

# Technical Newsletter

## GENERAL NEWS

### Contents:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Update re seeds:<br>Potato Seeds   | 2 |
| 50% Grass Clover /<br>50% Forage Mixtures  | 2 |
| Approved non-organic<br>feeds must be used for<br>converting/<br>organic animals | 2 |
| Environmental<br>Stewardship Scheme  | 2 |
| Ion Exchange   | 3 |
| Checks on recipes of<br>ingredients  | 3 |
| Organic Grain Group  | 3 |
| Events/Awards  | 4 |



It has been a busy but productive couple of months for OF&G and here we present a round-up of what we've been up to on your behalf:

### Face to face with the minister

At the beginning of August OF&G sat down with organic farming minister, Ben Bradshaw, giving us the opportunity to raise a number of pressing issues.

OF&G Chairman, Richard Thompson, Patron, Charles Peers, and Business Manager, Richard Jacobs, spoke candidly to the minister over lunch at OF&G licensee Richard Balsdon's Sorley Farm, in Kingsbridge, Devon.

The minister used the opportunity to launch Defra's 'Organic Action Plan – Two Years On' document. Among the issues raised by OF&G was the proposed end to the flock size and stocking rates derogation currently threatening the organic egg industry. This was the latest move by OF&G in its lobbying on the issue.

Richard Jacobs said: "We were delighted that the minister was genuinely listening to our point of view on a number of issues and we are very grateful to the Balsdon's for hosting an excellent day."

### National Survey results cause a stir

OF&G recently announced the results of our National Benchmark Survey of Organic Food Production, receiving wide coverage in the national media and farming press.

The main thrust of the results of this, the biggest survey of its kind undertaken in this country, paints a worrying picture of uncertainty about the future among many in the industry. While the market for organic food may be growing, large numbers of producers are uncertain of their place in the market in the years to come.

Farming Minister, Ben Bradshaw, was handed the first copy of the survey results and we urge all licensees to take a look at the report and its recommendations. Copies can be downloaded from the OF&G website, at <http://www.organicfarmers.uk.com>, where you can also view our press release on the issue, in our 'News' section.

The details of the report have been featured in a wide range of national and regional media, including Radio Four, Farmers Weekly, Farmers Guardian, Daily Mail, Independent, Financial Times, Country Life and many more places.

### Important news for farmers with ESA Scheme Agreements

OF&G have been informed by Defra that organic farmers with existing Environmental Stewardship Agreements (ESA) will not be able to enter the Entry Level Scheme (ELS) or the Organic Entry Level Scheme (OELS), due to start in January 2005, until their ESA agreement has run its course.

Defra are recommending that any organic farmer who is in an ESA should apply to join the Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) Maintenance Payments option before it closes in January 2005 and is replaced by the OELS. There are no environmental obligations on this maintenance payment scheme so it does not require a reassessment of the ESA payment rates. It will not matter that the OFS and ESA agreements do not run concurrently as it will be possible to switch from the OFS to an OELS agreement when the ESA agreement ends.

Any farmers who feel that they may be affected by these changes should contact Defra Crewe on 01270 754122.

### Contact us

**Phone:**  
0845 330 5122

**Fax:**  
0845 330 5123

**E-Mail:**  
[info@organicfarmers.uk.com](mailto:info@organicfarmers.uk.com)

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





## TECHNICAL NEWS FOR PRODUCERS

### Update re seeds: Potato Seed

Please be aware that if you are intending to produce organic potatoes next season you should order your organic potato seed in good time (January/February) in order to ensure that you get the best quality of organic seed available. Any licensee ordering late should be aware that if the variety that they want to use is not available as organic the non-organic stock may be from treated seed which cannot be used on organic farms.

#### Home Saved Seed

Defra have now confirmed that we can grant derogations to use home-saved seed from land in the second year of conversion. If you are intending to use home-saved seed please send in a derogation application and get this approved before sowing.

