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General News

Postal rates and importance of correct postage

By the time that you receive this newsletter, new postal regulations will be in force. Not only does the postal rate depend on the weight of a letter/package, but also the size (Please refer to information sent to all householders/businesses by Royal Mail). Please can licensees make sure that they apply the correct postage to letters/packages sent to this office, as underpayment results in delays, due to the Post Office keeping mail until the shortfall (£1.00 plus the underpayment) has been paid by OF&G.

OF&G farm gate signs available

Does anyone require a farm gate sign? They are made from durable plastic and feature the OF&G logo and the wording REGISTERED FARM 'The Practical Organisation for Organic Certification'. Just let us know and we will send one free of charge.

Technical News for Producers

On-Farm processing

If you are considering on-farm processing there are several OF&G technical leaflets, available from the OF&G office or on the website, which may provide some guidance for you. They are TL205 Red Meat Cutting, TL 210 Poultry Slaughter and Dressing and TL211 Egg production, grading, packing and sale.

Dairy Producers - NDFAS/OF&G Standards

It has been brought to the attention of OF&G that a number of the National Dairy Farm Assurance Scheme Standards are not being complied with. A number of those standards are also listed in the OF&G Standards and as such must be complied with as part of your organic certification. Please note the following standards and ensure you are compliant with them.

OF&G Standard 8.8.20

The doors, floors and wall surfaces of milking parlours and dairies must be non-porous, sound and capable of being disinfected with ease, and suitable for the purpose. Ceilings, trusses and roof linings should be maintained to minimise the accumulation of dirt and dust and conditions favourable for vermin.

NDFAS Standards 1.1.1c

The dairy must have doors and walls that are complete with a washable finish.

OF&G Standard 8.8.19

The housing, milking parlour, collection and dispersal areas must be of a suitable design and construction to ensure the safety of the animals. To avoid stress or injury

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NDFAS/OF&G standards cont/..

to the animals, all surfaces must be smooth, undamaged and adequately drained and the construction must avoid dark corners, sharp turns, uneven floors and steps, excessively steep ramps and sharp edges.

NDFAS Standard 2.1f

All housing must have floor surfaces, including entrances and exits from the parlour, which are constructed and maintained to minimise the risk of injury to cattle.

Technical News for Processors

Information Note: Approved Pyrethrin products for pest control

The OF&G Standards allow the use of pyrethrins extracted from natural sources to control flying and crawling insects in organic premises.

Various brands are available, but the largest supplier is Bayer. Until recently we have approved the use of two products from Bayer, Pybuthrin 33 and AquaPy, because both appeared to comply with the requirements of the European Organic Regulation (EC2092/91).

However, we have now done further research into the other components of these products and can no longer recommend the use of Pybuthrin 33.

This is because the pyrethrins in Pybuthrin 33 are on a kerosene base whereas those in AquaPy are on a water base.

Following discussions with Bayer, we believe that by no longer allowing the use of Pybuthrin 33, there should not be major cost or application problems for our Licensees. AquaPy has a greater flexibility in use than Pybuthrin 33 as there are various application options available:-

1. Ready to use as an ultra low volume spray,
2. Diluted at 1 part AquaPy to 9 parts water for mist application
3. Diluted at 1 part AquaPy to 39 parts water for direct application

(We understand from Bayer that for misting applications, there is a cost advantage in using AquaPy.)

Note 1: AquaPy should not be used in areas such as motor housings or wiring conduits because of its water content. Synthetic pyrethroids may be used for these areas, as long as there is no possibility of contaminating food or feed products.

Note 2: If you use a Pest Control Contractor, please make him/her aware of the above. We will allow any Pybuthrin 33 that has already been purchased, to be used up, but please ensure that with immediate effect, no more is ordered.

Note 3: The above does not constitute a recommendation to use Bayer products. We have put out this Information Note purely because Bayer is a large supplier of insecticide products.

If you use pyrethrin products from other suppliers, please forward a copy of the label or the product specification to your Certification Officer at OF&G, so we can check that the product is suitable.

Miscellaneous

Farm Animal Welfare Council

FAWC have 4 vacancies that are due to arise in January 2007. These are:

Post One: Animal Welfare Specialist

Post Two: Consumer Professional

Post Three: Expertise in Dairy Cattle Farming

Post Four: Expertise in Animal Welfare Regulatory/Policy

For an information pack and application form for these positions please contact Public Appointments at Defra by email at publicapppts@defra.gsi.gov.uk, by telephone on 01905 768839 or by post to Becci Landon, Defra, HRSD, Government Buildings, Block A, Whittington Road, Worcester, WR5 2LQ. The information pack and application form are also available from www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/appointments/index.htm. Closing date for applications is 29th September 2006.



OF&G licensees in the news

OF&G licensees have been busy scooping up awards and getting themselves great publicity since our last newsletter. Here are some of the ones we know about. If you've won something or been featured in the media we'd love to know. Get in touch with our PR & Media Manager, Mark Waugh, to let him know by emailing mark.waugh@organicfarmers.org.uk.

National award for egg business

The **Lakes Free Range Egg Company**, owned by David Brass, topped the "Best Business Development in the Food Chain" category at the National Farming Awards, held in association with the NFU. Poultry World reported that Mr Brass, whose business is based near Penrith, Cumbria, has grown the business to 350,000 birds and supplies McDonalds. OF&G sends its congratulations for a job well done!

