



Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd.  
ardystio bwyd Cymreig safonol

## Welsh Organic Scheme

### PRINCIPLES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ORGANIC LAND

1.01	Organic produce derives from a land based, agricultural system that avoids the use of agrochemicals, protects and enhances the natural habitat and observes a high standard of animal welfare.	<i>COS Section 2 – Advisory Annex 1</i>
1.02	Careful observation of the following <b>principles</b> is essential for successful organic production:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understanding that modern agriculture derives from natural systems that have evolved over millions of years and that organic production <b>must</b> work <u>with</u> nature and not dominate it.</li> <li>2. Understanding the importance of maintaining a healthy and living soil.</li> <li>3. Avoiding any pollution of soil, air or water.</li> <li>4. Ensuring a high standard of welfare for all livestock.</li> <li>5. Protecting and enhancing the natural features of the land, thus providing for greater diversity of wildlife and reducing the risk to endangered species.</li> <li>6. Considering the wider picture and the social and environmental impact of the farming system.</li> </ol>	<i>COS Section 2 – Advisory Annex 2</i>
1.03	The following are the <b>main characteristics</b> of an organic system:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sound rotation.</li> <li>2. Judicious use of animal and green manures.</li> <li>3. Use <u>only</u> of permitted mineral fertilisers.</li> <li>4. Use <u>only</u> of permitted pesticides.</li> <li>5. No herbicides.</li> <li>6. Use of appropriate cultivation techniques.</li> <li>7. Minimum impact on naturally occurring plants and wildlife.</li> </ol>	<i>COS Section 2 – Advisory Annex 3</i>
1.04	An <b>organic production unit must</b> comprise clearly identified land areas and designated livestock and crop storage buildings.	OS Field Numbers. Farm building plan. <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A.1 1.1</i>

1.05	<p>An application to convert a holding or part holding to organic production <b>must</b> be accompanied by a <b>conversion plan</b>. A full conversion plan will comprise the following:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A description of the current and proposed enterprises.</li> <li>2. A farm plan and schedule of fields and buildings to be converted.</li> <li>3. A description of the management practices to be employed during and after conversion to include:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Soil management.</li> <li>b. Cropping and crop rotation.</li> <li>c. Grazing systems and forage production.</li> <li>d. Plant nutrient supply.</li> <li>e. Weed and pest control.</li> <li>f. Livestock management.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. A habitat protection and enhancement plan.</li> <li>5. A farm waste management plan.</li> <li>6. A livestock health plan.</li> </ol>	<p>This <b>must</b> be accepted by QWFC before registration. <i>COS Annex III 3.1</i></p> <p>1.29 – 1.31 1.32</p> <p>1.40</p>
1.06	<p><b>Partial or staged conversion</b> of a holding is permitted providing:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposed area is of sufficient size to permit sustainable organic production.</li> <li>2. There is appropriate selection of the land areas to be converted.</li> <li>3. There are physical boundaries between organic and non organic blocks of land.</li> <li>4. Buildings and stores are clearly identified as organic or non organic.</li> <li>5. The whole area of the unit used for feeding the livestock enterprise(s) <b>must</b> comply with the QWFC organic standards.</li> </ol>	<p>Not scattered fields. Hedges, permanent fences, dykes or walls. Labelled physically and on farm plan. <i>COS Annex III 8.1</i> <i>COS Annex I B 2.1.1</i></p>
1.07	<p><b>A part organic holding poses a potential risk to the integrity of the organic product:-</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The same species of livestock may not be farmed both organically and non organically within a farm business.</li> <li>2. The same crop variety may not be grown on both organic and non organic land within a farm business.</li> </ol>	<p>Farmers with distinct organic and non organic businesses <b>must</b> be able to demonstrate transparent separation to the satisfaction of QWFC <i>COS Annex III 5.2</i> <i>COS Annex I B1.6</i> <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A1 3.2</i> <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 4.1</i></p>
1.08	<p>Land will normally attain organic status following 24 months of monitored conversion.</p>	<p><i>COS Annex I A 1.1</i></p>
1.09	<p><b>Annual crops</b> may only be classified as <b>in-conversion</b> if harvested at least 12 months after the conversion start date.</p>	<p><i>COS Provision 5 5(b)</i></p>
1.10	<p><b>Annual crops</b> may only be classified as <b>organic</b> if planted or sown into organic land.</p>	<p><i>COS Annex I A 1.1</i></p>
1.11	<p><b>Perennial crops</b> may only be classified as <b>organic</b> if harvested at least 36 months after the conversion start date.</p>	<p><i>COS Annex I A 1.1</i></p>
1.12	<p><b>Forage crops</b> may only be classified as <b>in-conversion</b> when grazed or harvested at least 12 months after the conversion start date.</p>	<p><i>COS Provision 5 5(b)</i></p>
1.13	<p><b>Forage crops</b> may only be classified as <b>organic</b> when grazed or harvested at least 24 months after the conversion start date.</p>	<p><i>COS Annex I A 1.1</i></p>

