">https://slurryforsoil.co.uk/</a>	Slurry treatment
Abundigro	<a href="http://www.abundigro.com">www.abundigro.com</a>	Fertilisers
Blue Moon General Trading	<a href="mailto:bluemoongeneraltrading@gmail.com">bluemoongeneraltrading@gmail.com</a>	Ingredients

### Updated approved inputs

SUPPLIER	WEBSITE / EMAIL	CATEGORY
Frunol Delicia GmbH	<a href="https://www.frunol-delicia.de/startseite/">https://www.frunol-delicia.de/startseite/</a>	Pest Control
AZ Global Solutions Ltd	<a href="mailto:azglobalsolutionslimited@gmail.com">azglobalsolutionslimited@gmail.com</a>	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements
Blackthorn Salt	<a href="https://www.blackthornsalt.co.uk/">https://www.blackthornsalt.co.uk/</a>	Ingredients
ADM Protexin	<a href="https://www.protexin.com/">https://www.protexin.com/</a>	Animal Health Product
Anpario PLC	<a href="http://www.anpario.com/">http://www.anpario.com/</a>	Animal Feed Additives
Nico Orgo Manures	<a href="http://www.neemnico.com/">http://www.neemnico.com/</a>	Fertilisers, Soil Conditioner
Denis Brinicombe Group	<a href="http://www.brinicombe.co.uk/">http://www.brinicombe.co.uk/</a>	Vitamins, minerals and trace elements
Seasol International Pty Ltd	<a href="https://www.seasol.com.au/">https://www.seasol.com.au/</a>	Fertilisers
PCS Poultry Services Ltd	<a href="https://www.fossilshield.com/">https://www.fossilshield.com/</a>	Insect Control
Chamcotec Ltd	<a href="http://www.chamcotec.com/">http://www.chamcotec.com/</a>	Disinfectant/cleaning agent
AminoA Ltd	<a href="https://www.aminoa.co.uk/">https://www.aminoa.co.uk/</a>	Fertilisers, Seed treatment
Microferm Ltd	<a href="https://www.microferm.co.uk/">https://www.microferm.co.uk/</a>	Animal Feed additives, Plant Health Product, Silage Additive, Slurry treatment
Mineral Guard Europe Sp z o.o.	<a href="https://mineral-guard.com.pl/">https://mineral-guard.com.pl/</a>	Additives
Gwen's Den	<a href="https://www.gwensden.co.uk/">https://www.gwensden.co.uk/</a>	Fertilisers
Badger Consultants Ltd	<a href="https://www.badgercropnutrition.co.uk/">https://www.badgercropnutrition.co.uk/</a>	Fertilisers
SB Osypenko	<a href="http://biogel.com.ua/">http://biogel.com.ua/</a>	Fertilisers
Edwards Agricultural Supplies	<a href="https://www.soiladvisory.co.uk">https://www.soiladvisory.co.uk</a>	Fertilisers
UNDO Carbon Ltd	<a href="https://thefutureforestcompany.com">https://thefutureforestcompany.com</a>	Soil Conditioners



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# Classified Advertisements



March 2023 Issue 146

ofganic.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.


