

UK Organic Congress 2018

Going for Growth:
Transforming organic food and farming in the UK

15-16th November 2018, Dunchurch Park Hotel, Rugby



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UK Organic Congress



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Welcome

Welcome to the UK Organic Congress 2018, a unique event organised jointly by leading organic organisations, including the Organic Research Centre, Landworkers' Alliance, Organic Arable, Organic Farmers & Growers, Organic Growers Alliance, Organic Trade Board, Soil Association and Whole Health Agriculture.

The UK organic food market is growing fast, at 6-7% annually, as part of a global movement for change in what we eat and how it's produced. But we trail our European neighbours, many achieving over 20% growth and food industry responsive to consumer demand, delivering environmental as well as economic gains.

Reaffirming the potential of organic food and farming in the UK needs fresh approaches to ensure core organic principles and the expectations of citizens can be delivered. Enhancing the environmental and other public benefits of organic production while ensuring fair incomes for farmers and affordable prices for consumers is critical. As we contemplate leaving the EU, what transformations should we be seeking to make the UK an organic world leader again?

The organic approach cares about things that affect us all – health, welfare, the environment, fairness, quality and sustainability. Communicating this needs a focus on real benefits, while building bridges with others. The Congress will feature a new, positive vision for the contribution that organic can make to UK food and farming, including an aspiration to be up there with the best in terms of production and market shares.

We would also like to thank everyone who has worked to make this conference happen, including but not limited to:

- Our key sponsors Sheepdrove Trust, Triodos Bank, Coventry University and Demeter UK;
- All partners and other organisations and their staff who have contributed to the programme, organising and chairing sessions, and promoting the Congress;
- All speakers and panellists who have travelled to take part in the programme;
- The Agricollogy team for video and social media coverage throughout the event;
- The staff at Dunchurch Park Hotel, in particular for their efforts to cater the event organically, with Pukka Herbs donating some special teas to the Congress.

Nic Lampkin, Chair of the English Organic Forum and CEO of the Organic Research Centre @orgResCent



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Thursday 15th November 2018

10:00 – 11:00 Registration and refreshments (Foyer)
A selection of trade stands can be found in the marquee

11:00 – 12:30 Opening plenary

Garden Rooms

A new vision for organic food and farming in the UK

Our impending departure from the EU has generated a lot of fresh ideas about what UK food, farming and environmental policy might look like post Brexit. The Government in its Health and Harmony consultation and more recently the Agriculture Bill has emphasised greener approach focusing public money on public benefits. What does this mean in practice and how can the organic movement respond? In the opening plenary we will explore ideas from politicians, the international organic movement and UK organic producers and food businesses, including an introduction to the English Organic Action Plan currently under development. Professor Nic Lampkin will introduce the organic vision and action plan documents will be circulated to participants.

Chair: Nic Lampkin (Chair, English Organic Forum; CEO, Organic Research Centre) @OrgResCent

Louise Lutikholt (Executive Director, IFOAM Organics International)
Courageous organic policies @IFOAMorganic

Humanity is surpassing the planetary boundaries and no longer operates in the safe space of crucial earth systems (Rockström, 2011). Agriculture is directly or indirectly contributing to this in a negative manner. Currently, it is more financially advantageous to damage the environment and exploit people than it is to protect our natural resources and look out for societal well-being. We have locked ourselves into a perverse narrative about the purpose and role of agriculture, taking mainly a 'productionistic' perspective (IPES Food, 2018). It is high time to break out of this old narrative and start thinking in 'positive food systems'. Courageous policy makers in several parts of the world have already paved the way in their localities by making agriculture part of the solution and a contributor to the SDGs (Future Policy Award, 2018).

John Pawsey (Chair, NFU Organic Forum)
What UK organic producers would like to see happen with future policy @hanslope @ShimplingPark

UK farmers are looking forward to embracing a new direction for agriculture where farmers are rewarded for producing food to the highest animal welfare standards, of the best nutritional quality while increasing biodiversity on our farms and keeping farming businesses profitable. With pesticide resistance, increasing costs of farm inputs and degradation of our soils, organic farmers have a huge amount of practical knowledge to offer to address all of these issues. We need to engage with Government and our industry partners to make sure that our voice is heard in a positive and helpful way.

Susan Hayman MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)
Getting the Agriculture Bill right—delivery for both

As Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Sue has been leading the Official Opposition's response to the Government's Agriculture Bill in Parliament. The Agriculture Bill must address the long-term food security of the United Kingdom, prioritise the production of nutritious, good quality food, and ensure, in measurable and enforceable terms, the future of Britain's environment, wildlife, and habitats. The development of a new post-Brexit UK agriculture policy is a seminal moment for the future of our environment, our food production and our countryside. Sustainability, above all else, has to be at the forefront of a thriving farming, food and drink sector. Getting the Agriculture Bill right is crucial for the future of British farming, and Labour is working to ensure that it delivers for both

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

- A selection of trade stands are open in the marquee
- Poster presentation are available for viewing in the Garden Rooms

Marquee

Workshop themes—day 1

A Maintaining Organic integrity

With strong global growth, increasing levels of consumer mistrust and increased scrutiny of supply chains, maintaining the integrity of organic presents an ongoing challenge. What can organic businesses, certifiers and their partners do together to ensure confidence in organic is maintained?

Great Hall

B Brexit challenges

Brexit will present us with many challenges. These will include trade with the EU; compliance with EU or UK organic regulations and international equivalency agreements; access to research and knowledge exchange funding, where the EU has until now played a critical role; and future support for conversion to and maintenance of organic systems, recognising the delivery of public benefits by organic producers. But there are also emerging opportunities. How can we best engage with and make the most of them?

Drawing Room

C Soil—the foundation on which we farm

The health of the soil that we farm is integral to its success both now and in years to come. The way in which we farm has a massive influence on the soil, from biota to structure to the nutritional support it offers to crops. Some of the most significant differences between organic and non-organic farming approaches are seen in its effect on the soil, but even amongst organic farmers there are enormous differences and much still to be understood.

Hidcoate (Garden Rooms)

D Small-scale production systems: Supporting small scale businesses and those who work in them

Small-scale systems with their short supply chains run at the highest efficiency, but are largely ignored by support schemes. Such systems can offer opportunities for new entrants, but finding such opportunities can be a major challenge. This block addresses these key questions and is aimed at present and future small-scale production system operators, and potential workers.

Blenheim (Garden Rooms)

E Trick or Tree—don't get spooked by agroforestry!

Whether you are teetering on the brink of agroforestry or already immersed, this session is for you. We'll hear about opportunities for new entrants and get tips and tricks on what to do and what not to do from practitioners.

Kiftsgate (Garden Rooms)

F Meat and livestock marketing

The current market is seeing changing consumption patterns, both in what consumers buy, and how and where they buy it. This block will look at implications for the production and marketing of livestock products at all scales of production, from short supply-chains to collaborations with national retailers.

Draycote Suite

14:00 – 15:30 Workshop 1

A Supporting organic integrity

Great Hall

With strong growth in organic markets across the globe comes the increasing challenge of maintaining the integrity of organic products. What are the threats and what tools or approaches might be available to businesses, to support better control of integrity in future, maintaining confidence in organic in a climate of increasing scrutiny of both the organic sector and certification?

Chair: Lee Holdstock (Soil Association) @SoilAssociation

Panel discussion including:

- **Alison Johnston (Food Forensics)**
What to test for and when to test
- **Giles Chapman (FSA - National Food Crime Unit)**
Organic: the Food Crime perspective
- **Frank Gerriets (Check Organic/ECERT)**
Using information platforms for real-time tracking of organic products
- **Ronald van Marlen (Biotrust)**
Changing organic supply chains and assessing risk

14:00 – 15:30 Workshop 1

B Public money for public goods

Drawing Room

Public Money for Public goods is the oft repeated and welcome new approach to farm support payments post Brexit. This workshop will lay out the detail of what is meant by this approach; what the government and environmental groups are hoping for, and the latest evidence on what organic food and farming can contribute.

Chair: Emma Hockridge (Soil Association)

@emmahockridge @SoilAssociation

Adrian Steele (Soil Association): Public payment for Public Goods

Organic farming is recognised alongside agroecological farming as being climate friendly; it also delivers more wildlife, healthier soils, protects against flooding, helps maintain cleaner water, and lowers pesticide & antibiotic use. It is the only system of farming that is supported in the marketplace but is it fair to expect organic consumers to pay for the delivery of these public goods?

Polly Davies (Slade Farm Organics): Are public goods good for the farmer?

@sladefarm

Polly will discuss the challenges in practically providing public goods, as well as the advantages that agri-environmental contracts provide to an organic farming unit. Polly's farm has been in agri-environmental contracts for almost 20 years. Polly will discuss the challenges in embedding environmental managements within existing farming enterprises.

Jonathan Baker (Defra): Public money for public goods – future environmental land management

As we leave the EU, the Government are committed to reforming agricultural policy to provide 'public money for public goods'. The intention is to create a more self-reliant and sustainable farming sector. Defra is co-designing future environmental land management schemes with stakeholders, farmers and experts. Jonathan will give an overview of current thinking and highlight opportunities for further engagement.

D Initiatives to support small-scale production and short supply chains

Blenheim (Garden Rooms)

This workshop will discuss policy proposals based on the work and experience of small scale growers- including the LWA's Horticulture programme, proposals for a New Entrants Scheme and promotion of a national Local Food strategy. This workshop will be interactive and is designed to gather inputs and ideas from participants to inform the English Organic Action Plan.



Session led by Jyoti Fernandes and Rebecca Laughton (Landworkers' Alliance)

@landworkersuk

E Agroforestry: Making it work – lessons from the ground

Kiftsgate (Garden Rooms)

Agroforestry systems are more complex to manage and there's no rule book to follow. Many of our agroforestry pioneers have learnt 'on the job' and this session will feature a panel of agroforesters sharing their experiences (good and bad!) and taking questions from the audience.

Chair: Ben Raskin (Soil Association) @Ben_Raskin

@SoilAssociation

Panel discussion featuring:

- **Harriet Bell (Dartington)** @DartingtonLand
- **Michael Marston (Gibside Community Farm)**
- **Stuart Holm (Woodland Trust)**
- **Niels Corfield (Edible Cities)**
- **Ian Tolhurst (Tolhurst Organics)**

F How to succeed in red meat marketing

Draycote Suite

Despite the success of independent retailers, organic red meat sales are still relatively lagging on supermarket shelves. What are the factors that lead to consistent success in organic red meat marketing? For this session, we have brought together representatives from leading organic red meat businesses with proven track records, to share the secrets of their success.

