

Organic Newsletter

June 2008



With the summer nearing and after a bright May, I can only hope that the weather continues for good growing conditions. I hope to see some of you manage to get out and about to various Shows throughout the summer.

We have an interesting AGM this year. We chose Dingwall because of member requests and this also gives us the opportunity to visit the organic farm and cheese dairy at Milton of Connage. The afternoon farm walk will be held in conjunction with SAC and is open to all.

Some of you may be aware that David Younie retires from his role as Scotland's Organic Farming Specialist this summer. I would like to take this opportunity to wish David all the very best in retirement, and also to thank him for his years of service to the Scottish organic industry. A warm welcome to Richard Huxtable, SAC Thainstone, who has been appointed to the role of SAC Organic Farming Specialist.

Many of you will be aware of the launch of the Scottish Rural Development Programme and the funding associated with it. Things are up and running now, but it is difficult to tell how it will work until we get through the first few months and the first RPAC meetings.

The key things to remember: there is no closing date for submitting Statements of Intent ; the process has been designed so that most applicants can do the Statement of intent themselves; remember that the scheme dates do not necessarily correlate with organic dates (such as start of conversion).

However, the subject of timing can be quite complicated. For instance have you thought about getting the Statement of Intent before RPACs in time for approval (in theory) and confirmation of a contract before May 15th 2009 when you claim for the first year? I could go on.... Call me if you need to.

Debs

In 2007-8 SOPA certified

80% Prime Lamb
78% Store Lamb
75% Prime cattle
82% Store Cattle
70% Feed Wheat
81% Milling Wheat
73% Feed barley
100% Malting Barley
78% Oats
98.5% Triticale
96.5% Feed Peas
87% Feed Beans



of Scotland's Organic Produce

* Source: OMLC Organic Survey, 2007-08

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Scottish Food Quality Certification (SFQC)

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CERTIFICATION CORNER

2008 Assessments

The 2008 organic assessments are well under way now, and you will shortly be contacted by one of our SOPA inspectors for your 2008 assessment. You may find this year you will be contacted at a different time of the year than what you have been used too, as it is important for the inspectors and the Certification Officers to see/review your organic business to witness different events (calving, lambing & farrowing) and various stages of crops (sowing, growing phase. harvesting & storage).

You may also be contacted by a different inspector this year, as our inspectors have moved their areas slightly due to the fact that Peter Shipton retired from being an inspector with SOPA at the end of last year. Peter had been inspecting for SOPA for over 10 years, and his knowledge and experience will be greatly missed. We wish him well in his retirement.

We have updated our forms for this year so you will see small changes in the paperwork that is sent out to you prior to your assessment. Please have as much relevant paperwork available for your inspector prior to his arrival so that the assessment can proceed in a timely manner. Time taken searching for documents is a waste of our inspectors and your time.

Derogations

The most common requested derogation is for non-organic grass seed mixtures and non-organic seed. This is also the derogation that most farmers forget to request. Please remember that although your purchased grass seed may state the word 'organic' most of the time 35% of this is formulated from non-organic seed, and so a derogation is required. You should also be fully aware by now that the non-organic allowance in seed mixtures has reduced from 40% to 35% for the 2008 growing season. Hopefully none of you had to do some recalculating of seed rates to ensure you met the minimum 65% organic seed.

Remember, if you have access to a computer you can check the availability of organic seed yourselves by going to www.cosi.org.uk, alternatively ring the office and Alan or David can check the availability for you.

To help with obtaining derogations we have produced 3 new derogation forms for

1. Derogation form for non-organic manures
2. Derogation form for grazing non-organic livestock
3. Derogation form for purchasing non-organic livestock

Please remember that derogation should only be used when organic livestock/manures/ grazing are not available. These derogation forms will be on the website but can also be obtained by fax, post, email alan.gray@sfqc.co.uk or by calling Alan Gray in the office on 0131 335 6634.

Explanations on how and when to fill in these derogation forms are detailed on the Guidance Notes accompanying the forms, but please feel free to give us a call if you are having any

CERTIFICATION CORNER

Grazing and forage from 1st Year Conversion Land

Due to the changes to the EU regulations in Nov 2007 DEFRA have announced that a certain amount of 1st Year conversion land can be used for grazing and forage. This is an advantage to those members wishing to bring more land into their organic business or for those renting land in 1st year conversion.



