

## General News

### We're on the move

It's a great pleasure for us to announce that OF&G has a new home, which we're moving into at the beginning of May.

**Our office will be closed on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008 to enable us to move, but we hope to open again on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. In case of emergency you can contact us on one of the following mobile numbers: 07974 256585, 07929 623118 or 07956 819587.**

Our team has outgrown the current offices so we have taken the opportunity to buy our own building. The new site (address details included with this newsletter) is just a few miles up the road from our current base but, in contrast, it puts us out in the countryside, which is where we all prefer to be!

Plans are well in hand for a smooth transition so there should be no disruption to service. Our phone and fax number will change because we'll be just crossing the border from Shrewsbury into North Shropshire, but details are enclosed and our 0845 local rate numbers will continue to direct your calls to us. Our email and website address will remain the same. Post will also be forwarded in the medium term, so if you forget and accidentally use the old address, have no fear, we will still receive it. However, please make a note of the new details for future reference.

All at OF&G are very excited about the new base and we look forward to welcoming those of you who come to see us there in the future.

### A call to arable producers

Organic Farmers & Growers is to hold a major one-day event in June aimed at attracting more arable converts to the sector. Titled '**Contemplating Conversion**' the event will focus on the realities and benefits of moving to organic arable production.

As with everything OF&G does, the day will be dominated by real world, practical advice and we would be very pleased if you could spread the word with any colleagues and contacts who might be open to finding out more about converting part or all of their land. The current desperate shortage of organic crops is a problem for the sector, but also a great opportunity for producers to find a real premium for their efforts.

**Contemplating Conversion** will be held at Great Berwick Farm, Shrewsbury, Shropshire on June 26<sup>th</sup> 2008. The event is being supported by the HGCA, HDC, Savills, Natural England, Triodos Bank, Greenvale AP and Norton Organic Grain.

Speakers will be focusing on how to convert, how to overcome problems, subsidies and grants available, stockless systems and more. Entry is free and includes an organic lunch. Bookings should be made in advance by emailing [steven.jacobs@organicfarmers.org.uk](mailto:steven.jacobs@organicfarmers.org.uk) or calling us on 0845 330 5122 or 01939 291800

### Embarrassing turnaround for EU on 'bio' logo

Plans to enforce the addition of a new EU logo to all organic products have now been scrapped after an embarrassing error by Commission officials.

The new logo, featuring the word 'bio', had been through the full EU approval process and was due to come into effect in January 2009, as we reported in our last newsletter. However, it has now been withdrawn after it was discovered to be too similar in design to the label used by German retailer Aldi on some of its own organic lines.

Any processors who were preparing for the new logo's introduction should take note and cease work on amending packaging or labels.

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Defra has confirmed the logo has been withdrawn (a week after the news emerged through many non-official sources!). A number of news organisations are reporting that a competition is to be held for any citizen in the EU to try to design a replacement. The timescale for re-introducing the logo is still unknown.

The Grocer magazine reported that it has been ordered that any new version will not contain the word 'bio'. OF&G is very much hoping this is the case, as we feel that the term is in no way connected to organics in this country and would lead to confusion among shoppers. We will of course keep you informed as the issue develops.

## Compostable bags first

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OF&G is proud to be the first organic certifier to offer fully compostable carrier bags to its licensees. We've taken delivery of 10,000 bags, which bear our logo and an explanation of how the bag will break down when dropped in the compost bin.

The bags are made from non-GM cornstarch. They can be used a number of times before they begin to break down in natural conditions, or degrade fully in compost within 35-45 days. Once broken down the bags return to the simple elements of carbon, oxygen and hydrogen.

Licensees can buy the bags from us at the subsidised price of 6p each (min. order 100). For more information and an order form, visit [www.organicfarmers.org.uk/bags](http://www.organicfarmers.org.uk/bags).

# Technical News for Producers

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## Bluetongue Vaccinations

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We are now receiving a number of calls regarding the use of the, soon to be available, bluetongue vaccination.

The bluetongue vaccine is a live vaccine that can be administered to both sheep and cattle. It can be given to organic/converting animals without jeopardising their status. If you wish to use the vaccine you must update the Animal Health Plan justifying the need to treat your animals. Any use must be recorded with all the relevant information in the Veterinary Treatment Record.

Further information can be obtained from the following website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/bluetongue/control/vaccination-rolloutplan.htm>

# Events News

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## OF&G a hit at Natural & Organic Products Show

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On April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> we took a large stand at the Natural and Organic Products Show, at Olympia, London, along with a number of licensees. This trade-focused event attracts the great and the good of our sector and we received many compliments on our service from current licensees, as well as a great deal of interest from prospective customers.

We were also delighted to have with us Rebecca Raynor of Glebe Farm, Al Sharif from Harrisons and Crosfield and Brenda Clarke and her team from Trevarno Organic Skincare. Our stand was in an excellent position opposite the organic kitchen which generated a good flow of people with lots of interest in OF&G and the products of the licensees on the stand.

Given the success of the event we have booked again for next year and will keep you informed of opportunities to take part with us.

## Events OF&G attending later in the year

OF&G will be in attendance at the following shows this year, some of them in conjunction with SAI Global.

<b>Cereals 2008</b> <i>Heath Farm, Leadenham, Lincs</i>	11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Royal Highland Show</b> <i>Edinburgh</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> June
<b>Great Yorkshire Show</b> <i>Harrogate</i>	8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Royal Welsh Show</b> <i>Builth Wells</i>	21 <sup>st</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> July

## OF&G in the news

As ever we have continued to push out information on our activities and our opinions on a number of issues. This has resulted in the usual spread of media coverage. Topics dealt with since the last newsletter include: the launch of our compostable bags (see above); effects of feed shortages in the light of rising demand for organic and free range chicken; box schemes as an opportunity to tackle 'food deserts' (areas where shoppers cannot easily walk to get essential groceries); the rush towards new EU organic regulations which is leaving the industry in the dark; the EU 'bio' logo debacle; the fast-looming organic grant deadline in Wales; the launch of our 'Contemplating Conversion' event.