### 50% Grass Clover / 50% Forage Mixtures

We regularly receive derogation requests for the use of 50% organic forage mixtures. These are the mixtures that can be sown prior to getting a derogation, but a derogation must be obtained before the following inspection. There has been some confusion over how a forage mixture is defined so the following definition has been provided for your information:

The 50% approach should apply to unharvestable mixes only. Unharvestable mixes are those sown for harvesting together for forage use, are not intended for combine harvesting and must contain species from at least two of the following group:

cereals      clovers      grasses      brassicas      pulses      others e.g. oil seeds

This does not include cereal/clover mixes where the cereal is combined (as in undersowing). Please also note that two different varieties of the same species, e.g. an organic and a non-organic vetch do not qualify as a forage mixture.

### Approved non-organic feeds must be used for converting/organic animals

We are still coming across producers that have been using non-approved feeds for their organic/converting livestock. This is not compliant with the standards (OF&G Control Manual 8.4.24) and will result in the loss of status for the livestock involved. Please note that if you are feeding a brought-in non-organic blend or compound to your sim-con or organic livestock, it must be an 'approved non-organic feed'. The feed label will state on it 'approved non-organic feed' and clearly show which certification body has approved the feed. This also applies if you are a dairy producer who has been given a non-compliance to feed over the 10% non-organic allowance.

If you are not sure if the feed you are using or want to use is compliant with the standards please contact your Certification Officer - a few minutes telephone call could save you and us a lot of frustration in the long run.

### Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Environmental Stewardship is due to be launched in 2005 to replace Defra's existing agri-environment schemes. It will comprise an 'Entry Level' (ELS) and a 'Higher Level' Scheme (HLS) Environmental Stewardship (ES) Scheme - Registering Land Prior to Application ([cid:156372816@14072004-197f](mailto:cid:156372816@14072004-197f))

All land to be entered into the ES scheme must be registered on the Rural Land Register (RLR), and applications cannot be processed unless farmers have registered their land with the RPA in advance. This includes non-agricultural land such as woodland, scrub, grass tracks, and other marginal areas, and applies to both Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS).

The registration process will be fully publicised in the autumn. However, farmers landowners and their advisers can register land with the RPA now in order to avoid future delays in applying to ES.

Land under existing agri-environment agreements is currently being digitized by RDS, and no action is needed to register these fields.

Anyone interested in ES who has unregistered land that he wishes to register should take the following action: Contact the local RPA IACS section who will forward an IACS22 form for completion. Full details are provided in guidance booklet IACS23 which also provides a list of RPA contacts and can be viewed at the following web address [www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/regulat/forms/iacs/iacs23.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/regulat/forms/iacs/iacs23.pdf)



# TECHNICAL NEWS FOR PROCESSORS

## Ion Exchange

We have a final Ruling from Defra on the use of Ion Exchange and products from Ion Exchange as Processing Aids. Ion Exchange has never been allowed for ingredients but the status as a Processing Aid has now been clarified. The EU authorities have decided to **NOT** allow this practice. They have given us time to inform you and to reformulate any products that have been using Ion Exchange or the products of Ion Exchange. Please contact Caroline on Tel: 0845 330 5122 Ext. 233 or [caroline@organicfarmers.uk.com](mailto:caroline@organicfarmers.uk.com) if you have any concerns over this.

## Checks on receipts of ingredients

There have been two recent incidences that arose during annual inspections where delivery notes and products labels had not been fully checked at goods intake. This led to products made from those goods having to be sold as non-organic because there was no proof that the delivered ingredients were organic. Organic ingredients must be labelled with the mark of their certification body and this must be checked upon receipt of goods. Accompanying documents (i.e. delivery notes) must also state that the goods are organic. Goods that are not properly labelled and documented should be refused at the point of delivery.

# MISCELLANEOUS

## Gleadell Agriculture's Organic Grain Group

Set up only three years ago, Gleadell Agriculture's Organic Grain Group now has over 50 members operating from South West England to Scotland. The objective of this marketing group is to strengthen and simplify the route to the market place for organic grain by acting as a partner between producer and processor. Working closely with millers, maltsters, feed compounders and major mill and mixers, the Group is able to offer its members premium markets for their produce – often through supply agreements and buy-back contracts.

OF&G's Chairman, Richard Thompson, Cottingham, East Yorkshire, is a member of the Group's steering committee. He says, "I support initiatives such as this that forge closer links between farmers and end users."