This now means that ruminant livestock can be fed 20% of the total average amount of feedstuffs on an annual basis from permanent pastures (grass down for over 5 years) and perennial forage (hay or silage from grass down for 5 years or more). This does not include any other crops for example arable silage mixtures.

The allowances for 2nd year conversion feedstuffs still apply, i.e. 50% of dry matter intake if bought-in and 80% of dry matter intake if home-produced. These percentages will drop to 30% (bought in) and 60% (home produced) in 2009.

The table below shows four different possible diet options using the in-conversion feed allowances.

Individual Animal's Annual Dry Matter Intake

Diet 1	100% organic dry matter		
Diet 2	80% 2 nd year conversion dry matter		20% Organic dry matter
Diet 3	20% 1 st Year Con- version dry matter	60% 2 nd year conversion dry matter	20% Organic dry matter
Diet 4	20% 1 st Year Con- version dry matter	80% Organic dry matter	

There will be some calculations required to ensure the animal (or batches of animals) do not exceed the permitted dry matter allowance. Dry matter content will be measured in any forage samples to give you a starting point.

For further information telephone 0131 335 6606 and ask for Certification

Organic Livestock Auction Reports



DUMFRIES STORE CATTLE 21.04.08

Cumberland & Dumfriesshire Farmers Mart PLC held their Annual Spring Sale of 470 Organic Store Cattle in Dumfries. **Buyers were present from throughout the British Isles. Trade was brisk with short keep cattle very keenly sought**

304 Bullocks to 207.1p Average 178.3p
166 Heifers to 204.3p Average 167.4p

Breeding Cattle met keen competition with a Limousin Heifer with Calf to £1300, and AAX Cow with Calf to £1180,

Immediately following the organic sale a Spring Show and Sale of 435 Non Organic Store Cattle went through the ring after the organic sale with Bullocks averaging 141.3p and Heifers Averaging 135.9p

THAINSTONE, Aberdeen and Northern Marts (30th April) sold store 333 cattle at their Inaugural sale of organic store and breeding cattle.

180 Bullocks averaged 164.4p per kg and **153 heifers** averaged 159p per kg.

A small number of **Organic Breeding Cattle** were through the ring: **Heifer with bull calf: £760. Cow with heifer calf: £820.**

Immediately following the organic sale there was a Spring Show and Sale of **conventional store cattle** where **270 Bullocks** averaged 150.4p per kg and **148 Heifers** averaged 149.5p per kg



The SOPA Organic Processing Scheme is UKAS accredited through SFQC.

The organic processing standards are approved by DEFRA and recognised by multiple retailers as an approved organic processing standard. For added efficiency, our inspections can be combined with BRC audits.

We currently certify many different organic businesses throughout the food chain including:

- Abattoirs and cutting plants
- Meat and fish product suppliers
- Vegetable and fruit suppliers
- Box schemes
- Animal feed manufacturers
- Egg graders and packers
- Cheese and ice-cream manufacturers
- Chocolate and meringue manufacturers (see page 6)



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**HIGH PERFORMANCE FLOCK
AT THE CROFT**

A SOPA member has been achieving extremely good performance using his own home-grown cereals. First class management, correct nutrition and high quality birds have seen **Mr David Stoddart of Croft Organic Eggs exceed expectations of performance.**

Mr Stoddart runs a 4000 bird flock at Halls Farm, Penicuik where production is based around two APS mobile units and Lohmann Brown pullets supplied by JSR Services of Blairgowrie. The flock was established in 2005 with the aid of a FBDS grant to supply Glenrath Farms.

"I needed more control over the bird's nutrition and with organic peas and wheat on farm, I switched to home-mixing," says Mr Stoddart who has used the Feedmix Tropper since it was licensed for organic mixing in August 2006. Feedmix parent company Harbro provide protein as straights using the 10% non-organic allowance permitted for non-ruminants.

"Results have been excellent with our second flock peaking at 94% and maintaining 80% until 70 weeks old, with good shell quality throughout the lay. Our third flock has reached 96% at 24 weeks and with even-ness of weight at 95% and most birds over 2kg, it should be our best performance yet, he added.