Chair: Liz Bowles (Soil Association) @hayneoak

Anna Elliot (Eversfield Organic): Using an e-commerce platform supported by digital and direct marketing

@eversfieldorg @untamedwords

Everyone needs to join forces in a marketing push to help promote the health benefits of beef, lamb and pork. Consumers need to be made aware on the role that meat plays in a healthy balanced diet. Social media and press activity need to be aimed towards younger consumer demographics, who are interested in health. Consumers need to be educated towards eating well, consuming meat in moderation, but a better-quality organic grass-fed red meat; looking at overall diets and not focussing too much on individual elements. There needs to be a paradigm shift in dietary advice to help get the key message across.

Stuart Vile (Meadow Quality): The perspective from livestock marketing

Stuart is Livestock Manager at Meadow Quality, a livestock trader based in Warwickshire. He will present on the challenges and opportunities of the red meat market, and where success might lay for organic producers and retailers.

Tim Field (Daylesford): The story of Daylesford and experiences selling to supermarkets

@daylesfordfarm

Over 40 years ago, Daylesford Farm converted to organic, establishing itself as a leading national retailer of organic red meat and supplying to Waitrose and Ocado, as well as through its own retail outlets. Tim talks about the story of its success, and how it responds to challenges in the marketplace.

15:30 – 16:00 Break

- Trade stands and refreshments can be found in the marquee
- Poster presentations are available for viewing in the garden rooms

16:00 – 17:30 Workshop 2

A Business models and product integrity *Great Hall*

The way we trade and the relationships we form between businesses can significantly influence the products we bring to market. How could the structure of supply chains change to better inform participants of the roles and actions of others, and how can we encourage better information flows, strengthening integrity and ultimately supporting further market growth?

Chair: Andrew Trump (Organic Arable) @organicarable

Panel discussion including:

- Josiah Meldrum (Hodmedods) @Hodmedods
- Ronald van Marlen (Biotrust)
- Suranga Herath (English Tea Shop)

B UK organic regulations and equivalence *Drawing Room*

This session will discuss the current recommendations for regulation and equivalence to be included in the English Organic Action Plan. The UK Government have already indicated that the EU organic regulation will be brought into UK law when we leave the EU and integrate contingencies around equivalence and practicalities around the implementation of the organic regulation. The session will look at what we know in detail and consider what further will need to be confirmed, and by when, in the event of a 'hard Brexit' in March 2019.

Chair: Roger Kerr (OF&G) @RogerKerrOFG



Series of presentations followed by panel discussion:

- **Susanne Padel (Organic Research Centre) @OrgResCent**
Options to regulate organic farming post-Brexit and key findings from the Defra consultation research
- **Stephen Clarkson (Organic Farmers & Growers)**
The English Organic Action Plan, and resilience and efficiency actions @ofgorganic @organiman
- **Kathleen Kelliher (Defra)**
Implications of Brexit for organic regulation

C Improving crop productivity through soil, nutrients & crop rotation *Hidcoate (Garden Rooms)*

Organic crop yields in the UK are static, or even declining and are significantly lower than elsewhere in Europe. This session will discuss the latest ideas on soil analysis, use of manures, fertility building crops and mineral fertilisers. It

will consider the use of nutrient budgeting, including the use of self-use tools, to help plan and refine crop rotations for improved productivity.

Christine Watson (Scotland's Rural College):
Designing rotations for effective nutrient management
@SRUC

Well-planned crop rotations for organic farming involve a balance of crops that add nitrogen (N) to the system through biological N fixation (legumes) and those that are able to utilise that nitrogen. However, the selection and choice of both crop species and varieties, and the temporal and spatial arrangements in which they are grown, can alter nutrient availability and use in many different ways. This presentation will explore how crops can be used to manipulate nutrient availability at different times of year to enhance productivity and minimise losses.

Mark Measures (Organic Consultant):
Observing health in soil
@OrgResCent

Health is a complicated concept and knowing how to tell how 'healthy' one's soil is or isn't is not easy. Mark will take a look at some of the indicators of a healthy soil that you can look for on your own farm. He will look at the pros and cons of some of the more complex methods and consider how to remedy some of the deficiencies that are commonly seen.

Samantha Mullender (Organic Research Centre):
NDICEA—a decision support tool for farming for soil
@OrgResCent

Managing nutrient balances is important. A farm must balance ensuring there are sufficient nutrients to support the growth of healthy, quality crops whilst at the same time avoiding periods of surpluses that come at cost to a farms' bottom line, as well as to the environment. With a huge range of factors influencing nutrient balances—from management techniques like tillage or volume and timing of fertiliser application to unavoidable conditions like weather or soil type—identifying what changes to make on farm can seem impossible. In this session we will take a look at some of the factors that influence nutrient balances at a field scale. We will introduce a tool, NDICEA, that allows a particular field to be modelled over the course of its rotation. Finally, we will see how use of such a tool can allow the likely effects of changing the rotation plan, fertiliser strategy or straw management or tillage practices (for example) to be explored in a risk free environment.

D New entrants: Making ideals a reality *Blenheim (Garden Rooms)*

This session will give an overview of current opportunities and next steps available for new entrants to organic farming and growing. It will cover sources of professional training, advice and mentoring, in addition to opportunities for accessing land and/or funding. It will then conclude with a Q&A on the key challenges faced by new entrants within the organic sector.

This will be followed by a New Entrants fringe session.

Chair: Alysoun Bolger (Biodynamic Agricultural College)
@BDACollege @UkDemeter

16:00 – 17:30 Workshop 2

Kate Collins (Organic Growers' Alliance): *Making ideals a reality: how on earth do I start?*

@OGAGrowers @katecollins

You know that you want to be involved in organic horticulture, but where do you start when it comes to starting your own business? How do you find land, and access to funding? Kate offers a starting point and ideas for brainstorming these essential questions, based on research and her own experiences.

Kai Lange (Biodynamic Agricultural College): *Invitation to collaborate in our educational landscape towards pathways*

@BDACollege @UkDemeter

The need for training and education in the agro-ecological movement UK is apparent. Training initiatives are scattered and often challenged by 'inventing the wheel' yet again. To meet learners and farmers needs in our small agro-ecological sector we need to collaborate more. My aim is to map the educational landscape and pathways and explore what is needed by learners and farmers.

Laurence Smith (Organic Research Centre): *Learning to drive systemic change: an overview of agroecological higher education*

@OrgResCent

The diverse and innovative nature of the organic sector presents a wide range of opportunities for those seeking to learn how farming and food systems can be encouraged to take on more sustainable practices. A number of higher education institutes within the UK are addressing the rising demand in this area through innovative taught course content and degree programmes. The presentation will provide an overview current opportunities and sources of funding for prospective students.

New Entrants are also welcome to attend the fringe session Advice for new entrants to organic farming in the Draycote Suite from 17.45 to 18.45.

E New opportunities in agroforestry Kiftsgate (Garden Rooms)

Diversifying the farming system through agroforestry can open up a range of new opportunities. In this session speakers will present their experiences ranging from establishing new tree crops leading to new markets, to new business partnerships, to identifying new products from existing woody resources on the farm.

Chair: Jo Smith (ORC) @OrgResCent

Ross Dickinson (Racedown Farm) *A Coppiced Hedge - Is it economically viable to take selected hedges from annual felling to a 15/20 year coppice rotation?*

The presentation will present detailed costings on a trial hedge and a quantitative valuation of the products produced. There will be an analysis of how these hedge products are sold in a small firewood business. The argument will be made that this method could be widely applied to some hedges on many UK farms. While not a template it is hoped that elements could be adopted to suit particular circumstances on many farms. On any individual farm the income or savings engendered will be modest but if adopted on a number of farms the benefits to the countryside could be significant. It will be argued that a change to this type of rotation will benefit flora and fauna, reduce costs, create viable

employment on farms, offer an opportunity for new rural employment, improve the quality of some hedges, produce sustainable, local renewable energy, thus making a small contribution to slowing global warming and improve the appearance of rural landscapes.

Charlotte Steel (Lush) *Lush Farm: A Case Study - soap and sustainability*

An exploration of the Lush Farm plan and how agroforestry offers diversified opportunities for education and demonstration, biodiversity, R&D, multiple cropping, potential new materials, climate change adaptation and mitigation, etc. There will be a focus on lessons learned from the journey so far.

Ella Sparks (Schumacher College) *Tree tenancies - a new opportunity*

@SchumacherColl

Ella has been working at Schumacher for 2.5 years helping with the establishment of the five-acre agroforestry field (featuring; vegetable and fruit tree alley cropping, 1-acre forest garden and tree nursery). Ella also works with Fruit and Nut Ireland researching new tree crops that could be incorporated into future agroforestry plantings. This year she will be starting a tree tenancy to manage a planting of walnut trees in a new silvopasture agroforestry project.

F How can producers respond to changing diets? Draycote Suite

The changing climate is a hot topic, and meat and dairy production is increasingly under fire for its associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This panel will debate how organic farming already meets some of the challenges of mitigating climate change, and how new technical innovations and practices can help us to better respond to this challenge.

Chair: Helen Browning (Soil Association) @SoilAssociation

A panel discussion featuring:

- **Richard Young (Sustainable Food Trust)** @SusFoodTrust
- **Marie-Helene Schwoob (IDDRI)** @IDDRI_ThinkTank
- **Iain Tolhurst (Tolhurst Organics)**
- **Liz Bowles (Soil Association)** @hayneOak

17:45 – 18:45 Workshop 3

B Co-ordinating organic information and advice Kiftsgate (Garden Rooms)

Several organisations and individuals are providing information about converting and organic farming. There is more interest in organic conversion. How can information and advice for organic farming and conversion be better co-ordinated in future?

Session led by Susanne Padel (Organic Research Centre), Mark Measures (Institute of Organic Training and Advice) and William Waterfield (Farm Consultancy Group) @OrgResCent @WhiteWaterfield



From 17.45 Fringe events

- A selection of academic posters on topics related to the Congress are available for viewing in the garden rooms
- Trade stands are open in the marquee
- Refreshments are available in the Foyer and Bar 1823 is open for use by delegates, serving a range of organic wine and other beverages.

Facing up to Whole Health Agriculture

Garden Room Bar

An informal networking event and drinks reception for WHA members and other interested delegates. The event will provide an opportunity to ask, what do we mean by Whole Health Agriculture, and why it is so important to soil, plant, animal, man and the planet?

Advice for new entrants to organic farming

Draycote Suite

This session will follow-on from the D2 session on new entrants, and provide an opportunity for an informal Q&A with a group of experienced new-entrants.

Film screening—100 % Organic an utopian dream? – it's possible and done!

