

General News

For some time now the EU Commission has been debating and formalising a new EU organic regulation to take over from EEC 2092/91. This new regulation has been partially finished and over the coming months OF&G will, as and when any changes from the current regulation become apparent, be informing you all via this Technical Newsletter.

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Technical News for Producers

Please note that we have several Technical Leaflets specifically written for various types of on-farm processing. Please contact your CO if you would like a copy or you can download them from our website.

The Leaflets that are available are :-

- TL 209 On Farm Processing - Red Meat Cutting
- TL 210 On Farm Processing - Poultry Slaughter and Dressing
- TL 211 Packing and Grading Organic Eggs.

Expiry of non-organic feed derogation for ruminants

Hopefully you will all now be planning for the ending of the non-organic feed derogation for ruminants. As of 1/1/2008 you will no longer be allowed to feed any non-organic feeds to your livestock.

In addition all stocks of non-organic feed must be used up before 1/1/2008. This means that if you are adding sugar beet pulp or molasses (or any other feed) to your silage clamps for feeding during 2008 you must ensure that an organic source is used. If you are forward buying your feeds you will also need to ensure that these contain no non-organic ingredients. Currently, forage from first year conversion land cannot be fed after 31/12/07.

Technical News for Processors

95% Rule

May we remind you about the 95% rule. The 95% applies to the percentage of organic agricultural material in the product once you have removed the water, salt, additives and processing aids. The 5% that is left can only be permitted additives, processing aids and permitted non-organic agricultural products as listed in Section 10 of our Control Manual.

Any ingredient that is not listed in Section 10 cannot form part of this 5%.

Miscellaneous

Blogging?! Yep, blogging.

We like to think we're about as cutting edge as the certification business can be - so we have now embraced the blog! For the uninitiated, this is a kind of online conversation (or it can be) based around sharing interesting bits of news and comment. It's less stuffy and formulaic than news releases and allows readers to add their own comments to contribute to the debate, or simply share their own experiences. We've started blogging on various things the team have done or issues that have caught our eye. Why not take a look at www.organicfarmers.org.uk/blog - you might even decide to contribute...

Licensee News

The future of dairy?

OF&G licensee Tom Rawson has beaten off stiff competition to be named as one of three finalists in the Farmers Guardian Dairy Farmers of the Future 2007 competition. This is an achievement in itself having been put there by a public vote. Tom, from Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, is now lining up against fellow finalists Oliver Neagle, from Hampshire, and Stuart Rogers from Oxfordshire. Each will be visited by the judging panel, with the winner being announced at the Dairy Event, to be held on the 19th and 20th September.

Convert to organic and boost milk output!

Penheale Estate, in Launceston, Cornwall, formed the basis of a great article in a June edition of Farmers Weekly showing that conversion to organic need not mean lower milk yields. Farm Manager, Simon Oates, explains how the estate made the change and managed to increase milk output by 15% by converting and carefully managing home-grown forage. A great example to anyone worried about making the move to organic.

Bean there, done that

Licensees Steve and Julie Wilkinson, of Thirsk, were highlighted in the August edition of The Ranger (magazine of the British Free Range Egg Producers Association) as one of the Association's newest members. The piece describes their two flocks of ISA Warren and Columbian Blacktails which are housed in APS mobile units, making use of solar and wind power, and which have access to a nearby bean crop to roam happily in. Steve also tells The Ranger how he plays the radio to the birds in the sheds to calm them – the report didn't say whether they prefer Five Live or Radio One!

Taking the show plunge

Evaluation Scheme licensees Angus Horticulture, of Brechin and Forfar, tell us they're taking the plunge and attending their first trade event, in the form of Glee Birmingham, Europe's largest garden, pet and leisure trade event. OF&G certifies Angus for its SEER Rockdust, Rockmix and Rocksoil, which can be used under derogation. The company has also this year secured its first European distributor, in Sweden.