Feed is mixed on the farm using Feedmix's Tropper state-of-the-art mobile feed mixer which is specifically designed to produce pig and poultry feeds. The Tropper is mounted on a six-wheel Scania wagon with a six-tonne mixing tank and computerised system which can produce a print-out of ingredients used and costings at the end of each batch. Mixing is 40% faster compared with conventional feed-mobiles. The Tropper has the ability to change the speed of the grinder, bruise some raw materials and the unique outloading system reduces separation, therefore the grist and structure of the feed is consistent and as it should be when the birds receive it.



The physical quality of feed produced by the Tropper

Mr Stoddart went on to say "The Tropper produces a superb grist which the hens relish. Consumption is 134g/bird/day, so the margin over feed is reasonable although costs are still rising and squeezing margins. With the cost of haulage going through the roof and the carbon footprint of farming making the headlines, home-mixing helps address these issues."

"The accuracy and computer printouts from the Tropper help with the increase in paperwork and auditing required - I believe it is the way forward," he added.

The Chocolate Tree



The Chocolate Tree is a small company based in East Lothian producing delicious organic chocolate bars and handmade chocolates. Surrounded by the Lammermuir hills chocolatier Friederike Matthis works with care and perfectionism to create her highly regarded delights.

It all began over a cup of thick hot chocolate in Barcelona. Our idea was to build a travelling chocolaterie with which we would tour the British music festivals. Selling organic chocolates, thick Spanish hot chocolate and cakes. This is a very important part of our business and every summer we are to be found travelling the length and breadth of the country to set up our chocolaterie at festivals and fairs.

It is our aim to create excellent quality chocolate at affordable prices. We are always experimenting with new ideas and sourcing the best ingredients, where possible we always choose local and organic. The cream for our truffles is sourced from a dairy only 2.4 miles away. Raspberries, strawberries and even the whisky we use all come from the surrounding area. Chocolate is of course the ingredient that we are hard pushed to find here in Scotland, unless we should float to within 20 degrees of the equator that's not likely to happen either!

The chocolate we work with is a fine Belgian organic couverture, chosen for its roasted strong aroma. Chocolate is a taste experience that we believe should be savoured and enjoyed to its fullest. Awakening to the delights of real chocolate can be a rewarding and exquisite adventure for anyone who is willing to make the step from what we call 'vegetate' (most mass produced chocolate bars contain vegetable fat) to real chocolate.

Organic farming on small plantations is in fact the most productive, natural way to grow the cacao plants. The pesticide free farming allows midges to thrive and fertilize the cacao flowers, thus helping the plants to create the cacao beans from which the chocolate is made.

Not only is this organic technique the best way to farm cacao, it is the only good use for a midge we have ever heard of!

Contact Friederika Matthis 01620 811 102



WheatLINK Project



From Hannah Jones of The Organic Research Centre - Elm Farm

Improving organic winter wheat agronomy has been the focus of trials carried out in East Lothian as part of the second year of the Wheat LINK project, funded by the Defra Sustainable arable LINK programme and coordinated by The Organic Research Centre – Elm Farm.

Field experiments were established at three sites (in East Lothian, Suffolk and Berkshire) altogether, to investigate the effects of interactions among a range of agronomic practices (row spacing, seed density, weeding and under-sowing with clover) on winter wheat performance.

Trends seen at all sites indicate that narrow row drill arrangements with high seed rates result in the highest yields, as was also found in the first year of trials. Seed rates of 250kg/ha led to substantial yield increases, and economic analyses in this, the final year of the project, will determine whether higher initial costs can be justified.

A new wheat composite cross population (as opposed to the pure line varieties Aristos and Hereward) integrated into the experiment performed well for a number of traits including grain yield, and may begin to show adaptation when grown continually at the same site. Laboratory analyses of total plant nitrogen, and grain quality are underway. The results from these tests will determine whether late season hoeing increases nitrogen supply to the crop – an area highlighted by farmers certified by SOPA.

The Organic Research Centre – Elm Farm's Hannah Jones will be talking about the project at an SAC Organic Producer Farm Walk on 25th June at Chapel Farm, North Berwick hosted by Graham Elder. It will be possible to see the trial plots first-hand and hear more about the results from the project. For more information on this event, contact David Younie on 01224 711072.

