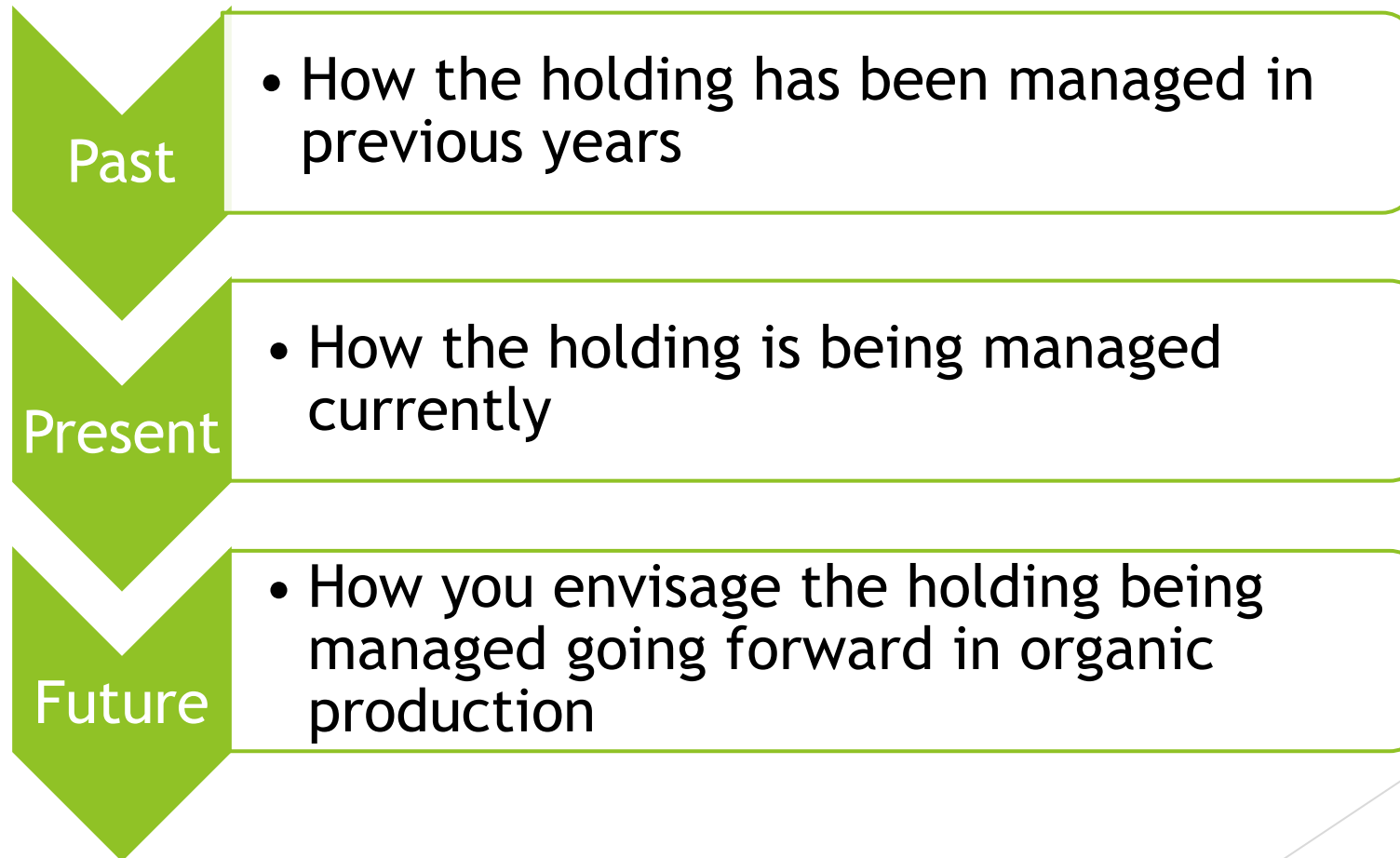


# Completing an Organic Conversion Plan

# Components of a Conversion Plan

- ▶ A conversion plan is made up of three broad components.



# Characteristics of the holding

Every holding across the country is made up of characteristics that set it apart from everything else. No two holdings are the same therefore no two conversion plans are the same. Some of the best conversion plans received are from the operators themselves as they know their holding better than anyone else. The conversion plan should contain details on the following characteristics of the holding.

- ▶ Characteristics such as the physical layout of the holding.
- ▶ Area being entered into conversion marked on clear eligible BPS maps.
- ▶ Soil type, drainage, topography, aspect, areas of conservation value eg: wetlands, woodlands etc.
- ▶ Known disease potential on the holding eg: blackleg, TB, crop diseases.
- ▶ Known soil/mineral deficiencies backed up with recent justifications/ soil analysis for the holding.
- ▶ Current fertility levels of the holding, P,K and Lime.

# Enterprise Details

- ▶ Accurate details about the enterprise your converting to organic production is an essential element of the conversion plan
- ▶ Details such as livestock on farm (types, breeds, numbers,) and/or crops grown on farm (tillage, horticulture) are all required to get a full accurate image of the holding.
- ▶ Infrastructure such as animal housing, polytunnels, grain storage should be sketched out and attached to the conversion plan.
- ▶ Details of current cropping/rotation schedule should be supplied alongside how these rotations will help maintain and enhance soil fertility.

## Management in conversion and in organic production

Careful management of the holding when it begins its two year conversion period will be required to ensure a seamless conversion period from conventional to organic production. The more information that is supplied in an organic conversion plan, the easier it will be to manage the holding to the correct standards going forward.

- ▶ It is important to have details of future management in the conversion plan.
- ▶ Detail how current/future enterprises will be managed to the organic standards.
- ▶ Provide accurate land area figures as per BPS mapping.
- ▶ Provide up to date soil analysis for the land area entering conversion to organic production.
- ▶ Provide details of future cropping/rotation schedule for the area which crops will be sown.
- ▶ Provide grazing plan/rotation for livestock including areas for fodder production.

# Management in conversion and organic production

Include	Details of source of supplementary feeds for livestock and where these will be sourced.
Provide	Supporting veterinary justifications required such as letters, blood analysis, faecal analysis to show the need for vaccines, dosing requirements, mineral usage.
Provide	Details of how to make animal housing compliant including source of bedding material required.
Submit	Details of Restricted Veterinary Practices that will be carried out on the holding on an annual basis.

# Conventional Enterprises

- ▶ Should you only be converting part of your holding to organic production, details must be included in your conversion plan as to how organic and conventional enterprises will be maintained clearly separate.
- ▶ Clear segregation will need to be ensured at all times so there is no risk of substitution between organic and conventional produce.
- ▶ Separate housing/storage facilities will need to be ensured so livestock/produce can be clearly identified.
- ▶ Details of land being omitted from organic production need to be clearly identifiable by map attached to the conversion plan.