

# Technical Newsletter

## General News

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The Staff, Directors and Committee Members of OF&G would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### Christmas Opening Hours

Contrary to what was written in the October newsletter, the OF&G office will be closing for the Christmas break at 5pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will re-open at 9am on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2006. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

### Soil Association's Annual Conference – 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> January

#### Feeding our cities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

'The Soil Association is devoting its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in London to bringing together producers, processors, policy makers and experts in sustainability issues to discuss ways to work together and introduce real changes, in order to make the supply of quality, healthy food into cities safe and secure.'

For further details and booking please go to [www.soilassociation.org](http://www.soilassociation.org) or telephone the events team on 0117 987 4586.

## Technical News for Producers

### Copper as a fungicide

Up until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005 the maximum amount of copper allowed has been 8kg/Ha/year. Please be aware that from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 this allowance is to be reduced to 6kg/Ha/year. You must also ensure that the total amount of copper used during the period of 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2002 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 does not exceed 38kg copper on any one hectare.

As has been the case for the previous 12 months all copper applications must be approved by OF&G before hand. Record Sheet 9 (OF&G Control Manual Section 6) should be used for all copper derogation applications.

### Avian Influenza (AI)

For all our poultry producers we have enclosed a copy of Defra's latest leaflet on Avian Influenza 'Preparing for Avian Influenza - Separating flocks from wild birds'. We have also enclosed a copy of the Defra leaflet 'Biosecurity and preventing disease'. If you have not received these please contact us and we will send them to you.

You should be aware that OF&G and EFSIS take farm biosecurity extremely seriously. If you have poultry on the farm please ensure that all inspectors and other relevant visitors comply with your requirements for biosecurity. We would recommend that you have disposable protective equipment available for visitors. It may also be appropriate to ask the inspector not to drive onto your farm but arrange to meet them at the entrance, please make this arrangement when the appointment is made.

### Contact us

**Phone:**  
0845 330 5122

**Fax:**  
0845 330 5123

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

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





## Avian Influenza cont/....

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All poultry producers will now be asked to sign a form consenting to having an Inspector on the farm.

We have been told (but can't currently confirm if this is correct) that if poultry have to be culled due to an outbreak of AI, compensation may be paid. However, the compensation paid may be reduced if you have not followed Defra's biosecurity guidance.

## Non-organic pullets – please ensure you are aware of the new regulations

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Due to the recent changes to the EU organic regulation, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 we will no longer be able to approve derogations for ordinary non-organic pullets up to 18 weeks of age, hatched after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

However, the same changes do allow non-organic birds under 18 weeks of age to be brought in with prior derogation if they have been reared in accordance with the organic feed and veterinary standards from the time they arrive at the pullet rearing unit. We are calling these birds 'part-organic' pullets. You will need to obtain a derogation for bringing-in these 'part-organic' pullets using OF&G Record Sheet 21A.

As confirmation that the 'part-organic' pullets have been subject to the organic feed and vet standards during the rearing phase, the supplier must provide a declaration with each consignment to the effect that 'the pullets have been produced in accordance with the UK Organic Standards for feed and veterinary management'. It is not a requirement that the supplier should be subject to any certification or inspection to confirm that the birds are reared under these conditions.

These 'part-organic' pullets will not be regarded as organic birds as they were reared from conventional stock. They will still be subject to a six-week conversion period under full organic management before the eggs can be sold as organic.

Please contact your pullet supplier and discuss this with them. Defra have produced guidelines to assist you and your pullet supplier and these are available from OF&G. If you or your pullet supplier have any queries regarding these new requirements please contact us. We acknowledge that this may create difficulties for the pullet rearers, any feedback from them or yourself is welcomed and will be passed on to Defra.

The regulation also allows for the bringing-in of non-organic chicks up to 3 days of age for rearing on as organic pullets. If brought-in at up to 3 days of age and then reared to the full organic standards these pullets will be classed as organic. You will need to obtain a derogation for bringing-in the non-organic chicks.

