



Newsletter

September 2020 Issue 131

General News

BREXIT - Is there a route to a deal?

Recent developments in the Brexit talks suggest that the UK is no longer concerned the EU could block food exports if trade talks fail, removing a significant source of bad blood in the Brexit talks. It is said that EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier told Britain that it would have no issue getting “third country listing” for food exports, and Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove confirmed on 23 September that “progress” had been made. The negotiating teams had informal talks the week before the start of Round 9 (week commencing 28 September) — sticking points remain but could we finally be seeing a path to a deal? That’s what plenty in Government think.

Whatever the outcome of negotiations, however, the UK will leave the single market and customs union at the end of the year, resulting inevitably in new costs and bureaucracy when trading with the EU, including custom checks, weaker access to the EU market and new regulatory burdens. Ever since Boris Johnson moved away from Theresa May’s plans and towards a more distant trading relationship with the EU, the difference between a deal and no deal outcome has narrowed.

From an organic perspective a key challenge was always going to be the on-going mutual recognition of organic standards by the UK and the EU. With the UK’s insistence on freedom over state aid rules this has meant that a ‘level playing field’ on regulation has been difficult to negotiate and consequently we are simply told by EU officials that organic equivalence ‘is very difficult’. The UK Government however insist “the EU has repeatedly rejected our proposals in this area, stating on many occasions that an annex on organic products – and indeed, any of the sectoral annexes

we have put forward as part of our Technical Barriers to Trade proposals – are not in its interest.”

Given the critical importance of this issue, on 8 September more than 30 organisations in the food and drink industry co-signed a letter to Chief Negotiator, Lord Frost and Michael Gove, to highlight the importance of securing mutual equivalence between UK and the EU on organic standards. This letter was shared widely with civil servants across Whitehall, UK Parliamentarians and the devolved administrations.

In his response to the letter Lord Frost stated “The Government very much recognises the significant and growing contribution the organics sector makes to the UK economy. We are committed to ensuring the UK is an attractive place to invest and do business...” and he went on to say, “We agree with your analysis that an equivalence agreement for organic products, included within the FTA, is in the mutual interest..”

OF&G was one of the signatories along with the UK Organic Certifiers Group (UKOCG).

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Roger Kerr, as the representative of the UK certifiers, is on the working group of organisations that includes the Food and Drink Federation, the AHDB and the NFU coordinating this activity. Following the letter to Lord Frost and Michael Gove the group are continuing the dialogue with senior members of the Government on the serious issues facing UK organic companies. As part of demonstrating the significance of this we are asking for businesses to share information on the likely impact of having no equivalency deal with Europe.

We would therefore welcome any information you may have on the potential impact on jobs and what you feel the short and longer term implications will be to your business.



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ofgorganic.org

If you could email any thoughts and/or figures to Roger that would be really useful. (roger@ofgorganic.org)

We are also asking people to write to their MPs. If you are interested in supporting this activity the NFU have set up a link so please click through to the NFU online article to find the letter template and some tips on how to write to your MP.

<https://www.nfuonline.com/sectors/organics/organics-news/calling-all-organic-producers-write-to-your-mp-on-mutual-equivalence/>

While time is now incredibly short it is hoped that a recognition agreement can be agreed between the UK and EU (bearing in mind that we are currently compliant with the EU regulation and will remain so on 1 January 2021).

In parallel to this, OF&G applied in early February under Annex IV of EU regulation 1235 for recognition as a Control Body operating in a third country (UK) to the EU regulation. This process is on-going and we are continuing work toward OF&G achieving recognition before the end of the transition period.

The Sustainable Farming Incentive and Environmental Land Management

Initial thoughts from Defra for a new policy initiative, the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), have recently emerged. They have tentatively proposed this as part of the Agricultural Transition that will run through to 2028, when the new domestic agricultural policy will be fully implemented and support paid to farmers through the European Common Agricultural Policy will cease. The SFI has been widely covered in the press and discussed in the House of Lords, and yet there has been no formal policy statement from Defra and no detail has been provided on how it will be implemented.

Significant changes are envisaged in farming policy to ensure that public money will only be paid to farmers for the public goods they deliver. In practice the money will be paid through a combination of the Environmental Land Management scheme (ELMS), Productivity grants and the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway. So how will the SFI, promoted as leading into Tier 1 of ELM, help in moving towards these new policies?

It remains to be seen whether the envisaged policies will really deliver the much needed public goods of greater sustainability, reduced global heating, a stop to pollution, whilst also protecting and enhancing our soils and biodiversity to make good the devastating losses we have witnessed. The reality will depend on the coherence of the policy measures envisaged, but 2½ years on from Defra's Health and Harmony paper, it is hard to discern a coherent approach emerging.