Great Hall

The Indian federal state Sikkim democratically decided to convert to 100% organic. Just 10 years later, 66 000 farmers practise organic farming. The session, through film media and presentation, will explain what it took to achieve such an ambitious goal. It will also look at those now trying to follow. While Bhutan has been working on this same goal for quite some time already, the federal state Uttarakhand just embarked on its journey to 100% organic. There, over 1.6 million farmers will be going organic! What happens in India is not just a paradigm shift in agriculture, but something that deserves to be called an agrarian revolution.

Delivered by Bernward Geier (Director of COLABORA)

19:30 Conference dinner

Mawson's Marquee

Followed by entertainment by Whisky Moon Face

Thankyou to Pukka Herbs for their kind donation of special teas to the Congress



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Agricology is a collaboration of farmers and researchers working towards more resource efficient, resilient and profitable farming systems based on agroecology.

Come and speak to us at the Organic Congress or join in on social media @agricology and Agricology.co.uk for the latest resources, research and farm case studies.

Icons for social media: Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and logos for Organic Research Centre, Farmbench, and Elm Farm.



Would you like help to collate and review your farm data to look at improving performance?

- Have this data anonymously analysed and benchmarked against other organic farms. Then meet with other organic farmers to compare key indicators, discuss the year's successes and challenges with them.
- We are offering the opportunity to take part in AHDB Farmbench with support from trained ORC staff.
- We'll then arrange a follow up meeting in consultation with the farmers in the group at a venue in the area to review the analysed data (individual farm data will remain confidential).
- To participate you must grow at least one combinable cereal or oilseed crop in this harvest year and not have participated in 2017 cereal/oilseed Farmbench. All organic farm types are welcome to participate.
- We want to support organic farmers in this process and enable you to have access to meaningful organic farm data to help you manage your business.

For more information or to register with ORC for AHDB Farmbench for Organic farmers please e-mail
AHDBFarmbench@organicresearchcentre.com or visit our trade stand.

Friday 16th November 2018

Workshop themes—day 2

G Market opportunities
When compared with equivalent EU economies, the UK has only a retail market share of 1.5% against an average of 3.43%. What is happening elsewhere, in the UK market and with UK organic consumers? How do we secure markets and help UK businesses maximise their opportunities across the supply chain?

Great Hall

H Organic management on a landscape scale
Organic farming has often been thought of as an activity for individual farms, but the opportunity for clusters of organic farms to make significant changes at local or regional level is significant. Explore how group initiatives can generate more environmental benefits, while at the same time opening economic opportunities for local organic food markets and processing, agri-tourism and more.

Drawing Room

I Breeding for organic crops
The need for organic plant breeding and variety testing has been talked about for a long time but little has been done. We will investigate what is needed from organic plant breeding, the threats and opportunities that the so called 'novel breeding techniques' might offer as well as look at an innovative and novel approach to variety testing.

Hidcoate (Garden Rooms)

J Organic herbs, seeds and soil health—new insights
The over-riding theme of these three sessions is improvement to organic horticultural systems, whether through diversification into herb production, taking control of organic seed production or using the rotation to improve soil health. These sessions are aimed at all growers and small scale producers and are intended to generate productive discussion.

Blenheim (Garden Rooms)

K Farm system health
Throughout the Organic movement, health is described as a process, not a state: more than just the absence of disease. But what do Organic Health Concepts mean for the quality of products or the health of the wider ecosystem? How can we measure health in organic food systems?

Kiftsgate (Garden Rooms)

L Meat and livestock production
From changing consumer behaviour—dietary preferences and awareness of animal welfare standards—to increasing extreme weather events as a result of climate change, being a livestock farmer has never been so difficult. Join us as we consider some of these challenges and the options to help address them.

Draycote Suite

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 10:30 Workshop 1

G The Organic Prize

A review of the current organic markets, UK and worldwide, current consumer thinking and an analysis of future opportunity for market growth.

Chair: Martin Sawyer

Roger Kerr (Organic Farmers & Growers):
World and European Market for Organic @RogerKerrOFG

The global market organic food and beverage market is expected to reach around £250 billion by 2024. Where is the growth coming from and how do other countries compare?

Paul Moore (Organic Trade Board):
Consumer insight—what do consumers want and what can we learn from them?

Learn what drives purchase in the organic market and how to communicate this to your customers to drive sales

Lee Holdstock (Soil Association):
UK organic market and consumer overview

@SoilAssociation

An overview of key categories and channels driving growth in the UK organic market, with an update on the factors influencing consumer food choices today.

9:00 – 10:30 Workshop 1

H Eco-regional development: examples from abroad

Drawing Room

If agriculture support is to be based on the provision of environmental goods and services, then local and regional diversity will increase in importance as a policy goal and a factor in determining specific payments to farmers. Regionally focused ecological payments can bring farmers closer to their communities and regional production can offer a powerful marketing opportunity. This session will explore several highly successful examples of this approach in Germany and discuss whether we can do it here.

Chair: Lawrence Woodward (Whole Health Agriculture)

Prof. Dr Hardy Vogtmann:
Putting organic at the centre of regional development and nature conservation

After a highly influential career at the forefront of developing all aspects of organic farming Prof. Dr Hardy Vogtmann placed organic approaches at the centre of regional development and nature conservation in Germany firstly as President of Regional Development in the State of Hesse and then as President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. The presentation will draw on Hardy Vogtmann's unique experience at the forefront of organic agriculture, regional development and nature conservation in Germany and throughout the world. He will describe several successful examples and how they came about practically and politically.

Rudolf Bühler (Farmers' Association of Schwäbisch Hall):
Hohenloe farmers: from a rare breed pig to 3500 local, own brand organic and ecological products

Rudolf Buehler is a farmer and chairman of the 1000 strong Farmers Association of Schwäbisch Hall in the region of Hohenloe in Germany. The Association is built entirely on local production, processing and sales of organic and ecological produce. Starting in it now employs 600 people, has a turnover of 130 million Euros and makes around 1 million annual profit after paying its farmers the highest prices and reinvesting in processing and retailing their products.

This presentation will tell the story of how and why a small group of farmers grew from saving a local pig breed to a 1000 strong regional farmer association turning over 130 million Euros, making 1 million Euros profit after paying top prices to the farmers. It is a story of regional identity, regional co-operation, regional production and marketing built on organic principles and practice.

I Approaches to variety testing

Hidcoate (Garden Rooms)

This session will focus on the results from the 2017/18 organic winter wheat LIVESEED trials. We will discuss opportunities and challenges presented by a participatory model, how we envisage the approach expanding and options for ongoing funding.

Chair: Andrew Trump (Organic Arable) @organicarable

Panel discussion including:

- **Simon Oxley (AHDB) @AHDB_Cereals**
- **Ambrogio Costanzo (Organic Research Centre) @Ambro_ORC**
- **Mark Lea (Green Acres Farm) @GreenAcres_Farm**

J Encouraging organic herb production in the UK

Blenheim (Garden Rooms)

In this participatory session, we discuss how organic herb production in the UK can be increased through for example better technical support networks, local processing coops or improved access to markets. The newly formed Organic Herb Growers Alliance leads through the talks and discussions; come ready to get involved!

Session run by Helen Kearney (Organic Herb Growers' Alliance) @elderfarm

K Citizen access & engagement—routes to future success

Kiftsgate (Garden Rooms)

**Thank you to the
Biodynamic
Association for
their support with
this session**

Expanding access to and engagement with the benefits of organic food for people and the environment is a huge opportunity post-Brexit. Three approaches to achieve this are outlined in

the Organic Action Plan: public procurement; home & community gardens food production; and eating out. Come and join our feet-grounded experts and hands-on professionals to debate the opportunities ahead.

Chair: Lynda Brown (Demeter UK, Biodynamic Association Certification); James Campbell (Garden Organic) @lyndaingarden



Sophie Kirk (Soil Association):
New routes to market: public sector food procurement
@SoilAssociation

Public procurement is an important lever to accessing better quality food including organic for everyone irrespective of their income or situation. Sophie Kirk, Business Development Manager at the Soil Association, outlines how the dynamic public procurement model is achieving this, and shares her experience of its success and benefits.

Will Pouget (The Vaults and Garden Café):
Eating Out: the next frontier
@VaultsandGarden

"It's more important than ever for foodservice businesses to understand and improve the sustainability of their operations".
Pete Hemingway, The Sustainable Restaurant Association

Whether it be climate change, reducing waste, producing healthy menus, supporting organic farmers, or building local supply chains, sustainability is now firmly on the menu. Will Pouget, owner of the award winning Vaults & Garden Café in Oxford is one of the new generation cooks embracing sustainability head on, who champions organic and delivers deliciously successful farm to fork food service. He shares his story and how he makes organic pay for him and his customers.

9:00 – 10:30 Workshop 1

Steve Thompson (Garden Organic): *Growing greener shoots: home and community food growing*

Steve Thompson will give an introduction to how encouraging 'green fingers' amongst the public can result in greater understanding and engagement with good food. Through examples, he will demonstrate how home and community growing schemes can lead to rewards for participants well beyond simple agronomic understanding.

L Under the spotlight: dairy cow health and welfare *Draycote Suite*

As we prepare to leave the EU, the focus on animal welfare has never been higher. This is even more critical for the Organic sector, who trade on their higher health and welfare standards. Examine the key areas for dairy cattle health, sharing findings from new research projects and field labs that will assist all dairy farmers in the future.

Chair: Dr Marion Johnson (Organic Research Centre)
@OrgResCent

David Main (Royal Agricultural University): *Pride, positive welfare & policy The good life framework*

The UK Farm Animal Welfare Committee suggested that promotion of good life (positive welfare) should be considered with avoidance of harm. The opportunities of a policy shift would include an alignment of livestock carer's pride in animal welfare and positive consumer purchasing decisions. Innovation in policy also depends on development of measures for positive welfare.

Paul Redmore (Neston Park Home Farm): *Early Mastitis detection using intra animal sensors—technology to inform treatment protocols and reduce antibiotic use.*

The herd at Neston Home Farm has been using Smaxtec boluses in all cows for the last 2 years. The bolus transmits temperature and activity data from each individual cow every 5-10 minutes, and alerts the herdsman via a phone app on any variation to that cows baseline data. Interpretation of data is used for heat detection, calving alerts, disease detection, and water intakes. Initial work done on utilising animal temperature and activity data generated from intra reticulum electronic boluses to detect the early onset of clinical mastitis before normal clinical signs develop, along with mastitis typing on farm, is allowing the design of new treatment protocols, which is indicating the reduction of antibiotic through earlier and more targeted use of antibiotics. Further work on cross referencing yield, milk flow rates and conductivity with temperature and activity has the potential to generate further detection of disease and treatment protocols to increase animal welfare and medicine use.