OF&G in the News

Since the last newsletter we've been busy with a number of issues which have been widely reported in the media. Top of the agenda was the decision by Europe to allow up to 0.9% GM material in organic food. OF&G, and many other leading bodies, disagree with this and will be enforcing the lowest detectable level (0.1%) in its standards. We think this is crucial for consumer confidence and in supporting the integrity and ethos of the standards. Our concerns were reported in (amongst other places) The Grocer and Organic Products.

OF&G has also been making moves to boost the availability of abattoirs willing and able to slaughter organic livestock. Our offer to slash (or where enough licensees will benefit, waive) licensing fees for up to two years was widely covered and even received the support of Soil Association Policy Director, Lord Peter Melchett, as reported in Meat Trades Journal.

Finally, and this should serve as a reminder to possible entrants, the launch of the Bill Allen Memorial Award has been covered in a number of publications. For more information see the front page of the OF&G website.

Staff News

An operational note for Jenny Bibb's licensees: Jenny will be on annual leave from September 17 to October 8 (we're letting her have a decent break so she can go and milk cows in NZ again!). While she is away rest assured that Jenny's licensees will be able to talk to any of our other COs about their certification issues – all COs have full access to your records. Jenny will pick up any non-urgent matters on her return and is hoping the waiting post won't occupy every square inch of her office. Happy hols from us, Jen!

Evaluation Scheme

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	Cert Expiry Date
Fertiliser	Alga 600	Travena Ltd	0845 2579 123	Approved with derogation	31/5/08
	Laminaria Extract	Solutions 21	01527 524050	Approved with derogation	30/7/08
	NT Sea-Crop ASC	Solutions 21	01527 524050	Approved with derogation	30/7/08
	Sea-Crop DS30	Solutions 21	01527 524050	Approved with derogation	30/7/08
	NT Sea-Crop ASC Plus	Solutions 21	01527 524050	Approved with derogation	30/7/08
	TTL Plus	Nutrimate Ltd	01772 641181	Approved	31/8/08
	Organimate	Nutrimate Ltd	01772 641181	Approved with derogation	31/8/08
	Nutrimate	Nutrimate Ltd	01772 641181	Approved	31/8/08
	Nutrimate Gold	Nutrimate Ltd	01772 641181	Approved	31/8/08

Advertisements

Wanted

Organic Wheat, Oats, Triticale, Peas, Beans and Lupins. Higher moisture grains considered. Contact: Lyndon Edwards Tel: 01291 622421 07850 842101 l.edwards@farming.co.uk Chepstow

Mobile Layers shed wanted for organic production. Any size Contact: Mr Dunn Tel: 01726 833485 07971 467444 Cornwall

Cereals and pulses. We need organic wheat, peas and beans to feed our pigs until next harvest. If you have any to sell, we will collect in 30 tonne multiples nation-wide. Payment via national compounder. Contact: James Keith/The Organic Pig Company Tel: 01362 693172 office@hoehall.co.uk Norfolk

Organic store lambs wanted. Any breed considered. Contact: Mr N Eggins Tel: 01752 776900 07977 485770 nigeleggins@hotmail.com DEVON

Organic or C2 (second year in-conversion) corn, wheat, oats, barley or triticale and also beans. Contact: J Corbett Tel: 01452 790209 Newent, Gloucestershire

3-4 Simmental or Blonde cross heifer calves to rear (10 day old) as replacements for suckler herd must be IVR and Leptospirosis free. Contact: Tim Jury Tel: 01424 813620 07734282494 timjury@onetel.com Hastings, East Sussex

Organic Oats. Can collect anywhere in UK. Contact: Glenn Speer Tel: 07872836675
glennspeer@fanevalley.co.uk

250 organic sheep required for winter grazing. Contact: Mr Ian Jones Tel: 07796 693999
ian@hendrerwyddfarm.com Denbighshire

Organic wheat. oat, rye and triticale straw. Payment on collection. All areas. Contact: Alan James Tel: 01747
838705 after 6pm 07778 146447 Dorset

