

A Guide for Farmers wishing to Fast Track Conversion for Organic Milk Production

Farmers wanting to produce organic milk on the day on which their land attains organic status need to fulfil the below criteria. This will be checked at an inspection carried out during the 6 month conversion period prior to sale of organic milk.

1. The organic management and feeding of the herd must start 6 months prior to the intended organic milk production date, OF&G Organic Standards & Certification Manual (OSCM) Section 8.2.11
2. The dairy herd should be grazing organic land on the day organic milk production start, OF&G (OSCM) Section 8.2.14. As a rule of thumb;

The production of organic milk from in-conversion pasture is not permitted. The dairy cows must be able to graze sufficient organic pasture to supply 40% of their grazing and forage requirements from the day the milk is marketed as organic, calculated over the calendar year. This means:

- The conversion of land intended for grazing and forage production should begin before the first cut silage is made so that the silage is organic 24 months later;
- The start of the conversion (and completion date) should be on or after turnout date;
- For a whole farm conversion, the milk can only be marketed as organic after the livestock are turned out onto the organic pasture (after it has completed its conversion);
- For a farm in a staged conversion, 60% of the grazing and forage production area must be organic with the balance in second year conversion.

3. A Feed Plan, calculated in Dry Matter Intake (DMI) must be completed for the period; from the first day of the 6 month conversion period up until 31 December of the year in which milk will be first sold as organic. It is important that this is done correctly otherwise the sale of organic milk could be delayed.

The Feed Plan must be sent to OF&G for assessment against Section 8.4 of the OSCM at least one month before the 6 month conversion to organic milk production starts;

4. Records of the actual feed fed during the 6 month

conversion period must be maintained to show that the feeding complies with Section 8.4 of the OSCM;

5. All intervening inspections must be completed and all Compliance Notices responded to in full before a Certificate for organic milk can be issued. The sale of milk as organic without a valid Certificate on which 'Organic Dairy Cattle & Milk' is specified is a manifest infringement and could result in the loss of certification;
6. The Animal Health Plan must be written by, and in operation on, the day the conversion to organic milk production commences. The inspector will review the Plan at the inspection. The certification office does not usually need to see the Plan, but might request to do so. Guidance on establishing an Animal Health Plan can be found in OF&G Technical Leaflet 105, which is available on the OF&G website.

OF&G must be informed, in writing, of the intended organic milk production date so that inspections can be planned appropriately. The Fast Track Checklist (overleaf) and Feed Plan must be supplied to OF&G at least one month before the 6 month conversion period commences.

OF&G must inspect your dairy unit during the 6 month conversion period to organic milk production, this is to prove that production is compliant with the OF&G Standards. OF&G will try to coincide this with the annual inspection (at no extra charge) but it may be necessary to undertake this as a spot inspection for which you will be charged as per our published fee at that time. A copy of the RD16 charges sheet can be found on the OF&G website or requested from OF&G.

Only after this inspection has been successfully completed and we have received verification of any non-compliances being rectified can a Certificate allowing you to sell organic milk be issued. Please be aware that only calves born from the day the milk becomes organic are organic.

Please check with your Milk Buyer that they can take organic milk on the day you hope to produce it before completing this form.

Please attach all of the required information to this form and return to OF&G.

Organic requirements are in addition to other statutory requirements

Statutory information is for guidance only and is correct at time of going to print

Fast Track Checklist: (To be completed and a copy sent to OF&G):

Registration Number	UKF
Name and Address	
Feed Plan enclosed (send copies only)	Yes / No
Date of last use of Dry Cow therapy	
Date of last use of wormer	
What livestock was the wormer administered to	
Date Animal Health Plan established	
Date Organic Milk Production is due to start. (This must be after the date the tank is last emptied of non-organic milk and before the first organic milk pick up)	
Name of Organic Milk Buyer:	

Please attach all of the required information to this form and return to OF&G.

OF&G ORGANIC STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION MANUAL

Record Sheet 20 - Record of Livestock Feeds

Producer: Registration No:	Feeding Group:	Number of Animals:	Approx. Weight of Animals:
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Feeding period Dates from - to	No. days fed (A)	Ingredients of Feed	Kg fresh weight / animal / day (B)	Dry matter % (C)	Kg of dry matter / animal / day (D) = (B x C)			Total Kg dry matter / animal over period = A x D		
					Organic Kg DM	Conversion Kg DM	Non-organic Kg DM	Organic	Conversion	Non-organic

- Notes**
1. Feeding group - batch of calves born within a month and reared-on/dairy cows/suckler cows/twin lamb ewes/single lamb ewes/stores/sows etc.
 2. Feeding period - dates between which the feed type and amount remain constant.
 3. Ingredients - list individual components of farm mixed feed or give name of a brought-in compound or straight and attach labels to this sheet.
 4. Kg dry matter/animal/day - multiply fresh weight by dry matter percentage (see Sections 8.4.29 to 8.4.32) and divide by (quantity x no animals).

This Record sheet was prepared with the assistance of Dan Powell of Gaia Professional

Certification Manual - Appendix 1
01/04/2013
Record Sheet 20

Notes - This font – EU Regulation/OF&G Standards
 This font – OF&G Guidance Notes
 This font – ‘Partnership Programme’

Fast Track Feed Plan Calculations

Dry Matter Intake (DMI)

To calculate the Kg Dry Matter Intake per animal per day (Kg DM) multiply the fresh weight Kg per animal per day by the dry matter percentage

$$\text{Kg DM} = \text{fresh weight (Kg)} \times \frac{\text{Dry matter}}{100}$$

Annual Dry Matter Intake (ADMI)

Sum the totals for each column in the bottom row of boxes indicated at Totals. Sum the totals of Organic Kg DM per animal, Conversion Kg DM per animal and Non-Organic Kg DM per animal.

$$\text{Organic \%} = \frac{\text{Total Organic Kg DM / animal}}{\text{Annual Dry Matter Intake}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Conversion \%} = \frac{\text{Total Conversion Kg DM / animal}}{\text{Annual Dry Matter Intake}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Non-organic \%} = \frac{\text{Total Non-organic Kg DM / animal}}{\text{Annual Dry Matter Intake}} \times 100$$

Fast Track Feed Plan Summary

Annual Dry Matter Intake	=	
Organic % of ADMI	=	
Conversion % of ADMI	=	
Non-organic % of ADMI	=	
Maximum daily Non-organic %	=	