Eggs-act information for shoppers

Another licensee making the pages of Poultry World was **Chippindale Foods** of Harrogate who were featured for their excellent new website that allows shoppers to find out exactly where their eggs came from. Customers can visit www.wheresyoursfrom.com and by matching the code on their eggs to the ones listed in the site can find out all about the farm that produced them, including pictures. A superb example of innovation which we were delighted to see. Poultry World reports that Chippindales has more than a dozen contract farms in the North Yorkshire area and supplies Morrisons as well as local outlets.

Column inches galore for Lumbylaw

Licensee Robert Lee's **Lumbylaw Farm**, near Alnwick, Northumberland, was featured in a whole page article in Farmers Guardian at the end of July. The piece focused on Mr Lee's experience of going organic with his late-lambing sheep flock and pedigree South Devon herd. The article highlighted a great example of a successful producer and should be food for thought for anyone considering converting.

Environment award for South Wales Partnership

The Davies Partnership, run by Walter Davies, his son, Peter and wife Rosamund, of Slade Farm, Southerndown, in the Vale of Glamorgan, has been recognised for the environmental strengths of its business. The partnership took the farmer prize in the 2006 Welsh Agricultural Society/Countryside Council for Wales Agri-Environment Awards. The family runs two separate enterprises, one on the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and the other at St Fagans Country Park on the outskirts of Cardiff, meeting two specific markets with their Gloucester Old Spot pig products and high quality organic lamb. Farmers Guardian reports that they were chosen as winners because of their "innovation, integration and adaptability in balancing good farming products with an environmental framework and providing access and educational opportunities in the urban fringe". Our congratulations to the Davies family.

Big Issue for box scheme

Isobel Davies' unique approach to communicating with the customers of her **Farmaround** box scheme earned her pride of place in a column in The Big Issue in August. Correspondent Emma Rubach loved Isobel's quirky and offbeat letters she found in her box each week and hopes they never stop coming! Farmaround also got a mention on BBC Countryfile for its recently launched ethical clothing range, Izzy Lane.

New convert is front page news

Ian Piggot, who runs his family farm in Hertfordshire, became the latest pin-up of the farming world when he made the front page of Farmers Weekly (18 August, 2006)! This is accompanied by a double-page spread inside about Ian's decision to go organic with 240ha of his 690ha of good wheat growing land. We're delighted Ian chose OF&G for his certification and wish him well. Now we need even more arable farms to come into the organic fold to fill the growing vacuum for their produce...

Cobnuts to you!

The Webb family of **Allens Farm**, Sevenoaks, are the only supplier we are aware of in the UK producing organic cobnuts. As well as being one of Rick Stein's Food Heroes, they have been nominated in the UKTV food awards (you can vote for them at www.uktvfood.co.uk). They were also featured in a two-page article in the Telegraph about their fantastic cherry trees. The cobnuts have some very prestigious customers – but we are sworn to say no more!

And finally... Congratulations to Evaluation Scheme licensee **Envirosystems**, of Preston, which has scooped a Queen's Award for Enterprise (Innovation) for its Envirobed product – livestock bedding developed using short fibres from recycled newsprint. You can find Envirosystems and its products in our 'Farm Inputs' database on the front page of www.organicfarmers.org.uk



Events

2nd – 3rd September – The Organic Food Festival, Harbourside. Bristol. Susan Berry, OF&G Senior Processor Certification Officer, will be attending, in the Food Plaza.

20th and 21st September – The Dairy Event, Stoneleigh Park, Nr Coventry. OF&G will have a stand in Hall 2 at this event.

4th and 5th November 2006 – Organic Food Festival, Old Fruit Market, Glasgow

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
Compost	Worm Casts	CJ Wormcasts	01757 618630	Approved	30/6/07
Compost	YHS Multi-Purpose Peat Free Compost	Yorkshire Aggregates Quarrying Limited	01302 770500	Approved Restricted use.	31/7/07
Disinfectant Cleaning Agent	Jet 5	Certis	01980 676500	Approved	31/7/07
Fertilizer	Alga 600	Travena Ltd	01332 830090	Approved with Derogation	31/5/07
Fertilizer	Paper Crumble Lime	NDRM Ltd	01388 765544	Approved	31/7/07
Fertilizer	Laminaria Extract	Solutions 21	01527 524050	Approved with Derogation	31/7/07
Fertilizer	NT Sea-Crop ASC	Solutions 21	01527 524050	Approved with Derogation	31/7/07
Fertilizer	Sea-Crop DS30	Solutions 21	01527 524050	Approved with Derogation	31/7/07
Fertilizer	NT Sea-Crop ASC Plus	Solutions 21	01527 524050	Approved with Derogation	31/7/07
Insect Control	Majestik	Certis	01980 676500	Approved with Derogation	31/7/07
Mineral Supp	3 in 1 Bucket	Zintec	01568 708008	Approved Restricted use.	31/5/07
Mineral Supp	Tailormade Minerals	Zintec	01568 708008	Approved Restricted use.	31/5/07
Mineral Supp	Micronutrient Sheep Drench	Zintec	01568 708008	Approved Restricted use.	31/5/07
Mineral Supp	Micronutrient Cattle In Feed	Zintec	01568 708008	Approved Restricted use.	31/5/07
Pest Control	Ferramol	Certis	01980 676500	Approved	31/7/07
Silage Add/Inoc	Mole Corn Extra (Lalsil MS01)	Lallemand (UK) Ltd	02920 475561	Approved	30/6/07