

NEWSLETTER



Scottish Organic Producers Association

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Dear Members,

I am very happy to issue my first SOPA newsletter. As you may have heard, I have replaced Donald Watson in the SOPA Support and Development team.

For those who have not met me in passing over the years, my husband Jamie and I joined SOPA in 1998 and were certified organic in 2000. We now run nearly 500 acres in Perthshire with enough cereals to be self-sufficient with a bit to sell, and 60 suckler cows finishing all followers.

I completed the SAC Organic Farming degree in 2004 and since then have been working with FWAG. It was an exciting decision to return to my organic roots and join the SOPA team. I must say, so far I have been impressed with the changes and new enterprises which are driving the Scottish organic industry in 2007.

For instance, the management contract between SOPA and Scottish Food Quality Certification (SFQC) is working extremely well. SFQC contract manage SOPA's certification through the EU Accreditation EN450/11. The SOPA Board have now a much better working relationship with reduced operating responsibilities. This means that the SOPA team is streamlined and much better equipped to be proactive on behalf of our members. As a member, I am pleased to see the lobbying which SOPA have undertaken on the SRDP. As an employee I have confidence in the knowledge and expertise with which SFQC supports the SOPA team.

The new **SOPA Organic Processing Scheme** is also an exciting new development which is proving successful. Processors such as McIntosh Donald, Harbro and Greenvale A P are organically certified by SOPA. We also have a number of Auction Marts organically certified to trade organic livestock. Contact me if you have any questions regarding simple or complex processing.

The changes in the **Feed Allowance** are already high on SOPA's list of priorities as Defra are indicating they will be taking a strong stance on this. It would appear that Scotland is not going to have sufficient supply of organic cereals for livestock supplementary feeding over the winter and we don't want to see shortages which affect organic certification or animal welfare. I would urge you to

I intend to spend the next few months familiarising myself with SOPA and getting out and about to meet as many members as possible. I also hope to see you at the AGM and the Royal Highland Show.

Here's to a good summer!

Debs

REMINDER – RSVP

INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS

SOPA AGM

14th June

Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Livingston, EH54 6QB
10.30 Welcome, meeting, discussion and lunch

2.30pm A tour of Mrs Hamiltons Beef and Lamb Farm Shop and organic butchery
Kirknewton, EH27 8DH

NEWSLETTER

Message from John Hamilton, Chairman

I would first of all like to welcome Debs Roberts to SOPA as our new Development Officer. Debs has a good knowledge of the organic industry and I am sure will be a great asset to SOPA.

And we also welcome Sandy Smith from Haughton, Glenkindie, Alford and Ronnie Eunson from Uradale in Shetland who have been co-opted onto the SOPA Board.

I should also congratulate Ronnie on becoming a member of the ACOS committee.

It has been a great spring with fine and dry weather during April and plenty of rain in May to fill the barns with hay! Organic prices for primary products look good, so we hope that the summer will prove warm and wet and the right time for a good growing season.

There are two issues that the Board are continually looking at to resolve for you the members' best advantage.

1. Negotiating with the Scottish Executive on the Organic Stakeholders Group for a fairer and more accessible Organic Conversion and Maintenance Scheme without having to resort to ridiculous levels of 'voluntary modulation' of our SFP's. The recent announcement appears acceptable in outline but I do think we need to know the detail before we can know for certain.
2. As you will know, DEFRA have on a UK basis removed all non-organic feed allowances from 2008 for ruminants and greatly reduced rates for pigs and poultry. We are looking at all ways to alleviate the problem which is compounded by a lack of organic cereals. I urge you all to plan your winter feed supplies for 2007-8 as it may be a difficult transitional period.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM on the 14th June.

John G. Hamilton.



**The SOPA Board invite you to an
Organic Reception
&
Launch of the SOPA Processing Scheme**

Thursday 21st June 2007

SFQC Marquee

Avenue H Stand 132A

5pm

RSVP

Tel: 0131 335 6619 or info@sopa.org.uk

www.sopa.org.uk

SOPA STRATEGY FOR HANDLING REMOVAL OF NON-ORGANIC FEED ALLOWANCE FOR RUMINANTS

Background

As of 1st January 2008 organic ruminant livestock producers will only be allowed to feed fully organic rations. The current 5% non-organic feed allowance will cease to be legally allowed on 31st December 2007 even for purchased but still in storage feed. The 'Green List' will, therefore, cease to exist. 2nd year in conversion feedstuffs will be allowed to be fed to a level of 50% of annual dry matter intake (80% if from own unit) until 31st December 2008 and 30% of annual DMI (60% if from own unit) until 31st December 2009.