Peter Plate (Royal Veterinary College): *New challenges and solutions to mastitis control*

Reducing mastitis in dairy cows is a necessity for welfare and economic reasons, and reducing antimicrobial usage at the same time adds a challenge to this. The presentation summarizes new ways of diagnosing mastitis and selecting cases which are most likely to benefit from treatment and therefore reducing antimicrobial usage. The potential benefits and limitations of these approaches are outlined and a framework is proposed to put these approaches in the context of holistic mastitis control with positive health and prevention being the primary measures.

10:30 – 11:00 Break

- Trade stands and refreshments can be found in the marquee
- Poster presentations are available for viewing in the garden rooms

11:00 – 12:30 Workshop 2

G Future Trade Opportunities *Great Hall*

This session looks at how we can begin capitalise on current market opportunities. How do we move forward and what do we need to do to move the various market opportunities forward in the UK? The session will draw on the framework of the EOAP to consider current and future trade options.

Chair: Christopher Stopes (EcoS Consultancy)



Session led by:

- **Lee Holdstock (Soil Association)**
International/export opportunities @SoilAssociation
- **Roger Kerr (Organic Farmers & Growers)**
Actions for the English Organic Action Plan @RogerKerrOFG
- **Paul Moore (Organic Trade Board)**
Communications and Funding

H Catchment sensitive farming - improving air and water quality *Drawing Room*

Thank you to Natural England for their support with this session *Catchment sensitive farming (CSF) has focused on reducing pollution of watercourses in a region, but so far limited attention has been paid to the positive contribution that organic land management might make, but also to some of the risks that organic producers need to be aware of. This workshop will look at the opportunities for greater engagement of organic producers in CSF initiatives and the support available.*

Philippa Mansfield (Natural England), with support from Alex Lowe (Natural England)
Catchment Sensitive Farming and farmers improving water and air quality
@NaturalEngland #catchmentsensitivefarming

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) works with farmers in priority areas of England to improve water and air quality.

11:00 – 12:30 Workshop 2

There is evidence that organic farming can have benefits including more clean water (35-65% less nitrogen and no persistent pesticides leached from organic arable fields); abundant wildlife (a third more species on average) as well as healthier soils (44% higher levels of humic acid storing soil carbon, abundance of soil microbes and resilience against flooding and drought). However there are also risks of water and air pollution associated with out-wintering of cattle, livestock access to watercourses, storage and application of organic manures and soil erosion and run off. CSF provides free advice to organic and conventional farmers on farm practices that reduce the risk of pollution, with support for grants to make infrastructure improvements. This session will look into this in more detail.

I Seed breeding: How will varieties fare in the field, mill and bakery?

Hidcoate (Garden Rooms)

This session on organic plant breeding will investigate two areas: what approaches are desired and possible for organic plant breeding; and what traits do we most need and want in field and in processing?

Chair: Steven Jacobs (Organic Farmers and Growers)
@ofgorganic

A panel discussion featuring:

- **Andrew Wilkinson (Gilchesters Organics)**
@Gilchesters
- **Gemma Clarke (Cope Seeds & Grain)** @copeseeds
- **Edward Dicken (Harper Adams University)**
@naked_barley

J Seedy business: Meet the seed producers

Blenheim (Garden Rooms)

We all know that resilient food systems begin with a healthy seed industry. Hear from two of the seed companies and two of their producers who have successfully integrated seed crops into their existing veg businesses. Find how it works for all involved, in terms of time, space and money.

Chair: Jason Horner (Leen Organics, Gaia seed sovereignty programme steering group) @leenorganics

David Price (Seed Co-operative):
Growing with the Seed Co-operative @seedcoop

David Price will give an overview of what it means to be part of the Seed Co-operative's seed growers network. Find out more about support available, what is expected of growers, financial aspects and examples of crops that could suit different circumstances.

Ellen Rignall (Trill Farm Garden):
Seed Production at Trill Farm Garden @inthepottingshed

Ellen Rignall explains how they incorporate commercial seed production into the market garden at Trill Farm. She will cover the finances, labour inputs and space requirements of producing seed for profit in a small scale market garden.

Fred Groom (Vital Seeds):
Growing seed at Embercombe and the emergence of Vital Seeds @vitalseedsuk

Fred talks about his experience of growing seed-crops for the Seed Cooperative at Embercombe, how this was integrated into the existing growing operation and the transition from seed-grower to setting up a new seed company in Devon - Vital Seeds.

Kate McEvoy (The Real Seed Catalogue):
Real Seeds: a view from the seed company

Kate McEvoy outlines how mail order vegetable seed producers & sellers Real Seeds work with growers in Wales & beyond. She will discuss the ways in which they are developing their network of seed producers and give some examples of the income that growers can earn from different seed crops.

K Organic health: From soil to man
Kiftsgate (Garden Rooms)

This session will highlight that health is more than the absence of disease. Explore how farmers see health and what some are doing practically and look at comparative research evidence from long running trials.

Introduction by:

- **Lawrence Woodward (Whole Health Agriculture)**
What we know, what we don't know and what we ought to know
- **Anja Vieweger (Organic Research Centre)**
Farming for health - How do farmers approach health @OrgResCent

A panel discussion featuring:

- **John Newman (Abbey Home Farm)**
- **Iain Tolhurst (Tolhurst Organics)**
- **Sally Wood (Whole Health Agriculture)**
- **Mark Measures (Organic Consultant)** @OrgResCent

L Coping strategies for livestock farmers under climate change

Draycote Suite

Come and hear three talks on options for sustainable and resilient forage production. The topics will include diverse leys, forage crops during and after hot, dry summers and trees as browse and fodder.

Chair: William Waterfield (Farm Consultancy Group)
@WhiteWaterfield

Lindsay Whistance (Organic Research Centre):
Silvopasture: helping livestock in a changing climate
@OrgResCent

In the past, tree fodder was an important source of feed for farm animals and still is in some farming systems where there are regular dry seasons. In Europe, particularly in the face of climate change, there is growing interest in harnessing the benefits of trees within livestock systems. These benefits include water control, temperature control and nutrients for pasture plants as well as the multiple benefits for the animals themselves such as shade, shelter, body maintenance, improved social cohesion, food and medicine. The nutritional content of browse and tree fodder compares well with grasses grown in the same environment, offering as well as the good sources of energy, protein, vitamins and minerals. The presence of plant secondary metabolites such as condensed tannins increases the availability of good-quality, rumen-bypass protein and helps to manage parasite burdens. Salicylic acid, the active substance in the pain killer aspirin, is particularly abundant in willow and poplar species.

11:00 – 12:30 Workshop 2

Ian Wilkinson (Honeywell Farm):

Grow your Own Grazing - Reliably!

#HoneydaleFarm

Pasture is the very best animal feed, but it needs to be reliable. A farm that offers all year round grazing, from early bite through to late winter forage, is the utopia, but is it achievable? By extending the grazing season with a farming system that is truly diverse, incorporating not just a diverse ley but a range of diverse leys, farmers can reduce output costs and boost profitability, improving soil and animal health. Honeydale Farm showcases a number of different methods, ranging from 6 month leys to permanent pasture.

Sam Lane (Cotswold Seeds):

Forage crops to safeguard farmers against climate change

@CotswoldSeeds

With a record-breaking hot, dry summer followed by the IPCC delivering its dramatic report warning about rising global temperatures which are completely off track, drought resistant crops have never been more crucial. Farmers made some interesting observations during the drought this year, particularly regarding herbal leys which were often 'the only thing left growing.' Deep rooting species are key in a drought, with specific plants singled out - so which are they? And just how does the herbal ley farming system play a role in ensuring that forage remains available to livestock throughout a drought?

12:30-13:30 Lunch

- A selection of trade stands are open in the marquee
- Poster presentation are available for viewing in the garden rooms

Marquee

13:30 – 15:00 Workshop 3

G

'O' is for Opportunity: Business models with a difference

Great Hall

A practical session for all parts of the supply chain, learning from businesses who are taking organic to the market successfully. Hear how different businesses successfully sell organic products into a broad range of markets - from farm gate and independents to supplying the large multiple retailers and direct to consumer.

Chair: Paul Moore (Organic Trade Board)

Featuring presentations by:

- Anna Elliot (Eversfield Organic) @eversfieldorg @untamedwords
- Freddie Watson (Organic Pantry)
- Emma Robinson & Ian O'Reilly (Gazegill Organics)

H

Making it happen at home

Drawing Room

After examining the purpose and outcomes of the England Organic Action Plan, a panel of policy makers and farmers debate what this means for the organic sector—and future government policy.

Chair: Liz Bowles (Soil Association)
@hayneoak



A panel discussion featuring:

- Maggie Charnley (Defra)
- Tom Rigby (Johnson's Farm) @tomrtwit
- Josh Dugdale (Wasing Estate)
- Gareth Morgan (RSPB)

I

Novel breeding techniques: do they have a role?

Hidcoate (Garden Rooms)

A practical session reviewing the outputs of a workshop on what opportunities and threats the new gene-editing technologies pose for the UK organic sector. Discuss the implication of these techniques to help form our outlook going forwards.

Session led by:

- Pat Thomas (Whole Health Agriculture)
GM in the UK: what's the state of play? @ecoreflexions @Beyond_GM
- Bruce Pearce (Organic Research Centre)
The ECJ ruling: what does it say and what does it mean? @OrgResCent
- Charlotte Bickler (Organic Research Centre)
What does the sector think? Feeding back from the Novel Breeding Techniques workshop, 29th October @OrgResCent

J

Rotation planning for 'min-till' and improving soil health

Blenheim (Garden Rooms)

The session will begin with an introduction to soil health principles followed by several examples of field scale horticultural minimum tillage systems/tools. There will then be a chance to put these principles and examples into practice to radically redesign your rotations. Bring along your rotations to redesign!

Session led by Adam Keeves (Organic Growers Alliance) and Neils Corfield (Soil Health Advisor)

13:30 – 15:00 Workshop 3

K Observing health in soil, crops and animal *Kiftsgate (Garden Rooms)*

We can identify disease but if health is more than the absence of disease how do we identify health? Through research findings and farmer experience, explore what we know and don't know about observing the process of health in soil, crops and animals.

Chair: Lawrence Woodward (Whole Health Agriculture)

Mark Measures (Organic Consultant):
Soil health uncovered @OrgResCent

"The health of soil, plant, animal and human, is one and indivisible". Eve Balfour went on to point out that "inherent in such a definition is that health is not a state but a dynamic process." If so, what does that mean for soil health? Soil provides a physical structure, makes nutrients available to plants, influences plant, animal and human health and has a major impact on the wider environment. We will identify how to assess soil health, including laboratory based Soil Health services, mycorrhizae, organic matter, respiration and soil biology analysis, plus in-field assessment of plant & animal health, soil structure, earthworms and recycling capacity. Results from many long-term trials show that biological aspects of soil health are significantly higher in organic farming than conventional and that this affects productivity and quality. We will highlight how soil health can be managed.