Organic/In-conversion sheep wintering wanted, long or short term for ewe and wether lambs. Cumbria/North
of England. Contact: Mr S Lord Tel: 01931 715222 07779 504602 Cumbria

Pedigree Angus yearling females. Must have good breeding records. Canadian bloodlines and good size
important. Devon and Cornwall. Contact: ROSPEATH FARM Tel: 01736 740286 07785936778 SOUTH WEST

200 North Country Mule gimmer shearlings and some gimmer lambs. Contact: Derek Megginson Tel: 01377
229361 07974 568790 derek@taylormegginson.co.uk East Yorkshire

Wintering for 1000 organic ewe lambs on organic farm in Shropshire, Cheshire or mid Powys. Contact: Mr
Gwyn Evans Tel: 01691 870617 Mid Wales

Mobile or small bulk milk tank. Somebody must know of one stored at the back of a barn which needs a good
home! Contact: Alan Sutcliffe Tel: 01706 813844 07890 886357 pextenment@hotmail.com Lancs/Yorks
border

Peter Jones Livestock in association with OLMC, are looking for organic store cattle, Continental and Native
breeds, from 7 to 22 months old. Please contact Vicky on 01829 730580 or Nick Cole on 07921
925566. Contact: Vicky Hawkins Tel: 01829 730580 07921 925566 Anywhere in mainland UK

Miscellaneous

Organic Arable Marketing Company are seeking to employ a dynamic Managing Director to drive the business
forward. Experience of the arable market place essential - organic desirable. Marketing, communications and
PR skills essential. For further information and an application form please use contact details below. Contact:
Pam Tibbats Tel: Pam.t@organicresearchcentre.com

Good size meeting room available. Need a meeting room for a day or more? We are Small Farms situated
between Brecon and Hay on Wye. We can provide lunches, teas and cakes sourced from the farm or very
locally. Contact: Marion Kramer Tel: 01874 712125 marionkramer@btconnect.com Powys, Mid Wales.

For Sale

Good quality spring oat straw, 50 - 100 bales available from week beginning 27th August. Contact: Mr
Chappell Tel: 01409 231215 Devon

Small bale organic 2007 hay. Made dry and barn stored. High clover and ragwort free. £3.00 per bale (over
100 bales) ex farm. Contact: Mrs Field Tel: 01793 700595 Wiltshire

Winter grazing available for 700 welsh ewes. From 1st Nov to end March. Contact: Mr R T Crellin Tel: 07712
778207 Monmouthshire

Good quality round bale organic hay. Contact: Mr R T Crellin Tel: 07712 778207 Monmouthshire

ORGANIC SHEEP AND CATTLE SALE 330 Organic well grown gimmer shearlings 130 Scottish Border Bred
pure Lleyn, Mule, Lleyn x Texel 200 Cumbria breed Suffolk x and Texel x Also first crop gimmers Lleyn Ewes
and Lambs All over wintered on one East Yorkshire Farm, which had not been stocked with sheep for 17
years previously. 15 converted suckler cows with 2007 born organic Charolais x Limousin calves. Cows are
Limousin, Charolais, and Simmental X All stock belongs to Malcolm Pearson Tel 01482 825382 To be sold on
Friday 14th September by Ralph Ward FRICS FAAV of Frank Hill and Son at Skidbying Farm, Dunswell, East
Yorkshire Contact: Malcolm Pearson Tel: 01482 825382 auctions@frankhillandson.co.uk East Yorkshire

2nd year in conversion Hay for Sale 4' Round Welgar D 4000 square CLOVER/TIMOTHY Contact: Gwyn
Meyrick Tel: 01608 658850 07977 441904 meyrick@bouldfarm.co.uk KINGHAM, OXFORSHIRE

Organic dairy heifer or beef rearing service available, post foot and mouth restrictions. Long or short term.
Please phone for details. 01726842338 Contact: A.Kendall Tel: 01726842338 Cornwall

