**APPLICANT NAME (Block Capitals):** JOE BLOGGS

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**Signature: DATE:** 13/09/22

**HISTORICAL DATA –** i.e., the holding as managed 'conventionally', that is, prior to its entry to conversion to organic production.

**\* We have highlighted in red the Organic Regulation requirements – to help explain what will be required.**

**a) PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HOLDING**

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| * This is a 46Ha (114acres) beef and sheep farm in the midlands split into two main parcels with the outfarm located about 3km away (please see maps attached).
* The land is predominantly mineral soil (mixture of sandy and clay soil) which is mainly free draining.
* The fencing is all stock proof consisting of both electric strand and sheep wire with good boundary fencing.
* Currently, known farm problems are Blackleg, clostridial diseases and some land is prone to liver fluke in sheep/cattle.
* There is one field (Bloggstown) under Special Areas of Conservation which I have highlighted on the map attached.
* Additionally, there is 5Ha of deciduous woodland – Oak, Elm and Hazel.
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**b) CURRENT CROPPING, SOIL FERTILITY & WEED CONTROL**

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| * All the land is under permanent pasture with no tillage currently on the holding.
* There has been little reseeding with only 2 fields reseeded in the last five years with a perennial ryegrass and white clover mix.
* A soil analysis was completed in 2021 with results attached.
* In the past, the land has received artificial fertiliser such as 10-10-20 and CAN with the last application in May 2020.
* Future soil fertility levels will be maintained by using own farmyard manure and slurry and perhaps liming applications depending on soil results.
* The main weeds on the holding are thistles, ragwort and docks which have been controlled by spot spraying, however, going forward natural control measures such as topping, rotation and hand weeding will be used.
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1. **LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISES**

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| * The farm currently operates a mid-season lamb and suckler system.
* The lambs are sold as stores and calves are sold as weanlings to marts.
* Current stock numbers are as follows:
* **Sheep:** 115 ewes and 3 rams
* **Breed:** Belclare, Suffolk, Charollais and Texel.
* **Cattle:** 18 cows, 4 replacement heifers, 6 weanlings and 1 bull
* **Breed:** Hereford, Shorthorn and Aberdeen Angus with a Pedigree Hereford bull.
* The cattle are housed November/December and put out in Feb/March depending on weather conditions. All ewes and rams are outwintered and only housed for lambing in Feb/March.
* The farmyard consists of 3 main sheds – sheep shed, cattle shed and a workshop/storage shed. The sheep housing consists of a concrete floor which is straw bedded. Cattle are housed generally on slats, however, there will be access made available to them to a lie back concrete floor which well be straw bedded (Please see attached housing sketch).
* Currently, calves are vaccinated for Blackleg with Tribovax and ewes are vaccinated for clostridial diseases with Heptavac-P, all stock are dosed for liver fluke due to the nature of some of the land.
* The slurry and farmyard manure from over the winter housing is kept for own use as fertility on the soil.

\* An animal health plan must be completed with your vet annually to justify use of any vaccinations, dosing or mineral use and full records must be kept for inspection. Organic Standards recommend the use of homoeopathic and herbal preparations, however, you can treat with conventional veterinary products under veterinary supervision – double withdrawal periods will apply in organics.  |

1. **CONVENTIONAL ENTERPRISES**

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| * None – all to be converted
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**FUTURE MANAGEMENT –** i.e. how the holding will be converted to Organic Production and the Organic Management Practices which will be utilised.

a) **GENERAL**

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| * The enterprise will consist of organic beef and lamb production. The plan is for a suckler to weanling and lamb finishing system.
* The future management is for a low input system and to target breeds that will suit the organic farming system.
* Additionally, disease prevention will be key on the farm where the holding will operate a closed herd system with the only purchase being a replacement bull/ram\* and preventative measures will be in place to keep flock health under control.
* Keep own replacement heifers\*
* To grow own crops as feed i.e. oats/combi crop.

\* Farmers can purchase a non-organic replacement breeding male (i.e. bull/ram) but must obtain permission from IOA first by submitting a stock derogation.\* If producers are unable to source suitable organic replacements, they are permitted to introduce up to a maximum of 10 % for adult bovine/equine or up to 20% adult porcine/ovine/caprine as non-organic breeding female/male replacements on an annual basis, but must obtain permission from IOA first by submitting a stock derogation. The female non-organic stock must be ‘nulliparous’ or maiden heifers i.e. before first calving - and full records must be maintained. Non-organic males sought must be for breeding purposes only.  |

b) **CROP ROTATION/CROPPING PLAN**

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| * The land is mainly in permanent pasture with only two fields reseeded\* in the last five years.
* A 4-5 year rotation of 2-3 grass/clover and 2 years oats and/or combi-crop will be explored for on-farm animal feed
* Reseeding will be kept to a minimum, however, there is the potential for the inclusion of multispecies swards which would be beneficial to animal health and red or white clover for soil fertility.