Although intensive work has been going on in Defra to design ELMS and the associated productivity scheme and animal health and welfare pathway, it has proved more complex than envisaged. In the face of this uncertainty Defra has sought to provide some security for farmers through the Sustainable Farming Incentive. Farmers need to plan ahead. But if this stop-gap incentive does not enable the changes we need, and that have been promised through ELM, is it 'sustainable' in name only?

The advantage for Defra is that the SFI should get past the Treasury's Autumn Statement; it is money that has effectively already been spent.

Organic farmers should be well placed to deliver public goods through ELM. However, current proposals are missing any provision for either organic conversion or organic maintenance payments, though they would represent good value for money. Although there have been assurances that Countryside Stewardship will continue to 2028, it remains uncertain how organic farmers in CS agreements will fare and how they will transition to ELMS.

All that being said, OF&G are actively involved in helping shape ELMS through various Defra working groups alongside support for the English Organic Forum. Organic is being mentioned more openly of late in Government and we are involved in talking to all levels of government to ensure organic farming and its public good benefits are recognised in both Tier 1 and Tier 2 of ELMS.



Website and Social Media

<http://ofgorganic.org>

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

<https://twitter.com/ofgorganic>

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



Market Information

Grain Prices: Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable

The recent good weather has meant some ideal cultivation conditions and the horrors of the 2020 harvest season given way to optimism about the 2021 harvest.

There is some early signs of some upward movement in grain values which seem to be due to weakening of Sterling and some sentiment that the premium over conventional is too small given the gains this week made by the conventional market; but please don't order a new combine values are only edging upwards and are still below levels of last year. Feed grain values are about £40 lower than this time last year which makes profitability marginal for many. Feed buyers remain concerned about potential lockdown and this is making them cautious about the cover they take.

We are still seeing very little interest in malting barley and beer sales will be further hit by the recent changes in socialising announced by the government so there is little prospect of this market bouncing back quickly.

There is interest in milling wheat and buyers are coming to market and hopefully will respond to the slightly higher feed base with some improved bids. With some reports of some panic buying starting we may see growth in demand for milling wheat as we did in March and April.

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

Please keep an eye on our blog www.organicarable.co.uk/blog

01638 744144 / 07980 955490

@organicarable

Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC

In most areas of the UK grass is still in plentiful supply and consequently forage stocks harvested this Summer have been good. There are however parts of the UK, particularly the South East, where this is not the case and grass silage and hay are in very short supply. The South East has seen a number of very dry Summers in recent years and if this trend continues then livestock producers may well have to rethink their management and this could well mean a reduction in stocking rates.

We are living in unprecedented times and have some time to go before we see our lives back to 'normal' as a second wave of Covid 19 seems likely. There is no doubt that eating at home has changed the dynamics of meat supply and let us hope this continues to be the 'new normal'.

The ongoing debates and negotiations over Brexit continue and economists are making variable predictions on the likely effect on meat prices. Some are predicting large rises in the meat trade whilst others are predicting a less dramatic rise.

In the meantime, the strong trade for organic prime cattle has continued throughout the Summer and it is only now showing signs of slowing down. However, there doesn't appear currently to be an oversupply so prices have remained firm. With Processors and Retailers soon to be turning their attention to their Christmas killing schedules, subject of course to the Covid situation, it is very likely that this continuing demand will hopefully keep prices buoyant as 2020 draws to a close.

It has been a good Summer for the marketing of cull cows with a shortage in numbers helping to fuel the price. As we come into the Autumn period there is an increase in the number of cows coming forward and retail demand has weakened and although the price has started to come back we are still seeing good returns.

The OLMC's store cattle department has continued to operate during the last four difficult months adhering to the strict distancing guidelines and as lockdown eases, we are always available to view your cattle for sale and offer marketing advice.

Average R4L Organic UTM in spec @ 442p/kg deadweight

Average R4L Organic OTM Cow in spec @ 295p/kg deadweight

Lamb prices have held over the Summer with good returns for lambs straight from the ewe. Demand has been good and numbers have stayed abreast of weekly demand without large flushes all coming at once. The dry weather has kept them clean and after rain in some parts the lambs have started to do again. In theory the lamb trade should be most vulnerable to downward pressure from export tariffs post Brexit but the underlying strength of continued demand may just overcome the difficulties in exporting the product. Numbers look to be short especially for the Winter months and many of our finishers will be looking for organic store lambs.