Followed by a panel discussion featuring:

- John Newman (Abbey Home Farm)
- Iain Tolhurst (Tolhurst Organics)
- Sally Wood (Whole Health Agriculture)
- Mark Lea (Green Acres Farm) @GreenAcres_Farm

L Pig and poultry protein for a growing sector *Draycote Suite*

Producing and sourcing quality organic protein for pigs and poultry is a long-standing problem. This session will discuss improving the quality of available grain, alternative feed sources and alternative treatments of feed.

Chair: Stephen Clarkson (Organic Farmers & Growers)
@ofgorganic @organiman

A panel discussion featuring:

- Katie Owens (Hi-Peak Feeds)
- Martin Humphrey (Humphrey Feeds & Pullets)
@fazers2stun
- Mike Mallet (Maple Farm Kelsale)
- Jerry Alford (Soil Association) @SoilAssociation

15:30 – 16:00 Break

- Trade stands and refreshments can be found in the marquee
- Poster presentations are available for viewing in the garden rooms

15:30 – 17:00 Triodos Bank Closing plenary

Triodos Bank
Garden Rooms

Transforming organic food and farming in Denmark and the UK

Following a look at the Danish Organic system and how it has achieved the successes it has, a panel of international experts will consider how UK Organics can learn from such experiences abroad to achieve similar and greater successes on home soil.

Chair: Christopher Stopes (Consultant and Former President of the IFOAM EU Group)

Paul Holmbeck: (Political Director, Organic Denmark):

How political and market mobilization is driving the organic breakthrough in Denmark

@OrganicDenmark

Paul Holmbeck will describe how Organic Denmark has achieved support from all 9 political parties in the Danish Parliament, creating broad organic policies supporting market development, farm conversion, research, farmer training, and organic food in the public kitchens. He will describe how organic farming has become a key tool for national policies for Water Protection, Rural Development, Biodiversity, Green Growth, and, soon, Climate, and how Organic Denmark has developed the organic market, building a close strategic collaboration with all 10 major retail chains in Denmark, making Denmark number one in organic sales, with organic market shares of over 30 percent for milk, eggs, oats and many vegetables.

A key focus will be the broad alliances and sector mobilization behind Denmark's goal of 60 percent organic in all public kitchens. And how reducing waste, less meat and more greens has allowed 60 percent organic within existing budgets, while creating healthier and climate friendly meals, from hospitals and schools to military barracks.

Followed by a panel discussion featuring:

- Paul Holmbeck (Political director, Organic Denmark) @OrganicDenmark
- Roger Kerr (CEO, Organic Farmers and Growers) @RogerKerrOFG
- Sue Walker (Relationship Manager, Triodos Bank) @triodosuk
- Hardy Vogtmann (Co-founder of ORC; former President of the German Environment Agency)
- Gareth Morgan (Director of External Affairs, RSPB)
- Maggie Charnley (Defra)

Thank you for coming – we hope to see you again!

Speaker biographies

Jerry Alford (Soil Association)

Having run the family farm in Devon for 25 years, Jerry has plenty of experience in both arable and mixed farming. The farm was initially dairy before being converting to organic and being run as a beef, sheep and arable unit. At the same time, he was chairman of a local farmer owned co-op grain store and became involved in the national grain supply chain.



Jonathan Baker (Defra)

Jonathan is Head of Future Farming Policy Coordination on the Policy Design & Agriculture Bill team. An environmental scientist, he is interested in farming, land use and conservation policy. He previously worked for the CLA, where he led on environmental land use policy, providing advice to members and representing the CLA within UK and European institutions and Governments.



Harriet Bell (Dartington)

Harriet Bell is Community Resilience (Food & Farming) Manager, helping Dartington to explore new ways to feed ourselves sustainably. Previously, she worked at West Town Farm, an organic mixed farm enterprise on the outskirts of Exeter, and 10:10, an organisation that encourages schools and businesses to cut carbon emissions.



Charlotte Bickler (Organic Research Centre)

Crops and Breeding Researcher at ORC, Charlotte's work focuses on increasing diversity and resilience in agricultural systems, particularly within crops at a genetic level. Past research includes the study of genetic variation in crop wild relatives, with potential application in carrot prebreeding, at Kew's Millennium Seed Bank and a PhD in Evolutionary Ecology at The University of Bristol.



Alysoun Bolger (Biodynamic Agricultural College)

Alysoun has been involved in organic and biodynamic education since 1999. She is coordinator of the distance learning courses at the Biodynamic Agricultural College and works for Demeter UK and BDA Certification. Occasional blogger, constant cook and perpetual farmer's wife, she is convinced of the power of a principled approach to working with the land to produce really good food in ways that benefit the earth and humanity.



Liz Bowles (Soil Association)

Liz is Head of Farming at the Soil Association and is responsible for leading and managing the Soil Association's work with farmers throughout the UK in conjunction with the Producer Support Team. Liz was previously involved in the development of South West Quality Meat and was a Nuffield scholar, researching cooperation in the red meat sector.



Lynda Brown (Demeter UK and BDA Certification)

Lynda Brown Chairs the workgroup for the citizen access & engagement to organic food section of the Organic Action Plan. She is an award winning food writer; broadcaster; a life long campaigner for organic food, farming and gardening and author of The Shopper's Guide To Organic Food. She is involved in biodynamic farming, certification, and gardening, including her recent role as honorary Director, 2017-2018.



Helen Browning (Soil Association)

Helen has a mixed organic farm Wiltshire, with dairy, beef, pigs, cereals and agro-forestry. She is Chief Executive of the Soil Association, a member of the Food Ethics Council, trustee of the RSPB and was recently appointed to the RSA's Food Farming and Countryside Commission. Helen was Director of External Affairs for the National Trust and was awarded an OBE in 1998 for her services to organic farming.



Rudolf Bühler

Rudolf is the founder and chairman of the Haus de Bauern Stiftung. In 1988 Rudolf Bühler and eight other farmers founded the Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft Schwäbisch Hall (BESH), a farmers' self-help initiative, of which he is the chairman. Rudolf has a degree in agricultural engineering and is an organic farmer and has worked in development aid in Asia and Africa.



James Campbell (Garden Organic)

James Campbell is Chief Executive Officer of Garden Organic. He leads a group of charities promoting the multiple benefits of organic growing and gardening and supports a range of networks on policy and campaigning issues across Europe and the UK. James has himself gardened organically for over twenty years.



Giles Chapman (FSA – National Food Crime Unit)

Giles is Head of Intelligence in the Food Standards Agency's National Food Crime Unit, joining the Unit in 2015. He initially lead a small team delivering professional, high quality intelligence analysis, exploring the threat which food crime presents to UK consumers and businesses. Giles joined from the Metropolitan Police working across various areas of crime.

Maggie Charnley (Defra)

Maggie has been a policy maker in the UK Civil Service for more than 15 years. She leads teams covering horticulture, arable, organics, fertilisers and greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. Through 2016, she headed up the Secretariat for the Natural Capital Committee. Her previous policy roles include: soils and peatlands, nanotechnology, and energy-using products.



Gemma Clarke (Cope Seeds & Grain)

Gemma's passion for the organic industry has ensured the family business continues to focus on the organic sector, building and developing relationships with UK and continental plant breeders. This work has been pivotal in bringing continental varieties to the UK aimed at the organic market. Cope's aim continues to be finding varieties suitable for organic growers with the quality needed by the end users.



Stephen Clarkson (Organic Farmers & Growers)

Stephen is OF&G's Certification & Compliance Manager overseeing all certification schemes undertaken by OF&G including both organic production and processing. Through this work Stephen has developed a significant understanding of the organic regulation and its implementation within the UK and across Europe and is a member of several industry groups including the Certification Body Technical Working Group and IFOAM EU's Regulation Task Force.



UK Organic Congress 2018

Kate Collyns (Organic Growers Alliance)

Kate set up her own market garden business (Grown Green near Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire) from scratch in 2011, following the Soil Association's Future Growers two-year horticultural apprenticeship course. She now grows on 3 acres, supplying local farm shops, cafés, market stalls and online to households in Bristol, Bath and London via FarmDrop; she is also currently Chair of the Organic Growers Alliance.



Neils Corfield (Edible Cities)

Niels Corfield is an advisor, researcher, educator, and nurseryman. He is working to create regenerative and agroecological farms, landscapes and operations in the UK and Europe. He advises and consults on soil health, agroforestry, planned grazing and setting-up on-farm trials, providing whole-farm planning and design services for transition farm operations, through an inclusive & participatory framework.



Ambrogio Costanzo (Organic Research Centre)

Ambro leads Crops research at The Organic Research Centre. Agro-ecology and organic farming have been at the centre of his studies and experiences, with crop genetics and species diversification as the main focus. He also has a background in collaborative research and innovation in research approaches.



Polly Davies (Slade Farm Organics)

Polly is a mixed organic tenant farmer in South Wales, with has a range of agri-environmental management options due to the Glastir Advanced contract with the Welsh Government. The farm enterprises include a beef suckler herd, 450 Romney Ewes & 90ha of organic cereals in rotation. The farm also has a small number of pigs to supplement the small farm butchery and meat box delivery business. Polly is also a steering group member for the Welsh Nature Friendly Farming Network (NFFN).



Edward Dicken (Harper Adams University)

Edward is a Lecturer in Crop Physiology at Harper Adams University where his teaching also includes agronomy and plant breeding. He is an amateur plant breeder of experimental varieties and populations of naked barley and bread wheat. With Stephen Jacobs and Kimberley Bell he is developing the UK Grain Lab initiative for non-commodity grains. He is a partner in the family farm business and during August can be found driving an elderly combine.



Ross Dickinson (farmer)

Ross studied Archaeology at Reading and Oxford Universities. He has run his organic family farm in Dorset for some 35 years, and has been working to analyse the business opportunities from coppicing hedges.



Joshua Dugdale (Wasing Estate)

Joshua had an early career as a documentary film maker working for BBC, C4 and others on diverse subjects such as gangs in America, Fidel Castro, and the Dalai Lama. For the last ten years he has been re-organising his family estate in Berkshire, turning it gradually into a hospitality focussed business. Part of this has been to turn the conventional farming system into an organic farming system, and has just started the process of conversion.



Anna Elliot (Eversfield Organic)

Anna is an experienced Director of Sales and Marketing with a demonstrated history of working in the retail industry. In her 7 years at Eversfield she has helped transform the company into a £4m multichannel brand with the first high street store opening in 2018. Anna has vast experience in Sales, Search Engine Optimisation (SEO), E-commerce platforms and Market Research.



