On 27 June, Defra’s Secretary of State commissioned Henry Dimbleby to conduct an independent review to help the government create its first National Food Strategy for 75 years.

The purpose of the review is to address the environmental and health problems caused by our food system, to ensure the security of our food supply, and to maximise the benefits of the coming revolution in agricultural technology.

The National Food Strategy (NFS) will examine activity across several departments of state, building on the new Agriculture Bill and Fisheries Bill, the Industrial Strategy, the Childhood Obesity Plan and the upcoming Environment Bill. Its stated aim is to seek to respond to the need for a ‘resilient, sustainable and humane agriculture’ and a food and farming system that ‘restores and enhances the natural environment for the next generation in this country.’

There is currently a consultation period underway which is open until 25th October where they are seeking submissions from interested people and organisations. The various methods in which you can do this is at the bottom of the Defra NFS website [https://consult.defra.gov.uk/agri-food-chain-directorate/national-food-strategy-call-for-evidence/](https://consult.defra.gov.uk/agri-food-chain-directorate/national-food-strategy-call-for-evidence/).

While the statement on the Defra website says that one of its objectives is “to maximise the benefits of the coming revolution in agricultural technology” - read into that what you want - it is clear therefore that we must make the case for R&D in agroecological innovation and whole system design.

The NFS states that it is intended to be an overarching strategy for government, designed to ensure that our food system:

- Delivers safe, healthy, affordable food, regardless of where people live or how much they earn;
- Is robust in the face of future shocks;
- Restores and enhances the natural environment for the next generation in this country;
- Is built upon a resilient, sustainable and humane agriculture sector;
- Is a thriving contributor to our urban and rural economies, delivering well paid jobs and supporting innovative producers and manufacturers across the country;
- Delivers all this in an efficient and cost-effective way.

In this context it is clear that organic delivers many of these elements and...
Organic can be a solution to achieving Sustainable development Goals

If we are to maintain sustainable food systems for future generations and tackle the many challenges facing our planet, including the climate crisis, governments would be wise to embrace organic farming practices. This is the main message a recently published report sends to world leaders currently gathering for the SDG Summit in New York.

Commissioned by Dutch organic specialist Eosta, the new report Organic Agriculture and the Sustainable Development Goals shows examples of how our food systems can have a direct impact on our chances of achieving these goals. It has been launched at a time when Heads of State and Government gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to follow up and comprehensively review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs.

According to Louise Luttikholt, Executive Director of IFOAM – Organics International, ‘Given that organic farmers work in harmony with nature, as far as possible, for example by not applying harmful agrochemicals, it is clear that they are a major part of the solution. As the report shows, if the global community is serious about achieving the SDGs by 2030 it is essential that we switch to more sustainable farming practices such as organic.’

To learn in detail how organic agriculture scores better than its conventional counterpart on saving biodiversity, our water and health and brings resilience to farming, click

https://www.ifoam.bio/

Changes to the OF&G Newsletter

Organic legislation demands that we inform you of any relevant technical updates. It also requires you as the licensee to make yourself aware of those updates.

The OF&G newsletter has had a number of formats over the decades and we feel now is the right time for another stage in developing how we pass information to you. Aside from the regulatory requirement we also collate a number of news articles, either our own or those we feel worth highlighting from elsewhere.

You will see that you have 2 parts to the Newsletter this time - the Newsletter and the Technical Newsletter. In this way we hope to keep you well informed, keeping you fully appraised of all technical matters while also providing general news items which we hope will be of interest to you.
All Party Parliamentary Group on Agroecology

OF&G helped to organise and co-sponsor an event in Westminster on 10 September 2019. The All Party Parliamentary Group on Agroecology brought farmers and growers together with MPs and members of the civil service to raise awareness of agroecological food systems.

Two farmers who are licensed with OF&G joined the event and spoke about their experiences as ecologically aware food and farming businesses. Polly Davies of Slade Farm in the Vale of Glamorgan - @sladefarm - and Mark Lea of Green Acres farm in Shropshire - @GreenAcres_Farm

Polly talking about how mixed farms like hers are becoming too rare. Specialisation led to intensification - not a good trend for wildlife and pollution. But clear need for government support in delivering additional goods like wildlife.

Mark Lea now speaking - his organic peas are going to be eaten in a bit. Talks of chasing profit under chemical based farming. Going organic 20 years ago was a great decision. Talking about fertility building rotation with clover, legumes and ruminant livestock.

OF&G are members of the group Sustain: The alliance for better food and farming. Farming campaign coordinator for Sustain, Vicki Hird - @vickihird - was at the event and wrote this short blog to describe the day:

Sustain was very pleased to co-sponsor an event with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agroecology, the Landworkers Alliance, CPRE, Soil Association and Organic Farmers and Growers and the Gaia Foundation in parliament this week showcasing some fantastic farmers and growers using agro-ecological and organic systems across their whole farm.

