










# Considering organic?

## Steps to Conversion



-  Contact **Scottish Organic Producers Association (SOPA)** for an Application Pack which includes the organic standards, guidance on conversion, and an application form. You can also request technical notes.
-  Contact the **Organic Farming Helpline** run by Scottish Agricultural College in Aberdeen for free advice and a free information pack. Telephone 01224 711 072.
-  Talk to **other organic farmers** and attend organic events throughout Scotland to improve your working knowledge of organic systems. Research organic farming through books and the internet.
-  Consider funding options under the **Scottish Rural Development Plan**. Rural Development Contracts offer organic conversion and maintenance measures which, if successfully approved by the RPAC process, will offer financial support for five years. Debs can advise on RDC organic measures and how to fit in with the SOPA regulations for **commencing organic conversion**, telephone 0131 335 6619 or see the *SOPA Guidance Note on RDC-RP Organic Conversion*
-  **Conversion Planning** includes selecting your conversion date, rotations, animal health, SRDP funding and marketing organic produce. It is also important to familiarise yourself with the Organic Standards. If you require assistance during your conversion planning contact SOPA on 0131 335 6619.
-  **Submit your application form**, application fee and conversion plan to the Certification team at SOPA
-  SOPA will consider your conversion plan and return a **confirmation letter** to acknowledge receipt of your application approval if all is in order.
-  Following confirmation of your start date SOPA will send an inspector to your farm to carry out an **application inspection** as soon after your start date as possible.
-  Enter the SOPA office number in your **mobile phone**—for answers to all your organic questions.

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