

Technical Newsletter

General News

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Classifieds are on a separate sheet.

Isle of Man news

There have been OF&G-licensed producers on the Isle of Man since 1993. Now, thanks to Janet Bridle and the Manx Organic Network for raising awareness about organics on the Island, and to Peter Lawler (Inspector) for flying the OF&G flag, the Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has agreed to sponsor organic certification for the Island's abattoir.

OF&G visited the Island in September to inspect the abattoir (Isle of Man Fatstock Association) and butchers Radcliffes and Fenton Campbells, who can expect to be certified shortly. We also had discussions with dairy and fresh produce suppliers and with Shoprite, the local supermarket chain, all of whom are enthusiastic about developing organics on the island. This will hopefully encourage more Manx farmers and smallholders to go organic, since the vast majority of the organic milk, pork and fresh produce currently sold on the Island, is imported.

Christmas Opening Hours

The OF&G office will be closing for the Christmas break at 5pm on Friday 23rd December. It will re-open on Wednesday 28th December 2005. The office will also be closed for the Bank Holiday on 2nd January 2006.

Technical News for Producers

Technical Leaflet about Horses

Due to increasing interest in diversification into horse livery on organic farms, OF&G has produced a set of guidance notes specifically for this purpose.

If you are interested in horse livery and require copies of Technical Leaflet 123 these are available from the OF&G Offices or on the OF&G website.

Calculating the Non-Organic Feed Allowance

Following recent discussions about non-organic feed OF&G would like to clarify a few points on calculating the allowances.

In a previous Technical Newsletter (February 2005) OF&G highlighted how to calculate the non-organic allowance from 25th August 2005.

We have now decided to allow a further calculation by those that wish to use it. This is done by running two consecutive feed periods side by side: e.g. Starting from 25th August 2005 calculate the non organic allowance as an Annual period to 24th August 2006 ensuring that no more than 5% permitted non-organic feed is fed within this period. At the same time run a feed period from 1st January 2006 to 31st December 2006 ensuring that no more than 5% permitted non-organic feed is fed within this period, this will enable you to bring the feeding records back in line with the calendar year.

If you have any queries please contact your Certification Officer for more information.

Contact us

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0845 330 5122

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info@organicfarmers.org.uk

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www.organicfarmers.org.uk





Technical News for Processors

New requirements for Registration/Certification of Storage and Warehousing Operations.

Following the amendment to the EU Organic Food Regulation (Council Regulation (EEC) 2092/91), from 1st July 2005 any operator involved in the storage or warehousing of organic produce is required to register with one of the approved UK Organic Certification Bodies and is subject to the inspection process. (Technical Newsletter July 2005).

Where our Licensee has their own warehousing and storage facilities, they are inspected as part of the annual inspection process. Where our Licensee uses third party storage and warehousing facilities they need to ascertain if they are registered with one of the Organic Certification Bodies and obtain a copy of their Certificate.

Where a third party storage and warehouse operator is not registered then there are two options available; either to be included on our Licensee's certificate as a sub-contractor or to become registered in their own right.

The former option is only available if the third party operator is handling organic produce solely for your enterprises. If the operator is handling organic produce for other organic enterprises as well as yours then it will need to be registered in its own right.

OF&G can offer third party storage and warehouse enterprises registration and a risk based inspection process as required by Defra.

Please contact the OF&G office for further information, a copy of Technical Leaflet 218 Storage and Warehousing and/or a quotation or speak to Susan Berry on ext 230.

New Feed Regulations

One point that appears to have been missed by several feed compounders, is the fact that they do not have to make all feeds with a minimum of 85% organic agricultural material. The 85% organic figure is provided for producers to ensure that the overall levels of non-organic material in the livestock diet do not exceed the permitted allowances. Thus it is conceivable that feed compounders may be asked for products with lower percentages of organic material.

In such cases, the feed compounder needs to complete and submit Record Sheet 26 to OF&G who will give consideration to the issuing of a derogation.

Please note that in all cases, feeds that use green list or Annex IIC ingredients should not be manufactured without a derogation from OF&G.

Please contact OF&G for further information, a copy of Technical Leaflet 206 Guidance for Animal Feed Mills. or speak to Susan Berry on ext 230.

Defra Import Authorisations

These were due to expire on 31st December 2005. However, due to delays in formulating an alternative regime, Defra will be extending the current Import Authorisations, on the following basis:-

If you applied for an Import Authorisation in 2005, Defra will automatically extend the date of expiry for 12 months. Thus an authorisation issued on 27th May 2005 will now expire 27th May 2006.