Soil samples showing benefits of agro-ecological approach shown at the event

The room was packed showing a strong interest in helping farming protect people and planet. Presentations and policy recommendations were made by farmers across the UK who are using agroecological practices to create a food system that restores and builds nature whilst producing healthy affordable food.

There was a display of photographs of agro-ecological farming and an amazing UK grown feast provided by UK farmers.

A great new resource from the Landworkers Alliance - Agroecology in Action - describes the work of 27 farmers, growers and communities putting agroecological principles into action and making it work economically, socially, and environmentally.

The amendments we are seeking for the ‘new’ Agriculture Bill - to be tabled in the next parliamentary session, after Brexit or General Election - includes a strong lobby for supporting such farmers and approaches.

This may be through financial grants and capital support as well as training and advice and facilitation for all farmers to adopt these systems.

This article also appears online at https://www.sustainweb.org/news/sep19_agroecologicalfarmers_inparliament/
https://agroecology-appg.org/
@APG_Agroecology

@APG_Agroecology

A new role at the Pasture Fed Livestock Association

OF&G provide the certification for the Pasture Fed scheme, which is owned by the PFLA. The Association have now secured funding to employ a person to help them with marketing the Pasture for Life mark for meat and dairy.

The Pasture Fed Livestock Association (PFLA) is seeking interest from individuals who can take a strong lead in delivering a new strategy that will see a significant increase in sales of Pasture for Life meat and dairy products. We would like to hear from people who have experience and proven success in some or all of the following:

- Growing retail markets
- Consumer communications
- The meat industry
- Growing a business
- Fundraising

This opportunity would suit someone with energy, enterprise and an absolute determination to move a small cutting-edge organisation into a real force in the market. The PFLA is a membership organisation of over 500 members, mainly farmers, who believe passionately in the benefits of rearing ruminants entirely from pasture. We have an IPO accredited certification scheme, Pasture for Life, and want to see our farmers’ certified produce on retail shelves. We currently have funding to bring in new sales/consumer/marketing facing skills to the organisation. Part of the job will be to secure the long-term financial security of this role and the future for the PFLA. We would like to hear what you think you can do for us.

For further information about the role please send an expression of interest by email to our Vice Chairman, Fidelity Weston at romshed@weald.co.uk by 13th October 2019.

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For your Organic Business
OF&G CEO's response to GM report on BBC Farming Today

During the week of 16 September the programme BBC Farming Today featured a look at GM crops. [https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qj8q/episodes/]

Our chief executive, Roger Kerr was invited on to the programme at the end of that week. Here he sums up his thoughts.

**Why would UK agriculture want to exclude 6 out of 10 consumers?**

On BBC Farming Today earlier this week, Bayer’s Mark Buckingham stated that genetic modification (GM) produces higher yields with less inputs. He also said it’s extremely popular and successful, and has a lower environmental impact with 8% less pesticides used globally on GM crops, which is equivalent to 16 million fewer cars on the road.

The reality is, a report from the National Academy of Sciences suggests over the last 20 years there was little evidence of yield increase beyond that seen in conventional crops.

And a recent YouGov survey for the Agricultural Biotechnology Council, of which Mr Buckingham is chairman, showed 57% of people rejected GM. So, why would UK agriculture want to exclude almost 6 out of 10 consumers? Also, a United States Geographical Survey showed that following the introduction of herbicide resistant GM there was a 33% reduction in fungicides and insecticides, but a 21% increase in herbicides. Over the same period in the EU, where GM is not allowed, insecticide and fungicide use fell by 65% and herbicide use by 36%.

Mr Buckingham claimed the use of GM was equivalent to removing 16 million cars worldwide but with global organic land area at almost 70 million hectares, the reduction in tractor passes from not using fertiliser or pesticides (using his methodology) would be equivalent to 1.7 billion cars worldwide, not to mention the greenhouse gas emissions savings that arise from the manufacture of artificial nitrogen.

Not searching for a silver bullet

The challenges that face the food system are complex and a ‘silver bullet’ like GM is not the answer. As NFU president Minette Batters has stated, “the conversation must be around a healthy, balanced diet and climate friendly food, not searching for a silver bullet.” The implications of GM economically, agronomically, environmentally and in terms of public health are all currently unavailable for independent peer reviewed analysis.

Why would organic farmers adopt such a technology when it’s simply input substitution where chemicals are substituted for genes (from chemical companies who now own the intellectual property for the genes)? It doesn’t avoid the use of chemicals or artificial fertiliser.

GM is effectively “business as usual” with the substitution of one input for another - something which everyone (including the UN and IPCC) agree is no longer an option.

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**Wales Real Food and Farming Conference - 11-12 November 2019**

The Wales Real Food and Farming Conference will welcome delegates and speakers from farm and food businesses, large and small, to directors of civil and private institutions including the Welsh Government, the RSA Food, Farming and Countryside Commission and the Sustainable Food Trust.