This change in feeding rules, whilst anticipated, may create a number of strategic and business problems for a number of SOPA livestock producers. SOPA has the strategy outlined here to support SOPA members through the next twelve months.

Challenges

- To communicate effectively with SOPA members to ensure they are fully aware of the impending change
- To maintain positive outlook
- To ensure continuity of marketing of livestock in the winter period
- To assist SOPA members in coping with this change through practical knowledge transfer
- To liaise with feed manufacturers and merchants to assess how they will cope with this change and how they might tackle it
- To lobby politically to encourage flexibility
- To investigate alternative feed supply markets and identify inputs which will maintain nutritional value of feeds
- To investigate flexible feeding strategies for certain classes of livestock
- To develop an ORANGE list of alternative feeds which will meet the new requirements
- To Identify specific needs of pig & poultry producers within the overall industry

Communicate effectively

Issue feed update briefings to members- paper and/or email
Designate particular area of website for Feed 2008 issue
Issue specific feed updates in members newsletters
Provide Feed 2008 discussion at members AGM
Provide opportunity for Feed 2008 briefings at Highland Show
Use of press releases as and when appropriate

Knowledge Transfer

Advice re Feed 2008 section of SOPA website including intention survey
Encourage members to offer proactive suggestions for coping with change via intention survey from website, newsletter, AGM, RHS etc.
Work with SAC to provide nutritional and feed advice at regional feed workshops and communicating outcomes thereafter
Highlight case studies e.g. Monitor Farm in newsletters, website, briefings
Write feed analysis protocol to be used by farmers
Clarify situation for IIC home producers

Feed industry (compounds, feed blocks, straights)

Engage feed manufacturers and merchants including intention survey
Lobby feed manufacturers and merchants to provide organic feed option
Approach feed suppliers able to offer fully organic rations e.g. Hi-peak
Engage with existing and IIC/2IC SOPA arable farmers and assess supply opportunities for 2008 and beyond (liaise with Caroline Bayliss)
Help to coordinate supply and demand where possible via website and other means e.g. SAC cropping events, RHS, Farm
Include on-farm mixers/bruisers and target local contractors doing so

Political lobbying

Lobby DEFRA and SEERAD for use of 'limited in time' non-organic allowance flexibility via 'exceptional production rules'
Lobby DEFRA and SEERAD for continued use of non-organic feed binders
Lobby Defra for increased allowance on IIC forage/feed to alleviate supply pressures (home-grown or UK NOT imported)
Assess likelihood and implications of grain imports

Investigate novel organic feed options

Engage with organic brewing/distilling industry and investigate opportunity for certification and use of organic byproducts
Engage with other organic processing sectors and investigate opportunity for certification and use of organic byproducts

Investigate flexible feeding strategies

Consider feasibility for allowing producers to feed certain classes of animals/certain % animals non-organically i.e. future breeding animals and reconvert later

NEWSLETTER

SOPA COMMENT ON THE REMOVAL OF NON-ORGANIC FEED ALLOWANCE FOR RUMINANTS

We believe the loss of the non-organic feed provision is a significant blow to the industry. In summary, organic livestock producers and feed processors need to be aware the **GREEN LIST** will cease to exist. Any feed imports to the holding **MUST** be fully organic or up to 50% of the annual DM intake can be 2IC (second year in-conversion).



Industry and member reactions are as follows:

- Fledgling infrastructure in the organic feed industry is now under threat at a critical time in the development of the industry.
- Livestock farmers should be assessing their costs of production and looking for cost-effective alternatives.
- If you are intending to produce feed or forage (organic or 2I-C) surplus to your home requirements, please contact the SOPA office who can help identify potential markets for you
- At this time of year, we would suggest that forage production is maximised in order to reduce the reliability and cost of feed inputs. Assess your winter requirements and contact SOPA if you are likely to have surplus.
- Retain the maximum home-grown feed stuffs at harvest time.
- It looks like organic molasses is going to be in very short supply, and with no efficacious alternative SOPA is lobbying Defra for a sensible solution. If you are home-bruising cereals and usually use molasses for binding and dust suppressing, please contact the SOPA office.
- SOPA Producers who are First Year In-Conversion (1IC) and are in simultaneous conversion of livestock will be permitted to feed their own home-grown feedstuffs.

