

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

# UK Organic Congress 2018

Dunchurch Park Hotel, Rugby  
15-16 November 2018

## Going for Growth

Transforming organic food and farming in the UK



UK Organic Congress



@CongressOrganic #UKOrganicCongress

The UK Organic Congress is a joint initiative between:



organic  
arable



Organic  
Growers  
Alliance



## Going for growth

The UK organic food market is growing fast, at 6-7% annually, as part of a global movement for change in what we eat and how it's produced. But we trail our European neighbours, many achieving over 20% growth and food market shares of 10%. Big opportunities exist for producers to convert to organic production, supported by a food industry responsive to consumer demand, delivering environmental as well as economic gains.



Thursday 15th November 2018

## Transforming UK organic food and farming

Reaffirming the potential of organic food and farming in the UK needs fresh approaches to ensure core organic principles and the expectations of citizens can be delivered. Enhancing the environmental and other public benefits of organic production while ensuring fair incomes for farmers and affordable prices for consumers is critical.

As we contemplate leaving the EU, what transformations should we be seeking to make the UK an organic world leader again?



09:00 Registration opens

11:00 Opening plenary - A vision for the future of organic food and farming in the UK – government, organic movement and international perspectives

14:00 –17:30 Six parallel workshop blocks (two workshops each):

- A. Supply chain integrity: tools and business models to maintain organic integrity in a growth market
- B. Brexit challenges: Public money for public goods; shaping UK organic regulations
- C. Expanding organic crop production: Opportunities, challenges and creative approaches
- D. Horticulture/small-scale production: Support for short supply chains; seeds for horticulture
- E. Agroforestry. New opportunities, Do's and don'ts
- F. Meat and livestock marketing. Addressing red meat marketing challenges; responding to changing consumer priorities (free range, veganism)

17:45-18:45 Fringe sessions, posters and receptions (proposals welcome)

19:30 Conference dinner and entertainment

Content and times of sessions are subject to change. Please check website for latest info.

## New vision

Underpinning organic food and farming are some big ideas about how to make a better world. The organic approach cares about things that affect us all – health, welfare, the environment, fairness, quality and sustainability. Communicating this needs a focus on real benefits, while building bridges with others. The Congress will feature a new, positive vision for the contribution that organic can make to UK food and farming, including an aspiration to be up there with the best in terms of production and market shares.

## Making change happen

The organic sector is well placed to take a lead in the future development of UK food and farming. Organic food standards, the dynamic organic market, Food for Life, the OTB Promotion Campaigns, Innovative Farmers and the Agricology on-line information hub have shown what can be achieved collectively. The Congress will highlight the role of the new industry-led organic action plan in England and similar initiatives in other parts of the UK in making real change happen.

Friday 16th November 2018

9:00–15:00. Six parallel workshop blocks (three workshops each):

- G. Supply chain/market opportunities: Market trends, opportunities and support actions to develop UK organic supplies and trade
- H. Eco-regional development: Linking organic land management, environmental schemes and rural development/agri-tourism on a landscape scale – inspirational examples, catchment sensitive farming and future support for organic farming
- I. Organic crops: Variety testing, breeding priorities and novel breeding techniques
- J. Horticulture/small-scale production: organic herbs; new entrants; rotations and soil health
- K. System health: Public engagement and health; organic health concepts; soil, crop and livestock health
- L. Meat and dairy production: improving health and welfare; coping with climate change, pig and poultry protein sources

15:30 Closing plenary: Creative ideas to inspire further actions after the Congress

17:00 Close of Congress

## Who should come?

The UK Organic Congress 2018 is a unique event organised jointly by leading organic organisations aimed at all involved in or interested in the business of organic food and farming. The Congress has been organised for:

- Farmers, growers and land managers
- Food businesses in organic supply chains, including input suppliers, retailers and caterers
- Professionals that engage with the sector, including consultants, land agents, bank managers and researchers
- Government agency officials and policy-makers
- Farming, environmental and food NGOs work with producers and food businesses
- And many more!

The Congress is not only for those already engaged – if you are exploring organic as an option for your future business, then this event is also for you.

All are welcome!

## Contact us

The Organic Research Centre is leading the organisation of the Congress. For

- Programme queries and speaker suggestions, contact Anna Sellars [anna.s@organicresearchcentre.com](mailto:anna.s@organicresearchcentre.com)
- General enquiries and sponsorship/trade stands, contact Gillian Woodward [gillian.w@organicresearchcentre.com](mailto:gillian.w@organicresearchcentre.com)

**Tel: 01488 658298**

**[www.organicresearchcentre.com](http://www.organicresearchcentre.com)**

## Venue

Dunchurch Park Hotel (Rugby Road, Dunchurch, Rugby CV22 6QW) is located in the heart of Warwickshire, with modern conference facilities, set in 72 acres of gardens and grounds. It is just outside Rugby, with free parking and good train connections to London, Birmingham and beyond.

## Book early for best prices!

	Early bird	Full rate
Day tickets (members)*	£40	£60
Day tickets (non-members)	£50	£75

a) Early bird prices are for a limited number of tickets and will expire as soon as tickets are sold  
b) VAT is not included

\* Members of partnership organisations. (Organic Research Centre, Landworkers' Alliance, Organic Arable, Organic Farmers & Growers, Organic Growers Alliance, Organic Trade Board, Soil Association, Whole Health Agriculture – please check event details on partner websites to confirm eligible membership categories)

## Registration

Registration is only possible online via the event pages on partner websites or directly via Eventbrite:

**<https://tinyurl.com/UK-Organic-Congress18>**



## Accommodation

Accommodation in these and other hotels is not included in the price or the registration process. Accommodation can be booked directly with Dunchurch Park Hotel at the conference rate of £65 per room including breakfast (double and twin bedded rooms available). Please quote reference no. 366431 when making your booking.

Tel: 01788 810656

Email: [info@dunchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@dunchurch.co.uk)

[www.signaturegroup.co.uk](http://www.signaturegroup.co.uk)

If sold out the venue will arrange rooms in the neighbouring Draycote Hotel at £75 per room including breakfast. Accommodation in these and other hotels can also be found on Booking.com and similar websites. Early booking is strongly recommended.