SAC ORGANIC MARKET LINK PRODUCER SURVEY

Once again it is the time of year when SAC send out its Organic Market Link Producer Survey to all registered Scottish organic producers. The aim of the survey is to estimate Scottish production predominantly in the beef, lamb and grain sectors. This data is extremely useful as for farmers, processors and Scottish Government. It enables farmers and producers to identify current gaps in the market and to respond accordingly if their own production system allows. In addition, the data is to disseminated to the trade to enable them to manage their procurement more efficiently. This information can be useful in helping them to develop new markets with increased certainty as they will know if the product they require will be available.

Caroline Bayliss, SAC Organic Market Link Coordinator commented, *"Most organic producers recognize the importance and benefits of working with others in the supply chain and are happy to supply data which enables and encourages the development of new and established markets and which allows them to identify gaps in the market. Processors are able to develop and supply their markets with increased confidence which means producers can continue to do what they do best - supply quality Scottish produce whilst safe in the knowledge that there is a market for their products."*

The surveys will be sent out to farmers during the second half of May and it is hoped that farmers will make every effort to complete and return them as soon as possible. A database of store lambs and cattle will once again be established and producers looking to source these can call Caroline for more information on 01224 711073.

Organic Conversion Funding

SOPA has produced Guidance Notes **exclusive** to SOPA members on how to claim for organic conversion under the SRDP. The following is a summary:

Step-by-Step Process

SOPA

1. Telephone SOPA Support and Development (Debs Roberts) on 0131 335 6619 for a SOPA Application Pack. We will post you the SOPA Organic Producer Application Pack which includes the Organic Standards, guidance on the forms required by SOPA and the SGRPID Organic Viability Plan (OVP).
2. On receipt of your Conversion Application Pack, you will need to complete the following forms:
 - SOPA Application Form
 - OVP (this is not complicated and should not require professional advice)
3. Return the completed forms to SOPA with payment of the non-refundable application fee. From this point you have joined the Association and are eligible for member benefits and free advice.
4. SOPA Certification will be in direct contact with the applicant to discuss the application if further clarification is required on the conversion application and the OVP.
5. If approved, the OVP and an acknowledgement will be issued to the Applicant

Online

6. The applicant has two options about when to complete the online Statement of Intent:
 - At the same time as applying to SOPA
 - After SOPA has approved the OVP
7. To apply online, the Applicant will need a **Government Gateway ID** to log on to **Rural Payments Online**
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/Online-Services/18909>
8. Follow the online directions

NOTE SOPA is not responsible for the content of any external websites.

SGRPID

9. On submission of the Statement of Intent, the applicant will be appointed a Case Officer in their SGRPID Local Area Office.
10. The applicant should submit to the Case Officer the approved OVP and any other documentation associated with the application and required by SGRPID .
11. The Case Officer will be the single point of contact with SGRPID about the progress of the Statement of Intent.
12. If the Sol contract is approved, the applicant will receive confirmation from the RPAC.

SOPA

13. On being offered an official RDC for Organic Conversion, the applicant must inform SOPA of their start date
14. SOPA will require a **full conversion plan** to be submitted and approved prior to the start date of conversion (see SOPA Guidance Note on How to write a Conversion Plan)
15. The applicant will be invoiced their introductory membership fee.
16. SOPA will arrange an initial inspection as soon as possible after the start of conversion

Organic Maintenance Funding

This Guidance note is intended to provide SOPA members with step-by-step guide to appointing SOPA to act as a Mandated Agent to claim Rural Development Contracts—Rural Priorities Organic Maintenance on your behalf.

The person at SOPA who will be solely responsible for all aspects of this member service is Debs Roberts and there will be a fee chargeable for providing it. Please note the SOPA Certification team are not able to advise members on SRDP funding.

SOPA can only advise on Organic Options in the SRDP.

Step-by-Step Process

1. Telephone Debs on 0131 335 6619 for a RDC Organic Maintenance Application Pack. You should allow at least ten minutes to chat through your application with Debs.
2. On receipt of your Maintenance Application Pack, you will need to read and complete the following forms:
 - SOPA Order Acknowledgment Form. This outlines the terms and conditions of your agreement with SOPA.
 - SGRPID Agents Form AA1. Complete Sections 1, 3 and sign Section 4. Note SOPA will only act as a Submitting Agent.
 - Please complete the SOPA questionnaire.
3. Return all of the above documents and include a copy of your current annotated Farm Map.

