



Glastir Organic Management Plans

Glastir Organic contract holders, whether established organic or newly converting, are required to complete an Organic Management Plan (OMP). The OMP is primarily a farm management plan covering the life of your Glastir Organic contract and will identify your current situation, the end point you want to arrive at and the changes you will need to make to your farming system to get from one to the other. Completed plans for current contract holders must be submitted to Welsh Government by **31 December 2016**.

A Microsoft Excel template has been prepared to help farmers prepare their management plans, building on the information already submitted to your certification bodies and your May 15th returns. You do not need to use the template in order to present the plan, but the Welsh Government has reviewed the document and confirmed that its completion will satisfy their requirements. See overleaf for a summary of what completion of the template will entail.

Detail on the costs and investment which may be required to implement the plan do not need to be included in the OMP. There is

however financial support available through Farming Connect to develop a Strategic Business Plan (SBP) which will identify the financial implications of investment decisions. The OMP has been designed to be compatible with the SBP; for some there may be the option to develop both simultaneously.

Meetings will be arranged by Farming Connect to present the template and guide farmers on developing an OMP. Details of the dates and venues will be circulated through the OCW ebulletin, Farming Connect and in Welsh Government publications.

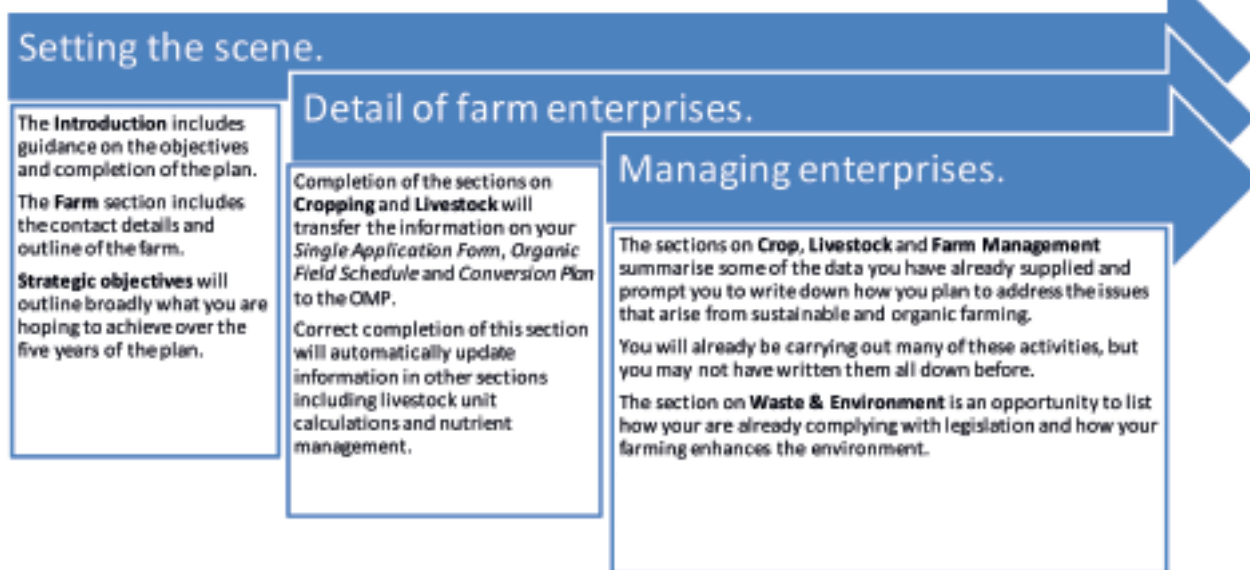
Organic Development Wales

The Welsh Government contract supporting Organic Centre Wales for the last three years has now ended. The OCW partnership, consisting of ADAS, IBERS and ORC, which was established in 2000 and has been supported by the Welsh Government for 16 years, will however continue. The partnership is currently developing a new project, Organic Development Wales (ODW). An Expression of Interest (EOI) has been submitted under the Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme, part of the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. The EOI has been selected to go forward to full application stage. When the new project is approved, it will be based in

IBERS and take on responsibility for the provision of market intelligence and communication delivered by OCW. It will also be responsible for working with the organic sector in Wales to propose new activities to develop the organic supply chain, with a particular focus on dairy, meat and horticulture. These activities will form the basis for future bids for funding under the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. OCW has already been consulting with organic stakeholders in Wales through the work of the BOBL project in 2015 and will be seeking the views of the sector again as ODW takes shape.