1.14	<p>The 24 month conversion period for the land may only be shortened under the following circumstances:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By up to <b>4 months</b> if field records show that there have been no prohibited inputs over that period, neither is there any physical sign of prohibited input.</li> <li>2. By 12 months if the land was subject to <b>environmental scheme rules</b> that did not allow the use of inputs prohibited by these standards over that period.</li> <li>3. By 12 months if the land is on a <b>partially converted holding</b> and has been monitored during the annual inspections of the regulatory body.</li> <li>4. By 12 months if the land is to be grazed solely by <b>pigs or poultry</b> and it can be shown that there were no prohibited inputs during the 12 months prior to the conversion start date.</li> </ol>	<p>Requires approval from QWFC and Defra.</p> <p><b>Prohibited inputs :-</b>          Products not GMO free.          Products not listed as permitted mineral fertilisers. (Annex F)          All herbicides.          Products not listed as permitted pesticides. (Annex G)  <i>COS Annex I A1.2, 1.4 B2.1.2</i></p>
1.15	Previously <b>contaminated land</b> may be required to undergo an extended conversion period.	Requires QWFC and Defra approval. <i>COS Annex I A1.3</i>
1.16	A producer may request an <b>extended</b> conversion period.	Eg. Lack of market.
1.17	<p>Genetically modified organisms (<b>GMOs</b>) and their derivatives are prohibited from every organic and partially organic holding. GMO free declarations <b>must</b> be obtained for:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All brought in non organic feeds and feed supplements.</li> <li>2. All brought in animal manures, soil conditioners and fertilisers.</li> <li>3. All seeds and plant propagation materials.</li> <li>4. All veterinary products.</li> <li>5. All game bird feeds for birds that have access to registered land.</li> </ol>	<p>Printed product labels are acceptable.</p> <p><i>COS Annex I B4.18</i>  <i>COS Provision 6.1d &amp; 2a</i></p>
1.18	Land that has previously grown genetically modified crops is prohibited from organic certification.	
1.19	A risk assessment <b>must</b> be made of any genetically modified crop growing within 5km of an organic holding, and the regulatory body <b>must</b> be advised of any such crop or proposed crop.	
1.20	<p>All organic producers <b>must</b> have a <b>habitat protection and enhancement plan. (HPEP)</b> This will comprise a record of the natural features of the holding and a programme for improving and increasing these features to encourage a better and greater diversity of wild plant and animal life.</p> <p>The plan <b>must</b> be approved by the QWFC and will be monitored at the annual inspection.</p>	<p>Natural features:-          Ponds,          water courses, marshes,          hedgerows, natural woodland, wild flower meadows and moorland.  <i>COS Advisory annex – Section 2. 2iii</i>  <b>Tir Gofal or ESA scheme is acceptable.</b></p>
1.21	<b>Hedges must</b> be trimmed only between 1 <sup>st</sup> .September and 28 <sup>th</sup> .February, and half should be left untrimmed each season so that hedgerow fruits and berries remain for the birds.	<i>COS Advisory annex – Section 2. 5.iv</i>
1.22	<b>Ditches must</b> only be cleaned out between 1 <sup>st</sup> .September and 28 <sup>th</sup> .February and at least half should be left untouched each season.	<i>COS Advisory annex – Section 2. 5.iv</i>
1.23	<b>Hedges and walls</b> should be maintained in the traditional manner and should not be altered without good practical reason and prior approval from the regulatory body.	<i>COS Advisory annex – Section 2. 5.iii</i>
1.24	Sites of historical and agricultural heritage interest <b>must</b> be recorded in the HPEP and <b>must</b> be preserved.	Archaeological sites, ridge and furrow fields. <i>COS Advisory annex – Section 2. 5.viii</i>
1.25	New buildings should be designed and located to have minimum impact on the landscape.	<i>COS Advisory annex – Section 2. 5.x</i>

