

## General News

### OF&G pulls out of 2008 Royal Show

Organic Farmers & Growers has taken the decision not to attend the Royal Show in 2008.

After much deliberation, the management and board felt that the show was no longer, and had not been for some time, of benefit to the company.

Chief Executive, Richard Jacobs, explained: "We go to many shows and events throughout the year which our team really enjoy and which put us face-to-face with our licensees, potential licensees and our peers in the organic sector.

"Unfortunately we have felt for some time now that the Royal Show wasn't delivering this experience. 2007 was our most disappointing attendance at Stoneleigh, while the rest of the show season during the year was judged a great success - regardless of the weather!

"On this basis we have decided not to expend valuable resources, particularly in terms of the time of our experienced staff, by committing to the Royal in 2008. That's not to say we wouldn't reconsider in future, but there would need to be a compelling change in the profile of the show's visitors."

A list of events which OF&G will be attending will be published on the company website as they are finalised.

## New EU Organic Regulation

Further to our article in the August Newsletter we write with more information regarding the new EU Organic Regulation.

The current regulation 'EEC 2092/91' is being re-written and the new regulation 'EC 834/2007' will come into force from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. This revision is being carried out to:

- bring the organic regulation into line with general Community Legislation;
- to tidy up the existing EU Organic Regulation, which has become increasingly cumbersome due to the addition of successive amendments;
- to, hopefully, create a more level playing field for organic operators across Europe.

The new regulation will consist of 3 parts: the 'Whereas's'; the 'Articles' and the 'Implementing Rules'. To date the EU Commission has agreed and published the 'Whereas's' and the 'Articles'. The 'Whereas's' set out the principals of the new regulation and provide the justification for what is being done and will be used as an aid to interpret the 'Articles' and 'Implementing Rules'. The 'Articles' will provide the legal framework for the new regulation and the 'Implementing Rules' will provide the actual detailed rules.

There is still a great deal of work to be done, as we don't yet have a draft of the 'Implementing Rules', although this is now expected early in 2008. Thus far we do know that there will be a new requirement to use the EU Organic logo, referred to as the Community logo, on all pre-packaged organic products produced in the EU. This is covered under Article 24. In addition when using the Community logo there will be a requirement to also indicate the place where the agricultural raw materials were farmed.

With regard to the 'Implementing Rules', and mindful of the fact that there is not a lot of time before the new regulation comes into force, the Commission has indicated that it is intending to move the majority of the implementing rules from the existing regulation into the new regulation. This may or may not be a good idea and could be the source of some considerable confusion if the old 'Implementing Rules' clash with the new 'Whereas's' and 'Articles'.

Organic Farmers & Growers Ltd  
Elim Centre, Lancaster Road  
Shrewsbury  
SY1 3LE  
T: 01743 440512 / 0845 330 5122  
F: 01743 461441 / 0845 330 5123  
E: [info@organicfarmers.org.uk](mailto:info@organicfarmers.org.uk)  
W: [www.organicfarmers.org.uk](http://www.organicfarmers.org.uk)

The latest round of discussions on the new regulation is focusing on all the various derogations contained within the existing regulation. In a shockingly worrying act of disregard the EU Commission has decided not to consult publicly on this part of the discussion. Instead a multiple-choice questionnaire has been circulated to its Organic Committee for completion and Member States have been 'invited' to complete a copy if they want to. To say that the questionnaire is limited is a bit of an understatement, there is very little room for additional comment or for teasing out the essential detail of these issues. Clearly the Commission is learning that if it doesn't ask the question it won't have to deal with the answers!

The short timescales and lack of meaningful consultation are a significant cause for concern. OF&G has been working hard through various channels to ensure that our voice is heard and that the new regulation is fair and appropriate. As we move closer to the implementation of the new regulation we will do our best to keep you all informed.

This article can be viewed on our website.

The following links may be of interest to anyone wishing to know more:

The new regulation 834/2007 can be viewed at:  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:189:SOM:EN:HTML>

FIBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture) have a number of articles on the new regulation:  
[http://www.organic-europe.net/europe\\_eu/eu-regulation-2092-91-revision.asp](http://www.organic-europe.net/europe_eu/eu-regulation-2092-91-revision.asp)

The IFOAM EU Group has a useful info page on their website  
[http://www.ifoam.org/about\\_ifoam/around\\_world/eu\\_group/web\\_Revision/Revision\\_info\\_page.html](http://www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/around_world/eu_group/web_Revision/Revision_info_page.html)

## Miscellaneous

---

### Organic Producer Conference 2007

---

Monday 10th – Tuesday 11th December 2007, Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester

The programme will be producer-focused, with parallel workshops focused on grower issues, poultry, arable, dairy and beef and sheep production. Key topics include feed availability and costs, the pros and cons of increasing on-farm production, energy and energy use, carbon foot-printing, arable crop production, composting and recycling and antibiotics.

