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General News

Notice of OF&G office hours over Christmas

The office will be closed from 3pm on Wednesday 24th December 2008 until 9am Friday 2nd January 2009. Emergency only telephone numbers are available during the above period for Richard Jacobs on 07974 256585 and 07976 742962 for Stephen Clarkson.

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 2008 has been rewarding for you and we look forward to working with you all in 2009.

Technical News

Organic certifiers are working in concert with Defra following the discovery of melamine in organic soya expeller.

Melamine contamination in food products from China have been widely reported in recent months. However it has now been revealed that the substance has been found in UK imports of organic soya expeller intended for feed use.

One OF&G registered processor was implicated in the finding, however this organisation has tested its stock and the results are negative for melamine.

As soon as this information was released by the Food Standards Agency, Organic Farmers & Growers began its own investigation and has urgently contacted all feed compounders holding OF&G certification.

Test results have been requested for all Chinese supplied soya expeller currently held by the compounders. Where test data is not available for a batch of the product, it must be immediately quarantined and test samples taken for laboratory examination - while the product remains isolated.

If a batch of the product tests positive, OF&G will request that the relevant compounder contacts their customers to pass on this information.

OF&G Chief Executive, Richard Jacobs, said: "In effect everybody has been told to stop using soya expeller from China and to get it tested, if that hasn't been done already. We have acted swiftly and are now beginning to collate the test results from our licensees. So far we are very encouraged that the problem may not be as wide spread as was first feared."

Licensee News

Reving up for Christmas

Those two-wheel mounted gourmets, the Hairy Bikers, have been gobbling up the atmosphere at OF&G licensee Copas Traditional Turkeys, in Berkshire.

According to the NFU website, the duo were there to film part of their upcoming Christmas special. Apparently the pair were impressed that the birds live a good life, which includes being able to "have a laugh with their mates".

It's doubtful that the turkeys were laughing particularly heartily at being so forcibly reminded of the time of year...

Wildly Successful

Congratulations go to licensees Richard and Michelle Becker, of Llanidloes, Powys, who received a Loraine Award for conservation and organic farming, presented to them at the recent Soil Association Conference in Bristol.

Judges for the award visited their farm in the summer and whittled them down to a shortlist of three, before naming the Becker's as the winners.

Providing a haven for all kinds of creatures on their land ties in well with Richard's passion for wildlife and landscape photography, in which he indulges on a semi-professional basis.

Feathering their bed

Evaluation Scheme licensees GI Hadfield & Son Ltd, purveyors of organically approving animal bedding, walked away from the British Free Range Egg Producers Association AGM with the award for best stand, which we're delighted to hear included a nice and obvious OF&G logo. Our attending CO, Katie, tells us they took home a big cup for their trouble. Presumably not one to eat eggs from...

OF&G in the News

Much of our coverage since the last newsletter has related to our concerns about the upcoming new EU Organic Regulation. Hopefully you are aware of this from reading past newsletters, but we have serious concerns that it's just not being flagged up by others and there could be some headaches as it catches people by surprise in the New Year. Our news release on the issue has been widely used, including by Farmers Guardian, and you can see it for yourself in the 'News' section of our website.

Another issue taking up the column inches is that regarding the review of sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite use in the processing of organic meat. The EU has a view to trying to phase this out if possible, but in the absence of robust and reliable alternatives we say that public health must come first. Again, you can read our position on this at organicfarmers.org.uk/news.

Staff News

As announced in our last newsletter, the ever-popular Jenny Bibb will be leaving our certification team in the new year, literally heading to pastures new as a dairy herd manager! We're pleased to announce that Jenny's replacement has been appointed and will be joining us before December is over. We'll give him time to bed in and introduce him to you via the website (www.organicfarmers.org.uk) and in our next newsletter. We're confident of having picked a good candidate to keep up the team's reputation as knowledgeable and approachable and he will no doubt be contacting his licensees in good time.