1.26	All statutory rights of way <b>must</b> be respected and maintained.	<i>COS Advisory annex – Section 2. 5.xi</i>
1.27	The farm buildings, yards, fences and gates <b>must</b> be maintained in an acceptable state to ensure the safety of people and livestock.	FAWL 3.07
1.28	Organic farms <b>must</b> be maintained in a <b>clean and tidy</b> condition. Each one <b>must</b> present to the public an acceptable face of the Welsh organic industry.	
<b>SOIL MANAGEMENT</b>		
1.29	The maintenance of a <b>healthy living soil</b> is the key to every successful organic production system. Attention <b>must</b> be given to:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Care of the soil structure.</li> <li>2. Soil organic matter content.</li> <li>3. Soil microbial activity.</li> <li>4. Soil fertility – plant nutrient availability.</li> </ol>	
1.30	The following practices <b>must</b> be <b>avoided</b> wherever possible:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deep ploughing – this disrupts the biological activity of the topsoil.</li> <li>2. Compaction with heavy machinery.</li> <li>3. Poaching by livestock in wet conditions.</li> <li>4. Continuous cropping with similar crop types.</li> <li>5. Bare fallows.</li> </ol>	<i>COS Section 2 3</i>  1.32
1.31	The following practices are <b>required</b> wherever possible:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minimum tilling - to avoid disruption of the biological activity of the topsoil.</li> <li>2. Subsoiling where soil compaction has occurred.</li> <li>3. Development of a sound rotation.</li> <li>4. Green cover cropping.</li> <li>5. Regular incorporation of organic manures, compost or plant remains.</li> <li>6. Regular soil analysis.</li> </ol>	1.32 <i>COS Annex I A2.1</i> <i>COS Section 2 3</i>
1.32	A sound and well balanced <b>annual rotation must</b> meet the following objectives:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A positive balance in soil nitrogen levels through judicious use of leguminous crops.</li> <li>2. The inclusion of crops with varying root systems and nutrient requirements.</li> <li>3. The separation of crops with similar pest and disease susceptibility by an appropriate period.</li> <li>4. The increase of soil organic matter.</li> <li>5. The long term control of annual and perennial weeds.</li> </ol>	Perennial crops and permanent pastures are excluded. Protected horticultural crops may be exempted providing there is adequate use of legumes and green manures. <i>COS Annex I A2.1a</i>
<b>MANURES AND PLANT WASTES</b>		
1.33	The <b>recycling of soil nutrients</b> through the careful management of plant and animal waste produced on the organic holding <b>must</b> be achieved wherever possible.	<i>COS Annex I B1.3</i>
1.34	The <b>storage of manures and slurries must</b> meet the requirements of the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water. The codes <b>must</b> be kept on the farm.	FAWL 3.01 & 3.04 <i>COS Annex I B7.6</i>
1.35	The <b>slurry storage</b> facility <b>must</b> be of sound and watertight construction and be of sufficient capacity to enable optimum timing of application.	Normally a minimum 4 months capacity. FAWL 3.04 <i>COS Annex I B7.6, B7.7</i>
1.36	Dirty water may be stored separately and spread as a light application throughout the winter months when necessary.	