Visit [www.organicresearchcentre.com/?i=events.php&event\\_id=120](http://www.organicresearchcentre.com/?i=events.php&event_id=120) or call 01488 658279 for further details.

## Licensee News

---

### And the award goes to...

An array of OF&G licensees have been making the headlines for all the right reasons, making their presence felt in some key national competitions.

**Lorna and Nick Chippindale's** Chippindale Foods, of Kingsley Farm, Harrogate, has been unveiled as a finalist in the Poultry Farmers of the Year category in the Farmers Weekly Awards 2007. Their innovative approach to marketing and vision for the growth of the company singled them out for the judges. Lorna and Nick run the company producing, packing, marketing, selling and distributing the eggs, with 15 contract producers signed-up. They have focused on developing organic and free-range brands and pack about 2 million eggs every week – about 1% of total UK sales.

Also up for an FW Award in the Farm Manager of the Year category is **George Perrott** who runs the Clinton Devon Farm Partnership for Clinton Devon Estates, near Sidmouth, Devon. His Farmers Weekly write-up describes George as a man of "limitless energy and an anything-is-possible attitude". The judges praised him as a "strategist with a clear vision for the future" and singled out strong staff management abilities and animal welfare credentials.

The award winners will be announced on 31<sup>st</sup> October at a ceremony in London and we wish Lorna, Nick and George every success.

Congratulations are due to **Tom Rawson** who was named runner-up in the Farmers Guardian Dairy Farmer of the Future awards for 2007. Tom, of Thornhill Hall Farm, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, was described in the full-page FG piece as "no ordinary dairy farmer" in light of his clear understanding of the dairy sector as a

whole. His management of a herd of 220 Holstein cross Jersey cows and a separate bottling plant, under the Clever Cow Organics brand, earned Tom the recognition in this hotly contested award.

- If you or your business has been featured in the media we'd be delighted to hear from you. Drop a line to our PR man, Mark Waugh, at [mark.waugh@organicfarmers.org.uk](mailto:mark.waugh@organicfarmers.org.uk).
- We're always looking for businesses to profile in the 'Featured Licensees' section of our website, so if you would like a free profile linked from the front page of our busy site, contact Mark. Open to all licensees, whatever the sector.

## OF&G in the News

Since OF&G achieved wide press coverage for its offer to provide substantially reduced cost (or even free, where warranted) certification to small abattoirs, the need for this service has become even more pressing.

The continued extension of the bluetongue zone has meant animals cannot cross these borders, cutting down even further the options available for slaughter, particularly from England to Wales. Any licensees who know of abattoirs local to them which are not currently offering organic slaughter are urged to pass on their details to OF&G. We will contact them and offer to expedite their certification at little or no cost if they are willing to consider organic. We will then contact all producers in their area to notify them of the service.

If you have abattoirs to suggest, please speak to your certification officer.

## Staff News

Senior Processor Certification Officer Susan Berry is leaving OF&G and we wish her well for the future. We are in the process of recruiting two new processor COs and would like to assure all licensees that in the meantime the processor department is being ably managed by Gabrielle Lanceley and Katie Owens. We are also delighted to welcome the return, at least temporarily, of Nicky Strudwick, who some will remember from her time here pre-motherhood!

## 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
Animal Health Product	Herbacyte Premix	Uncle Ted's Organics Ltd	01422 349118	Approved	31/9/08
	Herban Premix	Uncle Ted's Organics Ltd	01422 349118	Approved	31/9/08
	AVIGUARD	Microbial Developments Ltd	01684 891055	Approved	31/10/08
Cleaning Agent	Nvirox	Uncle Ted's Organics Ltd	01422 349118	Approved	31/9/08
	Envirocyte	Uncle Ted's Organics Ltd	01422 349118	Approved	31/9/08
Composts	YHS Multi-Purpose Peat Free Compost	Yorkshire Aggregates Quarrying Ltd	01302 770500	Restricted	30/7/08
	Bioganix Standard Fertiliser	7Y Services Ltd	01568 610061	Restricted	31/8/08
Feed Supplement	Amino Protek Nature Compound	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	31/9/08
	Amino Protek Nature Farm Pack	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	31/9/08
	Salmoprotect	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	31/9/08
	Orgamin	Uncle Ted's Organics Ltd	01422 349118	Approved	31/9/08
	DOSTO Green	Dostofarm GmbH	+49 4488 8459 0	Approved	31/9/08