Feed Plan and Response

SOPA is producing a simple Feed Plan for our members to complete. While this is something most of you will do automatically, this year is more pertinent than ever before because Defra are insisting that 100% organic feed inputs are used. These will be available at the SOPA Highland Show stand so call in and we can talk you through the process. SOPA intends to lead this process in Scotland and in order to network supply and demand of organic cereals, we will be asking you to reply back to SOPA with your intentions for winter feeding.

BE POSITIVE

Despite the concerns, SOPA believes we must be proactive to work together for sustainable solutions to the feed supply.

The SOPA Board has requested that SOPA staff strategically analyse the situation and put forward a plan to SEERAD, ACOS and Defra. Identifying strategic solutions in this plan will give some guidance to livestock farmers, feed companies and cereal growers. There has never been a better opportunity to illustrate the supply chain in the organic industry!

SOPA and SAC will be running joint seminars from the late summer through to Autumn where strategic solutions can be worked through.

Please contact the office if you would like to attend. Dates and venues will be announced on the website.

Identify your feed supplies NOW

WEB Distractions

Whilst we would not want to distract you from your day to day routines, the following links might provide some informative relief if rain has stopped play...

<http://www.organicassistant.com> (UK database of organic business)

<http://www.greentrade.net/en/> (international organic product and company database)

<http://www.pda.org.uk/leaflets.html> (Potash Development Agency)

<http://www.nadis.org.uk/> National Animal Disease Information Service

<http://www.ecocert.com/?lang=en> ECOCERT is the largest Certifying Body for products outside the EU

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.uk/> Food Standards Authority

EMAIL YOUR LINK SUGGESTIONS TO DEBS info@sopa.org.uk



The **ethos** range

The only organically approved minerals and trace elements manufactured in Scotland.

local knowledge
local manufacture
local supply
local support

The natural choice is Norvite

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We Supply a large range of

- ✦ Organic blends for dairy and beef cattle, pigs and poultry
- ✦ Organic protein blends for home mixing
- ✦ Delivered in bulk, 500kg and 25kg bags

We also buy organic cereals and pulses.

Contact:
Malcolm Johns
Kinnairdy Organics,
Mains of Kinnairdy,
Bridge of Marnoch,
Huntly, Aberdeenshire, AB54 7RX

Tel. 01466 780 856
Mob. 07803 142 167

E-mail. johns@kinnairdyorganics.freemove.co.uk

UnitedAuctions

www.uagroup.co.uk

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For further details contact:

Cattle -Anna Black 07831 380335; Jack Beaton 07736 129863;

Sheep – Douglas Guild 07764 464371; George Purves 07740 877699;

Matt Stevenson 07850 716599; Peter Wood 07813 982063

North of Scotland – Donald Young 07921 210492

NEWSLETTER

SOPA approve St Boswells Mart for organic livestock trading

SOPA are delighted to approve John Swan Ltd, Auctioneers, Valuers and Estate Agents, at St Boswells Mart for sales of organic and in-conversion livestock. This will be a valuable service for organic livestock producers in the Borders.

Specifically targeting the autumn store trade, Managing Director Mr Jack Clark said "There is increasing demand for organic auction trade in the Borders and Northumberland, and in order to provide our customers with a fully certified auction service we have successfully gained organic approval from SOPA. We believe it is vitally important that organic and in-conversion producers can trade stock whilst retaining their organic status."

"The certification and inspection process has been quite straight-forward with our premises already meeting standards set by QMS. This is a credit to the SOPA staff who have supported us through the certification process and helped our staff understand the organic requirements. We are now in the process of certifying our market in Wooler so that we can extend the full organic service to our clients in Northumberland."

John Swan Ltd also offer an official organic prime stock collection service for the Border region and are therefore well on the way to a comprehensive chain of trade for organic farmers in the area. John Swan Ltd can provide an efficient and competitive service with minimal deductions and prompt guaranteed payment.

2007 signals an exciting time for John Swan clients with a fully comprehensive organic service now up and running.

SOPA would urge our members to contact any of Swan's fieldsmen 01835 822 214 if you are looking to trade organic autumn stores.

