



**Novotel Bristol**

**TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 - morning**

**Future sustainability of organic and low-input milk production: Challenges and solutions**

**9:30-10:00 REGISTRATION and refreshments**

**10.00 – 11.15 OPENING PLENARY**

**The challenge of low-input and organic milk production**

**Nigel Scollan** (IBERS Aberystwyth): **Introduction to the SOLID project**

**Richard Hampton** (OMSCo): **The challenge for organic milk producers**

**Sinclair Mayne** (AFBI Northern Ireland): **Low input Dairying – Challenges and Opportunities**

**Susanne Padel** (ORC): **Chair**

**11:15-11:45 Tea/coffee**

**11.45 – 13.00 Parallel workshops**

Presenting and discussing results from the SOLID project and other related research with presentations from researchers, farmers and other professionals

**Improving cow health**

To present novel practices on reducing drug use at farm level and discuss possible limitations and future aspects of their implementation.

**Mette Vaarst** (ICROFS Denmark): **Improving cow health and welfare under Organic Principles**

**Christine Gosling** (Berkeley Farm): **Reducing antibiotic use: Participatory research from a farmer's point of view**

**Peter Plate** (Endell Veterinary Group): **Selective Antibiotic Treatment for Dairy Cow Mastitis**

**John Bax** (Lallemand, SOLID Stakeholder platform): **Chair**

**Understanding breed choice and breeding**

The session aims to provide an insight into to the genotype by environment interactions and discuss how dairy cow breeding and fertility can influence the productivity and product quality in organic/low input systems.

**Werner Zollitsch** (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Austria): **Adapted breeds for productivity in organic and low input dairy systems**

**Andrew Dodd** (AHDB Dairy): **Lifetime Index and Spring Calving Index for promoting the genetic potential of a herd**

**Richard Smith** (Farm Manager, Daylesford Farm): **Breeding livestock fit for the environment**

**Debbie McConnell** (AHDB Dairy): **Chair**

**13:00-14:00 Lunch**

## TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 –afternoon

### 14:00- 15:15 Continued parallel workshops

#### New research and practical experience of feeding dairy cows

Most organic and low-input dairy cows are still far from achieving the objectives of high reliance on forage, producing feed from the farm and optimum milk quality. This workshop will address this drawing on recent research that shows the potential.

**Werner Zollitsch** (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Austria): Do existing feed rationing programmes suit high forage diets?

**Chris Reynolds** (Reading University): Is it possible to reduce protein levels to 14%?

**Heli Ahonen** (Juvan Luomu LTD, Finland): Self-sufficiency without soya?

**Mark Measures** (IOTA/ORC): Chair

#### Wider impacts of organic and low-input milk production

In this session we will cover the wider impacts of organic and low-input milk production on soils, environmental footprints and the supply chain.

**Anja Vieweger** (ORC): Assessing the health of your grassland's soil

**Laurence Smith** (ORC): Environmental impact of organic and low-input milk production: New evidence from the SOLID project

**Pip Nicholas-Davies** (IBERS Aberystwyth): Do farmers, consumers and supply-chain professionals differ in their attitude to innovation?

**Susanne Padel** (ORC): Chair

### 15:15-15:45 Tea/coffee

### 15.45 – 17.00 PLENARY PANEL DISCUSSION

#### Supporting organic and low-input dairy production in North Western Europe

The panel will respond to key points discussed in the breakout session and questions from the audience to draw conclusions on supporting organic and low-input dairy production through policy and research.

With **Nigel Scollan** (IBERS Aberystwyth), **Werner Zollitsch** (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Austria), **Mette Vaarst** (ICROFS Denmark), **Lyndon Edwards** (OMSCo), **Debbie McConnell** (AHDB Dairy), **Sinclair Mayne** (AFBI NI)

**Cled Thomas** (Service ICAR): Chair

### 19.30 Dinner in the Novotel, Bristol

## WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016

### 9.30 – 10.30 Lessons from SOLID - Sustainability of organic/low-input dairy

A Discussion Workshop on practical ways forward for organic dairy farming and cow nutrition with on practical challenges of organic dairy farming and cow nutrition. With short contributions from

**John Bax** (Lallemand, SOLID Stakeholder platform)

**Werner Zollitsch** (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Austria)

**Mark Measures** (IOTA/ORC): Chair

### ORGANIC PRODUCERS' CONFERENCE

The following is an extract from the 10<sup>th</sup> Organic producer conference programme listing sessions that are of particular interest to organic and low-input milk producers.

The full programme with all sessions and events and information about registration can be found at

<http://tinyurl.com/ORCOPC16>

### 10.00 – 11.00 REGISTRATION for the Organic Producer conference and refreshments

### 11.00 – 12.30 OPENING PLENARY

**A shared vision for the future with a Panel of Farmers** **Nic Lampkin** (ORC): Chair

### 12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

### Followed by workshops

## WEDNESDAY 27th January 2016 afternoon

### 14.00 – 15.30 WORKSHOPS 1

#### **Forage production for improved animal performance (IOTA, SOLID)**

The aim of the workshop is to draw on research and practical experience of multi-species leys to improve forage species selection and management to maximize animal production and building soil fertility.

**Ian Wilkinson** (Cotswold Seeds): **Research and practice of varieties, species and management of multi-species leys**

**William Waterfield** (Farm Consultancy Group): **Practical experience of multi species leys for dairy, beef and sheep**

**Wil Armitage** (Organic dairy farmer at Keythorpe Farms): **Rotational grazing and soil management**

**Mark Measures** (IOTA/ORC): **Chair**

**Other workshops on business tools/support for new entrants, weed management in arable, soil testing and food sovereignty**

### 15.30 – 16.00 Tea/coffee break

### 16.00 – 17.30 WORKSHOPS 2

#### **Minerals: can they be too much of a good thing? (IOTA/ SOLID)**

There is evidence (some) organic livestock are being supplied with excessive levels of trace element minerals and in other cases are under supplied, with potentially serious effects on animal health and human nutrition. This workshop will endeavor to quantify the extent of the problem and identify the best strategies to deal with it.

**Liam Sinclair** (AHDB Dairy): **Are conventional and organic dairy cows provided with optimum minerals?**

**Gillian Butler** (Nafferton Ecological Farming Group, tbc): **Investigation into mineral levels in organic dairy herds**

**Mette Vaarst** (ICROFS): **The organic approach to ensuring optimum minerals for animal health and product quality**

**Mark Measures** (IOTA/ORC): **Chair**

**Other workshops on pulses, succession, fruit and viticulture, agroecology and organic action plans**

### 17.30 – 17.45 Break

### 17.45 – 18:45 Fringe sessions

**Organic pulses - how do we increase production? (GO/CAWR)**

**Skilled workers, apprentices and volunteers (OGA/LWA/Groundspring)**

**Innovative Farmers (Soil Association/ORC) - Come and discuss field lab results with the farmers that took part**

### 17.30 – 19.00 Poster session/bar open

### 19.30 Conference dinner & bar

## THURSDAY 28th January 2016

The ORC producer conference continues with further workshops on

#### **More feed from our own resources**

#### **Homoeopathy at Welly Level – unrecognized success (HAWR)**

#### **Can tree planting on livestock farms lead to a net increase in productivity and profit?**

Final closing plenary on

#### **Making change happen globally – how can organic/agroecological approaches deliver?**

Programme correct as of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

May be subject to change.