1.37	The solid <b>manure storage</b> facility should have a solid base and a means to collect effluent. It should preferably be covered. As a temporary measure suitably sited field clamps are acceptable.	FAWL 3.04 <i>COS Annex I B7.6</i>
1.38	Solid manures should not be spread on the land without a period of <b>composting</b> to destroy weed seeds and disease organisms.	3 to 6 months of regular aeration is recommended.
1.39	<b>The application of manures and slurries must</b> meet the requirements of the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water.	FAWL 3.01
1.40	The land that is suitable for the application of manure and slurry <b>must</b> be identified in the <b>Farm Waste Management Plan</b> . All staff or contractors involved with slurry or manure spreading <b>must</b> be familiar with the Plan.	1.05 FAWL 3.01, 3.02, 3.03
1.41	The application of manures and slurries <b>must</b> only be made <b>when and where</b> there is <b>no risk</b> of the pollution of ground water or watercourses. No application may be made within 10 metres of a watercourse or 50 metres of a domestic water supply source. Waterlogged and frozen ground <b>must</b> be avoided.	FAWL 3.03 Spreading should only take place on grassland when the grass is actively growing. <i>COS Section 2 Advisory Annex 5.viii</i>
1.42	The <b>stocking density</b> on a registered holding should not be such that the animal waste produced has a total Nitrogen content in excess of 170kg per registered hectare.	See Record Sheet RS2. Imported manures <b>must</b> be taken into account. <i>COS Annex I B7.1, 7.2</i>
1.43	For pig and poultry enterprises only, where Nitrogen production exceeds 170kg/ha., the surplus may be exported to another registered holding, provided a written agreement is made and the tonnage recorded annually. <b>Manure from organic livestock must not be spread on unregistered land.</b>	<i>COS Annex I B7.4</i>
1.44	The rate of application of manure to an <b>individual field must</b> not exceed the Nitrogen requirements of the crop and <b>must</b> not exceed 250kg.N/ha/year.	COGAP
1.45	The production system <b>must</b> be planned to minimise the requirement for <b>brought in plant nutrients</b> . Where it can be shown that adequate nutrition of the crop cannot be achieved by the methods described in 1.31, non organic animal manures (See 1.46), materials of plant and animal origin (See Annex E) and permitted mineral fertilisers (See Annex F) may be brought in, but only in a quantity sufficient to address the deficiency. Appropriate plant based or micro-organism preparations may also be used to improve soil fertility and bioactivity with QWFC approval. Justification <b>must</b> be documented in the FWMP. (1.40)	Soil analysis required for the field(s) concerned showing indices of -2 or less. Application rates <b>must</b> be matched to the requirements of the proposed crop. Record Sheet RS8 <i>COS Annex I A2.2, 2.3, 2.4</i>
1.46	<b>Non organic animal manures must</b> only be sourced from units that meet the following criteria:- 1. Practice extensive husbandry. 2. Only GMO free and unmedicated feeds used during the housed period. 3. Poultry manure from deep litter houses <u>only</u> if stocking density of less than 25kg/sq.m. at slaughter. <b>Prior derogation from QWFC must be obtained.</b>	<b>Prohibited systems:-</b> Slurry from dairy herds, slatted beef and pig units. Manure from battery hens, high density broilers, farrowing crates, barley beef and veal units. Record Sheet RS11 <i>COS Annex II A</i>
1.47	<b>Non organic manure must</b> be <b>composted</b> on farm for at least 6 months before application.	