Jyoti Fernandes (Landworkers' Alliance)

Jyoti is Chair person, campaigns coordinator and member of the coordinating committee for the Landworker's Alliance. She is a Dorset smallholder farmer on a 20-acre, low-impact holding with Jersey cows, goats, pigs, vegetables and apple juice, cider cheese, and other processed products.



Tim Field (Daylesford Organic)

At Daylesford Tim oversees environmental matters for Carole Bamford's business portfolio including land management, properties, and the Daylesford Organic food service and retail. He is a Trustee of the Daylesford Foundation and Board member of its headline project, Agricology.



Bernward Geier (COLABORA)

Bernward Geier has spent 45 years as a pioneer and activist in the organic movement. After studying agriculture, followed by five years in research at the University of Kassel, he served 18 years as director of IFOAM – Organics International. He lives on an organic farm in Germany and since 2005 has engaged in, among other things, film making, journalism and event organisation.



Frank Gerriets (Check Organic/ECERT)

Frank currently works as an international sales manager in business development for Intact Consult GmbH. As part of this he works with the software ECERT, providing assistance with audits, inspections, certification and supply chain traceability and transparency. Previously he worked in finance and operations management at Naturland.



Fred Groom (Vital Seeds)

Fred Groom has recently founded a small seed company based in Devon, Vital Seeds, specialising in organic and ecologically produced vegetable, herb and flower seed. Before that he managed the gardens at Embercombe, where amongst other things he produced seed for the Seed Cooperative and the Heritage Seed Library.



Susan Hayman (Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

Sue Hayman has been Labour Member of Parliament for Workington since May 2015. As a backbench MP, she served on the Justice select committee before being appointed Opposition Whip in September 2015. In October 2016, she became Shadow Minister for Flooding and Coastal Communities and in February 2017 moved to the Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.



Suranga Herath (English Tea Shop)

Suranga Herath is CEO of English Tea Shop, which he advocates as a "Business of Business People" through value sharing initiatives such as the Big Game and Creating Shared Value. Suranga is a pioneer of sustainability best practices and has developed initiatives designed to improve the livelihoods of small farmers in Sri Lanka. Suranga is an alumnus of the Harvard Business School.



Emma Hockridge (Soil Association)

Emma is head of policy at the Soil Association, and previously worked for Sustain. She undertook a Masters in Sustainable Development Advocacy and previously worked for Defra. In 2006 she was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship. Emma's family have been farming in Devon for over four generations.



Lee Holdstock (Soil Association)

Having been with Soil Association Certification since 1999, Lee has broad experience of the certification, technical and commercial needs of a wide range of organic businesses. Lee is Soil Association Certifications' Trade Relations Manager and leads on various trade initiatives designed to help grow organic, from export and independent retail support to improve business understanding of organic.



Stuart Holm (The Woodland Trust)

Stuart is a Chartered Ecologist and has worked for the Woodland Trust delivering woodland creation and agro-forestry schemes for 8 years. He has worked with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust on integrating silvoarable and silvopastoral systems and with Basic Farm Payments. Previously Stuart worked as an adviser with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). He has his own small arable farm in Leicestershire with around 50 acres of mature woodland.



Paul Holmbeck (Organic Denmark)

Paul Holmbeck is Political Director of Organic Denmark, representing organic farmers, consumers, food professionals and companies and covering 90% of organic sales. Since 1995, Paul has played a leading role in developing Denmark's ambitious organic goals and policies, and in unifying the organic movement in Denmark, creating Organic Denmark in 2002 as a driving force for market development, public support and strong organic food politics. Paul consults with governments, organisations and retail leaders around the world on market strategies and policy development.



Jason Horner (Leen Organics, Gaia seed sovereignty)

Jason Horner is a vegetable and seed grower in the West of Ireland. He is member of the GAIA Seed Sovereignty Programme Advisory Board and a committee member of the Organic Growers Alliance. In 2010, he graduated with an MSc. in Organic Farming from the SRUC in Aberdeen.



Martin Humphrey (Humphrey Feeds & Pullets)

Martin is a poultryman, who initially worked on the business' conventional broiler and laying farms, then moved to the integrated feed business. He has increasingly focussed the feed business on supplying feed and practical experience to the Free-range and Organic sectors, producing organic poultry feed for 20 years. He also produces point-of-lay pullets for free range and part organic pullets to farmers.



Steven Jacobs (Organic Farmers & Growers)

Steven joined OF&G in 2007, establishing an annual organic cereals event which has become National Organic Combinable Crops. This year Steven has started to coordinate the UK Grain Lab project with Ed Dickinson at Harper Adams and Kimberley Bell of Small Food Bakery. Steven represents OF&G in the UK and abroad as a member of IFOAM and IFOAM EU, sits on the NFU Organic Forum and Chairs the Welsh Grain Forum.



Marion Johnson (Organic Research Centre)

Marion has recently joined the livestock team at the ORC. Previous projects range from mixed leys for dairy goats and reintroducing native species with medicinal properties to pastures, through to agro-ecological farm plans for Maori and Moriori land. With a background in environmental biology and veterinary parasitology, Marion is interested in promoting animal health through broad diets and good management, botanical veterinary medicine and encouraging biodiversity on farm.



Alison Johnston (Food Forensics)

In 2012, shortly after the horsemeat scandal hit, Alison Johnston established Food Forensics, to provide solutions for authenticity testing for the food industry (Alison maintains this was purely coincidental!) Food Forensics have since developed authenticity tests for origin and production system including tests for consistency with Free Range and Organic production, working with brand holders to support supply chain integrity.



Helen Kearney (Organic Herb Growers' Alliance)

Helen Kearney is a practicing Medical Herbalist with a Bsc (Hons) in herbal medicine. She lives at Elder Farm a 5-acre Soil Association registered organic off-grid small holding where she grows medicinal herbs. Helen has a background in Permaculture design and teaching, Forest school education and circus skills! She and her husband Stuart are tenants of The Ecological Land Co-operative.



Adam Keeves (Organic Growers' Alliance)

Adam entered into commercial growing around 6 years ago and has worked on a range of scales from community gardens and market gardens to 35 acres of diverse field scale veg. Currently just finished the season as Lead Grower at Tolhurst Organics Partnership. With a BSc in Environmental science Adam this year is undertaking a Masters at SRUC in Organic Agriculture.



Kathleen Kelliher (Defra)

Kathleen Kelliher is the team leader for Organics and Environmentally Friendly Farming at Defra. She is passionate about the positive contribution farmers make to the environment and health. She has previously held positions including Defra horticulture and potatoes team leader, where she was instrumental in setting up the Ornamentals Round Table and providing an outward facing presence for Defra within the sector.



Roger Kerr (Organic Farmers & Growers)

Roger is from a farming background and has had an interest in organic production methods since being at Harper Adams in the mid 1980s. After a spell in the agricultural supply industry Roger joined Promar where he began to specialise in organic production. He was involved in the formation of Calon Wen, the Welsh organic dairy farmer co-operative, which he ran for a number of years. Roger joined OF&G as CEO in early 2014.



Sophie Kirk (Soil Association)

Sophie has spent the last 8 years working in the fields of sustainable food and farming including a role in local government, co-ordinating sustainable food procurement and catering across the West of England and supporting the development of local and sustainable food supply chains. Her most recent role is at the Soil Association where she supports farmers to access routes to market and certify as organic.



Nic Lampkin (Organic Research Centre)

Nic is Director of The Organic Research Centre and has been involved in organic research since the 1980s, with a particular focus on economic and policy issues. He is author of Organic Farming & co-editor of the Organic Farm Management Handbook. He is the co-ordinator of the English Organic Forum, organic sector representative on the Defra Agri-environment Stakeholders Group, lead organic policy adviser to the Welsh Government and a permanent member of the EU Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP). In 2015, he was made an Associate of the Royal Agricultural Societies..



Sam Lane (Cotswold Seeds)

Sam studied for his degree at Harper Adams University in Shropshire, after which he worked for four years on Swinbrook Estate, carrying out many duties including cultivation and drilling arable crops throughout the season. He joined Cotswold Seeds four years ago as Technical Advisor, providing farmers with advice on complex grass seed mixtures, as well as visiting farms all over the UK.



Kai Lange (Biodynamic Agricultural College)

Kai's experience branches across education and industry, and has included establishing Denmark's largest box scheme, teaching apprentices in the field and classroom, 18 years of fruit and vegetable growing and 12 years of farming. He supports The Biodynamic Agriculture College (BDAC) in the development and coordination of certified biodynamic work-based learning training in the UK, as well as a similar training in South Africa.



Rebecca Laughton (Landworkers' Alliance)

Rebecca leads the Landworkers' Alliance/Growing Communities' Horticulture Campaign, and represents small scale growers on the recently created Defra Edible Horticulture Round Table. Her previous roles within LWA include undertaking research on the productivity of small farms and subsequent published reports. She is also a small-scale organic grower in Dorset.



Mark Lea (Green Acres Farm)

Mark is an organic farmer from Shropshire. He partook in the LIVESEED organic variety trials on winter wheat in 2017/18 and will be partaking in trials in 2018/19 on both modern and heritage varieties. His diverse farming system was showcased at NOCC18 and he works directly with bakers and producers as a "food rather than commodity" producer.



Alex Lowe (Natural England)

Alex is an agricultural specialist within Catchment Sensitive Farming, focusing on reducing ammonia emissions on farm. Over the last 20 years he has worked on agri-environment schemes including policy, design and implementation, national advice programmes and many pilots. Alex runs the family livestock business which brings invaluable insights of the practical and economic challenges farmers face.



Louise Lutikholt (IFOAM—Organics International)

Louise Lutikholt is the Executive Director of IFOAM – Organics International and has been active in the organic agriculture movement on strategy and policy since 1995. She was the driving force behind the articulation of the Definition and the Principles of Organic Agriculture. She holds a propaedeutic in philosophy and masters in biology from the University of Utrecht. Louise was born and raised on a small Dutch family farm.



David Main (Royal Agricultural University)

David is Professor of Production of Animal Health and Welfare at the Royal Agricultural University. He has research interests in science and practice of knowledge exchange, animal welfare assessment and improvement strategies. He is a former member of the Farm Animal Welfare Council and Soil Association Council.



Mike Mallet (Maple Farm Kelsale)

Mike Mallett is the farm manager at Maple Farm Kelsale, an Organic Farm which has a 2700 layer-hen enterprise at the centre of its mixed farming operation. Maple Farm, as far as is possible, runs a closed system growing and milling much of its own feed. Mike is interested in new solutions to fulfil the protein requirements of his hens.