The UK organic grain market is the most 'import dependent' within the EU, with demand outstripping supply. As traders of organic produce since 1986, and the first grain merchant to receive organic registration, Gleadell Agriculture are involved with several Government and European supported initiatives that are actively encouraging more cereal growers into conversion. Operating nationally, the Lincolnshire-based company has two full time organic grain traders and a network of storage facilities.

For further details contact Brian Wilburn on 01427 421223 or email [brian.wilburn@gleadell.co.uk](mailto:brian.wilburn@gleadell.co.uk) or visit [www.gleadell.co.uk](http://www.gleadell.co.uk)

### List of Organic Grain Merchants

| COMPANY  | ADDRESS  | CONTACT DETAILS                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Gleadell Agriculture   | Lindsey House, Hemswell Cliff,<br>Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 5 <sup>TH</sup> | T: 01427 421223<br>F: 01427 421 230 |
| Dalgety Agriculture  | Moreton Mill, Moreton, Ongar, Essex, CM5<br>OPD                                    | T: 01277 890341<br>F: 01277 890541  |
| John Norton Grain Trading  | Castlings Heath Cottage, Groton, Sudbury,<br>Suffolk, CO10 5ES                     | T: 01787 210899<br>F: 01787 211737  |
| Organic Arable Marketing Group<br>(Contact person: Andrew Trump) | Elm Farm Research Centre, Hamstead<br>Marshall, Nr Newbury, Berkshire RG20 0HR     | T: 01488 657600<br>F: 01488 658503  |
| Mole Valley Farmers  | Huntworth Mill, Marsh Lane, Bridgewater,<br>Somerset, TA6 6LQ                      | T: 01278 444829<br>F: 01278 446923  |
| Saxon Agriculture  | The Old Forge, Church Road, East Walton,<br>Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1PP          | T: 01760 338338<br>F: 01760 338822  |

For information on crop marketing contact The Organic Grain Link Tel: 01787 210966



## Restaurant Show Olympia 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Sept

The Restaurant Show is an opportunity to reach Restaurants who wish to buy organic ingredients. Two OF&G Processors are attending and the show organisers are looking at having a branded OF&G area which may be more affordable (about £400). To find out more contact Zena at the Restaurant Show on 0208 565 4351.

## BBC Radio Food & Farming Awards 2004

Information on these awards, which were created to celebrate the people and organisations working to produce and sell good quality food in Britain, can be found on the BBC website at [www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/factual/foodawards2004.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/factual/foodawards2004.shtml). Nominations can be made online or phone the Radio 4 Information line on 08700 100 400. The closing date for nominations is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2004 and the awards will be presented on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2004.

## Licensees in the News

OF&G licensees have been busy snapping-up well deserved awards for their work – and one has even been named as a Nuffield Scholar. Below is a round-up of their achievements.

If you have scored a success in your work, or have any news you would like to share with your fellow OF&G licensees, please don't hesitate to contact Mark Waugh, PR & Media Manager, on 0845 330 5122 ext. 234 or email [mark.waugh@organicfarmers.uk.com](mailto:mark.waugh@organicfarmers.uk.com).

### Will to be a Nuffield Scholar

Congratulations go to OF&G Certification Committee member, Will Edwards, who has been awarded a 2004 Nuffield Scholarship that will see him travel to the USA to study direct marketing of meat to the consumer. Will, 42, runs an organic dairy herd on the family farm, at How Caple, Hereford, and has also established a property management business.

### National lapwing award

OF&G licensee Martin Hole, of Pevensey, East Sussex, has been named UK Lapwing Champion 2004 by the RSPB. His Montague Farm beat off 121 other entries in the national competition having taken the lapwing population on the farm from zero to about 40 pairs in an area of recreated wetland.

This is just one of a number of conservation projects on the nearly 700-acre farm, about three-quarters of which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

### A winner for countryside management

Croxtan Farm Partnership's Home Farm, in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, has received the Countryside Management Award from the East of England Agricultural Society. Dan Bull's entry was the only organic land among 40,000 acres judged for the competition. Dan said the award was given for the way they farmed with conservation in mind, following two rounds of judging. The mixed farm also won reserve overall champion at the Eastern Counties Show.

