

Guidance Notes for Farmers on the use of Organic and Permitted Non-Organic Animal Feeds by Non-Herbivores

Organic requirements are in addition to other statutory requirements
 Statutory information is for guidance only and is correct at time of going to print

Livestock that are organic or converting must normally be fed only organically produced feedstuffs. However, there is a derogation for non-herbivores (pigs and poultry) that allows a small amount of non-organic feedstuffs, but justification is required for their use. Details are given below and in Section 8.4 of the OF&G Standards Manual.

All mills supplying compound feeds for converting or organic animals must be registered with one of the Defra approved Organic Control Bodies, such as OF&G.

Feed Records detailing the type and amounts of all feeds used must be kept by the farmer, OF&G Record Sheet 20 can be used for this purpose. Only ingredients listed in Section 8.4 of the OF&G Standards Manual may be used as the non-organic portion of the feed. Only the non-organic feedstuffs on the Green List (see below) can be used by farmers without derogation from OF&G.

PERCENTAGE OF NON-ORGANIC FEED ALLOWED FROM 1/1/2010.

For pigs, poultry and other non-herbivore species from 1/1/2010 until 31/12/2011 a maximum of 5% non-organic feed is permitted in the diet. This percentage is calculated on an annual dry matter basis of ingredients from agricultural origin. The maximum daily non-organic allowance is 25% dry matter. After this time, feed should be 100% organically produced.

PERMITTED NON-ORGANIC INGREDIENTS

Defra has made it clear that fully-organic feed should be used wherever possible and that the derogation only allows non-organic feed to be used where organic feed is not available.

However, Defra accepts that organic forms of certain feedstuffs may not currently be available in sufficient quantities. These are listed below in the 'Green List'.

THE GREEN LIST

Non-organic ingredients that can be used by a farmer without a derogation from OF&G but only where the same material or a suitable alternative is not available as organic.

Maize gluten meal (Prairie meal)	Milk and milk products (non-organic milk replacer)
Potato protein	Wheat middlings
Brewers' grains	Rape seed expeller
Sunflower seed expeller	Egg and egg products
Sugar beet pulp	Molasses
Powders and extracts of plants	Seaweed meal
Spices and herbs	Vegetable oils (physical extraction)
Fish, other marine animals and their by-products	

This Green List is reviewed regularly by Defra and items will be removed from the list as soon as organic sources become available in sufficient quantity. Updates will be notified via our Technical Newsletters.

USE OF FEED MATERIALS ON THE GREEN LIST

Farmers can use these feedstuffs, within the non-organic allowance listed above, without applying to OF&G for derogation. However, in every case, they must complete an OF&G Record Sheet 25 'Non-Organic Feed Justification Record', to record the reason for using a non-organic feed and the efforts that have been made to obtain the organic version.

A copy of the completed Non-Organic Feed Justification Record, together with copies of any relevant evidence, must be given to the Inspector at each inspection. These will be returned to the Certification Office for assessment and reporting to Defra.

USE OF FEED MATERIALS NOT ON THE GREEN LIST

Where farmers wish to use a non-organic feedstuff that is not on the Green List, but is listed in Section 8.4 of the OF&G Standards Manual as a permitted non-organic feed, they must first apply to OF&G, with written justification. OF&G Record Sheet 26 'Non-Organic Feed Derogation Application Form' must be used for this purpose. The request must be approved, in writing, by OF&G before the feed is bought.

Note: Defra does not expect there to be many of these applications because there are sufficient organic sources of these feedstuffs. All requests for non-organic feeds not on the Green List, whether approved or not, will be referred to Defra.

PARTIALLY ORGANIC COMPOUND FEEDSTUFFS

Where farmers are buying in a partially-organic compound feeds it is the feed manufacturer that applies for the derogation from their Control Body. The farmer must however keep a copy of the product label, attached to the Non-Organic Feed Justification Record. This will act as written justification for the unavailability of the organic form of the ingredient.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS

Genetically modified organisms, or materials derived from them, are not permitted in organic farming. All OF&G registered feed mills are required to sign a statement that they "will take all reasonable precautions and exert all due diligence to ensure that approved feeds are free of GMOs and their derivatives." Farmers buying non-organic feeds to include in the ration of non-herbivores must request a similar statement from their feed supplier.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Feed can no longer be labelled as 'GM-free' or 'Non-GM'. The law has changed and feeds can now only refer to GMOs if they contain them.

PROHIBITED MATERIALS

Feed used for organic livestock must not contain the following:

- Materials produced with GMOs or their derivatives;
- Farm animal by-products (e.g. abattoir waste) to any livestock;
- All types of excrements including droppings, dung or other manures;
- Feed subject to solvent extraction (e.g. hexane) or the addition of other chemical agents;
- Synthetic amino acids and amino acid isolates;
- Urea and other synthetic nitrogen compounds;
- Synthetic growth promoters or stimulants;
- Synthetic appetisers;
- Preservatives, except when used as a processing aid;
- Artificial colouring agents

ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC FEED REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-HERBIVORES

Roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage must be added to the daily ration for pigs and poultry.

IMPORTANT: It is the farmer's responsibility to make sure their livestock are fed according to the requirements of the OF&G Standards Manual and obtain derogations where relevant. It is the feed mill's responsibility to label the feeds clearly and correctly. For bulk feeds, a label should be attached to the delivery note.

All OF&G Record Sheets and Technical Leaflets can be obtained from the OF&G Certification Office or downloaded from our website.