Philippa Mansfield (Natural England, Catchment Sensitive Farming)

Philippa works on the Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) project, and as an agricultural specialist in the CSF national team and leads on CSF partnerships, working with a range of local and national partners on projects to reduce water and air pollution from agriculture. Previously, Philippa has worked as an agronomist, plant pathologist and researcher with ADAS and in Africa.



Ronald van Marlen (Timeli Organic Capacity Building)

Ronald is an expert in organics, running his own consultancy firm Timeli where he advises companies on organics and sustainability. He is Director of organic processing companies, specialized in organic fruit production. Ronald sits on the Boards of Bio Nederland, Stichting DEMETER, and Stichting EKO, and recently co-founded the Organic Processing and Trade Association.



Michael Marston (Gibside Community Farm CIC)

Mick manages Gibside Community Farm, and is a founding member of the farm which operates as a CIC Co-operative. Throughout his career he has worked in community-led farming and growing, and he is currently Chair of the North East Social Enterprise Partnership.



Kate McEvoy (The Real Seed Catalogue)

Kate McEvoy is a founder member of the Real Seed Collection, which campaigns for better and more appropriate seed variety legislation that contributes to a resilient and diverse seed supply for our farmers and growers. She also writes, campaigns and teaches seed-saving workshops, and grows and sells vegetable seed.



Mark Measures (Organic consultant)

Mark works with The Organic Research Centre and also as an independent organic farming adviser specialising in farm business management, soil management, husbandry and conversion planning. He heads the Organic Advisory Service and IOTA, and provides policy advice to Government, technical advice to research and is joint editor of the Organic Farm Management Handbook.



Josiah Meldrum

Josiah is co-founder of Hodmedod, Britain's pulse and grain pioneers and winners of the 2017 BBC Food and Farming Award for Best Producer. Hodmedod grew out of a community project in Norwich that asked what a more sustainable, resilient food system might look like and now works with farmers across the UK to produce and source a diverse range of foods from Britain's arable fields.



Susanne Padel (Organic Research Centre)

Susanne works at ORC, leading on information and knowledge exchange and is interested in supporting good collaboration between farmers and researchers. She has worked with organic farming systems for more than 20 years including as a consultant for organic farming in North Germany and as researcher in the UK since 1993, joining ORC in 2009. Susanne holds a PhD in agricultural economics (Aberystwyth University).



Paul Moore (Organic Trade Board)

Paul is CEO & Director of the Organic Trade Board, which aims to promote sales of certified organic food, drink, cosmetics & textiles. Paul ensures the delivery of OTB's strategy and programs to promote the value and sales of organic products. His role is to maximise the return to industry from our integrated consumer marketing campaign. Paul believes in close collaboration with members to deliver coordinated marketing activities, driving sector growth.



John Pawsey (Shimpling Park Farms Ltd)

Organic champion John Pawsey is a fourth-generation farmer based in Suffolk, where he tends 650 hectares of arable land and rears 500 New Zealand Romney sheep. John also farms an additional 980 hectares for neighbouring farmers under farm management contracts. He has been farming organically since 1999 and since 2016 has been the sole UK and Eire distributor for System Cameleon, an innovative sowing and inter-row sowing/hoeing system. You can follow John on Twitter @Hanslope and on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/JohnPawseySPE>



Gareth Morgan (RSPB)

Gareth has been the RSPB's Head of Agriculture Policy and more recently their Head of External Affairs, having previously worked in English Nature's Agriculture Policy team and for the Wildlife Trusts. He currently manages the RSPB's advocacy work in Parliament and on Brexit. He has been involved in making the case for farmers to be rewarded for the public goods they provide.



Bruce Pearce (Organic Research Centre)

Bruce joined ORC in 1999 and is Deputy of Research & Innovation. His research activities have covered plant breeding, crop production, sustainability assessment and monogastric feed as well as GM and farm policy. Prior to joining ORC he was a research manager in MAFF and for the Consumers Association's "Gardening Which?". He has a degree in Biological Sciences and PhD in Plant Sciences.



Samantha Mullender (Organic Research Centre)

Samantha is a sustainability researcher at the ORC, working across farm types and at a system level to measure and identify ways to improve the sustainability of the food production system. Her background covers ecology, economics and policy and her experience ranges from working with farmers to assess and improve their own farming system to wider consultancy, estate management and practical farm work.



Peter Plate (Royal Veterinary College)

Peter Plate worked in farm practice for 27 years in Germany and the UK before joining the RVC in 2017, being involved in student teaching, research and advisory work covering mastitis, calf health and organic farming.



John Newman (Abbey Home Farm)

John Newman has been farm manager since Autumn 1992 and the planned conversion to an organic system has been implemented with the assistance of the Organic Advisory Service. The 650 hectare farm is registered with the Soil Association Symbol Scheme and hosts regular educational visits and farm walks. The farm has won several awards as a producer, retailer and for its farm shop.



Will Pouget (The Vaults & Garden Café)

William established the Vaults and Garden Café in Oxford with a vision of creating a socially positive café hub promoting ecological sustainability. It aims to source local, organic and ethically produced goods and ingredients and reduce waste in catering from menu planning, recipe formulation, purchasing, food preparation, portioning and food service. William hopes to legally & economically compost all their biodegradable waste in the future.



Katie Owens (Hi-Peak Feeds)

Katie has worked in organic farming since gaining an MSc in Organic Farming from SAC in 2001. She has worked over the years for 3 organic certification bodies and has been with Hi Peak Organic Feeds since 2012. Her role at Hi Peak is as part of the regulatory team. She is also part of the EPI -AGRI Focus group for the topic New Feed For Pigs and Poultry.



David Price (Seed Cooperative)

Biodiversity is the thread that weaves David's work together, starting with practical wildlife habitat restoration and then the design and project management of wildlife habitat creation. David now works on open pollinated seed and participatory plant breeding. At Seed Co-operative David works with a small team to build resilience into our food system.



Simon Oxley (AHDB)

Simon heads up a team of crop and horticulture researchers at AHDB involved with evaluating crop varieties for resistance, quality and agronomic characteristics. He is a plant pathologist who has investigated potato blight and tuber diseases, mushroom diseases and diseases of cereals & oilseeds including ramularia leaf spot in barley. He has an interest in making best use of data from different sources to help improve decision making on farm.



Ben Raskin (Soil Association)

Ben is Head of Horticulture for the Soil Association and leads on Agroforestry. He is also currently implementing a 200-acre agroforestry planting in Wiltshire. Ben co-Chairs the newly formed Defra Edibles Horticulture Roundtable, sits on the boards of the Organic Growers Alliance and Community Supported Agriculture Network UK. @Ben_Raskin @SoilAssociation



Paul Redmore (Neston Park Home Farm)

Paul is Manager of Neston Park Estate, a 680 ha dairy/arable organic estate, with 300 cow Jersey herd, and is involved in Innovative Farmers. His key interests include integrating new technologies into farming systems, on-farm research, and facilitating complementary start-up rural businesses. Paul studied at Seale Hayne Agricultural College, then spent 3 years in Canada, New Zealand and Australia.



Tom Rigby (Johnsons Farm and Soil Association Farmer)

Tom Rigby is an organic dairy farmer on the Lancashire/Cheshire border. He is a former Chair of NFU's Organic Forum and currently a member of the Soil Association's Farmer and Grower board.



Ellen Rignell (Trill Farm Garden, and Gaia UK Seed Sovereignty Programme)

Ellen is an organic market gardener and seed producer at Trill Farm Garden in East Devon. Alongside growing, she works as a Regional Coordinator for the UK Seed Sovereignty Programme, developing and supporting a network of seed producers in the West of England. She is membership secretary for the Organic Growers Alliance and member of the Landworkers Alliance.



Emma Robinson & Ian O'Reilly (Gazegill Organics)

Farming across the Pennine Lancashire and Yorkshire borders, Gazegill Farm has remained under the watchful eye of the Robinson Family for nearly 500 years. The Biological Heritage Hay meadows produce a colourful display and a nutritious and herb rich diet year on year which has helped produce their raw milk, butter and meat which they sell directly to customers across the region.



Martin Sawyer (Soil Association)

Martin's background is in freshly prepared foods, food service and fresh produce. Before joining Soil Association Certification, he has been involved with Bakkavor, Premier Foods, Bomfords, Oscar Mayer, Northern Foods and Geest. He has over 30 years' experience of UK and European retailing and has led strategic change, business turnaround, organic and acquisition growth during this time.



Marie-Helene Schwoob (IDDRI, Paris)

Marie-Helene Schwoob is an agronomist and political scientist, coordinating the Agricultural Transformation Pathways Initiative (ATPI), in partnership with Wageningen University, which aims to support countries in the formulation and implementation of national trajectories of transformation towards more sustainable systems. @IDDRI_ThinkTank



Jo Smith (Organic Research Centre)

Jo has been Principal Agroecology researcher at ORC since 2009, and is responsible for the agroforestry programme, working on a range of European projects investigating the value of agroforestry as a way of reconciling production with protection of the environment. Jo's PhD assessed the value of agri-environment schemes for soil biota, joint with the University of Reading and the Natural History Museum.



Laurence Smith (Organic Research Centre)

Laurence is currently working as ORC's Senior Sustainability Researcher, and from January 2019 will join the Royal Agricultural University as a Lecturer in Agroecology. His current work is focused on the development and application of sustainability assessment tools and participatory farm system modelling. Laurence currently leads work in several European research projects aiming to assess the environmental, economic and social sustainability of agroecological food and farming.



Ella Sparks (Schumacher College)

Ella has been working at Schumacher on the establishment of the five-acre agroforestry field (featuring; vegetable and fruit tree alley cropping, 1-acre forest garden and tree nursery). Ella also works with Fruit and Nut Ireland researching new tree crops that could be incorporated into future agroforestry plantings. This year she will be starting a tree tenancy to manage a planting of walnut trees in a new silvo-pasture agroforestry project.



Adrian Steele (Soil Association)

Adrian Steele is Organic Sector Development Adviser at the Soil Association. A longstanding organic farmer, Adrian has also been a Trustee of the Soil Association, and is a qualified lawyer. He has helped set up and run several organic companies.



Charlotte Steel (Lush)

Charlotte is working on setting up and managing a farm for Lush Cosmetics that will aim to grow raw ingredients for the supply chain, become a demonstration site for agroecological best practice and engage the business and broader community in land-based learning. She also coordinates Lush's Permaculture and Agroecology Fund, which supports demonstration sites, capacity building and entrepreneurship. Prior to joining Lush, Charlotte managed an organic community farm in south London.