Average R3L Organic NSL in spec @ 470p/kg deadweight

Store cattle prices have reflected that of finished stock with many achieving returns for producers of between £50/150 more than twelve months ago. It is likely that prices will remain firm as we move into the Autumn period. Demand for dairy stock continues to be strong with cross-bred type grazing cows and heifers being particularly sort after for those expanding and for new organic milk producers setting up

For more information on store cattle, dairy stock and store lambs please ring Peter Jones' office on 01829 730580 or mobile 07720 892922 or David Bostock on 07734 808050 or Iain Turner on 07970 197619. For finished Stock please contact Tim Leigh on 01763 250313 or 07850 366404.



V-NOCC

As reported in the July newsletter in place of our annual farm-based event, National Organic Combinable Crops, we went Virtual. OF&G partnered with the AHDB and Agricology and together we hosted a short series of webinars.

In the first webinar in the V-NOCC series OF&G business development manager Steven Jacobs chaired a panel discussion on crop varieties and seed breeding.

The session, which was hosted by the AHDB, was called Seeds and Deeds: collective plant breeding for reduced input farming.

The panellists were organic farmer and OF&G licensee, Mark Lea from Green Acres Farm in Shropshire, Dr Ambrogio Costanzo, Principal Crops Researcher at the Organic Research Centre, Dr Phil Howell, Head of Cereals Pre-Breeding at NIAB and Emily Pope, Knowledge Transfer Manager for the AHDB.

The webinar was recorded and is available to watch via our YouTube channel or the OF&G website - <https://oforganic.org/events/seeds-and-deeds-collective-plant-breeding-for-reduced-input-farming>

The rest of the V-NOCC series will be posted online in the next few weeks and months.

And our colleagues at Agricology - <https://www.agricology.co.uk>

- will post the audio as a podcast of the *Land sharing and sparing - a conversation on the value of agroecological food production systems* session we ran on 14 July which was chaired by Charlotte Smith and featured Roger Kerr, Sue Pritchard, Vicki Hird and Bruce Pearce.

Future Events

OF&G are coordinating activity on other online events. One of those that is upcoming soon is the Northern Real Farming Conference which will run from 28 September to 10 October. On 8 October our business

development manager, Steven Jacobs is coordinating a session with Amelia Magistrali of Coastal Grains and Newcastle University, Dr Charlotte Bickler from the Organic Research Centre and Janie Caldbeck of Agicology. The session will begin at 1.30pm and is called *Organic at the heart: Developing an agroecological food and farming network in Northern England*. Details here - <https://www.northernrealfarming.org/events/organic-at-the-heart-developing-an-agroecological-food-and-farming-network-in-northern-england/>

The main conference homepage is:

<https://www.northernrealfarming.org/>

OF&G co-sponsor the Wales Real Food and Farming Conference and the 2020 edition will move online and is due to go live towards the end of November. More details will be released very soon.

<https://wrffc.wales/>

Missing emissions - How nitrogen fertiliser manufacture and use is leading to a four-fold nitrogen surplus

The recent Fixing Nitrogen report from the Soil Association explains how synthetic nitrogen fertilisers enable farming to be free of the constraints that natural nitrogen fixation and recycling of manure places on organic systems. This is having a serious impact on climate and nature.

OF&G have checked the scale of GHG emissions resulting from the manufacture of nitrogen fertiliser. It is estimated that UK agriculture is reliant on 600,000 tonnes of nitrogen, produced here in the UK and another 400,000 tonnes imported from other fertiliser producing countries – one million tonnes of fertiliser N. Each kilo of manufactured nitrogen fertiliser leads to production of around 3.5kg CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent), so the manufacture of 1 million tonnes of fertiliser results in 3.5 million tonnes of CO₂e.

These emissions are not included as arising from agriculture; they are counted as the result of an industrial process. This means that with total UK agricultural emissions estimated to be 45 million tonnes CO₂e, fertiliser manufacture alone adds a further 7%.

A proper account of UK agriculture emissions should include this, and it should take account of the agricultural emissions arising in other countries, from where we derive 65% of our livestock feed. The planet does not respect national boundaries when it comes to climate change.

The manufacture of fertiliser starts with the energy intensive production of ammonia using the Haber-Bosch process, developed in the early years of the 20th century and considered by many to be one of the most important technological advances of the century. It offered a rapid increase in crop yield, allowing the growth of both human population and livestock. Around half the food we produce however is currently wasted, while increasingly human diets are based on intensively raised livestock systems. The compound impact of these factors means that the planetary boundary for nitrogen has been exceeded almost four-fold.

A dramatic reduction in the use of synthetic nitrogen fertilisers must therefore be achieved. We know that the climate breakdown is the

result of human caused emission of methane, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides and other greenhouse gases, with intensive, cereal based livestock production and fertiliser use both key contributors to global heating.