Cymru Organig

Organic Management Plans Part 1: Developing the plan



Organic Management Plans Part 2: Developing the farm



Report on producer survey

The 2015 Organic Centre Wales producer survey has shown the sector is progressing steadily. The survey was again well supported with 420 producers completing the survey, a response rate of 78%. Based on the response rate, the total certified land area in Wales is estimated at 78,400 ha in November 2015, an increase in 2% over 2014, indicating that participation in the new Glastir Organic scheme has had the effect of halting the reduction in land area shown by Defra's data collected by certification bodies during 2014. This represents 4.3% of Welsh agricultural land (including rough grazing) in 2014.

The red meat and dairy sectors have shown an increase in the numbers of breeding livestock. The survey also shows dairy production holding steady. The horticulture sector is showing an increase in marketing wholesale and bulk sales, rather than direct to the public. Given the strong growth in direct sales reported in the SA Organic Market Report it would be

interesting to know whether respondents are concentrating more on production as the market picks up, or if there are other factors to consider in Wales.

Thankyou to everyone who took part in the survey and please visit the 'Publications' section of www.organiccentrewales.org.uk to read a complete copy of the 2014 and 2015 reports.

Land area ha	2014	2015	
Total	76,940	78,400	2%
Forage	74,000	73,600	-1%
Arable	2,600	2,800	8%
Organically managed			
Breeding cattle	8,900	9,400	6%
Breeding sheep	148,300	152,400	3%
Dairy cows	9,900	10,300	4%

Market update

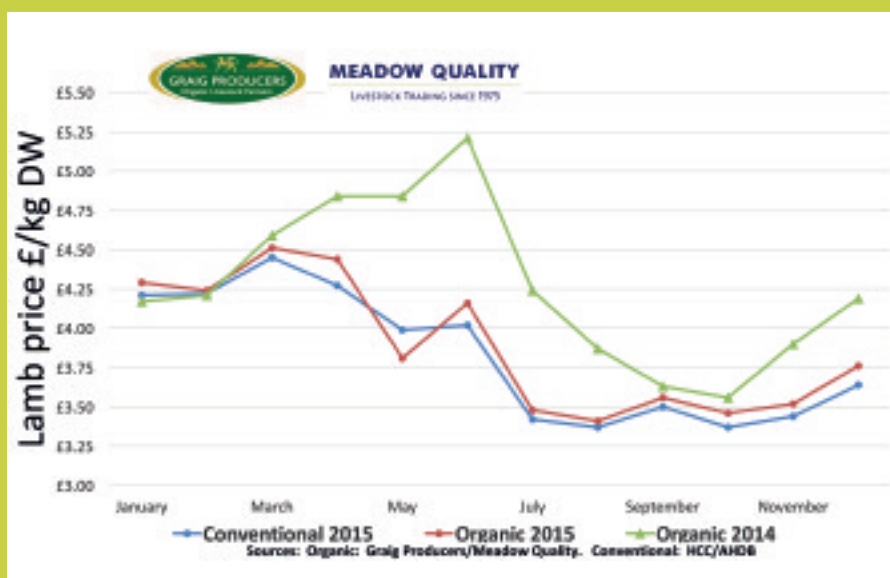
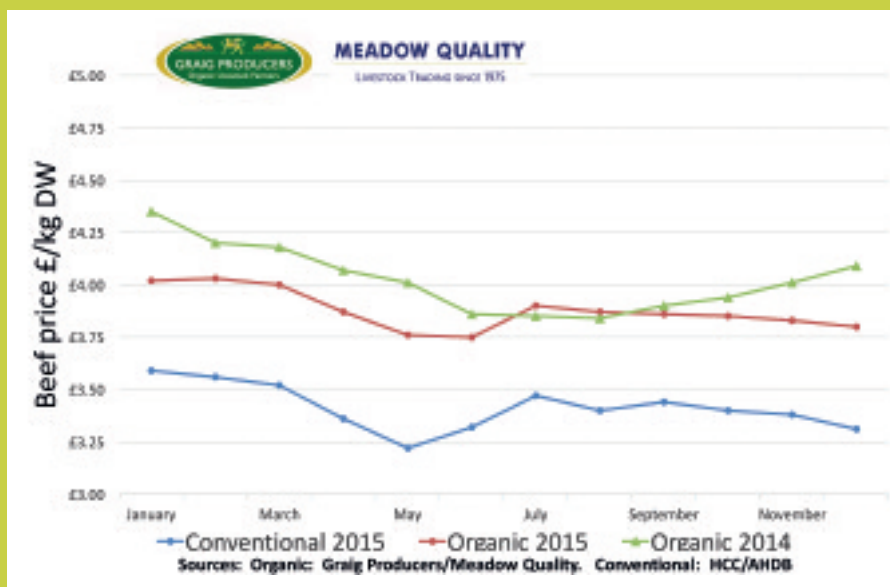
This year has got off to a flying start with good news on the benefits of organic food and the Soil Association reporting a growth of 4.9% to nearly £2 billion in their UK Organic Market Report 2016, despite a 1% fall in sales in the non-organic food market. The EU market has continued its upward trend and in 2014 grew by 7.6% to over 26 billion. The positive headlines in the Soil Association report are supported by encouraging trends in the growth of independent retailers (up 7.5%), home delivery (up 9.1%) and catering (up 15.2%), all of which have the potential to help producers in Wales engage with consumers and find local markets.