Christopher Stopes (Eco-S Consulting)

Christopher has over 30 years organic experience. Past president of the IFOAM EU Group, he is Director of EcoS Consultancy, providing services for sustainable food and farming with a primary focus on organic. He is an expert in the development of sustainable and agro-ecological food and farming systems and was previously Head of Research at the Organic Research Centre. He is Policy Advisor to Organic Farmers & Growers CIC, Board Member and Trustee of Pesticide Action Network and Council Member of Sustain – the alliance for better food and farming.



Pat Thomas (Beyond GM)

Pat Thomas is a campaigner, journalist and author and a former editor of the Ecologist magazine. She is co-founder and co-director of Beyond GM, founded in 2014 to help raise the level of the public debate on GMOs. Pat is a qualified psychotherapist and the author of numerous books for adults and children. She is a former trustee of the Soil Association and the Organic Research Centre.



Steve Thomson (Garden Organic)

Steven is Operations Director at Garden Organic, leading on the creation and delivery of programmes and activities to get people growing and gardening organically. His current client base includes local authorities, public health bodies, sustainable waste teams, large corporations and housing associations. Steven has a background in sport science and administration, health and care work.



Iain Tolhurst (Tolhurst Organics)

Iain has been an organic producer since 1976 growing a wide range of mixed veg on 19 acres of land at Hardwick Estate in south Oxfordshire. The farm now operates as 'stock free', with no grazing animals and no animal inputs to any part of the farm for the past 30 years. He also works part time as a horticultural advisor to farmers and various organic organisations, and has written several books based on his experience.



Christine Watson (Scotland's Rural College)

Christine is a research soil scientist with extensive experience of macro and micronutrient management in organic and conventional farming. She has a particular interest in developing legume based systems. Christine has a guest position in the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and is a Trustee of ORC.



Andrew Trump (Organic Arable)

Andrew, with a long standing experience in Agricultural Business, runs Organic Arable, the only wholly organic grain marketing business in the UK. Organic Arable is run by farmers and works differently from other grain traders working on transparent, fixed commission rates and seeking long-term supply agreements, so members can grow crops for a known market.



Lindsay Whistance (Organic Research Centre)

Lindsay is a Livestock Researcher at ORC, researching animal behaviour, health and welfare since 2003, and the role of diverse, species-rich environments as a habitat, and a source of food, medicine and pain relief for domestic animals. She is currently investigating the nutritional content of tree fodder and alternatives to contentious inputs in organic farming, including antibiotics, as well as how to grow 100% regional, organic feed for pigs and poultry.



Anja Vieweger (Organic Research Centre)

Anja is Senior Researcher at ORC. With a background in horticulture, specialised in vegetables, she has several years of experience in horticulture and soils research. Having joined the ORC in January 2011, she is now working on various subjects such as health concepts in agricultural systems, links between the health of soil, plant, animal and human; soil health assessment in the UK; participatory research; horticulture and soils aspects of Innovative Farmers.



Andrew Wilkinson (Gilchester's Organics)

Farming at Gilchester's in Northumberland since 1992, Andrew converted Gilchesters to organic production in 2002 and established the organic cereal research programme for Newcastle University's Nafferton Ecological Farming group in 2003 (NEFG). The farm hosts long-term cereal variety and soil fertility trials, and mills their own flour, selling to artisan bakeries, chefs and home bakers throughout the UK. Andrew is an advocate for building sustainable, local production systems for UK producers through better cereal variety choice and short food chain networks.



Stuart Vile (Meadow Quality)

Stuart joined Meadow Quality Livestock in 2002 coming from a Livestock auctioneering background and started marketing all types of livestock from farm to abattoir covering Southern England. In 2012 Graig Producers Ltd., an Organic marketing company merged with MQL to provide an 'on farm' service for their organic producers offering their members a complete marketing service for all types of livestock.



Ian Wilkinson (Honeydale Farm)

Ian Wilkinson studied farm and grassland management at Berkshire College of Agriculture and joined Cotswold Seeds 34 years ago, since when he's developed the business with a fundamental focus on the role of providing an information bridge between farmers and the scientific community. It's always been part of Ian's vision for the business to have a farm three years ago, Cotswold Seeds acquired Honeydale Farm, 107 acres in the Cotswolds, which is being developed as a centre to promote diverse farming.



Hardy Vogtmann (Co-founder of ORC ; former President of the German Environment Agency)

Professor Dr. Hartmut Vogtmann has been a major figure in organic agriculture since the 1970s. He was the first director of the Swiss Research Institute for Organic Farming (FiBL); was a co-founder of ORC; and was a key figure in the development of IFOAM and is its Honorary President. His other lifetime positions include becoming the world's first Professor of Organic Agriculture (at the University of Kassel), being President of Regional Development in the State of Hesse, President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and President of the German League for Nature and Environment.



Sally Wood (Whole Health Agriculture)

Sally runs a dairy farm of 200 Jersey crossbreeds in SW Wales, with her partner Garry. They recently reduced their herd by 100 cows as they are converting to organic standards. She has transitioned from fully conventional farmer to 'beyond organic' in her quest to improve the health of her entire farm.



Sue Walker (Triodos Bank)

Sue joined Triodos Bank in 2014, with 19 years of banking experience, and the last 7 years specialising in agriculture. She now manages a portfolio of customers across the South West of England and Wales, varying from organic dairy farmers to horticulturalists, alongside mixed farming enterprises with a focus on green tourism and the environment. From a dairy farming background, Sue is passionate about sustainable farming practices, biodiversity and organic food production.

Lawrence Woodward (Whole Health Agriculture)

A founder and director of the Organic Research Centre (ORC) for 30 years, Lawrence advises and speaks about the principles and methods of organic agriculture to a wide range of organisations. In 2001 he was awarded an O.B.E. for services to organic farming, having played a pivotal role in the strategic and practical development of the organic sector in the UK and internationally.



William Waterfield (Farm Consultancy Group)

William has spent the over 30 years working as a farm advisor, the last 21 as an independent consultant. He specializes in providing business advice to organic dairy and arable farms, ensuring profitability as well as delivery of the wider benefits of organic farming. A regular facilitator of farmer discussion groups where he uses his breadth of experience to help farmers adapt their business.



Richard Young (Sustainable Food Trust)

Richard Young is policy director of the Sustainable Food Trust. He farms 390 acres with his sister, Rosamund, and after converting to organic in 1974 played a leading role for the Soil Association in the development of organic standards and certification. He has written on a wide range of agricultural topics and is currently leading campaigns to distinguish sustainable from unsustainable livestock production, save small abattoirs and increase understanding of the true financial costs of intensive food systems.



THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER: Day 1

10:00 – 11:00 Registration and refreshments *Foyer*

11:00 - 12:30
Opening plenary

A new vision for organic food and farming in the UK

Garden Rooms

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch *Marquee*

Workshop blocks

Block A Maintaining organic integrity <i>Great Hall</i>	Block B Brexit challenges <i>Drawing Room</i>	Block C Arable opportunities and challenges <i>Hidcoate (Garden Rooms)</i>	Block D Small-scale production systems <i>Blenheim (Garden Rooms)</i>	Block E Trick or Tree – don't get spooked by agroforestry <i>Kiftsgate (Garden Rooms)</i>	Block F Meat and livestock marketing <i>Draycote Suite</i>
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14:00—15:30 Workshop 1

A1. Supporting organic integrity	B1. Public money for public goods	Please see session E1. Agroforestry: Making it work – lessons from the ground	D1. EOAP theme: initiatives to support small-scale production and short supply chains	E1. Agroforestry: Making it work – lessons from the ground	F1. How to succeed in red meat marketing
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Break: refreshments available in the foyer, poster presentations available for viewing in the garden rooms, trade stands are open in the marquee

16:00—17:30 Workshop 2

A2. Business models and product integrity	B2. EOAP theme: UK organic regulations and equivalence	C2. Improving crop productivity through soil, nutrients & crop	D2. New entrants: Making ideals a reality	E2. New opportunities in agroforestry	F2. How can producers respond to changing
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From 17:45 Fringe Events and Break	B3. EOAP theme: Co-ordinating organic information and advice	Fringe Events: Facing up to Whole Health Agriculture (<i>Garden Room Bar</i>) 100 % Organic an utopian dream? - It's possible and done! —film screening and presentation by director (<i>Great Hall</i>) New entrants to organic farming—ask an expert! (<i>Draycote Suite</i>) Poster presentations (<i>Garden Rooms</i>), Trade stands (<i>marquee</i>)			
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From 6pm—Pre-dinner drinks available in bar areas

Followed at 7:30pm by conference dinner and entertainment - Marquee

Featuring *Whiskey Moon Face*, the alternative folk group combining elements of Eastern European traditional & klezmer music, old-time New Orleans jazz and the baroque/chamber folk styles of Sufjan Stevens and Beirut to create a truly beautiful and utterly original sound.

FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER: Day 2

8:30 - 9:00 Registration and refreshments *Foyer*

Workshop blocks

Block G Market opportunities <i>Great Hall</i>	Block H Organic Management on a landscape scale <i>Drawing Room</i>	Block I Breeding for Organic Crops	Block J Organic herbs, seeds and soil health—new insights <i>Blenheim (Garden Rooms)</i>	Block K Farm system health <i>Kiftsgate (Garden Rooms)</i>	Block L Meat and livestock production <i>Draycote Suite</i>
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9:30–11:00 Workshop 1

G1. The Organic prize	H1. Eco-regional development: examples from abroad	I1. Approaches to variety testing	J1. Encouraging organic herb production in the UK	K1. EOAP theme: Public engagement—routes to future success.	L1. Under the spotlight: Dairy cow health and
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Break: refreshments available in the foyer, poster presentations available for viewing in the garden rooms, trade stands are open in the marquee

11:00–12:30 Workshop 2

G2. EOAP theme: Actions to develop the UK supplies and trade	H2. Catchment sensitive farming - improving	I2. Seed breeding: How will varieties fare in the field, mill and	J2. Seedy business: Meet the seed producers	K2. Organic health: From soil to man	L2. Coping strategies for livestock farmers
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12:30 – 13:30 Lunch *Marquee*

13:30–15:00 Workshop 3

G3. O is for Opportunity: Business models with	H3. EOAP theme: Making it happen at home	I3. Novel breeding techniques: do they have a role?	J3. Rotation planning for 'min-till' and improving soil health	K3. Observing health in soil, crops and animal	L3. Pig and poultry protein for a growing sector
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Break: refreshments available in the foyer, poster presentations available for viewing in the garden rooms, trade stands are open in the marquee

15:30 - 17:00 Triodos Bank closing	"Danish organic achievements and how they've got there", followed by a panel discussion				Triodos Bank <i>Garden Rooms</i>
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