

# Technical Newsletter

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Welcome to the second OF&G newsletter of 2004. We hope you find it useful. All of the information in this issue will be important to some if not all licensees, so please read through carefully to see what affects you. We're always keen to hear from you so don't hesitate to talk to us if you need to.

## GENERAL NEWS

### Display material

Here at OF&G we're proud of what we do and what our name and logo stand for. That's why we're encouraging more and more licensees to put that brand to work for them. A lot of work is now being done to raise the profile of OF&G and you will increasingly see us in the media (did you hear our Chairman, Richard Thompson, on Five Live recently?). This also means that all of our licensees will benefit from the strength of that brand and what it stands for – practicality and rigorous defence of our organic standards and credentials.

As well as encouraging all licensees to use our name and logo on their products, farm gates and shop windows, we'd like to know what other types of display material you would like to see. Would a laminated copy of your certificate, to put on clear display, be useful? Would you benefit from OF&G-branded stickers, or bags? Drop any of us a line or give us a call to let us know.

We already have gate signs for certified farms and window stickers for shops, which we're happy to supply. Please just ask.

### Hints & Tips

Have you got your OF&G gate sign on show at your farm?

If you don't have one just give us a call and we will send one out to you.

### Contact us

**Phone:**

0845 330 5122

**Fax:**

0845 330 5123

**E-Mail:**

info@organicfarmers.uk.com

**Website:**

www.organicfarmers.uk.com

### Free listing for your business and produce

OF&G licensees are being offered the chance of a free listing in a new website aimed at putting suppliers in touch with customers.

The site, [www.organicuk.org](http://www.organicuk.org), contains comprehensive listings on products, producers, processors and retailers which users of the site can find simply by searching on their postcode.

OrganicUK already has large amounts of information, and you might find your business is already listed. If so, all you need to do is supply details of your products and your entry will be completed. The site is not yet live, so to access it you need to enter the password 'orguk\_02' (without the quote marks).

Have a look for your listing and if you can't find it, or you would like to update it, contact the site owner, Graham Crisford, with your details by emailing [enquiry@organicuk.org](mailto:enquiry@organicuk.org) or writing to PO Box 5779, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 8ZS.

[Please note that Organic Farmers & Growers is in no way affiliated with [www.organicuk.org](http://www.organicuk.org), although we are happy to make you aware of its services.]





## Email addresses from licencees

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Many of us use email and the internet now. We certainly make good use of both at OF&G. As well as being quick and efficient, email saves trees; that's why we would like to use it more. If you are using email at home or in your business and would prefer to be contacted that way, we would be delighted to receive your email address.

To let us know, simply send a message to [info@organicfarmers.uk.com](mailto:info@organicfarmers.uk.com) with your name and postcode or licence number in the body of the email and 'My email' in the subject line. We can then add your email address to our records and contact you that way whenever it's more convenient to do so.

# TECHNICAL NEWS FOR PRODUCERS

## Green waste composting

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Local councils are now encouraging farmers to compost green waste from municipal collection schemes in a bid to reduce landfill which wastes resources and produces greenhouse gases. OF&G supports efforts to recycle and improve sustainability, so has produced a Technical Leaflet on Green Waste Composting to provide initial guidance to farmers considering this as an option. A copy of the technical leaflet is included with this newsletter.

Be aware however that the legislation is currently being amended by DEFRA, so take advice from the Environment Agency and the very helpful On-Farm Composting Network based at Harper Adams (see the Tech leaflet for contact details).

## Joint inspections available through EFSIS

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At the same time as your annual inspection you can also be inspected for the assurance schemes listed below:

FABBL; FABBL crop; Assured pig scheme; FAWL; Assured produce.

For further information or to request a joint inspection please contact your certification officer at OF&G.

# TECHNICAL NEWS FOR PROCESSORS

## New Processing Certification Officer

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OF&G is delighted to welcome its latest Certification Officer on board this month. New team member Nicola Strudwick will be working on the ever-growing processing side of the organisation, alongside Processing Certification and Development Manager, Caroline Cheyne.