 JOHN SWAN LIMITED Auctioneers, Valuers and Estate Agents Organic Sales Dates St Boswells 	
Store Sheep	Store Cattle
27 th September	18 th October
25 th October	15 th November
Wooler	
Store Sheep	Store Cattle
21 st September	23 rd October

Saving the environment and reducing the paper

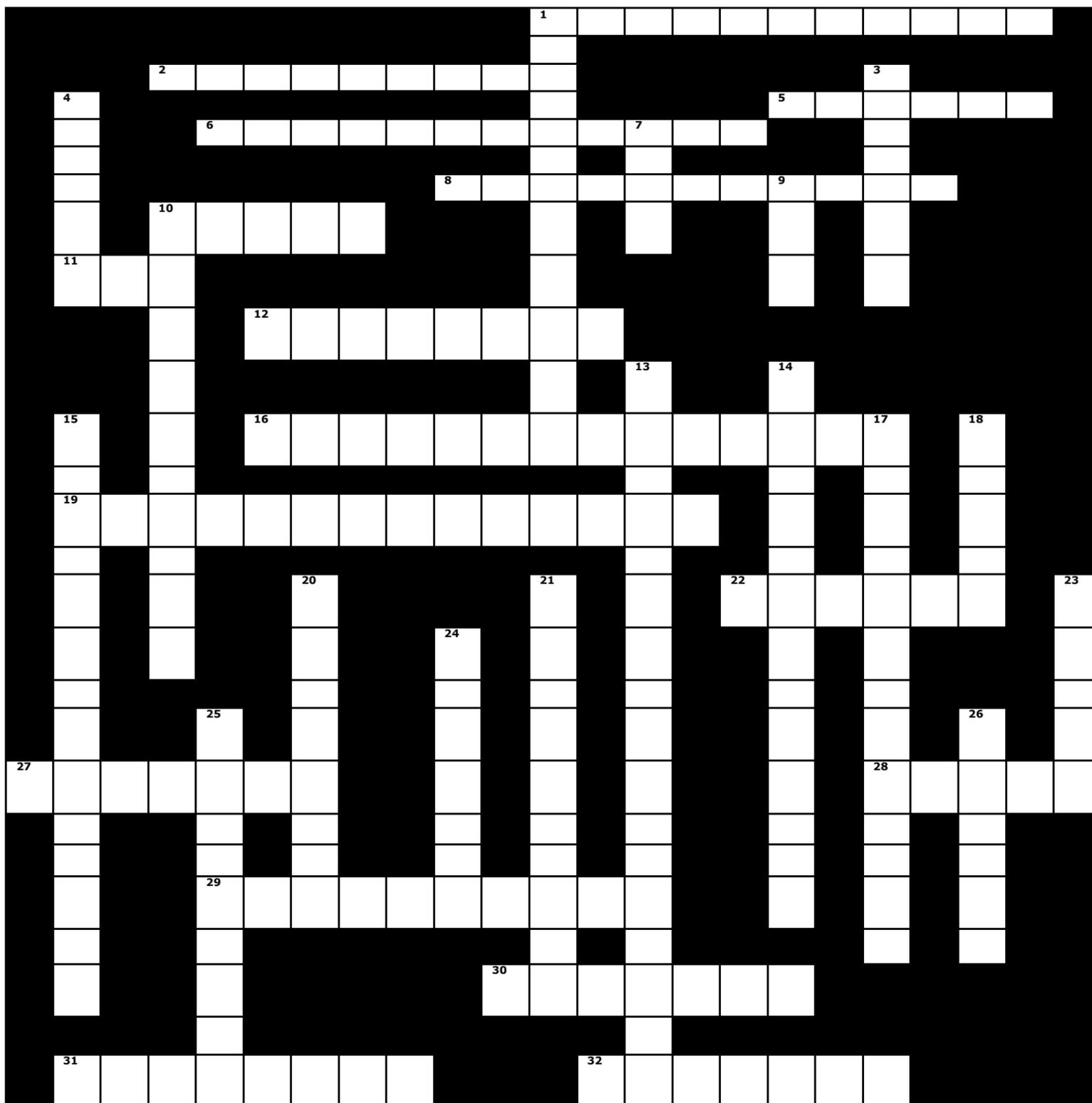
The Newsletter is now available in PDF

We would prefer to email the newsletter and all other SOPA publications

If you agree please

email info@sopa.org.uk with the subject 'subscribe'