<b>ARABLE CROPPING</b>		
1.48	<b>Arable and horticultural cash crops must</b> be integrated into a balanced rotation of the tillable fields. Leys or green manures and legumes <b>must</b> form part of the rotation. A two year cropping plan <b>must</b> be kept.	1.32 <i>COS Annex I A2.1a</i>
1.49	All <b>seeds and plant propagation</b> material <b>must</b> have been produced on registered organic land for at least one generation. When this is not possible for reasons beyond the control of the producer a derogation to use non organic seeds or seed potatoes may be granted by QWFC. Chemical seed dressings are prohibited.	<i>COS Provision 6.1c</i> <i>COS Provision 6 3b</i>
1.50	<b>Transplants</b> from non organic sources <b>must</b> be raised on a registered unit, using only the substrates listed in Annex E, and may only be harvested as organic at least six weeks after transplanting into the organic land.	Prior derogation from QWFC <b>must</b> be obtained. <i>COS Provision 6 3a</i>
1.51	<b>Weed control must</b> be achieved only by the following methods:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Choice of cropping and rotation.</li> <li>2. Cultivation practice.</li> <li>3. Plant density and competitiveness.</li> <li>4. Mechanical control:- Steerage hoeing, brush weeding, comb harrowing.</li> <li>5. Mulching.</li> <li>6. Thermal control:- Propane burners, steam sterilisation.</li> <li>7. Manual control:- Hand hoeing, roguing.</li> </ol>	<i>COS Annex I 3</i>
1.52	<b>Pest and disease control must</b> be achieved by the following methods:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Choice of crop variety and rotation.</li> <li>2. Creation of habitat favourable to pest predators:- Field margins, beetle banks, hedges, nesting sites.</li> <li>3. Release of approved predators.</li> <li>4. Higher seed rates to compensate for loss.</li> <li>5. Mechanical control.</li> <li>6. Steam sterilisation.</li> <li>7. Use of permitted pesticides. (See Annex G) Subject to 1.53.</li> </ol>	<i>COS Annex I 3</i>
1.53	<b>Permitted pesticides</b> (Annex G) may only be used when an immediate threat to the crop is identified. Application and storage of pesticides <b>must</b> comply with the Control of Pesticide Regulations. (COPR) The <b>sprayer</b> should preferably be dedicated to the registered unit, otherwise an additional flushing of water is required following use of a non permitted product. This procedure <b>must</b> be recorded each time. The Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides <b>must</b> be kept.	<i>COS Annex I 3</i> <i>COS Provision 6 1b</i>
1.54	Where an organic arable crop is grown in a field adjacent to conventionally farmed land and there is a risk of <b>spray drift</b> , there <b>must</b> be an effective windbreak such as a strong hedgerow or a stone wall. Otherwise a ten metre buffer zone <b>must</b> be maintained. Any incidents of spray drift <b>must</b> be reported to QWFC.	<i>COS Annex III - Specific Provisions A</i>
1.55	Harvesting equipment and crop stores <b>must</b> be thoroughly cleaned prior to harvest to avoid contamination. Only permitted disinfectants or pesticides may be used. The procedure <b>must</b> be recorded annually.	<i>COS Annex III 8.1</i>
1.56	Crop stores <b>must</b> be bird and vermin proof.	