\* Any seed purchased must be organic or if not available, non-organic untreated seed may be used following IOA approval through submission of a seed derogation  |

c) **SOIL FERTILITY MAINTENANCE**

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| * Soil fertility levels will be built on from own FYM and slurry.
* Liming or any organic soil inputs\* will be utilised based on soil sample results.
* Rotating the fields cut for silage/hay so as the nutrients are not depleted.
* Sowing multispecies swards and the inclusion of red/white clover.
* Where any stock outwintered avoid poaching/compaction of soil.

\* Soil analysis required for justification of use. Imported non-organic slurry/animal manure is permitted, however, factory farming origin is prohibited.  |

d) **GRAZING ROTATION**

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| * All stock will be rotationally grazed\* between paddocks with strip grazing method used for cattle and block grazing for sheep to avoid infestation of worms.
* Animals will not have access to wetter areas of the land until summer to avoid incidences of fluke.

\* Animal husbandry should be mainly based on the prevention of disease e.g., using rotational and/or clean grazing methods to help mitigate the risk of susceptible stock coming into contact with parasites when out on pasture. |

e) **WEED, PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL**

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| * The main weeds on the holding are thistles, ragwort and docks which have been controlled by spot spraying\*, however, going forward natural control measures such as topping, rotation and hand weeding will be used.
* Pest control will be by biological control or farm cats.

 \* No artificial fertilisers are permitted in organics. |

f) **LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

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| * The farm will retain its current stock numbers as outlined above and operating the same system – suckler to weanling and lamb finishing system.
* All weanling to organic farmers or marts and lamb to an organic processor.
* Own breeding female replacements will be kept with the only purchases being breeding rams/bulls.
* Slurry will be stored in underground concrete tanks and the FYM will be kept on a concrete slab surrounded by run off drains that catch effluent and return to concrete tanks.
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g) **FEED**

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| * The organic feed\* purchased will be kept to a minimum with only feed purchased for maintenance purposes in the winter, however, ideally mainly grass inputs.
* There is both silage and hay bales produced on the holding with approximately 200 silage bales and 120 hay bales produced annually.
* There is potential for the holding to include tillage in the future with own crops sown as winter feed i.e. combi crop/oats

\* For all ruminants a minimum of 60% of the DMI must either be fresh green food or un-milled forage grown to organic standards and produced from the holding or linked holdings. |

h) **ANIMAL HOUSING PLAN**

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| * The farmyard consists of 3 main sheds – 4 bay sheep shed, 3 bay slatted cattle shed with a lie back 3 bay concrete floor shed and a workshop/storage shed. The sheep housing consists of a concrete floor\* which is straw bedded. Cattle are housed generally on slats, however, there will be access made available to them to a lie back concrete floor which well be straw bedded (Please see attached housing sketch).

\* A minimum 50% of the animal housing area must be of solid construction and must be bedded. Stalls or cubicles can be used for housing organic animals provided the cows have free access to them and each cubicle provides the recommended lying area i.e. cows require a cubicle of 3m2. Cubicles of 2.62m² can be permitted provided the overall solid – bedded area is compliant with the solid area requirement i.e. 3m². All cubicles must be clean, dry and bedded at all times. |

i) **ANIMAL BEDDING**

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| * Straw will be used as bedding material\* and will be purchased from a local tillage farmer.

\* Bedding material permitted in organic farming includes straw, rushes, sawdust and wood shavings from untreated wood and the material can be of non-organic origin.  |

j) **FENCING**

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| * The fencing is all stock proof consisting of both electric strand and sheep wire with good boundary fencing.
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k) **WATER**

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| * Each field has its own water trough and all sheds for housing include water drinkers.
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l) **OUTLINE MANAGEMENT PLANS** **FOR AREAS OF CONSERVATION**

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| * Areas of conservation – Deciduous woodland and Special Area of Conservation will be protected.
* Special ecological interest will be monitored and maintained accordingly.
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m) **RESTRICTED PRACTICES** – List all restricted practices for which permission will be required, e.g., non-organic seed, veterinary inputs

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| * Any permissions/derogations required approval will be sought.
* All seed purchased in future will be of organic origin or if not available a seed derogation will be applied for.
* Restricted practices such as mutilations\* including tail docking and castration via rubber rings for lambs, disbudding and castration of calves approval will be sought.
* Veterinary inputs will be included on animal health plan which will be completed by myself and my vet annually.

\* A Restricted Veterinary Practices Derogation Form must be submitted to IOA for approval of any mutilations carried out on the holding such as tail docking and castration via rubber ring, castration, disbudding/dehorning of livestock. Adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia must be used, however, anaesthetic/analgesia for tail docking/castration of lambs via rubber ring can be waived by a vet on animal welfare grounds. |