These have been covered in a wide variety of publications, including Farmers Weekly, Farmers Guardian, the retail and manufacturing press, the organic and natural press and a variety of news websites.

## 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
Additive	Losalt NACA 66/33	Klinge Chemicals Ltd	01355 238464	Approved	30/4/09
	Potassium Chloride	Klinge Chemicals Ltd	01355 238464	Approved	30/4/09
	Losalt NACA 50/50	Klinge Chemicals Ltd	01355 238464	Approved	30/4/09
Animal Health Product	Orego-Stim Smallholder	Meriden Animal Health Limited	01234 436130	Approved	28/2/09
	Orego-Stim Avian Complete	Meriden Animal Health Limited	01234 436130	Approved	28/2/09
Bedding Materials	Enviro Bed	Envirosystems (UK) Ltd/Greenlands Nutrition	01772 860085	Approved	30/4/09
	Absorb-a-Bed	Envirosystems (UK) Ltd/Greenlands Nutrition	01772 860085	Approved	30/4/09
Compost Additive	BAT 506 NTX - Compost Inoculant	GOC Technologies UK Ltd	01580 831223	Approved	31/8/08
	BAT 506 NTR - Compost Inoculant	GOC Technologies UK Ltd	01580 831223	Approved	31/8/08
	BAT 505 NTX - Topical Deodorizer	GOC Technologies UK Ltd	01580 831223	Approved	31/8/08
Composts	Sinclair Organic Blocking Compost	William Sinclair Horticulture Ltd	01522 780281	Approved	30/11/08
	Sinclair Organic Standard Nutrient Modular Compost	William Sinclair Horticulture Ltd	01522 780281	Approved	30/11/08
	Mix VTS .02.93	William Sinclair Horticulture Ltd	01522 780281	Approved	30/11/08
	VTS.04.93	William Sinclair Horticulture Ltd	01522 780281	Approved	30/11/08
	Earth Cycle Compost	The Woodhorn Group	01243 789284	Restricted	30/4/09
	Earth Cycle Compost Mulch	The Woodhorn Group	01243 789284	Restricted	30/4/09
	Root Zone	The Woodhorn Group	01243 789284	Restricted	30/4/09
	Earth Cycle Cow Compost	The Woodhorn Group	01243 789284	Restricted	30/4/09
	Earth Cycle Poultry Manure	The Woodhorn Group	01243 789284	Restricted	30/4/09
	Earth Cycle Top Soil Supreme	The Woodhorn Group	01243 789284	Restricted	30/4/09

<b>Categor</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>OF&amp;G Status</b>	<b>Cert Expiry Date</b>
Fertiliser	Orgo Neem Cake	Nico Orgo Manures	91 2699 244903	Approved	30/3/09
	Agrihume	Humatech Limited	01732 451013	Approved	30/4/09
	Seapower No1	Orkney Seaweed Company Ltd	01856 851669	Restricted	28/2/09
	Simply Seaweed	Orkney Seaweed Company Ltd	01856 851669	Restricted	28/2/09
	Multibloom/Mega Gree	Multibloom	0207 491 7019	Restricted	28/2/09
	Seagro Fish Emulsion	Premier Fishing (Pty) Limited	+27 21 419 0124	Restricted	28/2/09
Insect Control	Sticky Fly Catcher Roll	OBS Enviro Ltd	0845 363 1066	Approved	30/4/09
	Sticky Fly Catcher Mini Roll	OBS Enviro Ltd	0845 363 1066	Approved	30/4/09
	Sticky Fly Catcher Ribbon	OBS Enviro Ltd	0845 363 1066	Approved	30/4/09
	Sticky Fly Catcher Ribbon Refill	OBS Enviro Ltd	0845 363 1066	Approved	30/4/09
Plant Health Product	Crop-Set	Improcrop	00353 182 52244	Restricted	28/2/09
Processing Aids	Slurry Bugs	Envirosystems (UK) Ltd/Greenlands Nutrition	01772 860085	Approved	30/4/09
Silage Additive	Optimize	Envirosystems (UK) Ltd/Greenlands Nutrition	01772 860085	Approved	30/4/09
	Earlysile	Envirosystems (UK) Ltd/Greenlands Nutrition	01772 860085	Approved	30/4/09
	Greensile	Envirosystems (UK) Ltd/Greenlands Nutrition	01772 860085	Approved	30/4/09
Soil Conditioner	Stubble-Aid	Improcrop	00353 182 52244	Restricted	28/2/09
Vitamins and Minerals	Simply Green Tubby	Denis Brinicombe Group	01363 775115	Approved	30/3/09
	Simply Green High Magnesium Tubby	Denis Brinicombe Group	01363 775115	Approved	30/3/09
	Simply Green Protein Tubby	Denis Brinicombe Group	01363 775115	Approved	30/3/09
	Bagged Mineral Supplements	Denis Brinicombe Group	01363 775115	Approved	30/3/09
	Sealick GP Bucket 309	Owens Nutrition Ltd	01609 881941	Approved	30/4/09
	Sealick High Mag Bucket 307	Owens Nutrition Ltd	01609 881941	Approved	30/4/09
	Organic GP Free Access 299	Owens Nutrition Ltd	01609 881941	Approved	30/4/09
	Organic Cattle High Mag Free Access 300	Owens Nutrition Ltd	01609 881941	Approved	30/4/09