

2nd May 2007

SFQC
10th Avenue
Royal Highland Centre
Ingliston
EH28 8NF



URGENT NOTIFICATION

To all Organic Members:

ORGANIC FEED DEROGATIONS

Defra has announced a decision on the phasing out of the non-organic Feed Derogations, as follows:

Date Applicable	Type of Feed Allowed	Ration % (annual percentage of the dry matter of feedstuffs)	Source	Comment
Up to 31 st December 2008	2IC (2 nd yr in-conversion)	50%	Bought-in	Increased from 30%
Up to 31 st December 2008	2IC	80%	Home-grown	Increased from 60%
From 1 st January 2009	2IC	30%	Bought-in	
From 1 st January 2009	2IC	60%	Home-grown	
From 1st January 2008	Non-Organic or 1 IC	Nil	n/a	NO NON-ORGANIC or 1IC FORAGE OR FEED INGREDIENTS PERMITTED FOR RUMINANTS
Up to 1 st January 2008	Non-Organic	10%	Non-Organic 'green list'	Non-Ruminants
From 1 st January 2009	Non-Organic	5%	Non-Organic 'green list'	Non-Ruminants

2nd May 2007

ORGANIC FEED DEROGATIONS

SOPA recognises that this announcement will have implications for organic livestock producers who are currently assessing their feed requirements for the 2007-8 winter, and indeed their cropping rotations and markets for 2008-9 and beyond. We urge ALL RUMINANT producers to carefully analyse their stocking numbers and their feed requirements. It would be wise to identify sources of organic or 2 IC feed now if it appears you will be short of feed this winter.

Remember, that after 1 January 2008 any non-organic feed will be prohibited for use by ruminants. Any failure to comply will result in the withdrawal or suspension of organic status for any animals fed any non-organic feed. If you have any stocks of non-organic feed, they must be used up before 31st December 2007. You must remember that this will also apply to silage if you have incorporated non-organic feeds such as draff or sugar beet pulp. As always you must not mix 1IC grass with 2IC or organic grass in the silage clamp – this would mean that the whole clamp will be classified as non-organic!

Applying for derogations for using non-organic feed in emergency situations is also increasingly difficult. Ruminant producers MUST make sure that they make sufficient organic or 2IC feed to see them through the winter. Any derogations to feed non-organic feed because of shortages of forage or any emergency will have to be approved by Defra and permission will not generally be given. SOPA will not be able to give you a quick answer and we will be required to suspend your license if you have to feed non-organic feeds.

Unfortunately, Defra has not reacted to repeated appeals from certifying bodies to consider allowing the ongoing use of first year in-conversion (1 IC) forage for ruminants beyond the ending of the derogation. Up until 31st December 2007, 1 IC land can still be used as a green list feed. From this point onwards the use of grassland within the first year of conversion becomes problematic. Potential solutions include '120-day rule' grazing by non-organic animals or to feed your own animals with non-organic status (yeld unconverted breeding cows for instance). After 31st December NO 1IC forage and rations can be fed to ruminants so we would advise you to feed any 1IC forage harvest this year in early in the autumn, and save 2IC and fully organic feed for 2008.

SOPA is continuing to lobby Defra for a reviewed decision by the European Commission on 1IC forage and grassland and we will keep you posted of any developments.

If you need help with this please contact the SOPA office.