### South Devons score all round

Licensee Richard White's Peakhill Farm, in Leiston, Suffolk, has won the title of Best Livestock Enterprise in the Suffolk Agricultural Association farms competition. Added to this were successes in the Suffolk Show with his South Devons, including: first prize for maiden heifer, first prize for group of three and second prize for in-calf heifer.

### 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](mailto: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)**

## Advertisements

Advertisements are placed free of charge. Please note that purchasers of stock advertised by OF&G 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.

To place an advert please either telephone us on 0845 330 5122 or send an email to Angela Liebich ([angela.liebich@organicfarmers.uk.com](mailto:angela.liebich@organicfarmers.uk.com)) giving full details of name, address, telephone number, email address and description of item for sale or wanted.

## For Sale

---

For Sale or Rent. Organic land with irrigation, suitable for vegetable production, near Winchester, Hampshire.

- Contact R Cowen Tel: 01962 763907 or 07970 088834. (posted 29/06/04)

7 acres organic wholecrop wheat sold as standing crop.

- Contact. Mr and Mrs Duckett. Tel: 01524 781369. South Cumbria (posted 30/06/04)

We sold all our cattle (except 4 and a calf) in March 2004 and have 60 acres of organic grazing available. Also good quality haylage of 250 big bales @ £14/bale ex farm, plus red clover haylage of 150 big bales @ £16/bale ex farm, all registered organic. In July we will cut our triticale/clover mix of high protein feed (65 acres) all for sale at £18/ big bale ex farm. We can also offer these bales for feeding in our open plan winter housing, (now empty) for 50 head during winter 2004/5.

NB the above cattle are also for sale.

- Contact John and Michele Roberts, Bridford, Nr Exeter. Tel: 01647 252774.  
Email: [roberts.acre@virgin.net](mailto:roberts.acre@virgin.net) (posted 20/07/04)

Organic farm for sale in Limousin region of France of 219 hectares.

The farm currently raises pigs (180 breeding sows, approx 3600 piglets per year), together with the feedstuff for the pigs. There is a 3 bedroomed farmhouse, together with several outbuildings and (foodstuff processing etc), and a 8000m<sup>2</sup> lake. 120 hectares has been drained; 170 hectares attract a subsidy. The price is 1,360,606 euros, or approximately 892,500 pounds.

- Contact Jane Davis, Agence BMI Tel: 0033 5 55608572 or email [agencebmi@aol.com](mailto:agencebmi@aol.com) (posted 20/07/04)

Organic poultry manure.

- Contact Peter Saxby of Fridays Ltd. Tel: 01580 710237 Kent (posted 20/07/04)

Beef shorthorn suckler cows, pure and part-bred, with calves at foot, also yearling heifers. Oxfordshire/Berkshire area.

- Contact: Mrs P Reid Tel: 01367 820272

50 acres whole cropped wheat.

- Contact Mr Tucker. Tel: 01761 452265. Bristol. (posted 22/07/04)

Approximately 75 tons second year conversion winter barley (Carat)

- Contact Mrs Reed. Tel: 01963 350431 Somerset. (posted 22/07/04)

Organic Grazing Land Available. 16 acres of fenced organic grazing land available with water. Horsham area, West Sussex. Secluded, secure spot overlooked by owner.

- Contact: R Newman. Email [wychwood.newman@virgin.net](mailto:wychwood.newman@virgin.net). Tel: 07771 945365. (posted 20/07/04)

Ball of Madley Ltd, Traders in organic hay and straw, require large and small bales, and also have large and small bales for sale.

- Contact Michael Ball. Tel: 01981 250301. Herefordshire. (posted 02/08/04)

Organic wintering/housing available for heifers.

- Contact Ms Duckett Tel: 01524 781369 or Mr Duckett Tel: 01524 781349. South Cumbria. (posted 04/08/04)

3 Limousin x South Devon Heifers. 3 years old, 2 have 4 month old bull calves at foot.

1 Aberdeen Angus x South Devon Heifer with 4 month old bull calf at foot.

40 mixed aged Lleyne ewes. Quantity of Lleyne ewe lambs. All fully organic.

- Contact: Andrew Burgess Tel: 01327 702014 or email: hallsbarnorganics@hotmail.com. Northamptonshire. (posted 04/08/04)

Around 20 tonnes of Hart organic spring barley.

