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Classifieds are on a separate sheet.

General News

OF&G is withdrawing from IFOAM

Due to the lack of demand for this programme in the UK the Directors of OF&G have decided that we will withdraw from IFOAM Accreditation and cease to offer our Higher Level Certification Programme.

If you have any queries regarding this please contact your Certification Officer.

Organic Feed Regs Clarified

We've all been in suspense, for far too long, about what is to happen when the derogation to feed a proportion of non-organic feed expires on 24th August 2005. Following a meeting of the EU Standing Committee on Organic Farming on 1/7/05, we can now clarify the situation and confirm that the derogation has been extended as follows:

PERCENTAGE OF NON-ORGANIC FEED ALLOWED FROM 25th AUGUST 2005 For herbivores/ruminants:-

A maximum of 5% non-organic feed from 25/8/05 until 31/12/07.
After this time, feed should be 100% organic

For pigs & poultry (& other non-ruminant species):-

A maximum of 15% non-organic feed from 25/8/05 until 31/12/07.
A maximum of 10% non-organic feed from 1/1/08 until 31/12/09.
A maximum of 5% non-organic feed from 1/1/10 until 31/12/11.
After this time, feed should be 100% organic

These percentages are to be calculated on an annual dry matter basis of ingredients from agricultural origin. The maximum daily non-organic allowance is 25% dry matter.

Feed Records detailing the type and amounts of all feeds used must be kept as previously required. Remember, only ingredients listed in Section 8.4 of the OF&G Control Manual may be used as the non-organic portion of the feed and only non-organic feeds on the Green List (see below) can be used without a derogation from OF&G.

Please note: The information above is now Statutory Law. The information below is Defra Guidance & may be subject to amendment. We will keep you updated.

PERMITTED NON-ORGANIC INGREDIENTS

Defra has made it clear that fully organic feed should be used wherever possible & that the derogation (above) allows non-organic feed to be used only where organic feed is not available.

However, Defra accepts that the feedstuffs listed below, (the 'Green List') are not currently available organically in sufficient quantities. These are mainly primary protein sources. If farmers need to use these feedstuffs, they may do so, within the limits listed above, without applying to their Certification Body for a derogation. However farmers must create and maintain a "Non-organic Feed Justification Record". This is to record the justification for using a non-organic feed and the efforts that have been made to obtain organic feeds.

Contact us

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0845 330 5122

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www.organicfarmers.org.uk





A copy of the non-organic feed justification record must be available to the Inspector at each inspection and will be returned to the certification office for assessment.

Where farmers wish to use a non-organic feedstuff that is not on the Green List but is on the permitted list (see Section 8.4 of the OF&G Standards), they must first apply to OF&G, with written justification & must have a derogation approved in writing before buying the feed. (Note: Defra does not expect there to be many of these applications because there are sufficient organic sources of these feedstuffs.) All requests for non-organic feeds not on the green list, whether approved or not, will be referred to Defra so that they can monitor the situation.

The Green List - Non-organic ingredients that can be used without a derogation from OF&G

Protein sources

Maize gluten meal	Grass meal
Potato Protein	Wheat middlings
Brewers' grains	Rape seed expeller
Soya bean products	Sunflower seed expeller
Lucerne	Lupins as seeds
Peas as seeds	Broad beans as seeds
Egg and egg products	
Fish and other marine animals and their by-products	

Others

Sugar beet pulp	Molasses
Powders and extracts of plants	Seaweed meal
Spices and herbs	Vegetable oils (physical extraction)
Milk and milk products (non-organic milk replacer)	

Defra states that some of the feedstuffs on the list above, are available organically in the UK, but so far only in small quantities. However Defra requires justification for use of these feedstuffs in non-organic form, because it wants to ensure that these producers can sell their organic protein sources & that this will stimulate the market so that others will start producing them too.

This Green List will be reviewed regularly and items will be removed from the list as soon as organic sources become available in sufficient quantity.

WHO HAS TO APPLY FOR A DEROGATION?

Straights: Where farmers are buying in non-organic straights or making up their own feed, they will have to apply for a derogation to use any ingredients that are not on the Green List above.

Compound feeds: Where farmers are buying in compound feeds (eg for pigs & poultry), Defra has suggested that the feed compounder applies for the derogation from his certification body & supplies a copy of the derogation to farmers buying the compound feed. The farmer can then use this as the written justification for the records, when it comes to his/her annual inspection.

Animal Feed Processors using non-organic feeds intended for sale from 25/8/05 must obtain a derogation from OF&G for these and supply the farmer with a copy of that derogation. This applies to all non-organic feed materials whether or not they are on the Green List unless previously packed/purchased (see below).

FEED ALREADY PURCHASED / PACKED

Since the EU decision on the reduction in the non-organic feed allowance has been so long delayed, OF&G will give some leeway for feeds already packed or purchased.

For feed already on farm, or ordered or manufactured before 31st July '05, no derogations will be required. However farmers must keep a record of any non-organic feedstuffs that have been used and justify their use.

OF&G expects these feeds to have been used by 31st October '05 & will require an application for a derogation for any non-organic feedstuffs, used after this date, if they are not on the Green List.

These new requirements will take effect from 25/8/05. They will be incorporated in the new OF&G Control Manual due to be published shortly.

Please contact your Certification Officer if you have any queries.

COMMENTS FROM THE FEED INDUSTRY

We understand that the feed industry supports the move to 100% but recommends that the derogations are used where necessary. If all farmers demand 100% organic feed for their livestock immediately, there are likely to be supply shortages which may lead to big price increases, that could in turn disadvantage organics.

For example, an 85% organic compound dairy feed when used together with 100% organic forage can give a total organic feed intake in excess of 95%.