The Organic Crossword



DOODLES

Across:

1. Category of Livestock used for beef production. (5,6)
2. Component of Sulphate of Potash. (9)
5. _____ Fescue. Seed variety found in some 60% organic seed mixtures. (6)
6. Indicates to the farmer what nutrients need to be added to the soil. (4,8)
8. A rich dietary source of natural iodine. (7,4)
10. Large government department who set the rules for organic farming. (5)
11. Italian _____ grass. (3)
12. Person who inspects a farm and compiles a report on its management. (8)
16. Nobody likes paying these but you won't get a certificate unless you do. (10,4)
19. Measure of the input and outflow of elements through the various components of an ecosystem. (8,6)
22. Scottish based department responsible for agriculture, rural development, food, the environment and fisheries. (6)
27. Marks the end of the growing season. (7)
28. _____ Element. (5)
29. Organic _____ Plan. (10)
30. _____ Declaration. (1,1,1,4)
31. A condition that affects livestock when their blood magnesium levels fall below a critical level. (8)
32. O of SOPA. (7)

Down:

1. _____ Conversion. (12)
3. From 21st _____ 2008 No non-organic or 1st Year conversion forage or feed ingredients will be permitted for ruminants. (7)
4. Grown for Nitrogen fixation. (6)
7. Plant this to make something grow. (4)
9. Water and earth mix to make this sticky stuff. (3)
10. If you want to use anything that is non-organic you must get one of these first. (10)
13. _____ Document - must be completed for animals being sold and accompany stock to an abattoir. (9,8)
14. Larvae of the European Crane Fly or what bikers wear. (7,6)
15. Record of renting in/out (4,6,4)
17. By-product of sugar production. (5,4,4)
18. Greenfly, blackfly or plant lice. (5)
20. Crop _____ method of farming using different crops from year to year in order to maintain soil health. (8)
21. _____ of UK Organic Standards. (10)
23. Fasciolosis (5)
24. An essential piece of equipment on a farm. (7)
25. Waste products are put through a process so that the can be used again. (9)
26. Product from the rear end of an animal. (6)

SAC Organic Market Link Update

SAC Organic Market Link Producer Survey 2007/08

Caroline Bayliss (Tel 01224 711073)

By now, all certified organic producers should have received their copy of the SAC Organic Market Link (OML) Producer Survey for 2007/08. Producers continued participation in this project is essential and the market intelligence gathered really makes a difference and enables positive change for the Scottish organic red meat and grain producers.



The continued growth in the UK organic beef market is still very encouraging and there is room for this market to expand. This expansion however, can only be driven by guarantees of production. Production information is required both from fully organic producers and from those who are producing prime stock during their conversion period. Additionally, the grain trade are keen to plan effectively for the predicted grain shortages this year. They too seek information regarding the availability of both fully organic and in conversion crop.

So, I urge you all to complete the form as fully as possible and return it to me in the SAE. However, if anyone has not received their survey please contact me and I will send one out immediately.

REMINDER



ORGANIC LABELLING



All organic produce must be sold with the correct labelling.

SOPA can help with product labels and certified logos for easy application and clear compliance.

contact Alan in the SOPA office 0131 335 6606 alan.gray@sfqc.co.uk



www.sopa.org.uk

Debs has started regularly updating the website with a view to injecting some up-to-date relevance. A cost review is underway to test the value for money achieved from the website.

News articles and member advertising seem to be the most commonly viewed pages. But how effective is the advertising? Does it work?

Any feedback is welcome, so that we can make changes that will reflect your needs and wants.

If you haven't already, please contact the office to get your Username and Password for access to the members area on the SOPA Website. This is where the derogation and other SOPA can be downloaded.

info@sopa.org.uk

SAC is proposing to facilitate a 4-day HAWL course to be held in Aberdeen during the summer. It will be held on 4 separate days, approximately 3 – 4 weeks apart. The cost for the 4-day course is estimated to be about £400 per person. To make this course viable we need commitment from between 15 and 18 participants. Therefore I would ask you to contact me if you are interested in participating in this event.