Nicola has a good pedigree in the food industry having worked for some of the largest flavourings companies and has specialist knowledge of supplying flavourings for organic food, among her many skills.

She said: "I'm really pleased to have joined OF&G at what is a really exciting time for the business. I've worked throughout the food industry and not always believed in what I was doing. Organic food is something I really believe in and I will be working hard for OF&G's licensees."

## Defra residue survey

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Thanks for the responses received. We have passed these on to Defra as requested. We will keep you informed through these pages of any further developments in this area. For those of you interested there is a very good critique of the limitations of GM testing in Elm Farm Research Centre's bulletin no: 72, March 2004.



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## Staff News

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There have been a few changes in staff at the OF&G offices since the last newsletter. Stephen Belton has moved on to pastures new. OF&G is at present considering applications for a replacement in the Business Manager's post. Richard Jacobs is currently overseeing day-to-day running of the offices.

Jenny Poole, Senior Certification Officer, left us on 2<sup>nd</sup> April after deciding to move to New Zealand to further her career. Stephen Clarkson has taken on the role of Senior Certification Officer. Jenny Bibb starts work on 14<sup>th</sup> April as a trainee Certification Officer and will be taking over Jenny Poole's producer licences. More about Jenny in the next newsletter.

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## Miscellaneous items

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### **Welsh Black Cattle Society enjoys success**

*(This information has been provided by the Welsh Black Cattle Society)*

The Organic Club of the Welsh Black Cattle Society is continuing to enjoy success in promoting the breed.

The club was started in January 2001 and has Welsh Development Agency funding to run until December this year. A membership of more than 70 has built up, with around 20 members regularly attending meetings and the rest staying in touch by newsletter.

The meetings have been addressed by a number of high profile speakers and members have achieved significant amounts of publicity for the breed.

One of the club's most notable achievements has been to work with OF&G and SA Cert to certify markets to sell and buy organic cattle along with pedigree Welsh Black cattle, without losing their organic status. This has promoted open and free bidding, with a buoyant trade for organic cattle in the 2003 Autumn sales.

The club works with the Organic Centre Wales and with both IGER and ADAS.

More information on the club and the future role of Welsh Black cattle in organic beef production is available from the club office on 01982 551111.

### **Courses on offer at the Netherfield Centre**

*(This information has been provided by the Netherfield Centre)*

Advice, information and training are available to farmers in Sussex and the surrounding counties courtesy of The Netherfield Centre for Sustainable Food and Farming.

The centre opened its doors in April 2003 and offers a wide range of help with sustainable farming initiatives, as well as a variety of one-day training courses, including one on organic farming, covering principles, conversion, management of an organic farm and opportunities for marketing.

More information is available on the Centre's website at [www.thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk](http://www.thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk) or by calling its co-ordinator, Topsy Jewell, on 01424 775615.

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### **Borage Seed Production**

Growers required for borage seed production on buy back contract fixed price. Yorks/Lincs preferred but not essential. Preferably minimum of 25 acres. Seed provided and full advice with visits free of charge. Low input crop, ideal for organic. Careful management to control subsequent volunteers required. Planting anytime April to mid May. Contact Phillip Clayton. Tel: 01652 678661 or email pbcenterpr@aol.com. (posted 05/04/04)

### **Land for rent**

For Rent. Organic land with irrigation, suitable for vegetable production, near Winchester, Hampshire. Contact. R Cowen. Tel: 01962 763907 or 07970 088834. Hampshire. (posted 11/03/04)

### **2004 Organic and Biodynamic Horticulture and Herb Production Open Days**

BOOKINGS - To book for these events, please call Jan Welch at Duchy College on 01579 372289.

For any programme-related questions call Pat Fleming on 01364 631233 or email pat@organicherbs.biz

These events are organised by VTS, which is a DEFRA funded initiative under the England Rural Development Programme in conjunction with Pat Fleming of SW Organic Herb Growers.