- Contact: Andrew or Helen Morgan. Tel: 01633 863052. Wales. (posted 04/08/04)

16 Holstein Friesian organic bulling heifers. Please phone for further details.

- Contact: Andrew or Helen Morgan. Tel: 01633 863052. Wales. (posted 06/08/04)

50 non-organic Friesian Holstein dairy cows, all year round calvers, average lactation 6,500-7,000, average cell count 170. Also 14 in calf heifers to Aberdeen Angus bull calving now to Christmas. Whole herd is TB free.

- Contact: Mrs V Thirtle. Tel: 01502 712325. Suffolk. (posted 12/08/04)

150 organic Welsh mule yearlings

- Contact Mr Glyn Jerman. Tel: 01686 650261 Newtown, Powys (posted 12/08/04)

Quality organic oats

- Contact: Mr Davies Tel: 01239 810466 Ceredigion (posted 12/08/04)

93 Welsh Mountain Cross X Lleyne and Welsh Mountain X Texel Shearlings. Fully organic.

- Contact Alun Jones. Tel: 07866 179835. Berkshire (posted 13/08/04)

60 organic Suffolk X Welsh yearling ewes

- Contact: Mr M Wakelin. Tel: 01974 241676 or 07855 151407. Aberystwyth (posted 17/08/04)

## Wanted

---

England/Wales producer to finish organic pigs, minimum 400.

- Contact Neil Wright. Tel: 01343 549806 or 07798 766945. (posted 27/07/04)

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.

Oxfordshire organic farmer to supply health food shop in Oxford with small amount of organic fruit and vegetables. Start date yet to be decided.

- Contact: Catherine. Tel:07976230031 or email cgupta@onlife.ltd.uk

Farm work of any kind in the Kent area. Picking/Harvesting, planting, tilling, maintenance, building, packing, driving. I am reliable, hardworking and very versatile and I have my own transportation.

- Contact Brian. Tel: 07840269586 or email: briangilbert54@hotmail.com (posted 04/08/04)

## Miscellaneous

---

A rare opportunity to purchase 940 acres of Demeter Certified, Bio Dynamic farm, in Western Australia's lush South West now exists. Currently producing certified organic sheep, wool and crops, the property comes with abundant water, 12 dams, 2 bores and 2 houses, with full compliment of sheds including 5 stand shearing shed. Price \$1.5 million (AUD)

- Contact: Sascha Stone. Email: pmswa@ozemail.com.au (posted 04/08/04)

Are you planning to use your early retirement or semi-retirement as an opportunity to live out your dreams? Interested in organic farming? If so, the makers of a new TV series for Channel 4, Life Begins, would like to hear from you.

- Contact Greg Goff on 01752 333900 or greggoff@twofour.co.uk (posted 13/08/04)

## NEWS EXTRA

### **A note from the OF&G Certification Committee regarding animal health and welfare.**

---

Farmers are frequently urged to reconnect with consumers. Animal health and welfare, care for the environment, and the supply of local food are seen as key features in this re-connection process. Organic farmers regard all these features as the norm in the 'natural' systems which they operate. In animal health and welfare it is our experience in the Certification Committee that our licensees not only practise the high standards required in the Control Manual but also aim to keep ahead of them. This must be the right thing to do at a time when animal health and welfare has such a high profile on all farms to respond to the genuine public concern as well as to meet the statutory management requirements to be eligible for the single farm payment.

These statutory management requirements are being given added emphasis with the recent publication of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain and its associated Delivery Plan. The latter document lists forthcoming further legislation and EU regulations on animal health and welfare. Organic farmers used to preparing health plans, and conscious of limiting stocking densities, the need for clean and well maintained buildings, and welfare friendly transport arrangements for livestock, will have nothing to fear from this increasing legislation. Very occasionally and regrettably, however, the Certification Committee does receive notice of non-compliance with health and welfare standards identified by inspectors. The Committee regard these with the utmost seriousness and take immediate and appropriate action to avoid or minimise the damage these cases could do to organic farming. We know that licensees support this approach. Also, recognising the current emphasis on animal health and welfare, inspectors will be particularly rigorous in checking the relevant standards are maintained. In this way we can ensure the continuing high reputation of OF&G producers.