

Spring 2013

WELSH ORGANIC SCHEME

THE WELSH ORGANIC SCHEME
GB-ORG-13



Newsletter

Inside this issue:

- New Organic Website
- Organic Membership
- Future for Organic Farming in Wales
- Certification Issues
- Organic Market Report
- Dates For Your Diary

FOR SALE Organic Haylage

30 big round bales
Triple wrapped, cut 2012
01239 851073/ 07966583834

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New Welsh Organic Scheme Website

The Welsh Organic Scheme are pleased to announce the launch of our new organic website.

The website includes many useful features for members:

- Downloadable derogation forms
- Record sheets
- Welsh Organic Scheme standards
- Links to other sites
- Classified advertisements

The website offers quick and easy access to information for organic farmers and anyone who may be interested in organic farming.

Information on how to join the Welsh Organic Scheme, downloadable forms and links to useful sites are all available on the website.

Members and non-members will be able to place an advert for free on the Welsh Organic Scheme website as well as search the



New Welsh Organic Scheme website

classified advertisements using the wanted facility.

We are also available on Twitter and Facebook—so please come and visit us and join in!

Website Address:
www.welshorganic.co.uk

Organic Membership Termination

QWFC Ltd Welsh Organic Scheme runs on an annual basis based on either land conversion start date or transfer date from another organic certification body. Certificates are issued on a twelve month basis following satisfactory assessments and receipt of annual fees.

Any producer withdrawing from organic certification is required to notify the company in writing. Please note that cancellation cannot be after current certificate expiry date unless payment and assessments are up to date.

Grant contracts with the Welsh Government are totally separate to your agreement with QWFC Ltd. Any producer withdrawing from organic certification with QWFC Ltd should check with their local Rural Payments Office to ensure that cancellation of their QWFC Ltd membership does not affect their contract with the Welsh Government.

THE FUTURE OF ORGANIC FARMING IN WALES

The Welsh Government have announced that following a competitive tendering process, the OCW Partnership led by Organic Research Centre (ORC) in co-operation with ADAS and Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Services (IBERS-Aberystwyth University) have been awarded a contract to provide the policy steer for a new organic support scheme in readiness for the next Rural Development Plan (RDP) for Wales.

The Welsh Government values organic farming as a method for both sustainable land management and high quality food production and will work closely with the OCW Partnership to deliver organic support that best supports the needs of Wales.

OCW enquiries: 01970 622100

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9 April 2013

Pro-Soil Workshop & Farm Walk 11-2pm

Penrhiw Farm, Pembs

To register please contact:

k.leach@organicresearchcentre.com

Tel: 01488 658298 Ext. 537

10 April 2013

EU Online Consultation Closing date -

Chance to give your views on issues affecting the organic sector
<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice>
-then follow links

25 April 2013

Free Grassland Management Event

Nat. Botanical Garden, Carms
Astrid Toner 01179 142400

8 May 2013

**Course –
Boosting Organic Sales**
www.organiccentrewales.org.uk

14 May 2013

**Workshop - Organic Herb
Growing 10:30-4pm**
Penbont, Brecon
Farming Connect 07949 793000
(Sally).

ORGANIC MARKET REPORT

The Organic Market Report was published on the 20 March and highlighted key areas of growth in online retail, independent outlets and a shift towards younger consumers during 2012.

There is evidence that consumers are choosing to buy organic as a guarantee of integrity with some independent organic meat suppliers reporting an increase in sales over the last month of up to 20%.

Report findings show organic shoppers are increasingly choosing the convenience and variety offered by online shopping. Independent outlets also saw an increase in sales during 2012 with growth of 0.7%, now valued at £480.6 million. Box scheme, home delivery and mail-order sales saw an increase of 4.4% to £174.3 million.

USEFUL CONTACTS:

- Organic Centre Wales: 01970 622248 organic@aber.ac.uk
- Farming Connect: 07970 636565 farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk
- The Organic Research Centre: 01488 658298 elmfarm@organicresearchcentre.com

CERTIFICATION ISSUES

Pre-Inspection Questionnaires

In order to help you prepare for your organic inspection, QWFC Ltd send you the inspection questionnaire together with your field data sheets. These documents indicate the inspection requirements and documentation which the inspector will need to see.

Non-Conformances

The non-conformances most often recorded in the last 12 months:

Protocol Number/s	Description
2.45, 4.45, 7.45	Medicine treatment and/or purchase records not up to date
1.46	No prior derogation for seeds
1.04	Field data changes not notified to QWFC Ltd
2.20, 3.20, 4.20	No accurate feeding records for all identifiable groups of livestock
2.05, 3.05, 4.05	No prior application for nulliparous breeding stock
3.03, 4.03	Lack of valid organic certificate and completed feed and medicine document for sold or purchased stock
2.42, 3.42, 4.42	Health plan not reviewed/ updated regularly

The average number of non-conformances over the last 12 months was 1.90 per assessment which indicated that the majority of producers are complying with the organic standards.