

BOOKING FORM

This conference must be prebooked.

Conference Fee: €50.00 incl. Organic Lunch

Please reserve place(s) at the Teagasc National Organic Conference

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Closing date for bookings: 4.30pm, Thursday, 6 September 2012

Payment by credit card can be facilitated by phoning Helen McNulty on 091-845217 or return a cheque made payable to TEAGASC to:

Helen McNulty,
Teagasc,
Mellows Campus,
Athenry,
Co. Galway

Email: helen.mcnulty@teagasc.ie



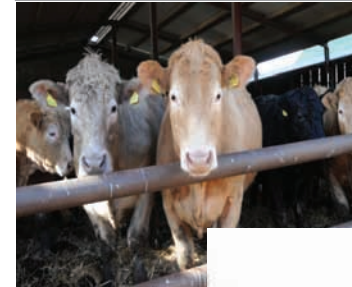
Rural Economy
& Development
Programme

Athenry

National Organic Conference

'Challenges and Opportunities for Organic Producers'

Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Tuesday, 11 September 2012



Contact Details:

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

9.00 Registration and Coffee

9.45 Official Opening and keynote address

Chair: Dr. Cathal O'Donoghue, Head, Rural Economy & Development Programme, Teagasc
Professor Gerry Boyle, Teagasc Director

Keynote Address:

The Future of CAP and EU organic policy - Opportunities and Challenges for Irish Organic Producers - Mr. Christopher Stopes, President IFOAM EU Group

11.00 Coffee & Networking

11.30 **Session 1: Soil Quality and Nutrition How to get it right**

Chair: Mr Frank Maken, DAFM, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford

Soil Quality Indicators in Organic Farming Systems

Dr. Rachel Creamer, Teagasc, Johnstown Castle

Nutrient Supply and Management on Organic Livestock Farms

Mr. Stephen Briggs, Abacus Consultancy, UK

Soil Biology and Nutrient Management - An Organic Farmer's Perspective

Mr. David Farrell, Mayo Abbey Organic Centre, Co. Mayo

Compost in Horticulture Crop Production

Mr. Michael Gaffney, Teagasc, Kinsealy

Questions and Discussion



13.00 Organic Lunch & Networking Display and Information Stands

2.15 **Session 2: Rapid Research Updates**

Chair: Mr. Paddy Browne, Head, Crops, Environment and Land Use Programme, Teagasc

Making the Case for Organics

Dr. Oliver Moore, Irish Examiner

Clover Research - Latest Updates

Dr. Patrick Conaghan, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow

Biodiversity Levels on Organic vs Conventional Farms

Dr. Jane Stout, School of Natural Science, Trinity College, Dublin

Phytochemical Content of Organic vs Conventional Food Crops

Dr. Kim Reilly, Teagasc, Kinsealy

3.30 **Session 3: Organic Farmers Working Together - Producer Group Stories**

Chair: Mr. Peter Young, Irish Farmers Journal

Irish Organic Milk Producers

Mr. Pat Mulrooney

Organic Growers of Ireland

Mr. Pdraig Fahy

Leitrim Organic Farmers & Growers Co-Op

Mr. John Brennan

4.15 Summary & Close of Conference

OVERVIEW

A variety of top-line speakers including international organic consultants, research experts and organic farmers will address this year's Teagasc National Organic Conference. Focusing on some of the major opportunities and challenges facing the organic sector, the conference promises to be an informative and thought provoking day.

We are approaching a cross-roads with regard to the future of EU and CAP organic policy. Mr. Christopher Stopes (EU president of IFOAM) will address the latest developments and will examine how these may affect the Irish organic industry.

Mr. Stephen Briggs, (Abacus Consultants, UK) along with a number of other expert speakers will address some of the key issues regarding soil quality and nutrition in organic farming.

Latest updates will also be provided on a variety of issues of importance to the organic industry including, selling the organic message, clover production, the environment, and health attributes of organic food. There will also be a session devoted to organic farmer producer groups, where farmer group members will discuss and share their experiences in developing links within the industry.

Organic certification bodies, government bodies, educational providers and other service providers will also be present on the day as part of an extensive networking and display area.

This conference will be of interest to organic farmers, processors, advisers, students, researchers, industry representatives and anyone with an interest in organic production.

We look forward to seeing you at the Tullamore Court Hotel on 11th September 2012.