

Feeding to organic standards

General principles

The natural health and vitality of your livestock depends on sound nutrition, provided as balanced rations, throughout the life of the animal. Feed is intended to ensure the quality, rather than maximising the amount of production, while meeting the nutritional requirements of the livestock at all stages of their development. The following standards apply:

- You must feed all organic and converting animals 100% organic diet where possible (see notes on using non-organic feeds below).
- At least 60% DM of the daily intake for ruminants must be fresh or dried fodder, roughage and silage
- As far as possible, you should use your own farm produced feedstuffs. As a minimum, 50% of herbivore feeds must come from your own holding or linked farms (60% for ruminants for Soil Association licensees)
- If you are in conversion, up to 30% of the total may be in conversion (or up to 60% if the feed comes from your own holding). At least 60% of the diet must be fully organic (unless you are using your own in-conversion feed, in which case it is 40%)
- You must keep full and accurate records of what you feed your animals, including:
 - The ingredients you use, where they are sourced from and whether they are organic, non-organic or in conversion.
 - The amount of each ingredient in the total diet (as DM)
 - When they were fed
 - Total DM intake

Using non organic feeds

Where you cannot source organic feed, you can apply to your certification body for permission (often referred to a 'derogation') to use a certain amount of non organic material (up to 5% for ruminants and 15% for pigs and poultry on an annual basis and to a maximum of 25% on a daily basis). However, you should note the following:

- Before using any non organic feed, you must be able to demonstrate that you have attempted to source organic ingredients, and that there are no organic alternatives available.
- You may use non organic ingredients on the 'green list' (see Table 1) without prior permission, but you will have to provide written justification as to why you needed to do so at your inspection.
- If you need to use permitted non-organic ingredients that are not on the green list, you must apply to your certification body for permission to do so *before* you purchase the feed. Since organic supplies of these ingredients are generally considered to be adequate or alternative feeds available, few derogations are expected to granted on these products.
- Compound feed producers are subject to similar restrictions and can also include some non organic material in their feeds if they are unable to source organic ingredients. You may purchase *approved* compound feeds that have some non-organic ingredients but these must be fed within your total non-organic allowances.
- You must record the nature and quantities of *all* non organic feeds used, including the non organic element in compound feeds.
- For ruminants, the derogation is in place until 31st December 2007, after which time all organic stock will have to be fed a 100% organic diet.

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- For pigs and poultry the percentage of non organic feed allowed will be phased out as follows: 15% until 31 December 2007; 10% from 1st January 2008 to 31st 2009; 5% from 1st January 2010 to 31st December 2011

Table 1: The 'Green list'

Protein sources	Maize gluten meal; Grass meal; Potato Protein; Wheat middlings; Fish and other marine animals and their by-products; Brewers' grains; Rape seed expeller; Soya bean products; Sunflower seed expeller; Lucerne; Lupins as seeds; Peas as seeds; Broad beans as seeds; Egg and egg products
Others	Sugar beet pulp; Molasses; Powders and extracts of plants; Milk and milk products (non-organic milk replacer); Seaweed meal Spices and herbs; Vegetable oils (physical extraction)

Supplementing livestock diets

- You may use certain supplements without prior permission (see Table 2 for details).
- You may supplement the following trace elements: Iron, Iodine, cobalt, copper, manganese, zinc, molybdenum selenium. However, you will have to justify their use, either by soil or forage analysis, through analysis of blood samples, or using previous records that demonstrate a deficiency.
- Provided they contain only the above minerals, you may use approved straight mineral licks, mineral injections or boluses and non chelated in-feed minerals

Table 2: Supplements the can be used without permission

Element	Compound/ form
Various	Brewers Yeast, Cod liver oil
Sodium	Unrefined sea salt; coarse rock salt; sodium sulphate; sodium carbonate; sodium bicarbonate; sodium chloride
Potassium	Potassium chloride
Calcium	Wheatgerm (Soil association licensees only) Calcified seaweed and maerl (except for Soil association licensees) ; Shells of aquatic animals; calcium carbonate; calcium lactate; calcium gluconate
Phosphorus	Defluorinated dicalcium phosphate; defluorinated monocalcium phosphate; monosodium phosphate; calcium-magnesium phosphate; calcium-sodium phosphate
Magnesium	Magnesium oxide (anhydrous magnesia); magnesium sulphate; magnesium chloride; magnesium carbonate; magnesium phosphate
Sulphur	Sodium sulphate

Feeding young animals

- All young mammals must be fed on milk (preferably maternal), for a minimum period (3 months for cattle, 45 days for sheep and 40 days for pigs).
- During the first half of this period, they must be fed on organic whole milk, preferably by suckling. Non organic or reconstituted milk can be fed during the second half.
- Milk replacer or dried milk must not have additional additives such as antibiotics, growth promoters or animal fats.
- Rearing systems after weaning must make maximum use of pastures. At least 60% of the diet should be fresh or dried fodder, roughage and silage.

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