The pioneers of the organic movement pushed for a different path for agriculture in the early years of the last century, at the start of this ‘fertiliser revolution’. They saw the risks of pumping the farming system with nitrogen. We must now recognise that their concerns were justified, and we must find ways to cut the use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser from our food and farming system. Organic systems offer one way out of our synthetic nitrogen dependency.

Link to the Soil Association Fixing Nitrogen report – https://www.soilassociation.org/media/21286/fixing_nitrogen_soil_association_report.pdf

Link to the OF&G Productivity and Efficiency report - <https://oforganic.org/news/productivity-and-efficiency-a-new-perspective>

OF&G and Organics in the News

As reported earlier in this newsletter the United Kingdom Organic Certifiers Group (UKOCG) joined other organisations in sending a letter to Michael Gove and chief UK negotiator David Frost, warning of detrimental impacts to exports if a mutual agreement is not reached by the end of the year.

As chair of UKOCG, the OF&G chief executive, Roger Kerr was quoted in many titles including Natural Products Global and Farming UK.

This excerpt is from a piece on this in The Grocer, 11 September 2020, in which journalist Harry Holmes looks at 'Five key Brexit issues threatening food and drink exports' ranging from Export Health Certificates to Groupage and Organics:

Organics

The UK exports about £225m of organic food and drink to the EU each year, but that will end overnight if the UK and the EU do not reach a mutual recognition agreement by the end of the year.

In their letter to Michael Gove and David Frost, 30 organisations representing the UK industry warned the EU market is vital for full carcase and milk utilisation, without which price rises could soon be felt in the UK. If access is lost to the EU whey market, for example, "we foresee big price increases for cheese".

Roger Kerr, chairman of the UK Organic Certifiers Group, said he is "urging the UK government to recognise what is at jeopardy here as we enter a new regime with the EU".

It is a message many across the industry will echo.

The full article - <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/brexit/five-key-brexit-issues-threatening-food-and-drink-exports/648260.article>

Will Evans is the voice behind the very popular farming podcast, **Rock and Roll Farming**. In the 13 August episode, 'Diversity is everything' Will's guest is farmer and OF&G licensee Mark Lea. In a wide-ranging interview Mark talks about his experience as a

farmer but also as a parent and school governor and describes his approach to food production and his belief in education.

The edition with Mark Lea is available via the Rock and Roll Farming website, or look for the programme in your favourite podcasting app:

<https://rockandrollfarming.libsyn.com/diversity-is-everything>

Mark Lea also features in a video made by the people behind the Diversify project.

DIVERSify: Designing InnoVative plant teams for Ecosystem Resilience and agricultural Sustainability - <https://www.plant-teams.eu/>

As part of the growing beyond monoculture web series Mark talks to Dr Charlotte Bickler in the video (14 minutes 50 seconds in) <https://www.plant-teams.eu/watch>



The Plant Teams-DIVERSIFY project on social media -

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

<https://twitter.com/PlantTeams>

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

Following the publication in July of **Henry Dimbleby's** first installment of the government sponsored **National Food Strategy** several media titles published comments from people in food and farming.

Christopher Stopes, co-chair of the English Organic Forum and OF&G Policy Adviser is quoted in many of those, for example in this article from The Grocer magazine published 29 July 2020 -

Industry reacts as National Food Strategy report published

The initial report of the National Food Strategy has been published today.

In it, reviewer and Leon founder Henry Dimbleby strongly backs moves announced on Monday in the government's Obesity Strategy, but says he will be looking at how it could go further by increasing the scope of fiscal measures. Here is how industry figures responded to the report, which also proposes expansion of free school meals, holiday activity and food programmes, and calls on the government to increase the value of Healthy Start vouchers.

Christopher Stopes:

"The English Organic Forum welcomes part one of Henry Dimbleby's ambitious National Food Strategy, launched this week. It's encouraging to see Mr Dimbleby's 'food-topia' vision, which amongst other things, recognises the value of organic farming within a broad-based food strategy supported by investment in R&D that enables innovation to enhance yields and resilience, while also working within natural systems."

"The National Food Strategy Part One refers to Defra's developing Environmental Land Management policy which aims to pay farmers for the provision of public goods. If the area of organic land in England were to increase to one million hectares, which is approximately three times the current organic land area in England, this would result in a 1.7kt reduction in active pesticide ingredient applications, with an associated 25% increase in biodiversity while simultaneously delivering on numerous other benefits and public goods."

"Organic is widely recognised as a regenerative and sustainable farming system and with its proven delivery of public goods, makes it well suited to help in the delivery of a sustainable National Food Strategy. Organic is backed by annual independent inspections, and its principles and practises are enshrined in law in the UK, Europe and around the world."