Dr. Sarah Watson-Jones is co-organiser of the conference and is project lead at conference lead sponsors BioInnovation Wales. Dr Watson-Jones said,

“The food and drink industry is currently worth nearly £7bn to the Welsh economy and many of its products are recognised for their excellence with Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status. A new £6.5m Circular Economy fund has just been announced to help businesses to better incorporate recycled materials into their products and become more environmentally sustainable.

The Wales Real Food and Farming Conference has come at a really important time, with our imminent departure from the EU and all the challenges that it will inevitably bring to the agri-food sector.”

Polly Davies farms in the Vale of Glamorgan,

“Really good food markets are building all across Britain. We’re busier than ever, now is a great time to be farming with nature and growing great food.

There are a lot of challenges, to make the most of the opportunities we are seeing there does need to be more support and more recognition of what farmers in Wales can do, with our food and for our environment.”

Conference co-organiser, Arfon Williams, RSPB Cymru said, “To really support our natural environment we must support our food producers. From farming to fisheries there is a lot of excellent food being produced and prepared here in Wales and it’s worth shouting about. With the economy and the climate and the uncertainty we all are facing this conference is a chance for our community to come together, be proud of what we all are doing and show how we can help each other.”

The conference will be held on the campus of Aberystwyth University.


Blogs and information available at - [https://wrffc.wales/](https://wrffc.wales/)

Full programme details will be released in early October.
Grain Prices:
**Courtesy of Andrew Trump, Organic Arable**

The feed market is slower than usual this season. Buyers have confidence in the supply and are buying to requirement as there remains uncertainty in the market due to Brexit. We lack clarity as to how organic certification equivalence with the EU may be impacted by a no-deal Brexit – the worst case scenario being that there would be a hiatus in equivalence impeding trade. This risk affects the dairy sector which relies upon EU milk processing making dairy feed sales less certain. It is ruminants that eat most UK sourced organic feed grains (with poultry relying to a far greater extent on imported supplies) and therefore dairy feed producers are seeing uncertainty from their customers which impacts their purchasing of feed grains. It is easier to sell milling wheat than feed wheat at present.

Malting barley is largely exported and with the possibility of a no deal Brexit and imposition of tariffs on entry into the EU at €90 there is little scope for any business as neither party wishes to risk this additional cost. This means there is a large volume of unsold malting barley on farm. If there is a further extension to the current relationship with the EU there will be a bun-fight to get malting barley sold and moved ahead of the new deadline. It is possible that this uncertainty will reduce value and see some of this grain move to the feed market. Whatever the outcome of Brexit the situation has highlighted the imbalance in production between the feed and human consumption markets. The high premiums the human consumption market has delivered over feed means fewer farmers are now feed grain producers which is the biggest market available. Strategically having a foot in both camps is beneficial as external influences can have a significant impact leaving producers with uncertainty.

Ex-farm price expectations: Feed wheat £250 - £255, Feed Barley, £250 - £255, Feed oats £235- £240, Milling Wheat £265 - £315, Malting Barley £n/a, Milling Oats £270 - £280

**Organic Livestock Trends: OLMC**

The challenges in marketing of all livestock are not any easier, whether they be organic or conventional. Our fate over future trade arrangements makes all food markets uncertain, stifling normal trading. However, it is pleasing to note that despite these problems the demand for organic beef gives the organic producer an average of 85p/kg dw premium over the conventional trade.

The demand for organic cull cows has been reasonable over the summer months and the numbers coming forward have been relatively low but we expect to see an increase in seasonal culling from the dairy sector as we come into the autumn period but normally speaking this time of the year usually fuels demand especially as we move closer towards increased kills for the Christmas period.

Although organic lambs were slow to come forward to start with at the beginning of the summer, prices have remained strong. It is only in the past few weeks with greater numbers coming onto the market that we have seen a slowdown in abattoir requirement. With kill numbers having been high so far this year it could indicate that there may be a shortage of organic lamb in the New Year.

For further information of the marketing of finished stock please call Tim Leigh on 01763 250313 or mobile 07850 366 404.

Organic store cattle have been in strong supply during the last three months due to producers and breeders having an over supply of grass during the very good growing season which has meant that producers have been more inclined to keep cattle rather than sell them. This is the complete opposite of what we experienced last year during the long hot and very dry summer.

I have been reporting since last summer of the need for cattle to be the correct weight for age. Cattle that were born in 2017 and grazed in 2018 experienced poor growth rates due to a shortage of grass but we are finding that cattle born in 2018 are lower in weight than they should be due to their dams being short of milk resulting in the calves not achieving their target weights at weaning. This has meant that we find ourselves at the end of a very good growing season but with some cattle that are below their weight for age because of the lack of grass in 2018. This problem manifests itself when cattle do not achieve the correct carcass weight and we have seen cattle 50 kg lighter than they should be at 30 months. This problem is predominantly found in native bred cattle.

Prices are lower than last year and this is entirely due to the fact that finished organic cattle prices have been subdued for some months. The indications are that organic finished cattle numbers will tighten in the New Year which should lift both the store and finished cattle prices. In addition the availability of forage will help finishers keep feed costs under control this winter.