Caroline Bayliss tel 01224 711 073



Homeopathy at Wellie Level (HAWL)

'Homoeopathy at Wellie Level' is a 4 day course delivered by several fully qualified vets which aims to introduce the concepts and aims of homoeopathy and to give students/farmers the tools to implement its use on their own farm. Students/farmers are taken on to a farm to practice observation of the animals and to learn how to see through homoeopathic eyes. There is an interval of a few weeks between course days to give students/farmers a chance to apply what they have learnt.

To find out more about HAWL please go to www.hawl.co.uk

SOPA Approved Products for use in organic systems

Can you recommend a certified input you have used in your organic system?

SOPA offers 'Approved Product' endorsement for companies trading organic inputs which are certified by another certifying body. Ingredients and scientific analysis of the product is submitted to the office and once approved, the products can be promoted using the SOPA 'Approved Product Logo'.

Competitive fees apply.

Please contact Debs on 0131 335 6619

NEWSLETTER



Nafferton Ecological Farming Group

University of Newcastle upon Tyne

Organic Open Day

Nafferton Farm

(signposted off A69, 14 miles west of Newcastle)

Friday 13th July 2007, Tour starts at: 2pm

Everyone welcome!

We would be very grateful if you could let us know if you would like to attend,
please inform us on 01661 830222



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ORGANICS

**Independent
Organic Livestock Marketing
Group
for Scotland and the Borders**



- **FOR FULLY ORGANIC OR "IN-CONVERSION" FARMERS**
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FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT :

Jenny Cuthbert - 0845 017 6567; jenny@caledonianorganics.com;
OUR WEBSITES: www.caledonianorganics.co.uk; www.organic-stores.co.uk

PROCESSOR PAGES

SOPA launch Certified Organic Processing Scheme at The SOPA Royal Highland Show Reception

Thursday 21st June, 5pm

Please join us to meet industry representatives and to see the variety of added-value products SOPA members can ascribe to. There will be a variety of organic nibbles, tastings and beverages to enjoy.

Please email info@sopa.org.uk or telephone Debs on 0131 335 6619

Do you wish to expand your business into processing?
Are you already processing organic products to sell to the trade or public?

SOPA can certify simple or complex processing (see right) such as

- abattoirs
- meat cutting plants
- dairies
- cheese-making
- box schemes

Definitions of different type of Processing

• **Simple Processing** is best described where the nature or the weight or volume of the product is not changed, for example;

1. Cleaning, peeling, chopping
2. Packing (including bought in organic products) e.g. Box scheme
3. Blending (including bought in organic products) where product nature is not changed
4. Processing of a single organic product, where its nature is not changed e.g. flour milling
5. Simple butchery

• **Complex Processing** is best described where the nature or the weight or volume is changed, for example;

1. Cooking which involves weight loss (frying, baking, boiling)
2. Dehydration, re-hydration, evaporation
3. Emulsification
4. Fermentation (wine making, brewing, yoghurt, cheese or bread making)



Graham Hamilton, of Cairns Farm West Lothian, in the on-farm cutting plant



Using the SOPA Certification label gives consumer confidence in your organic product

SOPA is unique as a certification body in its ability to distinguish products from a particular region of the UK, with the Organic Certification UK3 confirming to a buyer a product which is produced in Scotland or the North of England.

Organic processing as with organic farming is all about traceability and best practice and although organic certification does not deal with statutory requirements it will ensure that they are in place.

If you are considering producing organic product whether from a stand alone business, or as a new line within an existing business, or as a diversification project, please contact the office for details and the costs involved.

Organic Standards

The Organic Standards for food processing define;

- The ingredients that may be used in organic foods.
- The level of separation, in store and during processing, that needs to be maintained to ensure the integrity of organic products.
- Systems and recording that need to be in place to ensure the integrity of organic products.
- Labelling and claims that can be used to declare organic status
- Cleaning and pest control methods that can be used during organic processing.

These standards are based on the EU Regulation 2092/91 (as amended).

CERTIFICATION CORNER — JANE'S COMMON Q&A's

Q – If I buy an organic grass seed mixture do I need a derogation?

A – Yes, the majority of grass seed mixtures are made up of 60% organic varieties and 40% non-organic varieties. It is the 40% that needs a derogation from the SOPA office.

A derogation form for the purchase of non-organic seed can be sourced from the SOPA office where we can either post/email or fax it to you or you can download a copy from the SOPA website.

Q – What paperwork do I need to complete if I want to apply Sulphate of potash to my organic fields?