Other information

SGRPID have published the following payment rates per hectare. These are maximum rates available.

Land Type	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	TOTAL
Arable	£60	£60	£60	£60	£60	£300
Improved Grassland	£50	£50	£50	£50	£50	£250
Fruit and Vegetable	£60	£60	£60	£60	£60	£300
Unimproved grassland / rough grazing	£5	£5	£5	£5	£5	£25

There is no guarantee that contract proposals will be accepted. Applications are competitive and although not based on the traditional 'points' system, there is a scoring process and final decisions are approved by the Regional Priority Assessment Committee. Please note there is no deadline for applications. The RPACs meet on a rolling basis throughout the year. Once submitted, the Statement of Intent is assigned to a Case Officer in your local SGRPID Area Office. If you receive a red light, the Sol will need to be reworked and re-submitted. If you receive an amber light, your application will go straight to the next meeting of the RPAC. If the RPAC approves your contract you will receive a green light and official notification of an award of contract.

SOPA Associate Trade Members



W. N. Lindsay Ltd. is the largest independent grain merchant in Scotland and has a turnover exceeding £55m per annum.

We deal in all areas of agricultural inputs and outputs and our organic trade is certified by SOPA.

We are the principal supplier of organic grain and pulses to the Scottish fish feed pellet industry and also supply organic oats to Morning Foods, however, we are looking to further expand our organic business in Scotland

We are aware that growers need security of return in the form of minimum or fixed price contracts that are available before the crop is sown and we have a number of attractive contracts that will meet this requirement.

With high levels of competition for conventional and organic crops we need to secure our supply and this is reflected in our guaranteed price contracts.

For more information please contact:-

Roger Baird - 01875 852151
rogerbaird@wnlindsay.com

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Kevin Beaumont—Organic Inspector

Originally from the Midlands, I began in land agency but then went to Cirencester Agricultural College and emerged with an HND in Agriculture (and a wife and imminent 1st child!). I spent a couple of years milking cows before I was asked back to the farm where I had lived as a student to become Arable and Young Stock Manager on an 18 month contract. At the end of this I applied for, and much to my surprise got, the manager-ship of a large dairy and hill estate in the West of Scotland.



In 1987 we managed to purchase a small farm near Blairgowrie. We had already begun to get interested in organics by this time and entered conversion almost immediately. At the time this was regarded as very odd indeed, but this was a time of a “false dawn” in organic fortunes. Fairly quickly we came to enjoy 17+% bank interest rates which meant searching for additional sources of income! I eventually joined Glenside Organics of Stirling as a sales agent. I became a managing agent responsible for the North and East of Scotland and remained active with the company for about 12 years. During this time I let out the farm grazing and was a SOPA licensee.

Just to show how one thing can lead to another, when the current upturn in organics began I started an organic consultancy offering conversion advice and land management services, and through this I came to join the Soil Association Certification as a contracted inspector 4 years ago. This began to involve doing QMS inspections and through that here I am now starting to also perform SOPA inspections.

For nearly 3 years I have been married to Dawn who works at Fettes College in Edinburgh, running the old members office, so I now live in Edinburgh during the week and return to the farm most weekends. I have 2 daughters and a son from my first marriage. Many of you may have seen or followed the exploits of my son Mark, who recently cycled around the world in a record-breaking 195 days, and was the subject of a recent four-part BBC2 (Scotland) documentary (The Man Who Cycled The World) which I am pleased to say is about to be networked across the UK on BBC1.



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Organic Cereal Outlook

Newsletter May 2008



Old Crop

Markets have been quiet but there are buyers around looking for 'top-ups' for the remainder of the season. Dairy farmers are keen to avoid expensive feed purchases now the cows are out to grass. We have bought significant quantities of cereals during the last month as sellers clear the balances left-over from winter feed stocks. Holders of old crop grain stocks should consider making sales at current levels whilst buyers are topping-up their purchasing programmes. Further delay in selling may well mean having to keep any unsold grain longer than you intend.

New Crop

Organic prices have remained steady for next season and we feel sales should now be considered at prevailing prices. The conventional feed wheat market has fallen to around £125.00/127.00 ex farm for harvest, some £25/tonne below market highs. Crops worldwide look in very good condition and a large conventional crop is currently forecast. This is making buyers very relaxed and to some extent this is also true of the Organic sector. With an organic premium over conventional feed wheat of around £170 per tonne at present, this is a very good opportunity to sell a portion forward. We believe that these premiums may well be hard to sustain as buyers find it difficult to make forward sales into the retail market. Please speak to us for latest prices and market information.