We have experienced a number of “clean” heifers in calf in the last 6 months, over and above what we would normally find. Whilst we accept that an odd mistake can happen it really shouldn’t be occurring as much as it has been and the affect of young heifers calving or being flushed can be very detrimental to growth rates and viability of the stock.

We continue to look for more suppliers of organic store cattle particularly of quality stock. I’m always happy to discuss your cattle and give advice on marketing. David Bostock who markets the organic dairy stock for OLMC is also keen to find new organic dairy stock suppliers.

Peter Jones - Office: 01829 730580  
Mobile: 07720 892 922

David Bostock - Office: 01829 730580  
Mobile: 07734 808 050

Please view our stock available on www.peterjoneslivestock.co.uk
How organic farmers plan to become more efficient - Farmers Weekly

Edryd and Glenda Davies are making more from marginal mountain ground by mob and rotational grazing to improve grassland so they can operate a low-cost forage-based system and finish lambs off grass.

They run a flock of 570 breeding ewes at Cae-Iago, Machynlleth, Powys, supplying finished lambs to Waitrose through the supermarket's organic scheme.

Despite the unit's marginal land being predominantly rocks and bracken, they are stepping up forage production in an attempt to reduce costs, having been inspired by Farming Connect's Prosper from Pasture programme, which helps farmers develop their grassland management.

Cae-Iago's four-point plan

• Lime to lift the soil pH from the current pH5.6 to pH6.2
• Rotational graze 2.1ha in-bye
• Mob graze 80ha on mountain
• Annually under-sow 6ha new leys with triticale to suppress weeds.

The full article is available at - https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/hoe-an-organic-pioneer-delivers-top-crop-yield

How a tenant farm manages 3,200ha of Wiltshire grassland - Farmers Weekly

An organic ranch-style farming system is allowing a Wiltshire business to run 490 cows with just two labour units and create a rare and highly valued habitat in the process.

The Waight family farm arable and beef on a Ministry of Defence tenancy at Compton Farm, Enford, on the chalkland of the Salisbury Plain.

Working closely with the MoD and ecologists at Natural England, the crossbred herd grazes sensitive grassland, 70% of which is classed as a site of special scientific interest (SSSI).

The full article is available at - https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/how-a-tenant-farm-manages-3200ha-of-wiltshire-grassland

GM push will jeopardise markets

A no-deal Brexit could pave the way for a free-trade deal to be struck between the UK and the US, where genetically-modified crops are engineered for insect resistance or herbicide tolerance and widely grown.

In the event we believe there are economic and scientific issues to consider.

“The economic issues with GM relate to scale and market access. If UK agriculture adopts GM, then farmers will find they have to bring their costs of production in line with GM producers in the US and China.

“UK agricultural output is equivalent to just a tenth of that of the US and only 2% of Chinese agricultural output – the differences in scale are huge. And post-Brexit, we’ll be competing in global markets with some of the largest agricultural operations in the world.

“Also, some EU markets may be closed to GM products, so assuming a trade deal can be agreed, these higher-margin opportunities will be closed to UK producers.”

The full article is available here: https://www.fwi.co.uk/news/eu-referendum/gm-push-will-jeopardise-markets-warns-organic-body
Social Media

Many food businesses have a strong presence on non-mainstream media channels including Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

This includes farmers, food processing enterprises and brand holders.

OF&G are active on these platforms and we are happy to help wherever we can to amplify the message of your food and farming business.

Mark Lea, who farms in Shropshire and is licensed with OF&G, appeared as the farmer in residence on the Farmers Of The UK twitter account for the week beginning 23 September 2019.

Mark’s posts made excellent reading and he clearly described not simply his daily activities on the farm but also gave some context as to why he had chosen certain crops.

See examples here:
https://twitter.com/FarmersOfTheUK/status/1177904898836455426
https://twitter.com/FarmersOfTheUK/status/1177906079918940160?s=20

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

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

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<td>Dynamis Homeopathic Medicine</td>
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# 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