Category	Name	Supplier	Telephone	OF&G Status	Cert Expiry Date
Fertiliser	Organi-Graze	Mole Valley Forage Services	0845 603 1210	Approved	30/7/08
	Organi-Cut	Mole Valley Forage Services	0845 603 1210	Approved	30/7/08
	Extensive Turkey Litter	7Y Services Ltd	01568 610061	Restricted	31/8/08
	Greenit	Mistrys	020 7431 1796	Approved	31/9/08
	Kelpak	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Restricted	30/8/08
	Rootboost	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Restricted	30/8/08
	Kelpland	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Restricted	30/8/08
	Skelp	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Restricted	30/8/08
	Omex Organic Foliar Feeds	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Restricted	30/8/08
	Suspension Fertiliser	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Restricted	30/8/08
Pest Control	Aquablast Bug Spray	Agropharm Ltd	01494 816575	Restricted	31/9/08
	Pyrethrum 5 EC	Agropharm Ltd	01494 816575	Restricted	31/9/08
	Sluggo	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Approved	30/8/08
	Gard-S	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Approved	30/8/08
	Gard-S Granules	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Approved	30/8/08
	Garland	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Approved	30/8/08
Plant Health Product	Bactolife	Biotechnica Services Ltd	0118 951 5605	Restricted	31/9/08
	Mycortex	Biotechnica Services Ltd	0118 951 5605	Restricted	31/9/08
	Bioflo	Biotechnica Services Ltd	0118 951 5605	Restricted	31/9/08
	Biosept All Clear	Natralys Ltd	0118 951 5605	Restricted	31/9/08
	Biosept Crop Gold	Natralys Ltd	0118 951 5605	Restricted	31/9/08
	Biosept Hydro Gold	Natralys Ltd	0118 951 5605	Restricted	31/9/08
	Biosept Rose Gold	Natralys Ltd	0118 951 5605	Restricted	31/9/08
	Garland G	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Approved	30/8/08
	Legume Fix	Legume Technology Ltd	0115 966 3679	Approved	31/10/08
	Nature's Nitrogen	Legume Technology Ltd	0115 966 3679	Approved	31/10/08
	Prefixed	Legume Technology Ltd	0115 966 3679	Restricted	31/10/08
Pea and Bean Booster	Legume Technology Ltd	0115 966 3679	Approved	31/10/08	
Soil Conditioner	Physiolith	Mole Valley Forage Services	0845 603 1210	Approved	30/7/08
	Physalg 27	Mole Valley Forage Services	0845 603 1210	Approved	30/7/08
	Physalg 15	Mole Valley Forage Services	0845 603 1210	Approved	30/7/08
	Biomex Booster, Biomex SA	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Approved	30/8/08
	Biomex P	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Approved	30/8/08
	Biomex Starter	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Restricted	30/8/08
	Biomex Duster	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Restricted	30/8/08
	Biomex FZB	Omex Agriculture Ltd	01526 396011	Restricted	30/8/08
Vitamins and Minerals	Labtec Spectrum	Labtec Ltd	01270 214004	Approved	28/2/08
	Labtec Multivit-Plus	Labtec Ltd	01270 214004	Approved	28/2/08
	Labtec Xtra D3	Labtec Ltd	01270 214004	Approved	28/2/08
	Calsea Digest	Mole Valley Forage Services	0845 603 1210	Approved	30/7/08
	Calsea Copper	Mole Valley Forage Services	0845 603 1210	Approved	30/7/08
	Calsea Mag	Mole Valley Forage Services	0845 603 1210	Approved	30/7/08
	Calsea Zinc	Mole Valley Forage Services	0845 603 1210	Approved	30/7/08
	Calsea Phos	Mole Valley Forage Services	0845 603 1210	Approved	30/7/08
	Calsae Graze	Mole Valley Forage Services	0845 603 1210	Approved	30/7/08
	High Phos Mineral	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	31/9/08
	High Mag Mineral	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	31/9/08
	Cattle GP Mineral	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	31/9/08
	Sheep GP Mineral	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	31/9/08
	DOSTO Mineral	Dostofarm GmbH	+49 4488 8459 0	Approved	31/9/08