The full article - <https://www.thegrocer.co.uk/health/industry-reacts-as-national-food-strategy-report-published/646876.article>



DIVERSify: Designing InnoVative plant teams for Ecosystem Resilience and agricultural Sustainability



For your Organic Business

Classified Advertisements

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 | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Organic Stores available | The Organic Livestock Marketing Co-operative (OLMC) have all categories of organic store cattle available throughout the UK. To view them on our website please visit www.peterjoneslivestock.co.uk or call Peter Jones | Peter Jones | 077208 92922 / 01829 730580 | Tarporley, Cheshire |
| 68 Organic Stores for sale | Mix of Herefords, Aberdeen Angus and British Blues for sale. All are well grown and between 12-16 months old. Please contact Paul Hickson for details. | Paul Hickson | 07802 672767 | Ellesmere, Shropshire |
| Charolais cross suckled calves for sale | 50 to 60 charolais cross suckler calves very well grown out of proper beef cows ring for full details | Ian Smith | 01566 86155 / 07779 987580 | Launceston, Cornwall |
| Organic suckled calves for sale | 65 organic Aberdeen Angus and Hereford suckled calves for sale, End of March/April born. Mixture of bullocks and heifers. TB4 Well grown. Ready to move end of October/start of November. Viewing welcome | John Moffat | 07789 352330 | Ponteland, Northumberland |

| SHEEP FOR SALE | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Organic store/fat lambs | Organic texel type and also Cheviot store lambs | Tom Price | 01874 636320 | Brecon, Powys |
| Store welsh mountain lambs | Selection of wether welsh mountain store lambs | Huw Evans | 07977 505855 | Oswestry, Powys |
| Llanwenog Sheep | Stock for sale from the Treberfedd flock, (est 2005, organic flock). Ewes, ewe lambs and ram lambs available. Quiet, docile sheep ideal for smallholder and grass based flocks. Good mothers and good lambing percentages. Yearling ewes will be available at the annual show and sale in Llanybydder 22nd Aug 2020 | Jack | 07970 081432 | Lampeter, Ceredigion |
| Pure Bred Herdwick Gimmers | 9 Pure Bred Herdwick Gimmers for sale. Please contact for further information | Jane Smales | 07774 832543 | Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland |
| 200 - 300 Easycare store Lambs | 300 store lambs. Looking to sell them all one go. Some fit to kill others still smaller. Good price if you take them all! Newquay Cornwall. Please telephone John | John Julian | 07929 729239 / 01872 510240 | Newquay, Cornwall |
| 40 Organic Lleyn x ewe lambs | 40 organic lleyn X ewe lambs bread from a closed flock, majority large enough to tup this autumn. Lammed outside 7th April onwards. Please phone Ali for more details. | Ali Graham | 07742 310431 | Morpeth, Northumberland |
| 150 white faced welsh mule ewe lambs | 150 white faced welsh mule ewe lambs going to welshpool market on 10/9/20. Heptavac p x 2, Cidectin LA. Lots 172A-172H (Not in the catalogue as the auctioneers messed up!) All lambs suitable for tupping this year. Contact Dale | Dale wilson | 07739 565346 | Llandrindod Wells, Powys |
| Welsh Mule Ewe Lambs | Good, strong, white faced and colored hogs ready to tup. | S-D-Powell | 07940 023532 | Llandrindod Wells, Powys |
| Aberfield Ram. 3 years old. Innovis Bred. Current Index 76 (Elite) | Heptavac P System. Footvax. Selling due to change in flock. Good ram who has worked well for us. Updated EBV available. High score on lambing percentage. | Patrick Loxdale | 07967 089634 | Aberystwyth, Ceredigion |
| Aberblack Ram. Full Mouth 4 Year Old | Innovis Bred Aberblack Ram. Full mouth 4 year old. Heptavac P system. Footvax. Has worked well here. Selling due to change in flock. | Patrick Loxdale | 07967 089634 | Aberystwyth, Ceredigion |
| 6 Organic Pedigree Manx Loaghtan Shearling Ewes | Born April/May 2019. Fully Heptavac P Plus vaccinated, Clik Extra treated and wormed up to date. Well grown, ready to Tup this year. | Helen Muir | 01223 208987 | Royston, Cambs |
| 5 Organic Pedigree Hebridean Shearling Ewes | Born April/May 2019. Mix of 2 and 4 horn. Fully Heptavac P Plus vaccinated, Clik Extra treated and wormed up to date. Well grown, ready to Tup this year. | Helen Muir | 01223 208987 | Royston, Cambs |

| MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT FOR SALE | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 20 tubular steel cattle stalls | 20 tubular steel cattle stalls. Please telephone for futher information as no email address. | Lionel Gibson | 07713 480782 | Hexham, Northumberland |