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<td><strong>Limousin x and Aberdeen Angus x store cattle</strong></td>
<td>Limousin cross and Aberdeen Angus cross store cattle for sale, please phone for further details.</td>
<td>Ray Calvert</td>
<td>01748 886412</td>
<td>Richmond, N Yorks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Galloway yearling and store cattle</strong></td>
<td>A range of organic quality Galloway's yearlings and stores for sale.</td>
<td>Mr Len Tabner</td>
<td>01287 640948</td>
<td>Saltburn by the sea, N Yorks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dexter Cattle</strong></td>
<td>Due to need to reduce size of herd</td>
<td>Marcus Staples</td>
<td>07721 658055</td>
<td>Horsham, West Sussex</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Hereford cattle for sale</strong></td>
<td>Home bred pedigree Cows and Bulling Heifers for sale.</td>
<td>Mark Steele</td>
<td>07717 366560</td>
<td>Pershore, Worcs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Charolais cross suckled calves for sale</strong></td>
<td>50 Charolais cross suckled calves around 7 months old, all out of proper beef cows, these are well grown good quality well bred calves. They are dehorned and done for black leg. If you don't want 50 will sell a smaller number.</td>
<td>Ian Smith</td>
<td>01566 86155</td>
<td>Altarnun, Cornwall</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cattle Housing available</strong></td>
<td>Cattle housing and grazing available/contract rearing for 200 cattle competitive rates.</td>
<td>Simon Hayes</td>
<td>07711 616303</td>
<td>Shifnal, Shrops</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hereford Heifers</strong></td>
<td>Eight Pedigree, rare breed, Traditional Hereford heifers (16 months) for sale. Top quality stock from the COW HALL organic herd of rugged Herefords from the Welsh Borders. Docile and easy to handle, producing the very best quality beef, our stock are ideal for starting a new herd in the lowlands or uplands on conservation sites. Shropshire 01588 640307 <a href="mailto:joy.greenall@greenall1.plus.com">joy.greenall@greenall1.plus.com</a></td>
<td>Joy Greenall</td>
<td>01588 640307</td>
<td>Craven Arms, Shrops</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hereford Bull</strong></td>
<td>Pedigree Hereford Bull. Cow Hall Sylvan Survivor born 04/06/17. He has excellent breeding and good conformation. He will suit a cross bred or pedigree Hereford beef herd or be an easy calving, docile bull to run with dairy cows. The Cow Hall herd of Traditional Herefords est. 1997, breeds tough, grass eating stock in the uplands of the Welsh borders. TB free, organic, grass fed.</td>
<td>Joy Greenall</td>
<td>01588 640307</td>
<td>Craven Arms, Shrops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Store cattle</strong></td>
<td>Nine Traditional Hereford store cattle for sale. 16 months old. From the Cow Hall herd of pedigree Herefords Est. 1997, TB free, easy to manage and top quality beef.</td>
<td>Joy Greenall</td>
<td>01588 640307</td>
<td>Craven Arms, Shrops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Devon Bull for sale</strong></td>
<td>Pedigree Devon Bull (Bagnel Plato) born March 2015. Lovely quiet temperament, reluctant sale due to daughters joining herd.</td>
<td>Charlie Morrish</td>
<td>07971 230728</td>
<td>Barnstaple, Devon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pedigree Charolais Bull for sale</strong></td>
<td>Charolais Bull (Northcoast icicle), born September 2013. EBV's in top 10%. BCCS Terminal Index +53. Sired by Blelack Digger, renowned for exceptional calving ease and growth rates. Used on my herd of Devon cows for past 5 years with no calving problems and producing well graded carcases.</td>
<td>Charlie Morrish</td>
<td>07979 758014</td>
<td>Castle Douglas, Wigtownshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Charolais X Suckled calves</strong></td>
<td>100 Charolais X suckled calves (6 - 9 months) for sale at Wallets Marts. Castle Douglas on Saturday 5th October. OF&amp;G registered</td>
<td>Alan</td>
<td>07892 570332</td>
<td>Hexham, Northumberland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aberdeen Angus x &amp; sim luing bulling heifers</strong></td>
<td>16-20 months old TB4 all BVD vaccinated in Premium Cattle Health Scheme</td>
<td>Philip Nixon</td>
<td>078023 73553</td>
<td>Hexham, Northumberland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>60 AAX &amp; HEX suckled calves</strong></td>
<td>60 AAX and HEX suckled calves for sale, approx 6 months old. Naturally done, well grown.</td>
<td>John Moffat</td>
<td>07789 352330</td>
<td>Ponteland, Northumberland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OTHER LIVESTOCK FOR SALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organic litter</strong></td>
<td>Poultry litter from laying hens approximately three ton per week.</td>
<td>John Richmond</td>
<td>07789 714749</td>
<td>Ballymoney, C antrim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chicken manure</strong></td>
<td>Chicken manure for sale in Builth Wells area.</td>
<td>Viv Powell</td>
<td>01982 570332</td>
<td>Llandrindod Wells, Powys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Turkeys</strong></td>
<td>Fully organic traditional turkeys available for Christmas. We are rearing a mixed herd of 5 breeds, Norfolk Black, Cambridge Bronze, Bourbon Red, Slate Blue, Narragansett and their cross breeds. Based in Staffordshire. Please get in touch for more information. Up to 40 available.</td>
<td>Katie Rubython</td>
<td>07753 801369</td>
<td>Newcastle under Lyne, Staffs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Making sure products are permitted within the OF&G Standards

The OF&G Certification Committee is an independent committee given authority by the OF&G Board of Directors to oversee the inspection and certification work of all OF&G registered operators to ensure decisions are taken in a consistent and impartial manner. The committee are also required to hear appeals, made by operators, against the decision of their certification officer. One of those such issues can be where a product or substance has been used that does not comply with the relevant sections of the organic standards, these products/substances can often be recommended by a consultant or sales-person often with an interest in selling a particular product.

The committee have asked that we remind all that, as the registered operator, it is your responsibility to ensure any products or substances that are used on or in your organic operation both comply with the standards and are permitted to be used.