CATTLE FOR SALE				
<b>Aberdeen Angus cross store cattle</b>	Aberdeen Angus cross store cattle, tb4 area. Please phone for further details	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, N Yorks
<b>Aberdeen Angus Heifer Calf</b>	3 weeks old, by named sire	Philip Holgate	07554 581581	Belper, Derbyshire
<b>Pedigree Hereford Bull for sale, 3yrs 3mths, bred by renowned Netherhall herd</b>	Netherhall 1 Lennon T158 DoB 8 Oct 2019. Tag UK103719 203158. Breeding and EBV details on Hereford cattle society website. Lennon has been a problem free bull, calm and easily handled, served 43 cows annually successfully, easy calving last year. Likes to have a good roar. - See OF&G classified on website for further details.	Ian Boyd	07976 263722	Cheltenham, Glos
<b>Organic BRB, AA calves</b>	For sale BRB & AA calves for sale 2-4wks old. From genus AI sires. Excellent health & colostrum protocols. Small or large groups.	Rhodri Ellis	07900 937262	Denbigh, Denbighshire
<b>Organic suckler calves for sale</b>	August born cross hereford suckler calves for sale. One heifer, two steers. Please contact Huw Lewis.	Huw Lewis	01239 810284 / 07870 196082	Cardigan, Ceredigion
<b>2 Hereford cross store calves</b>	One heifer, one steer, 4 months old. From pedigree Hereford bull. Looking for £350/head or thereabouts. More will be available throughout the year. Stroud Micro Dairy	Nat Torsch	07377 075049	Stroud, Glos
<b>Store cattle</b>	Lim stores 9 to 16 months. 10 heifers and 4 steers	Lyndon Hammonds	07985 604440	Llandrindod Wells, Powys
<b>Organic Suckler herd dispersal</b>	80 Organic suckler cows with calves at foot, spring calving, mixture of AAx Hereford x and Lim x cows all with AA calves at foot. Bvd vaccinated, TB4, A very good herd of young cows for sale due to a change in farming policy.	John Moffat	07789 352330	Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland
FEEDSTUFFS AND FORAGE FOR SALE				
<b>Organic Oat Straw</b>	Approx 200 round bales of Oat straw. Baled in good weather, fine for eating.	Philip Wadsworth	07974 387663	Thirsk, N Yorks
<b>Organic Oats</b>	About 15t Oats for sale. Could deliver locally.	Philip Wadsworth	07974 387663	Thirsk, N Yorks
<b>Forward Purchasing Hay / Fodder Beet</b>	Orders now being taken for hay for next winter. Baled in 120x90 HD bales, we can make hay to exactly how you require and fill a lorry up to capacity maximising your haulage costs. We are also looking at growing fodder beet this year. If any farmers wish to forward buy a quantity of this for next winter please contact for more information	Simon Best	07816 386945	Gloucestershire
<b>Clamp silage</b>	Approx 100T of 1st cut clamp silage. Cut 12/5/22.	Peter Cole	07833 927084	Holsworthy, Devon
<b>Organic Big Bale Hay</b>	2022 June Organic Big Bale Hay	Paul Phillips	07971 184580	Templecombe, Somerset
<b>Barley - Malting or Feed</b>	5 tonne of Westminster barley cleaned and to malting spec. Fully organic. Can roll for feed use and deliver sensible tractor distance from Tewkesbury.	Carl Gray	07771 985908	Tewkesbury, Glos
<b>Naked Oats for Sale</b>	Organic Naked Oats, cleaned and packed into 500kg bags. Naked Oats are high in oil and energy and perfect for chickens/turkeys. Delivery available UK wide. Minimum order 1 x 500kg.	Gemma Clarke	07792 600310	Ancaster, Lincolnshire
LAND AND GRAZING FOR SALE				
<b>Organic Grass Keep Summer 2023 Brechfa</b>	100 Acres summer grazing in Brechfa (Carmarthenshire). Available as a whole or in lots by negotiation. Available for cattle or sheep from 15 May - 1 October. Good grass growing area and mostly been reseeded in the last 10 years. Contact for more information.	Dale Wilson	07739 565346	Brechfa, Carmarthenshire
<b>13 Hectares of Organic Land For Sale</b>	Just over 13 hectares of organic land in Dundry Lane, Winford approx 1 mile South of Bristol. Our certified body is the Soil Association.	Hugh Pearce	01275 568609	Bristol