A – Firstly, if not already done so a soil analysis needs to be taken to justify the potassium deficiency. Secondly, a qualified recommendation is needed to confirm that the clay content of the soil is less than 20% and where the exchangeable K levels are defined as 'low'. This information is either available from your local Scottish Agricultural Office (SAC) or from the company that took your soil samples. All this information needs to be sent to the office along with suggested application rates, for more information see SOPA standard 4.4.

Q – If I am in simultaneous conversion (converting land and livestock at the same time) how many non-organic cows can I buy this year?

A – Only when organic animals are not available can a maximum of 10% (of your breeding herd) can be purchased during one calendar year. These non-organic animals must be 'nulliparous' which means animals that have not had a calf previously. A non-organic heifer can be in-calf when purchased but must be on your organic holding 12 weeks prior to calving for that calf to be eligible for organic status.

Q – What do I need to do after my assessment has taken place?

A – After the SOPA assessment you will have been left a non-compliance form by the assessor which you will have signed to confirm that you have agreed with the assessor's findings. If there are no non-compliances, your certificate, production operation sheet and approval letter will arrive in the post. If you have non-compliances these need to be addressed within 30 days of the assessment. This can be achieved by filling in the non-compliance form by stating the corrective action and sending the SOPA office any additional documents. Once this had been received your assessment can be reviewed and your approval documents sent.

Q – What can I feed this winter 2007/8?

A – Feedstuffs from the green list can be fed up to 31 Dec 2007, after this date no non-organic feedstuffs can be fed to livestock. Therefore, as this change over is in the middle of the winter feeding you have two options;

Green list feedstuffs e.g. sugar beet pulp and brewers grains can be fed up to 31 December 2007 but a full organic diet must be fed as of 01 Jan 2008. Sudden changes in diet should be avoided, and a gradual change over in diet should be well thought out and planned.

Feed a full organic diet for the whole winter feeding period, which prevents your livestock having to adapt to different types of feedstuffs. *Ensure that the nutritional requirements of your livestock are supplied at all times.*

Member Feed Intentions Survey

**WIN £50
OFF YOUR 2008
SUBSCRIPTION**

Complete and return the enclosed feed intentions survey and three lucky members will receive a discount on next year's membership

On Page 4 SOPA's Strategic Approach to the changes in the Feed Allowances lists the need for information on WHAT you are going to do this winter.

Complete and return to be entered.