| FEEDSTUFFS AND FORAGE FOR SALE | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Organic Meadow Hay | 400 small bales of organic meadow hay available. Will split. Made in the sun and largely weed free. Local delivery is possible. | Marcus Fincham | 07966 199872 | Hook, Hampshire |
| Organic Hay | 65 Tonnes Organic meadow hay. 4 and 6 string bales. Excellent quality. Offers | Toby Ansdell | 07785 397678 | Barnstaple, Devon |
| Organic Big Bale Hay | Organic Big Bale Hay, Good Quality , made late May 2020, Class 2100 . Four string bales . | Paul Phillips | 07971 184580 | Wincanton, Somerset |
| Organic Meadow Hay | 60 Large round hay bales, made this summer in dry and sunny conditions. Now barn stored for optimum condition. | Lulu Thomas | 07866 079994 | Penrith, Cumbria |
| Organic Lucerne | 24ac of 3rd cut organic lucerne | Mark Heywood | 07970 117021 | Taunton, Somerset |
| Organic meadow hay | Great quality organic meadow hay available in 6 string quadrant bales 120 x 90 7 foot bales. All made good June/July 2020 & with no rain. | Jamie Cullimore | 07717 534933 | Gloucester, Glos |
| Organic Oat Straw | 400 small bales of certified organic oat straw | Marcus Fincham | 07966 199872 | Hook, Hampshire |
| Silage Buckinghamshire | 150 bales of well-made round bale silage from a farm in conversion to organic (second year). From 1.5 year old herbal leys (Cotswold seeds organic mix). Grasses with clover, chicory and burnet. | Rose Dale | 07535 611919 | Thame, Oxon, Bucks |
| In conversion hay | Quality hay near Thame, Oxon. 180 large square bales - 4 string - about 7ft x 3ft x 2ft. Well made in good weather. | Rose Dale | 07535 611919 | Thame, Oxon, Bucks |
| Organic feed oats | Approximately 18 - 20 tonnes. Came off the combine at 13% | Claire Hargreaves | 01653 658250 | Malton, N Yorks |

| OTHER LIVESTOCK FOR SALE | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 13 Stabiliser stores 16-18mths | 13 Stabiliser stores, 4 heifers 9 steers average weight 410kg. | Shane Lewis | 07887 687535 | Llandrindod Wells, Powys |

| DAIRY CATTLE FOR SALE | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|--|----------------|
| Organic Holstein/Friesian Heifers 1 Pedigree Bull. | 1 Organic Freshly calved Holstein/Friesian Heifer & 1 Organic Incalf Holstein/Friesian Heifer also 1 Pedigree Aberdeen Angus 4 year old Bull. Our Bull has a good temperment and is only for sale because he is getting too heavy for Bullying Heifers. | Tom or Steve Harvey | 01404841341 or 07712770168 / 07834096966 | Honiton, Devon |

| LAND AND GRAZING FOR SALE | | | | |
|--|---|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Organic grazing North Cotswolds | Up to 200 acres certified Organic grazing available. All or part. Nr Moreton in Marsh Gloucestershire | stewart Bell | 07941 339709 | Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos |
| Sheep Grazing | Winter sheep grazing available Chester 135 acres | Rhodri Ellis | 07900 937262 | Denbighshire |

| MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Farmyard manure | For collection. 100 tonnes. offers please. | Anna Bryant | 01225 752253 | Trowbridge, Somerset |
| Organic 6 pack egg cartons | A quantity of standard 6 egg pack cartons for sale. Wording on the top "6 Organic Free Range Eggs". Buyer must collect or pay postage | Mr R Langmead | 07973 621678 | Bognor Regis, West Sussex |

Items wanted

Note: Purchasers should always check the current certificate and its 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.

| SHEEP WANTED | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Organic Store Lambs Wanted | Organic Store Lambs Wanted. Any Breed/Size Considered | Josh Bowker | 07791 356561 | Welshpool, Powys |
| Welsh ewes | Wanted up to 150 welsh draft ewes | Rhys | 07879 773363 | Chepstow, Monmouthshire |

| DAIRY CATTLE WANTED | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Dairy Bulling Heifers | Wanted Organic Dairy Bulling Heifers or younger preferably Holstein Freisian or similar, please contact Steve, Tom or Joan | Thomas Harvey | 07712 770168 / 01404 841341 | Honiton, Devon |

| FEEDSTUFFS & FORAGE WANTED | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Wanted - organic feeding straw | Wanted - Aprox 20 big bales of organic feeding straw delivered to Herefordshire. Must be of excellent quality and low moisture. Can take any size of bale, good lorry access and have telehandldler on site to unload. Can collect if your local. Please telephone. | Daniel | 07594 325693 | Bromyard, Herefordshire |