Simon Tubbs & Nigel Gossett
Tel 01787 210 899



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Scottish Organic Meat Network

On the 5th May, Caledonian Organics, Scotland's organic beef and lamb producers' cooperative, launched a network of local groups across the Country. These groups encompass members from the Shetland Isles in the North to Stranraer in the South. Each of the fourteen groups is led by a Local Coordinator who will act as a link between the producers in their area and the Caledonian Organics Head Office in Aberdeen. The aim of the groups is to provide a local feel to the activities of Caledonian Organics and to provide an easy route for feedback on issues affecting local producers. Each local group will hold an annual meeting, these will include farm walks, monitor farm studies and grading workshops.



CalOrg Co-Ordinators

The launch of the new network will also provide an opportunity to extend the benefits of the organic cooperative to its members. Jenny Cuthbert, CalOrg Procurement Manager, is setting up an Organic Feed Buying Group. She will use the Local Group Coordinators to collect information from all of Scotland's organic farmers regarding feed requirements for next season. Once tonnages are determined, a tender will be made to feed companies to see who can offer the best discounted price for the best quality product. As Jenny says 'We will be bulk forward buying to get a good deal and coordinating transport to further reduce costs'. With feed prices where they currently are, the potential savings to group members will be very valuable.

For further information on the work of Caledonian Organics, including the Feed Buying Group, please contact Jenny or Brigitte on: (01224) 711063 or email Jenny at: jenny@caledonianorganics.com

LAMBING PUTS A SPRING IN THE STEP OF ORGANIC FARMER

SOPA member Somerset Charrington from the Isle of Mull is undertaking a coast to coast walk across Scotland of more than 200 miles – and his training was the lambing of his 400 Blackface-ewe flock on his hill farm. Somerset stepped from Portpatrick near Stranraer on May 18th on his way to walking to Cockburnspath, near Dunbar.

As well as taking in some of the country's most breathtaking countryside, Somerset is also hoping to raise money and awareness of international development charity, Practical Action.

Practical Action, established for more than 40 years works with some of the world's poorest countries; its ethos is 'small is beautiful' and by putting people at the heart of the debate is the key to solving poverty.

From floating gardens, fuel efficient stoves to reduce smoke inhalation – currently a bigger killer than malaria – and micro hydro schemes to give remote communities access to electricity, leapfrogging carbon technologies, are just some of the innovative schemes the charity has in Africa, Peru, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Somerset is hoping to raise money for Practical Action's micro hydro work in Peru. This technology not only gives people access to carbon free electricity, but frees up time for people to undertake other activities and importantly, means children have access to more education as they can study for longer.



Anyone wanting to donate to Somerset's walk can visit his 'Just Giving' page: www.justgiving.com/somersetcharrington

Diary Dates



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 6th June, Dingwall Mart
Including an address to the meeting by
David Younie, SAC



Open to all SOPA members
Please contact the office to advise of your attendance
Tel 0131 335 6606

Followed by a SAC/SOPA Joint Farm Walk
Open to ALL

to Milton of Connage Farm and Cheese Dairy, Ardersier, Inverness, IV2 7SX
***Diversifying and adding value on the organic dairy farm: cheese,
beef, arable and vegetable cropping***

SAC Organic Events Summer 2008



SAC Organic Producer Farm Walk Co-operative breeding and finishing of organic beef and sheep in the Highlands

Wednesday 28th May, 1.30pm (sharp)
Ospisdale Organic Farm, Dornoch, Sutherland IV25 3RH (courtesy of Ms Margaret Thomson) and Creich Organic Farm
(Courtesy of Mr & Mrs G Suggett)

This event is free and open to all. For more information please contact Caroline Bayliss on 01224 711073.

SAC Organic Producer Farm Walk Organic Arable & Field Vegetable Production in Practice

Wednesday 25th June, 1.30pm
Chapel Farm, North Berwick EH39 5LP (courtesy of Graham Elder)
Speakers: Graham Elder, Hannah Jones (ORC), John Baddeley (SAC)

Attendance is free. For more information please contact David Younie on 01224 711072.