OF&G operate an ‘Approved Input Scheme’ where such products are checked by the certification team for compliance with the organic standards and can then be marketed as being permitted for use or permitted for restricted use with prior authorisation.

If you have any questions please contact your certification officer.

Grass seed approvals and organic percentage

In early September, members of the Grass/Forage Seed Working Group met to discuss current state of affairs with availability of seeds and the 70% requirement for organic content within a grass and/or forage seed mixture.

The industry representatives noted that they were experiencing supply problems with certain types of grass, however, it also recommended that the amount of organic seed required in a mixture stay at 70% for the foreseeable future. If you are using a 70% organic grass and/or forage mixture you may purchase and sow this prior to applying for the necessary approvals. However, these must be obtained before your next inspection is due. If your seed supplier is unable to obtain a 70% organic mixture you must apply for approval to use the seed mixture prior to sowing. In order to gain approval you will need to supply evidence (agronomic justification) as to why the available organic varieties are not suitable.

Composted or Fermented Household Waste

In the May newsletter we informed operators of an amendment Defra have provided regarding the source of products permitted for use as Composted or Fermented Household Waste. As way of a reminder please note that Defra issued a guidance note stating, whilst compost and digestate from specific household collections is still permitted to be used the new interpretation permits the use of compost or digestate utilising feedstocks from ‘establishments generating waste similar to households’ this includes but is not limited to the production of ready-meals for retail operations; retailers that dispose of unsold food; mass catering operations including canteens, restaurants, takeaways.

In order to use a product the compost or AD plant must be registered under the respective PAS100, Compost Certification Scheme or PAS110, Biofertiliser Certification Scheme. When assessing any products for use on organic/converting land it is important to note that the organic regulation provides its own limits for the maximum concentration of certain substances (potentially toxic elements) and these are, in some areas, stricter than those defined in the PAS100 and PAS110.

As was previously the case the use of composted or fermented household waste must be approved by OF&G before the application of any products. You can do this by providing a completed copy of Record Sheet 9, a copy of the PAS100 or PAS110 certification and the latest analysis of the product (this must include the PTE results).
If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact your certification officer (CO).

**Fraudulent Certificates**
We have been alerted by the EOCC (European Organic Certifiers Council) to the presence of the following falsified ECOCERT Organic certificate that purports to have been issued to the following operator:

- Sofrens Exim Srl in Romania to process and export dried pomegranate seeds

**Withdrawal of Certificates**
We have also been notified by the EOCC of the withdrawal of Organic certification of the following operators in Moldova:

- ELEVATOR KELLEY GRAINS (Primary production of Cereals and Industrial crops, legumes)
- TERRASEM GRUP LLC (Primary production of Cereals and Industrial crops, legumes)
- WETRAGE AGRO LLC (Primary production & Exporter of Cereals and Industrial crops, legumes)

**Sampling of Products**
We previously notified operators of the requirement as a Control Body to take samples of organic products as part of the European Organic Regulation.

OF&G are required to take samples equivalent to 5% of our total number of Processor and Producer licensees. The samples are tested to detect products that are not permitted within organic systems.

Inspectors will be asking to take samples during annual inspections and it is a legal requirement for this to take place.

If there is any residue detection in any product samples you will be informed and your certification officer will conduct an investigation. We will need to decide whether the product should be detained whilst the investigation takes place. Defra, in cooperation with the UK Control Bodies, has accepted The Bundesverband Naturkost Naturwaren Herstellung und Handel e. V or BNN as being the level of detection over which products must be held whilst the investigation takes place.

Where a residue is detected below the BNN values the organic product will not normally need to be held whilst the investigation takes place. Where a residue detection is above the levels described in the BNN the organic products must be placed on hold and may not be marketed as organic whilst the investigation is completed.

Regardless of the level of residue your CO will require you to supply information relating to the products.

**First consignees**
Due to many queries regarding the role of a 1st Consignee when importing organic product from outside of the EU we need to point out that the 1st Consignee is required to be certified by a Control Body.

They are also required to register on Traces NT and complete the relevant Box on the EC Certificate of Inspection. The 1st consignee is the person who receives the consignment and opens/ checks the product on arrival. Inspectors will be checking this on your EC Certificate of Inspection.

Please be aware that if the 1st consignee is not certified the inspector is required to raise this as a non compliance (NC).

**Notification when importing from a restricted country**
Operators MUST notify OF&G when importing product from the following restricted countries: Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, China and Ukraine. This is including Cereals, products of milling, malt, starches, inulin, wheat gluten, oil seeds and oleaginous fruits. Its does not include soya.

We are required to see copies of the additional testing that should be conducted on arrival. Please can you ensure that you notify your Certification Officer when this takes place.

Our inspectors will be asking about this during your inspection.

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**Staff News**

**Jon Pryce**
Many operators will now know our newest member of the processing team, Jon Pryce, who has been with us since the start of the year.