Farewell and best of luck with your moooo-ve, 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
Additives	Herbali	Uncle Ted's Organics Ltd	01422 349118	Approved	30/9/09
	Plantali	Uncle Ted's Organics Ltd	01422 349118	Approved	30/9/09
Animal Feed Additive	Organi-Mol	Quality Liquid Feeds Ltd	01952 727754	Approved	30/11/09
	Organi-Mol (T)	Quality Liquid Feeds Ltd	01952 727754	Approved	30/11/09
	Organi-Mill	Quality Liquid Feeds Ltd	01952 727754	Approved	30/11/09
Animal Health Product	Herbacyte Premix	Uncle Ted's Organics Ltd	01422 349118	Approved	30/9/09
	Herban Premix	Uncle Ted's Organics Ltd	01422 349118	Approved	30/9/09
Cleaning Agent	Envirocyte	Uncle Ted's Organics Ltd	01422 349118	Approved	30/9/09
Compost	Seer Rocksoil	Rockdust Ltd	01877 382926	Restricted	31/10/09
Feed Supplement	Amino Protek Nature Compound	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	30/9/09
	Amino Protek Nature Farm Pack	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	30/9/09
	Salmoprotect	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	30/9/09
	Orgamin	Uncle Ted's Organics Ltd	01422 349118	Approved	30/9/09
Ingredients	Traditionally Harvested Sea Salt	Taviusa Lda	00 351 281 322 960	Approved	30/9/08
Insect Control	Exomite Apis Hive Cleanser	Exosect Ltd	02380 603939	Approved	31/7/09
	Exosex CM Auto-Confusion	Exosect Ltd	02380 603939	Approved	31/7/09
	Exosex SPTab	Exosect Ltd	02380 603939	Approved	31/7/09
	Agrilure	Agrimin Ltd	01652 688046	Approved	31/12/09
Plant Health Product	Legume Fix	Legume Technology Ltd	0115 966 3679	Approved	31/10/09
	Nature's Nitrogen	Legume Technology Ltd	0115 966 3679	Approved	31/10/09
	Prefixed	Legume Technology Ltd	0115 966 3679	Restricted	31/10/09
	Pea and Bean Booster	Legume Technology Ltd	0115 966 3679	Approved	31/10/09
Soil Conditioner	Seer Rockdust	Rockdust Ltd	01877 382926	Restricted	31/10/09
	Seer Rockmix	Rockdust Ltd	01877 382926	Restricted	31/10/09
	Microsoil	Biomasters Inc (USA): UK Distributor. Natural Soil (UK) Limited	01793 533031	Restricted	30/11/09
	VFS	VFS Worldwide	01793 533031	Restricted	31/12/09
Vitamins & Minerals	Simply Green Tubby	Denis Brinicombe Group	01363 775115	Approved	31/3/09
	Simply Green High Magnesium Tubby	Denis Brinicombe Group	01363 775115	Approved	31/3/09
	Simply Green Protein Tubby	Denis Brinicombe Group	01363 775115	Approved	31/3/09
	Bagged Mineral Supplements	Denis Brinicombe Group	01363 775115	Approved	31/3/09
	Natural Balance Beef Mineral	Scotmin Nutrition Ltd	01292 280909	Approved	30/6/09
	Natural Balance Dry Cow Mineral	Scotmin Nutrition Ltd	01292 280909	Approved	30/6/09
	Natural Balance Dairy Mineral	Scotmin Nutrition Ltd	01292 280909	Approved	30/6/09
	Natural Balance High Mag Mineral	Scotmin Nutrition Ltd	01292 280909	Approved	30/6/09
	Natural Balance Suckler Cow Mineral	Scotmin Nutrition Ltd	01292 280909	Approved	30/6/09

Category	Name	Supplier	Telephone	OF&G Status	Cert Expiry Date
Vitamins & Minerals	Natural Balance Sheep Mineral	Scotmin Nutrition Ltd	01292 280909	Approved	30/6/09
	Natural Balance General Purpose Cattle Bucket/Tub	Scotmin Nutrition Ltd	01292 280909	Approved	30/6/09
	Natural Balance General Purpose Sheep Bucket/Tub	Scotmin Nutrition Ltd	01292 280909	Approved	30/6/09
	Natural Balance High Magnesium Bucket/Tub	Scotmin Nutrition Ltd	01292 280909	Approved	30/6/09
	High Phos Mineral	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	30/9/09
	High Mag Mineral	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	30/9/09
	Cattle GP Mineral	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	30/9/09
	Sheep GP Mineral	SCA Nutek	01845 578125	Approved	30/9/09
	Ethos Sheep Bucket	Norvite Animal Nutrition Co Ltd	01464 831231	Approved	30/11/09
	Ethos Cattle Bucket	Norvite Animal Nutrition Co Ltd	01464 831231	Approved	30/11/09
	Ethos Hi Mag Cattle Bucket	Norvite Animal Nutrition Co Ltd	01464 831231	Approved	30/11/09
	All-Trace for Organic Cattle	Agrimim Ltd	01652 688046	Approved	31/12/09