For your Organic Business



DAIRY CATTLE FOR SALE				
<b>Jersey dairy heifer calves</b>	Organic Jersey & Jersey x heifer calves for sale 2-4wks old. Bvd & Johnn, AOs monitored long established herd. First class colostrum protocols. All calves AI bred. Denbighshire	Rhodri Ellis	07900 937262	Denbigh, Denbighshire
<b>Crossbred yearling Heifers</b>	10 Crossbred heifers born March/April '22. Sired by high EBI Irish Friesian stockbulls and out of Jersey X heifers.	James Matthews	07803 274297	Taunton, Somerset
<b>2 Freshly calved Organic Pedigree Holstein Friesian Dairy Heifers.</b>	2 Freshly calved Organic Pedigree Holstein Friesian Dairy Heifers, easy and quiet to milk.	Steve Harvey	07834 096966	Honiton, Devon
<b>15 Organic Dry cows</b>	15 XBred grazing pwab cows. Due April to AA. Mainly Young with 11 1st to 3rd. TB tested and ready to go, In fantastic condition. Tested for Johnes and vaccinated for Lepto.	Toby Ansdell	07785 397678	Barnstaple, Devon
SHEEP FOR SALE				
<b>Organic Breeding Ewes</b>	Organic Converted Breeding Ewes - 100 Aberfield x Lleyn & Aberfield x Cheviot in lamb to a Charolais Ram due 1st April. Great Ewes genuine reason for sale	Rob Davie	07801 597703	Exeter, Devon
<b>Swaledale Gimmer Hogs</b>	Organic Swaledale gimmer hogs for sale. Please phone for further details	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, N Yorks
<b>Swaledale Ewes in-lamb</b>	Organic Swaledale ewes in lamb to Blue Faced Leicester. Scanned, due April. Please phone for further details.	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, N Yorks
<b>Organic Dorset Ewes</b>	Poll Dorset, 45 pedigree registered mixed age ewes, 40 Autumn born ewe lambs. Dorset Horn, 10 pedigree registered mixed age ewes, 10 Autumn born ewe lambs. All Maedi Visna accredited.	Joe Dufosse	07525 208053	Warmister, Wiltshire
<b>Swaledale ewes with lambs at foot</b>	Organic Swaledale ewes with lambs at foot. Please phone for further details.	Ray Calvert	01748 886412	Richmond, N Yorks
<b>Organic spring lambs for sale</b>	Organic finished spring lambs available from the start of June onwards, February born, predominantly U and E grades. Grass fed, ideal for farm shop/butcher shop. Delivery available within 150 miles	John Moffat	07789 352330	Ponteland, Northumberland
<b>Organic breeding ewes for sale</b>	Approx 20 Lleyns born 2019. Approx 40 Poll Dorsets born 2021. All reared lambs 2023. Available June. Looe - Cornwall	Giles Maddever	07971 572111	Looe, Cornwall
MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE				
<b>Organic Chicken Manure approximately 50-100 tonnes</b>	Commercial layers farm based on outskirts of Saffron Walden, Essex/ Cambridgeshire boarders. Two years worth of manure from a 3000 flock.	Laura Stroud	07803 893817	Saffron Walden, Essex
<b>Farmyard manure</b>	Farmyard manure. 50 tonnes of organic manure, offers wanted to take away. Need to be certified organic.	Anna Bryant	01225 752253	Trowbridge, Wilts
<b>Organic Ware Potatoes</b>	25kg or 1 Tonne bags of the following available - Marfona, Twinner, Carolus, Alouette. Minimum order 1 Tonne. Discount for large quantities.	John Simpson	07825 795663	Kirkbymoorside, N Yorks
<b>Strong large sized young growers</b>	6 Lop x Berkshire well grown pigs....average weight 50 kg+	Karen Philippson	01832 720288	Thrapston, Northamptonshire

ITEMS WANTED				
<b>Approx 200 tonnes Poultry Manure Wanted</b>	We are looking for approx 200 tonnes of poultry manure and could arrange haulage. Based in South Sropshire (nr Craven Arms). Delivery any time from May - Sept 2023	James Hughes	07967 222339	Craven Arms, Shropshire
<b>Organic pullets wanted 16w</b>	Looking for 9000 fully organic pullets: hyline. Not part organic but must be fully organic from day old.	Jeremy Pratt	07702 123139	Salisbury, Wilts
<b>Organic Store Cattle and Store Lambs Wanted</b>	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
<b>Organic land to rent for sheep</b>	Wanted land to rent for sheep, must be well fenced. Cornwall or Devon	A Smith	07960 738791	Launceston. Cornwall
<b>Grazing wanted</b>	100 acre	Gaynor Powell	07939 890221	Llandrindod Wells, Powys
<b>Oats</b>	Wanted 2 ton oats east midlands area	David	07392 854895	Leicester



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