Following expiry of an Import Authorisation in 2006 an OB8b annual renewal application form will need to be completed and sent to Defra for any 2006 expiries.

Any Import Authorisations issued prior to 2005 had a blanket expiry of 31st December 2005. If you hold one of these Import Authorisations and you wish to continue to import organic produce in 2006, you will need to complete an OB8b annual renewal application form.

Please note that copies of current certificates for all operators in the supply chain need to be included with the OB8b annual renewal form.

Please contact Susan Berry on ext 230 further information



Organic Imports changes to Defra procedures

Defra now guarantee to assess your application for an Import Authorisation or request for a variation to an Import Authorisation within 10 working days of its receipt. Emailed or faxed applications will be assessed. However, the original application, supported by a covering letter indicating prior submission by other means, is required by Defra before they will issue the authorisation.

Payment is no longer required before this work can commence. Payment is required once an invoice has been issued by Defra.

Please contact Susan Berry on ext 230 further information

Miscellaneous

Pembrokeshire Organic Group

Pembrokeshire Organic Group are holding an open meeting to discuss 'Bovine TB and animal nutrition' at Nant-y-ffin Motel, Llandissilio, on Monday, 21st November, at 7.30 pm. Principal speakers: Tamsin Dunwoody AM and Martin Lane of Field Science Ltd.

For more information, contact Tom Latter on 07831 582718

Organic Kosher Chickens?

Please be aware that under current OF&G standards it is not possible to produce kosher or halal organic meat unless it is stunned pre-slaughter or immediately after the animal's throat has been cut, which is not always the case.

Unfortunately we have had a report of a shop in London selling "organic kosher chickens".

The producer, who is licensed by OF&G, supplied a copy of his certificate in good faith to the abattoir which then passed it on to the shop where it is now displayed. So customers are being led to believe that OF&G has approved the slaughter of these chickens, which is not correct and that they are organic, which is also incorrect, because they weren't slaughtered in an organically-certified abattoir.

OF&G is following up with the Trading Standards Officer responsible for this location and will take whatever action is necessary.

Avian Influenza

In the UK, Defra is making information on Avian Influenza available to the poultry industry, as well as guidelines on their responsibilities.

Organic Farmers & Growers has published its own guidelines (TL 125) as they relate to organic egg and poultry production which can be obtained from the OF&G office.

OF&G Business Manager, Richard Jacobs, said: "We can't hide from the fact that this could have a serious impact on the industry. At this time we are putting together all the guidance and information we can for our licensees. We are also staying in close contact with Defra and other relevant agencies to ensure they hear what we need to tell them and so that we can pass back information to the producers on the ground."

More information and advice is available from the Defra website and in particular from the pages below. If you do not have access to the internet and would like some information, please contact your certification officer.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/index.htm>

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2005/animal-1024.htm>

Staff News

New Quality Systems Administrator, Simon Evans

The newest member of staff at OF&G is Simon Evans, who is our Quality Systems Administrator. His main responsibility is in sending out Annual Inspection paperwork to Licensees and Inspectors.

Simon can be contacted on ext 229 or by email to simon.evans@organicfarmers.org.uk

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
Insect Control	Exofly AH Fly Trap	Exosect	02380 763838	Appr	31/7/06
Insect Control	Exomite Apis Hive Cleaner	Exosect	02380 763838	Appr	31/7/06
Insect Control	ExosecCM Auto-Confusion	Exosect	02380 763838	Appr	31/7/06
Insect Control	Exotior Vine Weevil Trap	Exosect	02380 763838	Appr	31/7/06
Fertilizer	Nutrimate	Nutrimate Limited	01772 641181	Appr	31/8/06
Fertilizer	Nutrimate Gold	Nutrimate Limited	01772 641181	Appr	31/8/06
Fertilizer	TTL Plus	Nutrimate Limited	01772 641181	Appr	31/8/06
Animal Health Product	Vermistop B	Phytosynthese	0033 0470906192	Appr-Restr.	31/7/06
Animal Health Product	AEN 350 B	Phytosynthese	0033 0470906192	Appr-Restr.	31/7/06
Animal Health Product	Eimericox B	Phytosynthese	0033 0470906192	Appr-Restr.	31/7/06
Animal Health Product	Protophyt B	Phytosynthese	0033 0470906192	Appr-Restr.	31/7/06
Animal Health Product	Enterocox	Phytosynthese	0033 0470906192	Appr-Restr.	31/7/06

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

The Practical Organisation for Organic Certification

www.organicfarmers.org.uk

Licensees in the News

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 with your UKF or UKP number and he'll get back to you.