



# Technical News for Producers

## October 2007

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### Increase in the organic percentage for forage

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Following discussions with Defra and the seed industry it has been decided that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 the percentage of organic seed contained in a forage mix (grass/clover, arable silage) will increase to 65%. As previously you may purchase and sow a mix containing 65% organic ingredients but you must obtain a derogation prior to your next Annual Inspection.

### Expiry of non-organic feed derogation for ruminants

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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

### Bluetongue restrictions

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We are aware that many of our licensees are now caught in bluetongue restriction zones and this has been causing significant worry and inconvenience. OF&G would like to assure you all of its support and willingness to assist in any way within its power. If you have any problems arising out of the bluetongue restrictions that impact on your organic operation please do not hesitate to contact your Certification Officer. We will help where we can or note your problems and pass them on to any relevant organisations or individuals.