120 Top Suffolk x Mule gimmers Contact: John Aynsley Tel: 01669 620037 07801 560696 Northumberland

Final year in-conversion Wiltshire Horn no shearing, dagging etc. Excellent mothers. Genuinely easy to keep.
Contact: M & R Blake Tel: 01752 823210 tregonhawkefarm@btinternet.com Devon/Cornwall border

Organic store lambs available September onwards. 500 Swaledale wether lambs. 500 Mule wether lambs. 100 Cheviot x wether lambs. Contact: Mr S Lord Tel: 01931 715222 07779 504602 Cumbria

Fed up with shearing/dagging/flystrike? Take the wool off your sheep and add profits with a wiltshire horn ram. Signet recorded, MV accredited from a long established (20 years) organic farm. Rams for all budgets Contact: Tim White Tel: 01747 820499 livestock@pertwood.co.uk Wiltshire

36 big round bales hay, 140 square bales whole crop oats, 140 square bales whole crop oats and peas. All in-conversion crops. Contact: Mr J B Rose Tel: 01288 331233

Hay for sale 2nd year conversion ryegrass and ryegrass red/white clover mixture in big square bales. Very well made also good quality wheat and oats straw available. Contact: Harry Williams Tel: 07831 124968 ali@follyfarm.plus.com Swindon Wiltshire

2nd year In conversion round bale hay. Contact: Mr Rutherford Tel: 01670 788345 07761 191434 Northumberland

Tamworth weaners, well bred and fully organic, available now. Contact: Mrs P Reid Tel: 01367 820272 07799 833115 Oxfordshire

Silage £13 per bale, large square or round. Hay £16 per bale, large square. Contact: Peter Jenkins Tel: 01963 23657 Dorset

700-800 bales of hay from last year, all good quality. Contact: Geoff Earl Tel: 01949 81587 07837 062708 Nottinghamshire

Organic C1 80 class quadrant haylage bales, made without rain. £15 per bale. Contact: Mr Michael Vickery Tel: 01460 73614 Somerset

100 wrapped 1st cut organic haylage bales (180x80x80cm). also 60 bales (220x80x80) organic hay available now, under cover. Contact: Gill Ward Tel: 01423 323564 07834 955959 jrward@btinternet.com North Yorkshire

10 tonnes Victoria plums ready to pick now. Chemical-free for 12 years on historic trees, 2nd year in conversion. Contact: Geoffrey Barker Tel: 01954 231523 Cambridgeshire

Organic Hay. Claas Quadrant bales 8` long, 4` wide, 2` deep. Approx. 65 tons Contact: Richard Higgins Tel: 01455552354 richard@bitteswellfarms.co.uk Leicestershire

Winter housing for 60 cows, in cubicles, with 1st cut in-conversion silage for 4 months Contact: Mr Eric Hawkes Tel: 01840 250488 Cornwall

150 high density square bale in conversion haylage Contact: Mark or Rebecca Blake Tel: 01752 823210 Devon/Cornwall border

Black Rock Pullets 15 weeks old reared to organic standards. Contract pullet rearing available. Contact: Anne Aynsley Tel: 01669 620037 078555 90507 Northumberland

Contract rearing facility for dairy and beef cattle available to include long and short term grazing. Contact: John Aynsley Tel: 01669 620037 07801560696 Northumberland

Approx 350 big square bales of 2nd year inconversion Red clover silage and 2nd year inconversion whole crop pea and barley in large square bales, please contact to discuss further. Contact: Mr Barrett Tel: 07870 631933 Cornwall

130 mini heston bales of organic hay, 8' long, 3' wide, 3' high. Easily transportable, July 2007 crop. Contact: John Brown and Sons Tel: 07919055515 Bury St Edmunds

Aberdeen angus heifer born 20.05.06 registered with aberdeen angus society surplus to requirements. Contact: Duncan Clarke Tel: 01609 883068 07749 273753 North Yorkshire

Organic clover haylage. 70cm x 80cm x 120cm, wrapped. 60 bales. £30 each. Contact: Charles Bennett Tel: 07711 606980 Oxfordshire