New Requirements for Inspection/Certification of Storage & Warehousing Operations

The EU Organic Food Regulation (Council Regulation (EEC) 2092/91) has been amended to bring the storage & warehousing of organic produce under the organic inspection system.

OF&G, together with the other UK Certification Bodies, has campaigned strongly for this new regulation to apply only to bulk products, where we believe the potential risk is much greater than for pre-packed and labelled products, but unfortunately we have not been successful.

The new Regulation potentially covers all warehouses, distribution centres & any premises that store organic products, either packed or loose. These include storage of bulk commodities, such as grain as well as products that are fully packed and labelled for the final consumer. Both UK & imported products are included.

There are exemptions for operators who sell organic products directly to the final consumer or user ie retailers who store organic produce in the shop, in a store room attached to it, or to separate warehouses, distribution centres or similar premises, provided these are operated by the retailer or on their behalf.

Transit (ports), transport & internet sales operations will also be exempt.

From **1 July 2005** any operator covered by these new requirements must register with one of the approved UK Organic Certification Bodies, such as Organic Farmers & Growers and arrange for the premises concerned to be assessed on an annual basis. This will not always be a full scale organic inspection & wherever possible we will do it at the same time as the inspection of the operator's other enterprises.

Please contact OF&G to ask for a copy of Technical Leaflet 218, Storage & Warehousing, or speak to Susan Berry (ext 230) or Gabrielle Lanceley (ext.233).

New OF&G Website

Since the last newsletter OF&G has relaunched its website with a new look and a new address.

The site, at www.organicfarmers.org.uk, has been overhauled to include more information and to make all the forms and documents our licensees need easy to find.

In addition licensees can now send us their classified adverts through the website, as well as browsing through the 'for sale' and 'want' ads at their leisure.

Another new feature is the Approved Farm Inputs database. This allows licensees to search through our list of products that are pre-approved for use in organic production. You can search the list by key words or by product type to find what you're looking for.

The website also has all the latest news from OF&G as well as lists of events and links to other organic bodies and our licensees websites.

The address of the website has changed from organicfarmers.uk.com to organicfarmers.org.uk, as have all staff email addresses.

Thousands of people every month are browsing through our website. We hope you find it useful too...

New OF&G Control Manual

OF&G apologise for the delay in producing the new Control Manual. Please be assured that as soon as we receive it back from the printers in CD and paper format it will be dispatched to you.



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 Eval Scheme Status	Certificate Expiry Date
Silage Add/Inoc	Earllysile	EnviroSystems (UK) Ltd	01772 860085	Appr	30/4/06
Silage Add/Inoc	Enviro Bed	EnviroSystems (UK) Ltd	01772 860085	Appr	30/4/06
Silage Add/Inoc	Greensile	EnviroSystems (UK) Ltd	01772 860085	Appr	30/4/06
Silage Add/Inoc	Optimize	EnviroSystems (UK) Ltd	01772 860085	Appr	30/4/06
Silage Add/Inoc	Slurry Bugs	EnviroSystems (UK) Ltd	01772 860085	Appr	30/4/06
Mineral Supp	BioCopper Block	Minsups Ltd	01606 556161	Appr-Restr.	30/4/06
Mineral Supp	BioTrace Block	Minsups Ltd	01606 556161	Appr-Restr.	30/4/06
Mineral Supp	BioZinc Block	Minsups Ltd	01606 556161	Appr-Restr.	30/4/06
Mineral Supp	Copper Block	Minsups Ltd	01606 556161	Appr-Restr.	30/4/06
Mineral Supp	Coppodine	Minsups Ltd	01606 556161	Appr-Restr.	30/4/06
Mineral Supp	Grazing Block	Minsups Ltd	01606 556161	Appr-Restr.	30/4/06
Mineral Supp	Mag Block	Minsups Ltd	01606 556161	Appr-Restr.	30/4/06
Mineral Supp	Ynys Mon Block	Minsups Ltd	01606 556161	Appr-Restr.	30/4/06
Mineral Supp	Zincmin Block	Minsups Ltd	01606 556161	Appr-Restr.	30/4/06
Insect repellent	Sticky Fly Catcher Paper	Nordic Star	01373 455585	Appr	30/4/06
Insect repellent	Sticky Fly Catcher Ribbon	Nordic Star	01373 455585	Appr	30/4/06
Insect repellent	Sticky Fly Catcher Ribbon refill	Nordic Star	01373 455585	Appr	30/4/06
Insect repellent	Sticky Fly Catcher Roll	Nordic Star	01373 455585	Appr	30/4/06
Compost	Earth Cycle Compost	The Woodhorn Group	01243 789284	Appr	30/4/06
Compost	Earth Cycle Compost Mulch	The Woodhorn Group	01243 789284	Appr	30/4/06
Compost	Earth Cycle Cow Compost	The Woodhorn Group	01243 789284	Appr	30/4/06
Compost	Root Zone	The Woodhorn Group	01243 789284	Appr	30/4/06

Licenseses in the News

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

The Practical Organisation for Organic Certification

www.organicfarmers.org.uk

Keeping up the string of award successes by OF&G licensees, we're delighted to report a clutch of prizes for Peakhill Farm in Suffolk.

Richard White and son Robert, who now runs the farm, took one each of a first, second and third prize at the Suffolk show with their South Devons. The first was for a group of three, the second for an in-calf heifer and the third for a cow and calf.

The farm, at Theberton, near Leiston, was also named the Best Livestock Enterprise in the Suffolk Agricultural Society small farms competition - the third time they have won.

Richard White told us: "We always endeavour to sit beside our cows at the show, to talk to people about them. We let children stroke the calves because it's often the only time they can get near one and they ask a lot of question, like 'do they bite?'."

Congratulations to the Whites from everyone at OF&G.