Jon attended Lancaster University in the early 1990’s completing a degree in Biological Sciences, specialising in microbiology and animal physiology.

After graduating Jon took a position in the chemistry lab for Muller where he stayed for a number of years. After his time at Muller it seemed a career change was needed and Jon completed a PGCE in secondary science leading him to teaching science subjects as well as some English and French.

Following his time in the education sector Jon moved back in to manufacturing and microbiology with Premier Foods making such notable childhood favourites as Angel Delight!

From here he moved to Chequer Foods now known as CustomPack where they produced bespoke packaging solutions for not only food but also medicine.

In his spare time Jon enjoys swimming and yoga but his real passion is for a round of golf. He can be seen most weekends on the courses of Shropshire where he plays of a healthy handicap of 6 although he’s looking to get that down to 5 before the end of the year.

Jon has a wealth of experience and knowledge and I’m sure that will be most invaluable as we allocate him more processors over the coming months.
# Classified Advertisements

## Sept 2019 Issue 125

For your Organic Business

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## 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SHEEP FOR SALE</strong></th>
<th><strong>Please phone for further details</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ray Calvert</strong></th>
<th><strong>01748 886412</strong></th>
<th><strong>Richmond, N. Yorks</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Of England Mule ewe lambs</td>
<td>Please phone for further details.</td>
<td>Ray Calvert</td>
<td>01748 886412</td>
<td>Richmond, N. Yorks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swaledale ewe lambs</td>
<td>Please phone for further details.</td>
<td>Ray Calvert</td>
<td>01748 886412</td>
<td>Richmond, N. Yorks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 chx Organic store lambs for sale</td>
<td>300 store lambs ch x lleyn Dinas Mawddwy mid Wales</td>
<td>Elwyn Jones</td>
<td>01650 531330</td>
<td>Machynlleth, Powys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 Pedigree Lleyn yearling ewes</td>
<td>Pedigree Lleyn yearlings run dry. MV accredited, Signet recorded, heptavac and footvax</td>
<td>Tim</td>
<td>07432 190368</td>
<td>Bromyard, Herefordshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Pedigree Poll Dorset ewe lambs</td>
<td>20 Pedigree Poll Dorset ewe lambs for sale. Born in March 2019. MV accredited. Heptavac P plus system. Please contact me for more details.</td>
<td>Fred-MacGregor Farming Partnership</td>
<td>07719 488504</td>
<td>Norwich, Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Pedigree Poll Dorset ram lambs</td>
<td>4 Pedigree Poll Dorset ram lambs for sale. MV accredited. Heptavac P Plus system. Born: 26/2/19, 27/2/19, 4/3/19, 8/3/19. All well grown and ready for work this autumn. Please contact me for more details.</td>
<td>Fred-MacGregor Farming Partnership</td>
<td>07719 488504</td>
<td>Norwich, Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberfield breeding ewelambs</td>
<td>200 Organic Aberfield cross breeding ewelambs. Out of Highlander ewes and sired by Elite Aberfield rams. Born in April from closed outdoor lambing flock. Happy to split, discount for larger amounts.</td>
<td>Phil Cowcher</td>
<td>07817 737602</td>
<td>Llandysul, Ceredigion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 Highlander breeding ewelambs</td>
<td>200 Organic Highlander breeding ewelambs. From Elite Highlander rams. Born in April from closed outdoor lambing flock. Happy to split, discount for larger amounts.</td>
<td>Phil Cowcher</td>
<td>07817 737602</td>
<td>Llandysul, Ceredigion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic Store lambs for sale</td>
<td>Approximately 70-100 Organic registered and farm assured store lambs. Texel cross born April 2019.</td>
<td>Mr Len Tabner</td>
<td>01287 640948</td>
<td>Saltburn by the sea, N. Yorks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top quality New Zealand Romney shearlings for sale</td>
<td>100 New Zealand Romney shearlings for sale from Shimpling Park Farms. Out of top WairereUK rams and selected from twin bearing ewes. Farm Assured and organically certified. Ready for collection.</td>
<td>Robert Spink</td>
<td>07935 302873</td>
<td>Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Blue Texel x shearlings for sale</td>
<td>7 Organic Blue texel x 2018 shearlings for sale. Sale due to flock reduction, home bred. From an outdoor lambing flock. Farm assured and registered organic with QWFC. Combinex and Vetrazine on 15/08/19. Viewing is welcome. Can deliver, message for costing. Prefer them to stay together but could split.</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>07817 786087</td>
<td>Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Black Welsh x Blue Texel shearlings for sale</td>
<td>15 Organic Blue texel x Black welsh 2018 shearlings for sale. Sale due to flock reduction, home bred. From an outdoor lambing flock, good cross for lambing outdoors with good confirmation. Farm assured and registered organic with QWFC. Combinex and Vetrazine on 15/08/19. Viewing is welcome. Can deliver, message for costing. Prefer them to stay together but could split.</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>07817 786087</td>
<td>Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easycare Ewes, Gimmers &amp; Ewe lambs</td>
<td>100 Mixed Age Ewes &amp; 45 Gimmers available. Ruthlessly selected for easy lambing, good constitution and performance from pasture. Run in a paddock grazing system.</td>
<td>Charley Walker</td>
<td>07825 838924</td>
<td>Duns, Berwickshire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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For your Organic Business
SHEEP FOR SALE

8 Badgerface Torddu x shearlings for sale
8 Organic Badgerface torddu x 2018 shearlings for sale. Sale due to flock reduction, home bred. From an outdoor lambing flock, good for lambing outdoors with good confirmation. Farm assured and registered organic with QWFC. Combinex and Vetrazine on 15/08/19. Viewing is welcome. Can deliver, message for costing. Prefer them to stay together but could split.