The largest share of the organic market is dairy products and in Wales, this market ended 2015 on a positive note, with sales of branded Calon Wen products well up on last year. Supplies of organic milk are in short supply, as you would expect with seasonal production close to its usual nadir in February. This will be slightly offset this year by the extra day but overall there is unlikely to be an overhang of production as the milk supplies increase in the Spring.

The market for organic lamb in 2016 has improved from a low base with prices hitting 43.80ppk but still 50ppkg, down on 12 months ago.

The lamb market during 2015 suffered from the strength of the pound and imports of New Zealand lamb during September and October when domestic supplies are already at a peak. With this pressure on the market the premium for organic lamb has been restricted to below 20ppk during the autumn, although this has opened up in the New Year

The beef market has fared better under the same market forces with a premium of up to 50ppkg, but there have been pro-longed waiting times to move cattle. There was very little uplift for the Christmas market with imports also affecting the beef market.



The mild winter has impacted on horticulture producers, with slugs maintaining an upper hand. The weather has resulted in many crops arriving far earlier than planned and being harvested in a quagmire. The looming hungry gap is expected to be both long and difficult for most, but there is good demand for organic products and from this perspective 2016 has got off to a good start.

The fine period in September and October helped the grain harvest in Wales, enabling crops to be harvested with low moisture content.

Sustainable Organic and Low Input Dairy (SOLID)

26 January 2016

This conference highlighted the SOLID project's achievements over the last five years.

Increasing milk from forage through better soil and nutrient management, flexibility in grazing, and increasing the

efficiency of protein utilisation was a central theme. Developing breeds better suited to low input and organic systems, in terms of grass utilisation, robustness and livelong performance was the second key element of the project while animal health and welfare and the importance of first class stockmanship was the third. Specific examples included identifying symptoms of dietary and digestive issues; using herbs in grass leys;



leaving calves with their mothers; and using a bacteriological test kit to target mastitis treatments on the cases where they are most likely to be effective.

Visit

<http://organicfoodandfarming.org.uk/category/blog/> for more.

The full proceedings of the conference are available on www.organicresearchcentre.com

Common ground: agroecology, food sovereignty and organic farming in practice

27 – 28 January 2016

ORC's 10th Organic Producers' Conference lived up to its by now well established reputation for exciting and varied programming. It had a strong political element to it examining the role that Food Sovereignty can and should play in delivering a fairer, more sustainable and more resilient food system, culminating in an inspiring case study from Palestine demonstrating how, even in the most challenging political and economic circumstances, agroecological practices and organic markets have a role to play.

The technical workshops provided something for everyone including: soil management; weed control; forage production; cereals and pulses; horticulture; homeopathy; access to land and succession and a great deal more. Visit www.organicresearchcentre.com for more.

New OCW Web Pages

The OCW website now has a new and improved [section for organic producers](#) featuring:

- Information and updates on organic certification, including the latest on the new EU regulation
- The latest on Glastir Organic
- The new Farming Connect programme and all it can offer to organic producers
- Details of other RDP schemes and grants
- Market and supply chain information
- Technical information for organic farmers and growers
- A list of key organisations

Tony Little will welcome all feedback on tony@sustainablefarming.co.uk

Useful links and contacts

Glastir Organic Explanatory Booklet:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dra/h/publications/140930-glastir-organic-rules-booklet-en.pdf>

Organic Centre Wales Helpline:

01970 622100; organic@aber.ac.uk;

www.organiccentrewales.org.uk/producer-supportpayments.php

Welsh Government

0300 0603300, with divisional offices in Caernarfon, Llandrindod Wells & Carmarthen.

Farming Connect: 08456 000 813. <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/>

Organic Control Bodies

- Biodynamic Agricultural Association: 01453 766296; certification@biodynamic.org.uk; www.biodynamic.org.uk;
- Organic Farmers & Growers Ltd: 01939 291800; info@organicfarmers.org.uk; www.organicfarmers.org.uk
- Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd: 01970 636688; organic@wlbpc.co.uk; <http://welshorganic.co.uk>
- Soil Association Certification Ltd : 0117 914 2412; prod.cert@soilassociation.org; www.soilassociation.org



Canolfan Organig Cymru
Organic Centre Wales