We will provide details of suppliers of 'part-organic' pullets as they become available, please see OF&G Technical Leaflet 122 on our website, or contact this office for the most up to date version.

**If you require any clarification please contact your Certification Officer as soon as possible as there will be no exception to the rules.**

## Non-organic Feeds

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When introducing extra land for conversion under the new feeding regulations it has become very difficult to utilise the forage whilst the land is in 1<sup>st</sup> year conversion. As a result the ACOS Certification Committee have amended the 'Green List' to include 1<sup>st</sup> year conversion forage grown on your own farm for your own use (no trading involved). As with all 'Green List' products a derogation to use the feed is not required but a copy of the completed Justification record (OF&G RS25) must be made available to the inspector at the time of the inspection.

If you require any further clarification please contact your Certification Officer.

# Technical News for Processors

## Labelling

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There is no longer a requirement to include the reference to organic agricultural method on product labels provided that all other requirements have been fulfilled.

## Ethylene

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This is now permitted for de-greening of kiwis and kakis and flower induction in pineapples.



## Feed Derogations

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Several derogations were issued in August to cover three months sales of animal feeds. They expired on 24/11/2005 thus a further request on Record Sheet 26 is now overdue. Please remember that the production of any feeds without a derogation is a non-compliance and may result in livestock being de-certified.

## Miscellaneous

### Organic Market 8<sup>th</sup> January

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A special Organic Market will be held in the historic cobbled courtyard The Brewery, Chiswell St, London EC1 on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January, the day after the Soil Association's Conference. This is a not-for-profit event which aims to bring together organic producers from London and the South East and create an opportunity to enhance public recognition of quality organic products.

For further information please contact Ruth Culver on telephone 0117 314 5002 ext 7311

### For Sale

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Organic dairy cows for sale, not extreme holstein, various calving groups and ages. 10 single suckler X spring born calves and 3 x 25mth old beef stores 2BB hfrs and 1 AAX steer. Contact: Huw Ellis Tel: 01691 650450 Shropshire (04/12/05)

8 organic Friesian/Holstein bulling heifers, from a closed herd. TB free. Contact: Mr Tim Scolding Tel: 01454 294292 07976 628994 Gloucestershire (02/12/05)

Very large metal-frame greenhouse 28ft x 24ft in good condition with 2 large benches and a ventilation system. New price for similar house today at least £4000. Buyer to dismantle and transport. Any questions or can be viewed by appointment. Sensible offers considered. Contact: Ron Owen Tel: 01273 550067 Sussex (01/12/05)

Pedigree, well bred Hereford heifers, a few cows due to calve in the spring, and top quality, strong bulls - 20 to 26 months of age - ready to work. Visit web site - [www.anhayfarm.com](http://www.anhayfarm.com). Delivery available. Contact: M M Williams Tel: 01326 231417 or 07734 306497 Cornwall (26/11/05)

Twelve (12) large AAX stores for sale 18 - 20 mths, £600 each. Contact: Peter Jenkins Tel: 01963 23657 North Dorset (24/11/05)

600 bales of organic wholecrop silage. Contact: Duncan Gielty Tel: 07970 750145 Lancashire (16/11/05)

Organic Red Cabbage. Contact: New Farm Organics Tel: 01205870500 or 07971818150 Lincolnshire (10/11/05)

Organic Soft Fruit Plants. PHPS certified strawberry plants, raspberry canes. Also blackcurrant, gooseberry, red/whitecurrant, jostaberry bushes. Top quality plants grown in healthy isolation. Mail order garden or commercial orders welcome. Contact: Sian Fromant, Welsh Fruit Stocks Tel: 01497 851209 Powys/Hereford (08/11/05)

Organic feed wheat, approx 17 tons Contact: Mr David Camp Tel: 07855 774098 South Devon (03/11/05)

Organic triticale straw in Heston big bales. Also 2004 good organic clover and rye grass hay. Contact: Richard March Tel: 01892 723481 Kent - Sussex border (01/11/05)