4 Texel x shearlings for sale
4 Organic Texel x 2018 shearlings for sale. Sale due to flock reduction, home bred. From an outdoor lambing flock, from a Blue Texel sire. Farm assured and registered organic with QWFC. Combinex and Vetrazine on 15/08/19. Viewing is welcome. Can deliver, message for costing.

NZ Romney ewe lambs
250 April born ewe lambs, will split

Organic Ewes
200 ewes easy care x chev 55 apearece

Organic North of England Mule Gimmer Lambs

Store lambs
Organic store lambs texel x 300 to 400 available ovivac p vaccinated

Welsh Mule Ewe Lambs
Selling both white faced and coloured ewe lambs. Open to offers

150 - 200 Easycare store Lambs
We have for sale, some well bred shearlings. All were twin born from a grass/forage only, outdoor lambing system. Please ring for more information on the breeding and price. Bucks area.

130 Organic Lleyn X Shearing's for sale

Store lambs
150 store lambs healthy stock

Ewe lambs
80 Improved welsh ewe lambs, born in April

organic store lamb
Organic cheviot x lamb for sale. Please ring for details

DAIRY CATTLE FOR SALE

10x Autumn calving Organic Pedigree Br.Friesian Heifers
Due from the end of August, select from a group. Buy now or when calved. 2yr. old , by high daughter fertility, AI and home bred sires. In-calf to B Fr out-cross home bred bulls and ped A/Angus Sweeper bull. IBR and Lepto vaccinated. Johnes and BVD screened herd. TB clear, 4yr testing area. 6000ltr [305] 4.1% and 3.5% block calving closed herd.

Fresh milking Heifers
Fresly calved Friesian Holstein heifers from Denmark, high health status. currently milking very well 28-45kgs. Price includes delivery

3 Organic in-calf holstein friesian heifers, Cumbria TB4
3 Organic in-calf holstein friesian heifers from herd averaging 8700 litres. In calf to easy calving stabiliser bull due 4/9/19 onwards.

16 Organic In Calf Holstein Friesian Heifers For Sale
In calf to Pedigree Aberdeen Angus Bull, due approximately November 2019, from herd averaging 8,000 kgs, vaccinated for Leptospirosis, BVD, Blackleg, Huskvac, regular Johnies testing. Farm Assured.

MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Cattle stalls for sale
20 old style steel cubing cattle stalls available.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORAGE &amp; FEEDSTUFFS FOR SALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Haylage for sale</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Meadow Hay</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Hay</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organic round bale hay for sale</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>500 + Round bales Organic silage/ Haylage for sale</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Haylage</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fodder Beet available from October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Meadow hay sale in Bucks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ground Beans for sale</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Square bale silage</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Grass/ Clover Silage</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>20 Round Bales Organic Silage</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>80 Organic Round bale wheat straw</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organic barley, Wheat and Beans for Sale</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organic feed Wheat</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Beans</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Round Bales Silage Armagh N.I</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meadows Hay in Big Squares</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Baled Forage Clearance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June meadow hay</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SHEEP WANTED

Organic Lambs Required
Dalehead Foods are looking for organic finished lambs & organic store lambs, from Jan-June. If you would be interested in supplying or being an organic finisher, email lambsupplychain@dalehead.co.uk

OLMC are looking for store lambs
The Organic Livestock Marketing Co-operative (OLMC) are looking for store lambs throughout the UK

MISCELLANEOUS WANTED

Herd Manager
We are seeking a herd manager for a new organic dairy farm in West Dorset. May suit a couple. Accommodation available to the right applicant. Salary negotiable. Please send CV to charlie@unless.co.uk

ORGANIC FARMS WANTED
Are you looking for a second income? Organic Farms wanted to grow Organic Chicken. 10 acres required per farm with long term growing contracts.

Local to Shaftesbury Organic Providers
We have been asked to source local organic producers who would be interested in supplying the following quantities on a weekly/monthly basis to a school in Shaftesbury September - July inclusive.

WINTER ORGANIC GRASS NEEDED
I want sheep grazing/track for winter, anywhere considered. I am in mid wales.

LAND & GRAZING WANTED

Organic meadow hay and silage for sale
Organic meadow hay and silage for sale. Large round bales. Delivery can be arranged.

Items wanted

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