

Technical Newsletter



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General News

Notice of OF&G office hours over Christmas

The office will be closed from 5pm on Monday 24th December 2007 until 9am Wednesday 2nd January 2008.

The staff and directors of OF&G would like to wish all of our licensees and associates a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Hopefully 2007 has been rewarding for you and we look forward to working with you all in 2008.

Licensee News

Licensee is FW Farm Manager of the Year

Since our last newsletter George Perrott, of Clinton Devon Estates, in Devon, took the award for Farm Manager of the Year at the high profile Farmers Weekly event. In his full-page write-up in the FW George was described as an "outstanding individual who combines imagination, innovation and sound commercial judgement". George's leadership has taken the estate into organic conversion, based on solid commercial reasoning. Our kind of guy! Congratulations to George from everyone at OF&G.

An apology to Lyndon!

In the last issue we listed the admirable number of OF&G licensees shortlisted for the FW awards and, through oversight, managed to miss out Lyndon Edwards. So with apologies to him, we're delighted to highlight the fact that he was shortlisted in the Dairy Farmer of the Year category. No mean feat. Lyndon, of Severndale Farm, near Chepstow, was named as a runner-up and described as "innovative and happy to embrace new ideas to boost profits and improve welfare". Our congratulations to Lyndon.

OF&G in the News

Late night live

We have been busy as ever since the last newsletter providing comment and analysis for various parts of the media. Notables among our media outings include CEO Richard Jacobs taking part in a live phone-in debate on the Richard Bacon programme on BBC Five Live about fears over turkey shortages for Christmas in light of the bird flu outbreak. You may also have seen Richard quoted in the Daily Mail regarding research on organic dairy products potentially protecting children from asthma – and no, we haven't been researching that, the Mail approached us!

As well as the usual array of trade publications talking to or about us, it's interesting to note that Richard's quotes from the Daily Mail story appeared around the world on the internet, perhaps the most unusual website being 'thaindian.com' – a site for the Indian community in Thailand. Not exactly our core audience, but still...

Staff News

New faces keep appearing

We have a handful of new additions arriving over the next few weeks, either as extensions to the team or replacements.

Already in post is Processor Certification Officer, Ruth Lamb, who many of our processing licensees will soon come to know. We'll have a proper chat to Ruth for the next edition of the newsletter. We're delighted to welcome her on board.

Technical News for Producers

Expiry of non-organic feed derogation for ruminants

Hopefully you will all now be aware of the ending of the non-organic feed derogation for ruminants. As of 1/1/2008 you can no longer feed non-organic feeds to your livestock. All stocks of non-organic feed must be used before 1/1/2008, this includes all feedstuffs that contain a percentage of non-organic ingredients.

Additional uses for grassland in its first year of conversion

If there is additional land to enter into conversion, how to utilise that land whilst in its first year of conversion (C1) has always been difficult for existing organic farmers. These difficulties have been acknowledged by the EU, following consultations, an amendment to the organic regulation has been developed which will hopefully ease the situation and encourage more producers to enter extra land into conversion.

Where additional land which is part of the producers registration is entered into conversion, and that land has not previously had organic status within the last 5 years, it has been agreed that whilst the land is C1, up to 20% of the feed fed to the livestock may come from the grazing or harvesting of only permanent pasture or temporary grassland.

When feeding both in-conversion (2nd year) and C1 feed, the total combined percentage must not exceed the figures detailed in OF&G Control Manual 8.4.27. These figures are calculated on an annual basis as a percentage of the dry matter.

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
Bedding Material	Absorb-a-Bed	EnviroSystems (UK) Ltd/Greenlands Nutrition	01772 860085	Approved	30/4/08
Compost	Fertile Fibre Organic Seed Mix	Fertile Fibre Ltd	01432 853111	Restricted	31/5/08
	Fertile Fibre Organic Potting Mix	Fertile Fibre Ltd	01432 853111	Restricted	31/5/08
	Fertile Fibre Organic Multi Purpose Mix	Fertile Fibre Ltd	01432 853111	Restricted	31/5/08
	Organic Coir	Fertile Fibre Ltd	01432 853111	Approved	31/5/08
	Seer Rocksoil	Rockdust Ltd	01877 382926	Restricted	31/10/08
Feed Additive	Hemexsan	Heaton (Export & Marketing) Limited	01422 822308	Approved	31/5/08
Insect Control	Hemexsan	Heaton (Export & Marketing) Limited	01422 822308	Approved	31/5/08
Soil Conditioner	Seer Rockdust	Rockdust Ltd	01877 382926	Restricted	31/10/08
	Seer Rockmix	Rockdust Ltd	01877 382926	Restricted	31/10/08