OTHER LIVESTOCK WANTED

| | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Organic weaners | Wanted a few organic weaners to run onto scrub over the winter months | Martyn Thirle Mills | 07811 255636 | Launceston, Cornwall |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|

LAND & GRAZING WANTED

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| ORGANIC FARMS WANTED | Are you looking for an extra income? Organic Farms wanted to grow Organic Chicken. 10 acres required per farm with long term growing contracts. We are situated in Pembrokeshire and require farms within a 100 mile radius. | Luke Watts | 07825 795049 | Haverfordwest, Pembs |
| Sheep Grazing | Keep for fattening store lambs/ewe lambs .Good fencing and water required | Rhydian Davies | 01597 870253 | Rhayader, Powys |

MISCELLANEOUS WANTED

| | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| FARM MANAGER VACANCY | Experienced farm manager required who can manage and run an 800 acre organic farm which is fully integrated with a mixed livestock system and arable rotation. Accommodation, a farm vehicle and salary to suit experience. Slawston Grange Estate, Leics | Paddy Hoare | 07855 392628 | Slawston, Leicestershire |
| Organic produce wanted | Organic produce/products wanted to sell in our small farm shop in Leominster /Ludlow area. Please call Alan | Alan Smith | 07971 086262 | Ludlow, Shropshire |
| Couple Looking To Gain More Farm Experience | We are a couple who are looking for farm work. We have been farming for 4 years together, I (Margaret) am American and Vicky is a UK citizen. We are eager to gain experience working on farms in England. We have experience working with livestock and CSA vegetable operations. Please contact me via Margaretkraft526@gmail.com if you are hiring. | Margaret Kraft | | Manchester |

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 |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Veolia ES (UK) Ltd | emma.john@veolia.com | Bedding Materials |
| Organic Republic Industry | http://www.heerafertilizer.com/ | Composts, Fertilisers, Pest Control |
| Natural Stockcare Ltd | http://www.naturalstockcareshop.co.uk | Slurry Treatment |

Updated approved inputs

| SUPPLIER | WEBSITE / EMAIL | CATEGORY |
|---|---|---|
| Fargro Ltd. | https://www.fargro.co.uk/ | Fungicide, Bio-Insecticide, Pest Control |
| Northern Agricultural Merchant Ltd | 01765 822120 | Animal Health Product |
| Pan Agriculture Limited | https://www.sovereignsulphur.co.uk/ | Fertilisers |
| Biological Preparations T/A Agriprep Ltd | 029 2086 1211 | Silage additive |
| Law Fertilisers Ltd. | http://www.lawfertilisers.co.uk/ | Fertilisers, Plant Disease Control |
| ECOspray Ltd | http://www.ecospray.com/ | Pest Control, Plant Health Products, Animal Feed Additive |
| Passion Ag Ltd | https://www.passionag.com/ | Silage additive |
| John Hall Fertilisers Limited | https://www.vitax.co.uk/ | Fertilisers |
| Unibio A/S | https://www.unibio.dk/ | Animal Feed Additive |
| Venture Foods (UK) Ltd | http://www.venturefoods.com/ | Ingredients |
| DOSTOFARM GmbH | https://www.dostofarm.de/ | Animal Feed Additive |
| Sea-Chem Ltd | https://www.sea-chem.co.uk/ | Plant Health Products, Compost additive |
| Mistry's Organic Ltd | https://www.houseofmistry.com/ | Fertilisers |
| Nutrimate Limited | 01777 870077 | Plant Health Products |
| Global Crop Improvement Company Ltd | http://www.gcic-global.com/ | Soil conditioners, Fertilisers, Foliar Treatment |

Technical Newsletter

September 2020 Issue 131



General

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

Organic Inspections - physical inspection or self assessment; your choice

While we continue with a precautionary approach the feedback that we have had recently suggests that for some people a physical inspection will be the preferred option. Consequently, if you would prefer to have a physical inspection then please let your inspector know when they contact you to discuss this year's audit.

Whether you opt for a physical audit or would prefer to proceed via the self assessment approach is entirely at your discretion, as clearly for many the current increase in Covid cases remains a serious concern. Please note that anyone opting for a physical inspection will be required to complete a risk assessment prior to the inspection.

This means that, for the time being and while government guidelines allow it, you have two options for this year's audit. Either a physical audit where the inspector visits you and undertakes an inspection, as has historically been the case, or you undertake a self-assessment and remote inspection with a view to undertaking a follow-up physical inspection when it is safe to do so.

