# Newsletter

#### March 2008



Enclosed with this edition of the newsletter is your copy of the updated SOPA Organic Production Standards (Issue 2).

There are on-going changes to the baseline European standards and the UK Compendium, on which the SOPA standards are based. To take these into account, Issue 2 of the Standards have been revised and should replace your current issue. We have also taken this opportunity to make some changes to formatting which will hopefully make the standards easier to read and understand.

The standards are still comprised four sections:

**Section One:** All Farms: Standards of Management

**Section Two:** Crop Production

Section Three: Livestock

Production

**Section Four:** Soil, Nutrients and Care of the Environment

Please remove and recycle your old standards and replace them with the enclosed Issue 2.

The EU is also working on a new organic regulation to replace 2092/91. It is under consultation and discussion at the moment and is due to be legally incorporated as of the 1st January 2009 as EC Regulation 834/2007. All SOPA members will be updated.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER** 

With lambing approaching many shepherds will be already feeding hi energy and protein feeds to ewes.

We would urge you to CAREFULLY check the **organic status** of the products you buy, as well as the **suitability of the product**. Take care not to confuse feeds with minerals, for instance.

It could be an expensive mistake to buy in the wrong product. Call the SOPA office to check the product before you make that purchase.

Telephone 0131 335 6606

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Debs

#### Scottish Food Quality Certification (SFQC)

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## **CERTIFICATION CORNER**

#### Summary of the Dec 2007 SOPA Producer Standard Review—What has Changed?

#### Section 1 Standards of Management

**Standard 1.2.5** – This paragraph now highlights where information can be found regarding the new SOPA Processing and importing standards.

#### Section 2 Organic Crop Production Standards

Standard 2.7.2 – This table now indicates the active ingredients in approved pesticide products for use in agriculture, horticulture or in home gardens. Permitted methods of pest and disease controls now include Ethylene – for use in degreening bananas, Kiwis and Kakis, Calcium Hydroxide, only to be used in fruit trees, Rodenticides for pest and disease control in livestock buildings. The amount of copper that is permitted has decreased from 8kg/ha/yr to 6kg/ha/yr as from 01 Jan 2006.

#### Section 3 Organic Livestock Production Standards

**Standard 3.2.6** – From 1 Jan 2005 pullets must be reared organically from less than 3 days onwards, this has changed from 18 weeks.

**Standard 3.3.4** – Incorporates the conditions under which poultry may be required to be kept indoors by community law, and how this will affect their organic status.

**Standard 3.5.3** – The **%** of the inclusion of  $2^{nd}$  year conversion feed-stuffs has changed from 30% to 50% for 2008, but will then return to 30% from 01 Jan 2009. The % of the inclusion of  $2^{nd}$  year conversion feedstuffs from a unit from the holding itself has changed from 60% to 80%, but will then return to 60% from 1 Jan 2009.

Standard 3.5.4 – For ruminants (from 25 August 2005 – 31 Dec 2007) the % allowance of non-organic feed permitted in the diet has been 5%, permitted with a derogation from SFQC, this non-organic feed has had to be taken from the 'Green List' (a list of permitted non-organic feeds). As from 1 Jan 2008 this derogation no longer exists and all ruminants have to be fed 100% organic feed.

For other species – (pigs and poultry) this process is a more gradual process;

15% non-organic allowance from 25 Aug 2005 to 31 Dec 2007 10% non-organic allowance from 01 Jan 2008 to 31 Dec 2009 5% non-organic allowance from 01 Jan 2010 to 31 Dec 2011.

Again this non-organic feed has to be taken from the 'Green List' which is included in the SOPA standards.

**Standard 3.8.1 – 3.8.27** The introduction and inclusion of Standards for Livestock Markets.

#### Section 4 Soil, soil nutrients and Care of the Environment Standards

**Standard 4.4.1** – Under Mineral fertilisers and supplementary nutrients - the inclusion of 'Industrial lime from Vacuum salt production'.

Please note that this is just a summary of the changes to the SOPA standards and for a more detailed account please read through the relevant standard, or ring the Office and speak to Jane or David.

Jane Ellis Senior Certification Officer

# NOP—what is it and do I need it?

The United States Department of Agriculture certify organic produce under the National Organic Program (NOP). Any product sold as organic in the US needs to be NOP compliant, from plough to plate.

**Why might you need it?** Are you selling organic malting barley? If so, you are the most likely candidate for NOP in Scotland. Organic Scotch Whisky has a significant

market presence in the US and the majority of Scotland's organic malting barley will require NOP for supply chain compliance.

The SOPA standards include a section on NOP and we can inspect and certify you to NOP if you require it.



Please let us know so we can include NOP in your inspection. As this is a bolt-on service to the usual inspection, there is an additional charge of £100 +VAT for SOPA NOP compliance.

# Nitrites & Nitrates in Organic meat products

The additives sodium nitrite and potassium nitrate are used by processors in the production of organic meat products.

These products have been reexamined by an independent panel of experts. Their recommendation is that they will be permitted until 31 December 2010 to allow an assessment of the implications of removing them.

Therefore, if you currently use these products and cannot see an alternative product for your enterprise please contact the SOPA office.

# **CERTIFICATION CORNER**

## Are you selling wool which may eventually be sold as organic cloth?

More and more producers are finding there is a demand for organic wool, but without certification the product will not attract the organic premium.

If so, you need to tell us and we can make arrangements to include the necessary details at your inspection so that it can be included On your Organic Certificate.