FAXBACK 0131 335 6601

or

FREEPOST envelope

or

download from www.sopa.org.uk and email to info@sopa.org.uk

DIARY DATES

<p align="center">Soil Association</p> <p align="center">Food For Life - Sourcing</p> <p>Would you like to be added to the FFL Sourcing document that lists producer and processors who could supply schools etc as part of the Food For Life programme. The programme specifies that school catering services work towards using 75% fresh and unprocessed, 50% local, and 30% organic ingredients. For further information please contact Lyn Matheson on 0131 666 0847 or lmatheson@soilassociation.org</p> <p align="center">A one-day conference for professionals working in public health, education, procurement, policy making, and catering Celtic Park, Glasgow, 14 June, 2007</p>	<p align="center">Soil Association</p> <p align="center">Soil management: the basis for successful horticulture enterprises Tuesday 3rd July, Aberdeen</p> <p>An opportunity to learn more about the precious resource under your feet: what it is, how it works and above all how to nurture it, with the aim of improving your yields and reducing the need for inputs and energy use. In response to your many requests on feedback forms we have asked Iain Tolhurst to talk about soil management in practice - how to look after your soil and build fertility, how your soil might respond to different sorts of cultivation and different cropping patterns and what mistakes to avoid! Scottish Agriculture Colleges experts will then cover the areas of composting, (how to make it and how to use it) nutrient budgeting and 'knowing your soil' - including a practical session on taking soil samples and understanding different soil types.</p>
<p>SAC Organic Producer Meetings Summer 2007</p> 	
<p align="center">SAC Organic Events at the Royal Highland Show</p> <p align="center">FRIDAY 22 JUNE 2007</p> <p align="center">2.00- 2.45pm SEMINAR: REDUCING AGRICULTURE'S CARBON FOOTPRINT: THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF ORGANIC FARMING Speaker: Dr Christine Watson, SAC</p> <p align="center">3.00-4.00pm A TASTE OF ORGANIC FOOD Organic food tasting with some of Scotland's best organic producers</p> <p align="center">SAC Pavilion, Ingliston Showground Stand 157/158, 7th Avenue</p>	<p align="center">Soil Association</p> <p align="center">Masterclass with Iain Tolhurst: successful horticulture enterprises</p> <p align="center">Tuesday 7th August, Falkland Estate, Fife</p> <p>Again in response to feedback we have scheduled a full day with Iain Tolhurst. This day will assume a basic knowledge of organic horticulture. We have analysed your requests from previous events and have asked Iain to be prepared to cover the following areas: rotations; tilling; green manures; mulching; weed control; pest control; harvesting; storage and refrigeration; yields and gross margins of different crops and varieties; how the theory and practice of organic production relates to standards. Iain will also be open to discussing other topics raised on the day but we will try to avoid spending too much time on soils, composting and protected cropping as these areas are covered in other events.</p>
<p align="center">SAC Organic Producer Event</p> <p align="center">Farm Walk OPTIMISING ORGANIC BEEF AND SHEEP PERFORMANCE FROM GRASS Stocking rates, Clean grazing management, Live-weight gains</p> <p align="center">Thursday 2nd August 2007, 1.30pm Bushelhill, Abbey St Bathans, Duns, Berwickshire (courtesy of Mr Duncan Shell)</p>	<p align="center">SOPA/SAC Joint Seminars</p>   <p align="center">Feeding the 5000: Strategies for Livestock Without Derogations</p> <p>Regional Seminars from July to September. Further information from Debs Roberts Tel 0131 335 6619</p>
<p align="center">SAC Organic Producer Event</p> <p align="center">Farm Walk PROFITABLE ORGANIC ARABLE PRODUCTION</p> <p align="center">Tuesday 10th July 2007, 1.30pm Pitgaveny Estate, Elgin (Courtesy of Mr Sandy Dunbar)</p> <p align="center">Speaker: Martin Birse Further information from David Younie, SAC (tel 01224 711072)</p>	<p align="center">CLASSIFIEDS</p> <p align="center">Wanted</p> <p>A regular source of Organic Wheat from the Tayside, Fife or South Kincardineshire areas. Approximately 200 Tonnes per month is required from August 2007 onwards. If you can help please contact Mr. Ian Pattullo on either: Mobile: 07778 467 174 Or E-mail: ian@sandyfordfarm.plus.com</p> <p align="center">For Sale</p> <p>1 tonne ad-lib pig feeders suitable for outdoor use. Phone for details John Skea 07711 807786</p> <p>Silage and hay for sale, 2nd Year conversion available from mid June onwards contact William Halley 07869 151 280</p> <p>2 x 5 acre fields fenced and watered available nr Methven. Full organic status. Ph 07703 528100 or email info@halleysfeeds.co.uk</p>
<p align="center">SAC 'Success through Knowledge' Organic Event</p> <p align="center">Farm Walk PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC BEANS AND PEAS</p> <p align="center">Wednesday 8th August 2007, 1.30pm SAC Craibstone Estate, Aberdeen</p> <p align="center">Speakers: Lawrence Morrice, David Younie (SAC) Further information from David Younie, SAC (tel 01224 711072)</p>	<p align="center">Bod Ayre Seaweed products from Shetland</p> <p>Animal Feed Supplements - Seaweed Granules / Meal and Liquid Seaweed Extract - filtered and unfiltered</p> <p>Seaweed Feed Lick Buckets - contains 20% Pure Seaweed Meal; Molasses; Organic Wheat; Calcined Magnesite; Dicalcium Phosphate and Ground Limestone.</p> <p>Seaweed Soil Conditioner Granules and Liquid Seaweed Extract - excellent for non mown grass areas and for dressings, plus for growing vegetables etc.</p>
<p align="center">SAC Organic Farming Event for Business Professionals, Advisers and Producers</p> <p align="center">One-day Conference BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN ORGANIC FARMING</p> <p align="center">Wednesday 17th October, 09.30am Birnam Institute, Birnam, Dunkeld</p> <p align="center">Speakers: To be announced</p> <p>Further information from Caroline Bayliss, SAC (tel 01224 711073)</p>	<p>Contact Michael and Margaret Blance michael@seaweedproducts.co.uk tel 01806 577328</p>