

IOTA

Institute of Organic Training & Advice
www.organicadvice.org.uk

Forage Management in Organic Farming: A review of the research and what it means for farming and advice

An IOTA workshop for organic advisers & trainers

This workshop is the last of a series of major IOTA PACARes* workshops which provide a unique opportunity for advisers to get easy access to the latest results of organic research. Forage crops are the fertility building and animal feeding bedrock on which most organic farms are based. This workshop will focus on the use and management of forage crops in organic farming including:

- Grass clover leys: mixtures and management,
- Whole-crop: role and management for ruminants,
- Management and use of herbal pastures.

A review of the relevant research undertaken over the last five years in the UK and elsewhere has been completed by David Younie, Dan Powell and Geoff Burke and written up in the form of three Research Review reports for use by advisers. This workshop provides a summary of that research, including input from the reviewers where available and a full discussion on the implications for organic farming. It is an opportunity to catch up on the latest research, engage in the discussion and bring your experience to the table.

All researchers, advisers and others involved in forage crop R&D are particularly welcome to present results of their work – please let Mark Measures (01588 640118) know if you have work that you would like to present in addition to that which is in the programme. Attendees and IOTA members will receive a draft of the three Reviews:

- 1. The role and management of whole-crop forage for organic ruminants,**
- 2. Grass clover ley species and variety selection and management,**
- 3. The role and management of herbal pastures for animal health, productivity and product quality.**

***PacaRes: Providing Access, Collation and Analysis of Defra research in the organic sector** a project managed by IOTA and funded by Defra which aims to improve the awareness and uptake of organic research by farmers. The Project provides:

- Organic E-Prints www.orgprints.org, a pan European web based archive of over 5,000 organic research reports including most of the Defra funded work of the last 5 years
- Mapping of the UK organic research institutions and facilities
- Review, analysis and publication of the research undertaken on 21 organic farming topics, initially published on the IOTA members area of the website www.organicadvice.org.uk
- 5 Research workshops providing the results and discussion on the implications for organic farming

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Cow Hall, Newcastle on Clun, Shropshire SY7 0BS | tel: 01547 528546

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Forage Management in Organic Farming

Workshop contributors: Geoff Burke, David Younie, Dan Powell (tbc), Alan Hopkins, Heather McCalman, Bill Grayson, John Bradwell and Mark Measures (IOTA).

The workshop is for: Advisers, trainers and forage specialists who are providing advice on organic forage production.

Date: Thursday 8th May 2008 10.00 am coffee for 10.15 am start

Venue: Garden Organic (HDRA)

Cost: The course is free. IOTA gratefully acknowledges the funding from Defra for the PACARes research reviews and dissemination.

Please pass these details to any one that you think would be interested.

Registration and further details: Sarah Jameson at IOTA (iota@organicadvice.org.uk)
or telephone: 01547 528546

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