<b>GRASSLAND</b>		
1.57	<b>Permanent pastures</b> should have adequate clover levels to be self sufficient in Nitrogen, unless the pastures are subject to an environmental management agreement requiring minimum fertility.	Tir Gofal or ESA
1.58	Forage produced from permanent pastures should not be sold from the holding unless an equivalence of potash in the form of organic animal manure can be returned to the holding.	
1.59	<b>Temporary leys</b> should include a variety of species, including mixed grasses, clovers and herbs.	
1.60	All <b>herbage seeds and seed mixtures must</b> come from organic registered suppliers and have, as a minimum, the organic seed content required by QWFC for the year of sowing.	<i>COS Provision 6 3b</i>
1.61	Organic, in conversion and non organic forage stored on the same holding <b>must</b> be clearly identified, and the quantities of each recorded.	<i>COS Annex III 8.1</i>
1.62	<b>Silage clamps and stores must</b> be sited and managed so that there is no pollution risk. Provision <b>must</b> be made to collect all effluent. It may be disposed of through a light application to the land. This <b>must</b> be addressed in the FWMP (1.40)	<i>COS Section 2 Advisory Annex 2v</i>
1.63	<b>Silage additives</b> may be used to assist fermentation provided they are bacterial inoculants or enzyme additives. Formic, acetic, lactic or propionic acids may only be used with prior permission from QWFC when the weather conditions do not allow adequate fermentation.	<i>Annex II D 1.5</i>
<b>PRINCIPLES FOR LIVESTOCK</b>		
1.64	Livestock production forms an integral part of most organic systems. The nutrients required for crops are most effectively recycled within the organic system through the contribution of livestock enterprises.	<i>COS Annex I B1.1, 1.2 &amp; 1.3</i>
1.65	All animals on an organic livestock unit <b>must</b> be managed in accordance with the QWFC standards.	<i>COS Annex I B 1.5</i>
1.66	Organic livestock <b>must</b> not be grazed on <b>unregistered land</b> .	Registered land <b>must</b> be provided for sheep away on tack.
1.67	A producer of both organic and non organic livestock <b>must</b> demonstrate <b>clear separation</b> to the satisfaction of QWFC.	1.06, 1.07 <i>COS Annex I B1.6</i>
1.68	Non organic livestock may be brought onto the unit for a maximum of <b>120 days</b> per calendar year in order to graze surplus forage. The livestock <b>must</b> be from an extensive system and <b>must</b> not be stocked so as to exceed the 170kgN/ha guide in Record Sheet2, column A. The livestock <b>must</b> be easily identifiable from the organic stock and not be present on the same fields.	This practice <b>must</b> receive prior derogation from QWFC. <i>COS Annex I B1.7</i>
1.69	The grazing of organic livestock on common land <b>must</b> receive prior approval from QWFC. The land <b>must</b> not have had applications of prohibited products for at least 3 years. There <b>must</b> be adequate segregation from any non organic animals which <b>must</b> be also extensively grazed.	<i>COS Annex I B1.8</i>
<b>RECORDS</b>		
1.70	<b>Individual field records must</b> be kept and made available at each annual inspection. These <b>must</b> record all physical inputs, every operation and the crop yields from each field.	Record Sheet RS7 <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A.1 2.1</i>
1.71	Detailed <b>stock and financial records must</b> be kept by the producer of all commodities brought onto the unit and all produce that has left the unit. These <b>must</b> be kept for a minimum of three years and made available at each annual inspection.	<i>COS Annex III 6.1, 6.2</i>

1.72	A stock take <b>must</b> be done of all live and dead stock on the unit at least once per year.	<i>COS Annex III 6.1</i>
1.73	A complaints file <b>must</b> be kept and a record of how complaints have been resolved.	Record Sheet RS12

### LABELLING

1.74	All documentation relating to the sale of organic or in conversion unprocessed produce <b>must</b> : - a. Clearly describe the product. b. State whether organic or in conversion. c. State the name and address of the producer. d. Include the words ' <b>Organic Certification</b> ' and the QWFC code ' <b>UK13</b> '	COS Section 1 Provision 5 - 1 and 5
1.75	All wholesale purchasers of organic or in conversion produce <b>must</b> ensure they hold a copy of the current <b>organic certificate</b> for the primary producer.	
1.76	The transport of organic produce to other premises <b>must</b> be done in such a manner that substitution of the content cannot be achieved without leaving visible evidence. The product <b>must</b> be labelled with the name and address of the producer, a description of the product and the UK13 QWFC code.	<i>COS Annex III 7</i>

### ACCESS TO OPERATION

1.77	The operator <b>must</b> allow access to QWFC all parts and premises of the operation and not withhold any relevant information on request.	<i>COS Annex III 10</i>
1.78	Where certification of an operation involves two or more inspection bodies, the operator <b>must</b> agree to exchange of information of the operation between different bodies as required.	<i>COS Annex III 11</i>