4 Heifers & 4 Steers. 1 & 2 year olds. Welsh Black (Pedigree), Hereford X and Charolais X. All organic from small family farm. Contact: Julian Tel: 01994 419564 North Pembrokeshire (29/10/05)

### Wanted

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Land and stables to rent as a stable yard. Do you have any equestrian land which I could rent? I will pay cash monthly for the whole yard. Contact: Davinia Leach Tel: 0121 733 8104 West Midlands (07/12/05)

Organic wheat straw - Shropshire, mid Wales area.. Contact: Alan Rogers Tel: 01691 772939 or 07985 469547 Denbighshire (06/12/05)

10-15 Organic Milking Cows, must be pedigree and milk recorded. Contact: Alwyn Evans Tel: 01239 891637 or 07929 201225 Pembrokeshire (22/11/05)

Good Second hand Poultry Hut for 150 birds. If possible the hut would need to be portable.. Contact: Chris Foster Tel: 07711212777 South Yorkshire (22/11/05)

Organic Hay or haylage for sheep. Any amount considered. Reasonable distance of North Yorkshire. Contact: Richard Frank Tel: 01642 760160 or 07815 021925 North Yorkshire (20/11/05)

Looking for small amount of land to trial the growing of organic chillis. Bare land or glass/polytunnels.. Contact: Mark Dawson Tel: 01256-464731 or 07775-681511 Hampshire (19/11/05)

## OF&G Evaluation Scheme products

The following products have recently been accepted into the OF&G Evaluation Scheme as 'Product Approved for Use in Organic Systems' or 'Product Approved for Restricted Use, Derogation Required'

Category	Name	Supplier	Telephone	OF&G Status	Eval. Scheme Cert Expiry Date
Fertilizer	Laws Calcium	Law's Fertilizers	01354 740740	Appr	31/8/06
Fertilizer	Laws High K	Law's Fertilizers	01354 740740	Appr	31/8/06
Fertilizer	Laws High N	Law's Fertilizers	01354 740740	Appr	31/8/06
Fertilizer	Laws Magnesium	Law's Fertilizers	01354 740740	Appr	31/8/06
Seed Protector	Laws Seed Protector	Law's Fertilizers	01354 740740	Appr	31/8/06
Insect Barrier	Laws K Repellant	Law's Fertilizers	01354 740740	Appr	31/8/06
Fertilizer	Laws Foliar N	Law's Fertilizers	01354 740740	Appr	31/8/06
Fertilizer	Laws Fungicide	Law's Fertilizers	01354 740740	Appr-Restr	31/8/06
Fertilizer	Global Nico Orgo	Orgo Neem Cake	02085 341877	Appr	31/10/06
Plant Health Foods	Legume Fix	Legume Technology	0115 966 3679	Appr	31/10/06
Plant Health Foods	Nature's Nitrogen	Legume Technology	0115 966 3679	Appr	31/10/06
Ingredients	Two Sisters Sea Salt - Coarse Crystals	Vivotec	02084 026079	Appr	31/10/06
Ingredients	Two Sisters Sea Salt - Fine Crystals	Vivotec	02084 026079	Appr	31/10/06

## Licenses in the News

**Organic Farmers and Growers**  
Elim Centre  
Lancaster Road  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 3LE

**The Practical Organisation for Organic Certification**

Tens of thousands of pages on the OF&G website are being viewed by visitors every month.

Now we have launched a new section of the site to give you the chance to take advantage of all that traffic.

Our new 'Featured Licensee' section is designed to raise the profile of our licensees, by promoting them on the front page of our site and producing an entire page about their business and history - with photos, contact details and a link straight to their website.

This is a completely free service to support the work of our licensees, so if you would like to have your farm or business featured, please email PR & Media Manager, Mark Waugh, at [mark.waugh@organicfarmers.org.uk](mailto:mark.waugh@organicfarmers.org.uk) with your UKF or UKP number and he'll get back to you.