### For Sale

Organic forage and sheep grazing land available.  
Contact Mr Williams. Tel: 01239 682633. Ceredigion (posted 27/02/04)

8 store pigs, organic pure bred Tamworth, 8 weeks old.  
Contact P Reid. Tel: 01367 820272 or 07799 833115. Oxfordshire. (posted 05/03/04)

Beef Shorthorn organic cows and calves, pure bred or 3/4 bred.  
Contact P Reid. Tel: 01367 820272 or 07799 833115 Oxfordshire. (posted 05/03/04)

Store cattle organic, 6-14 months old, pure or 3/4 bred Beef Shorthorn.  
Contact P Reid. Tel: 01367 820272 or 07799 833115. Oxfordshire. (posted 05/03/04)

5 freshly calved/down calving good quality Guernseys from healthy herd, 3 heifers and 2 second calvers. Fully organic, pedigree. £650 each.  
Contact Peter Jenkins. Tel: 01963 23657. Dorset. (posted 16/03/04)

45 acres organic land.  
Contact Mr Davies. Tel: 01239 810466. Ceredigion (posted 17/03/04)

Suffolk cross mule ewe lambs with charolais cross lambs at foot.  
Contact Mr Geggie. Tel: 01562 710967. West Midlands (posted 30/03/04)

Organic grass keep, 51 acres. Available for 6 months from May to October, cattle and sheep. Contact Angus Snow. Tel: 01686 688262. Newtown area (posted 30/03/04)

Organic aftermath, 14 acres. Available August onwards for sheep.  
Contact Angus Snow. Tel: 01686 688262. Newtown area. (posted 30/03/04)

Organic haylage. Small square conventional bales, 45 kilo, £3.50 collected. Large round bales, £12 collected. Can deliver but will incur charge.  
Contact Mr Williams. Tel: 01239 831867. Pembrokeshire. (posted 30/03/04)

6 Pedigree registered Red Devon heifers 16 months old. Converted breeding stock.  
Contact Brian Button. Tel: 01747 838289. Dorset (posted 05/04/04)

### 90 ORGANIC AYRSHIRES

Being the dispersal of the entire herd of 52 Cows and Heifers In-milk and In-calf, 13 In-calf Heifers and 25 Youngstock on behalf of James Bennett & Son, New Carr Farm, Turnditch, Derbyshire. This is a most genuine herd that displays superb type. Sires include Round Bush Commander, Calderglen Vice Captain, Pant Solid Gold, Takasen Mali, Brocklehill Observer, Dilham BJ, Bargower Harvest Gold, Hitcham Ivan, Bigginvale Bright Knight and Knowe Willy Boy. The herd is not milk recorded but current costings show an average of 4838kg 4.27%F 3.38%P with the latest milk statement showing a milk quality of 3.90%F 3.07%P cc80. For sale by Auction on Farm together with a range of Machinery on Tuesday 4th May 2004 at 10.30am. For Further Details contact the Bagshaws Auctioneers, Meg Elliott on 07967 007049 or Mr Jim Bennett on 01335 372183 or 07747 178739

### Wanted

Organic Hay and Silage. Contact Organic Farming (Castle Acre) Ltd.  
Tel: 01760 755380. Norfolk. (posted 05/03/04)

Over-wintering land, organic or in conversion, for at least 150 hogs. Preferably Cumbria, Durham or North Lancashire. Needed from mid September 2004 until the end of March 2005. Contact Mrs Wilson. Tel: 01833 640791.

Wanted to rent, organic grazing land for replacement dairy animals. Contact Mr Wilson.  
Tel: 01994 453662. Pendine, Camarthenshire. (posted 30/03/04)

Organic straw preferably in small bales. Contact Simon Webber. Tel: 01684 569948. Worcestershire. (posted 30/03/04)

Big baled quality organic wheat straw for use in Norfolk/Suffolk area. Contact Strulch Ltd. Tel: 01943 865285. (posted 30/03/04)

### Organic Farmers and Growers

Elim Centre  
Lancaster Road  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 3LE

**Phone:**  
0845 330 5122

**Fax:**  
0845 330 5123

**E-Mail:**  
info@organicfarmers.uk.com

### The Practical Organisation for Organic Certification

*We're on the Web!*

*See us at:*

**[www.organicfarmers.uk.com](http://www.organicfarmers.uk.com)**