SAC Royal Highland Show Event Tasting the Farmers' Market

Friday 20th June, 2.00pm
Producers from Dumfries and Galloway will be holding a food tasting event at the SAC Pavilion

This event is free and open to all. For more information please contact David Younie, SAC on 01224 711072.

Diary Dates

Perthshire Organic Monitor Farm Meeting

June 5th 2008
11am—3pm (bring your lunch)

**Discussion Topic is Scottish Rural
Development Programme**



**Balanloan Home Farm
Blair Atholl**

Perthshire PH18 5TH Telephone Peter Lindsay, SAC Perth 01738 636611

Dumfries Market
Huntingdon Road
Dumfries DG1 1NF
Tel. 01387-279495
Fax. 01387-251456



MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2008

Special Sale of Organic Status Suckled Calves & Store Cattle

FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2008

Organic Sales of all classes of Sheep

We have extensive contacts with organic cattle feeders throughout the British Isles. Should you wish to take advantage at either of our autumn 2008 sales contact the following Alistair Black 07771 542 521 or Harry Begg 0771 356 9593

Soil Association Scotland's Organic Food Festival

Saturday 20 (10am-6pm) and Sunday 21 (10am-5pm) September

The highlight of Scotland's organic calendar is set for a third year and will be returning to Glasgow's Merchant City at various venues, including the Old Fruitmarket and the Ramshorn Theatre. This year's event takes place on the final weekend of both Organic Fortnight and Scottish Food Fortnight, and so benefits from two major publicity campaigns in its lead up. This year we've also partnered Doors Open Day, who welcomed 35,000 visitors last year.

If you would to exhibit, call Sally Packer on 01934 813407, email sally@organicfoodfairs.co.uk, or visit www.soilassociationscotland.org, where you can download an application form, as well as a report on the 2007 event.



Soil Association

CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted, Edinburgh

We at the Cyrenians Farm are currently looking to expand our jam production and are therefore looking for additional sources of organic raspberries for the coming year. contact Rob on 0131 333 5202 if you can help to supply us.

For Sale, Perth

Spring barley (Westminster) 100 tonnes for sale. Fully Organic, SOPA member. Please contact the Bruges 01350 724 241

Wanted, Aberdeen

10-12 organic AA or AAX bulling heifers required now. Please contact SOPA member Mr Milton, mob 07761 683 243.

For Sale, Aberdeen

TO LET approx 30 acres fully organic strong grass and clover sward (nr Cuminestown) to rent for the summer 2008. Good fencing, well watered and loading/unloading facilities. Can look stock if required. Would suit sheep or cattle, and by arrangement will be happy for a single cut of silage or hay. Please contact Ted McLean-Bullen (SOPA member) tel 01888 544450 or mob 07786 912 624

For Sale, Aberdeen

100 tonnes wheat (at Turriff) and 60 tonnes 2IC wheat (at Perthshire) From Mr Burnett Contact 07703 113837 / 01828 650224 SOPA

Wanted, Kirkcaldy

InConversion SOPA member looking for guaranteed supply of organic hay. Quantities not large, so local (central belt) preferred. Also, have a small number of pigs so feed orders are less than a pallet; would like to co-ordinate and share orders to simplify haulage. Tel Jane Edwards 01577 850 715

Wanted, Nationally

Organic Lamb finishers. Contact the SOPA office if you have silage aftermaths or winterings available and are looking for business opportunities with short or long keep lambs, or ewe hoggs etc...

SOPA ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW RECEPTION

Thursday 19th June
At 5pm

Introducing Special Guest Jim McLaren, NFUS President
who will briefly address the gathering

All members are respectfully invited
RSVP to deborah.roberts@sfqc.co.uk or tel 0131 335 6619

The SOPA Photographic Competition GO ORGANIC closes on the 6th June.

Entry forms available from the office or download from the SOPA website (News section). The competition is open to all but images must have an organic theme. First prize is 2 tickets to the Highland Show.

The top 10 entries will be on Display at the SOPA stand for the Highland Show. The judging panel will have selected the overall winner, but we are asking the public to vote for their runner up.

Organic goodies will be awarded to the public's choice as runner up, as well as a lucky public voter drawn out of the 'hat'. So call into the SOPA stand at the Highland Show and cast your vote on the runner up.