In either case the allocated Farm Inspector or Processor Auditor will

first make contact with you to discuss how you wish to proceed and arrange a time and date for either a physical inspection or to carry out a remote inspection depending on your preference.

You may already have received an email from OF&G with the Self-Assessment Inspection Questionnaire (SAIQ) paperwork to work through. If you opt for a physical inspection the inspector will use this same documentation for the time being to undertake the physical audit.

- For farming inspections the paperwork is a combination of MS Word documents and an Excel spreadsheet. You must complete the Producer AQ spreadsheet regardless of which option you choose. Detailed instructions are given in the covering email and in the Producer AQ spreadsheet. Make sure you complete all relevant tabs - these are found on the bottom of the spreadsheet window.
- For processing inspections the spreadsheet is the RD329, which includes tabs at the bottom for different enterprises. You must complete the relevant sections

regardless of which inspection option you prefer. These are listed in the covering email.

If you proceed via the self assessment route :

- For farming inspections you will also need to complete a series of Word documents and send saved copies of these, plus any additional information, to your allocated Farm Inspector using the details provided in the SAIQ email.
- For processing inspections you will need to send the spreadsheet to your Processing Auditor together with any requested supporting documentation using the details provided in the SAIQ email.

It is important to emphasise that it is entirely your choice whether to proceed via a physical inspection or via a self assessment.

If you feel you are being pressured to proceed via one route or another by the inspector then please contact your certification officer. Similarly, if you have any queries or points you are unsure of, or want to discuss how you proceed further, again please contact your certification officer. Contact details are given in the covering email.

Producers

Seed Availability

We invited two of the organic seed companies registered with OF&G to tell us what seed availability is looking like as we move into the autumn season.

Gemma Clarke and Trevor Cope of Cope Seeds and Andrew Cooper of Walnes Seeds have shared with us the following news:

Winter wheat seed is in ample supply, though beans are becoming short and

winter oats are either sold out or soon will be. Any growers looking for either beans or oats would be advised to book very soon.

Gemma Clarke adds "We have seen increased cases of secondary growth and sprouting which is causing major issues across the industry with processing plants cleaning hard with high levels of losses to ensure seed crops pass."

Looking forward to the Spring there is

good supply of wheat and barley seed but due to poor sample quality oats will be sold out early along with beans.

Trevor Cope adds, "Anyone considering sowing spring beans early as a replacement for winter beans the seed rate will need increasing considerably, by as much as 60 – 75%. This would make this option an expensive one in terms of seed input costs. Our advice to anyone considering growing organic spring beans is to get your name on some

For your Organic Business

seed as soon as you can, as there will not be any surplus conventional seed to fall back on with a derogation".

Peas will as always be difficult to source which could increase reliance on imported crops, if they can be found.

As trade deals are not finalised with the EU this means that conditions for importing seed in the spring is as yet unsure.

While there is this uncertainty the expectation is that the availability of

spring bean seed both organic and non-organic will be tight.

Andrew Cooper adds "This has implications for herbage seed as well as cereals and pulses so booking early with suppliers will be essential to allow material to be in the country prior to 31 December and thus guarantee efficient supply to growers."

Organic producers are required to keep records of all seeds, transplants and vegetative reproductive materials used or brought onto the holding.

If organic seed becomes unavailable then non-organic seed approval must be applied for and given by the OF&G office before any seed is sown.

The Record Sheet for a seed approval request (Record Sheet 4A - NO Seed Approval Application Form) can be found on the OF&G website under <https://ofgorganic.org/useful-info/downloads>

Processors

Labelling Queries

We are receiving a number of calls and emails from processor operators worried about the lack of information regarding the rules for labelling of organic products post 31 December 2020.

OF&G and other UK Control Bodies (CBs) have been in dialogue with Defra for some time now in order to clarify the situation. It is unfortunate, at this late stage, that Defra is unable to give any concrete information on specific labelling of organic products.

However, Defra have agreed to produce a guidance note detailing information on labelling and importing (amongst other things) as soon as the information is available.

As has been noted in previous editions of the technical newsletter OF&G

continues to liaise with the European Commission on our application for recognition as a control body operating in a third country. Once completed, this recognition will allow operators to continue using the EU logo on a voluntary basis.

If you have any specific queries please contact your Certification Officer.

Fraudulent Certificates

We have been notified via the EOCC (European Organic Certifiers Council) of two fraudulent certificates that are currently in circulation;

CONTROL UNION;

World Trade Supply Pvt. Ltd in South Africa, certificate valid until 02 July 2021

KIWA-BCS;

Xian Qinming Biological Technology Co. Ltd in China. certificate dated 14.10.2019

Control Union and KIWA-BCS have both noted 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.



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