For sale (all 2nd year in conversion) rye grass and meadow hay in big square bales, red clover haylage in big square bales wrapped, 800 tonnes of first cut clamped silage and 50 acres of spring barely (standing crop) due for combining end of August, call to discuss further. Contact: Mr T Reed Tel: 07776 253987 Warwickshire

Organic cattle grazing available 2008. 4 miles from Junction 23 of the M5. Contact: Mr David Watts Tel: 01278 794440 Somerset

Organic hay. 47 round bales. Contact: Mr Peter Norbury Tel: 01952 770223 07808 640185 Shropshire

Organic hay 100 bales 4' round. Contact: Peter Turnbull Tel: 01347 868236 07836 370253 North Yorkshire

500 North of England Mule gimmer lambs, bred on Lake District hill farm. Contact: Mr S Lord (Forest Hall Farm) Tel: 01931 715222 07779504602 Cumbria

Organic meadow hay , approx 800 standard small bales. made last year and barn stored. must now clear to make room for this years crop. offers ? Contact: Derek Bond Tel: 01243-266041 West Sussex/ Hampshire

Timothy clover hay, 4'6" round bales, excellent quality. Haulage can be arranged. SOPA organic certificate No 302/0607/005. Contact: Graham Dixon Tel: 01669 650231 Northumberland

Large quantity of organic apples of traditional mixed varieties will be available shortly. Contact: Caroline or David Peers Tel: 01769 579287 07725 962536 caroline@bleier.co.uk North Devon

Organic store pigs, Saddleback x Duroc, various ages Contact: Adrian Procter Tel: 01729 840301 07967 158803 Settle, North Yorkshire

50 organic Lleyn ewe lambs, MVA, ready August. Contact: Adrian Procter Tel: 01729 840301 07967 158803 Settle, North Yorkshire

2 pedigree organic aberdeen angus bulls. 15months old. Quiet easy calvers with excellent blood lines. Sensible offers. Contact: Duncan Clarke Tel: 01609 883068 07749 273753 North Yorkshire

3 organic sucklers with calves at foot. 2 simmental x and 1 shorthorn. All with calf. Contact: Mr Aidley Tel: 01829 260362 07950 449117 Cheshire

Organic pedigree red devon bull, 18th months old, sired by Macbiehill Frederick. Currently weighs 518kg. £1800. Organic red devon bull, pedigree breeding but unregistered. Sired by Luckcroft Rocket 14th. 15 months old, currently weighing 499 kg. £1000. Contact: Tina Kernish Tel: 01747 838289 Dorset

Whingill Organics have for sale 450 North of England Mule Gimmers. Available for collection mid september. Secure your replacements with a deposit, contact Mark to arrange viewing. Contact: Mark Jenkinson Tel: 017683 71405 07970325502 Cumbria.

150 North of England mule gimmer lambs available in early September. All off SDA farm in Lake District. Contact: Frank Park Tel: 01539443362 bannerigg@whsmithnet.co.uk CUMBRIA

TO LET OR SHARE FARM 100 acres of organic light/medium loam in Beverley area, with borehole and electricity. Suitable for vining peas or beans, edible oil crops, vegetables or root crops. Contact: Frank Hill & Son (A&V) Limited Tel: 01964 630531 auctions@frankhillandson.co.uk East Yorkshire

30 organic in-calf pedigree friesland/holstein heifers for sale. Contact: JE Barker & Son Tel: 01743 362979 07793 365518 Shropshire

Reduction of pedigree reg Blonde D'Aquitaine suckler cows (organic and CBS) with organic calves at foot, from pedigree herd established 1985. Also strong pedigree organic breeding bulls 24 - 27 months plus pure yearling heifers. Contact: Robert Hamer Tel: 01743 860304 07985 941735 Shropshire

44 high yielding dairy cows, 8000 litre average. Cubicle housed. Calving August / Sept / Oct. Whole herd. Contact: Mike Dauncey Tel: 01288 331525 07866 459093 Cornwall