



Organic Producers: In Principle and In Practice

11th and 12th December 2006
Royal Agricultural College,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS

A Conference created by organic producer groups and producers
in conjunction with
Organic Inform
and
Elm Farm Organic Research Centre

On the surface organic agriculture appears to be in good shape – there is no need to repeat again the figures of the booming organic success story. But what is happening on the farms and holdings? Are they part of this boom? What are the real views and concerns of Britain's organic small and family farmers and growers? Those people who have been the pioneers and backbone of the organic movement.

Technical issues are ever present as producers strive to improve but there are also concerns about things like business survival, incomes under pressure, worries about future livelihoods, being swamped by larger commercial interests, the uneven application of standards and certification, the slide away from principles, the problem of accessing information when it matters, poor or patchy representation.

This conference has been put together by a network of organic producer groups and individual producers to address these issues. It will be organised in parallel “mini-conferences” planned and run by producers, with overall plenary sessions where the UK's organic producer community can come together to share, debate, agree or disagree on the issues that matter to them.

Organic Producers: In Principle and In Practice aims to reassert the link between organic principles and practice and to identify the ways in which technically, structurally and politically this link can be used to strengthen the organic producer movement to enable it to survive and play its critical role in producing food in a world of finite and diminishing resources.

The organisation of the conference has been facilitated by Elm Farm Organic Research Centre (EFORC) as part of the initiation of Organic Inform, a Defra/RES part funded initiative (The Organic Market Intelligence and Quality Development Network) to bring and exchange up-to-date market, research and policy information from its funded projects and other sources (including EFORC, Organic Centre Wales, HDRA, Soil Association, OF&G, OMSCo, Organic Farm Foods) directly to producers and the organic community.

The Institute of Organic Trainers and Advisors (IOTA) will be holding its annual general meeting.



PROGRAMME - 11th December

10.00	Institute of Organic Trainers and Advisers (IOTA) AGM	Mark Measures
12.00	Conference delegates arrive and register.	
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00	Plenary session: Welcome and housekeeping The state of the organic movement: a producer panel giving producer perspectives	

Parallel sessions:

GROWERS

15.00	Organic Growers Alliance launch and discussion.	Organic Growers Alliance Roger Hitchings/Alan Schofield
15.45	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>	
	Technical Sessions:	
16.05	Systems approach to organic pest and disease control.	Jan Deane/Iain Tolhurst
16.25	Natural Allies	Tim Deane
16.45	Green manures and fertility management	Alan Schofield
17.05	Open floor discussion	

POULTRY

15.00	Public Perception and Commercial Reality: What can consumers expect; can it be delivered?; if so, how? Presentation of consumer survey	CROP Pammy and Ritchie Riggs
15.45	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>	
16.00	Overcoming Barriers and Exploring Opportunities: Real organic poultry production (supported by research from EFORC - behaviour; multi-aged flocks; 100% organic rations)	

ARABLE, DAIRY, BEEF and SHEEP

15.00	Making the most of Stewardship schemes (and water and waste regulations)	
15.45	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>	

ARABLE

16.00	Managing Risk: - variability in UK wheat production including Results from Elm Farm Organic Research Centre's monitoring - risks and rewards rotations varieties and the market - seed saving and seed production	
17.30 - 18.00	Organic Arable Marketing Group members' meeting	OAMG

BEEF and SHEEP and DAIRY

16.00	Beef from Dairy: Opportunity for dairy farmers? Threat to beef farmers? or Synergy? Homoeopathy revisited: Current status Does it work? Questions and shared experiences	
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Evening Programme

17.30	Delegates at leisure.	
18.30	Drinks reception ORGANIC INFORM Presentation and Project Launch	
19.30	Dinner with after dinner speaker	

PROGRAMME - 12th December

GROWERS:

09.00	Eostre - a marketing case study	Roger Hitchings/Graham Hughes
09.20	Passing the baton on to the new generation.	Pete Richardson
09.40	Open floor discussion - and review of issues raised by the Organic Growers Alliance launch.	

POULTRY

09.00	Remember CAMRA - now there is CROP! Working together in the Campaign for Real Organic Poultry - launch of CROP. What is it? Where will we be in 20 years time? What does CROP want to achieve?	CROP
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ARABLE

09.00	Managing Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How the market works- Derogations Collaboration to reduce risks
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DAIRY

09.00	Systems and antibiotics <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mastitis- Lameness Is management for lifetime yield feasible?
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BEEF and SHEEP

09.00	Breeds for health and welfare. Perspectives on the market <ul style="list-style-type: none">Graig FarmOLMCDirect
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Programme continues for all delegates

10.30	<i>Coffee</i>
11.00	Plenary session and discussion. The Producer Movement - threats and opportunities: The Debate Open Forum: <i>Put your name down to speak on these or any other issues:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Can there be a Producer Movement?The state of the EU RegulationDerogations and how they operateGM issuesOrganic farming: global warming and peak oilOrganic integrityMarket intelligence and informationThe status of small producers in the growing market
12.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00	Review of Open Forum issues Feedback and discussions How to go forward
15.45	Future scenarios
16.15	<i>Tea/Coffee and close</i>

Lawrence Woodward

We would like to thank the Organic Arable Marketing Group (OAMG); Organic Milk Suppliers Cooperative (OMSCo); Adrian Steele; Graig Farms; Organic Growers Alliance and the Campaign for Real Organic Poultry for their input to, and support of, the Conference and its programme.

Conference Registration Form

Further details and Registration Form also available at www.organicresearchcentre.com and www.efrc.com

Title: Initial: Last Name:

Organisation:

Details for Name Badge:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Telephone:

Holding Number (subsidised rate for producers/growers with Holding No):

CONFERENCE DETAILS: Please select from the following options:

	Costs <u>including</u> VAT	PRODUCER/ GROWER (subsidised)	RESEARCH/ EDUCATIONAL/ NGO RATES	OTHER
Full delegate: <i>Includes conference attendance for both days, dinner, bed and breakfast (please select room preference, below)</i>		£88.13 <input type="text"/>	£152.75 <input type="text"/>	£235.00 <input type="text"/>
Monday 11th December	Including dinner, bed and breakfast (please tick your room preference): Single <input type="checkbox"/> Twin <input type="checkbox"/> Double <input type="checkbox"/>	£94.00 <input type="text"/>	£117.50 <input type="text"/>	£141.00 <input type="text"/>
	Including dinner, no accommodation	£58.75 <input type="text"/>	£82.25 <input type="text"/>	£105.75 <input type="text"/>
	Day rate: no dinner, no accommodation	£29.38 <input type="text"/>	£47.00 <input type="text"/>	£64.62 <input type="text"/>
Tuesday 12th December	Day rate	£29.38 <input type="text"/>	£47.00 <input type="text"/>	£64.62 <input type="text"/>
				TOTAL £ <input type="text"/>

Special Dietary requirements Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Other

Any other Special Requirements (i.e. wheelchair access, etc) ☐ please give details:

PAYMENT DETAILS:

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Progressive Farming Trust Ltd

or debit my Mastercard/Visa/Maestro Card No:

Name of Cardholder: Expiry Date:

Start Date of Card (Maestro only): Issue No (Maestro only): Security No (last 3 digits on back of card):

Post or fax this form to: Elm Farm Organic Research Centre, Hamstead Marshall, Nr Newbury, Berks RG20 0HR

Tel: 00 44 (0) 1488 658279 Fax: 00 44 (0) 01488 658503