Wool can be certified as organic if it complies with the following:

The use of all medicinal products are recorded, especially those detailing external parasite control.

All withdrawal periods have been observed (see SOPA standard 3.6.6)

Please note if an OP dip is used wool cannot be certified as organic.

## Why do I need QMS **Scotch Label for my** organic meat?

Scottish processors require QMS on Organic beef and lamb because occasionally it is not possible for the full carcass to be sold as organic. When cuts are sold onto the conventional market they need to be QMS Assured.

In many cases we are able to undertake joint inspections for SOPA and QMS. However, you do need to tell us prior to the inspection that you require a joint inspection. There is Specially Selected a £20 discount for a joint inspection.



#### **Approved Organic Minerals**

The Organic regulations have not changed for livestock minerals and trace elements. You are still permitted to use **Products Approved for Use in Organic Systems.** 

All livestock members should continue to take soil, forage and blood samples to monitor the levels of trace elements and minerals.

Record analyses in your animal health plan.

You must administer minerals to your livestock according to veterinary advice.

If you need advice on whether your minerals are



Approved check for the SOPA logo on the label or call the SOPA office.

## Ian 'The Crocodile' Hunter

Some of you will be familiar with Ian Hunter, SOPA Inspector, and have entertained him with scones and shortbread at your kitchen table. In the first of a series about the SOPA team, here is Ian's story.

Ian is an Irishman, born in Donegal, both parents vets, but he has spent the larger part of his life in southern Africa farming cattle, irrigated crops, horticulture, sheep, crocodiles, ostriches and a feedlot. For 35 years he wore khaki shorts and squinted into the African sun under a thick mop of blonde hair and no hat.

■ I an was one of the hardworking "make a plan and get on with it" colonial farmers. He built three productive farms in Marondera, Headlands and Mutorashanga, Zimbabwe, most of it out of nothing but the raw bush – each farm eventually contained a farm store, a primary school, crèche, health worker and worker villages complete with vegetable gardens and individual kitchens. The farms employed 60 – 90 workers and their families, depending on seasonal work, many of whom were second generation workers. Ian is used to being the boss – as well as the mechanic, the welder, the architect, the marksman, the



cattleman, the horticulturalist, the inventor, the accountant/banker, the vet/doctor, the taxi/ ambulance driver, the general problem solver and father figure to the farm community – and succeeding in the face of all odds. He also had to fit in eight years of a terrorist war, being a Weapons and Tactics instructor in the Police Anti Terrorist Unit, eventually spending two weeks on the farm, two weeks in the bush.

Ian was a specialist in Sussex cattle, holding the position of national inspector and senior judge for the Sussex Cattle Breeder's Society of Zimbabwe. He was elected President in 2001.

He was highly respected as a cattleman, the first recipient of Zimbabwe's prestigious Cattleman of the Year Award in 1985. In the same year he was a finalist in Zimbabwe's Maize Grower of the Year, and a Barley Grower of the Year finalist in 1989.

In 2001 he realised that the Zimbabwe he had grown to love was changing forever and for the sake of his two youngest children – then 7 and 5 – he needed to uproot and move back to the northern hemisphere. Plan A was to return to Ireland and find a job as a farming consultant or a rowing coach back at his old university (Trinity) but this was not to be. Plan B took him to the Scottish Highlands where he started off delivering dairy products on the West Coast between dusk and dawn – before being introduced to organic farming by the local minister's wife – a very experienced and strong willed organic farm inspector. She took him on farm visits as an "appy" and it didn't take long before he'd passed the interview and joined the SOPA team!

oday Ian is part of the Highlands which he loves. Home is in Dingwall and he travels all over the Highlands and Islands as a SOPA and Farm Assurance farm inspector. He really enjoys meeting farmers and learning about all the different practices and aspects of the Highlands. The downside is spending so many hours sitting – in the car or in the many farm kitchens, eating shortbread and completing hours of paperwork.

Any time Ian isn't inspecting he can be found on the Caledonian Canal, pedalling his bike and shouting at crews on the water. Rowing is his second love, after cattle, (notice no mention of a wife!) and he is an accomplished international coach. He has worked on the Scottish National Team as well as coaching individual club and university crews for Henley, the Home International, Commonwealth and World Junior and Masters Regattas.

**H**e is married to Susanne, still an active rower, and they have two children, Meghan and Shaun (now 11 and 13), but he is also father to Oonagh, Monty, Howard and Vicky plus grandfather to Kayleigh-Ann, Chelsea-Leigh, Max and Jamie.

# Introducing HIOA

# HIOA is a group of organic producers and processors,

plus supportive consumers, who live and work in the Highlands & Islands. We act as a network



to supply information, support and help. We do this by sending emails; having a website; producing a newsletter and a contact list; and by organising events and outings.

Our hope is to encourage the consumption and production of organic food in the Highlands and Islands and also to educate the general population about associated issues such as fertiliser and pesticide use, genetic engineering, conservation and recycling. HIOA is now self-supporting, but we have had grants, in the past, from the Highland Council and HIE.

Organic businesses are usually relatively small and as a group have a louder political voice, so do join us by contacting our treasurer, Neil, on 01463 741288 or by emailing us at <a href="mailto:enquiries@hioa.org.uk">enquiries@hioa.org.uk</a>.

Also, check out our website

www.hioa.org.uk



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NEW ORGANIC BROCHURE AVAILABLE NOW

#### MIXES TO CUSTOMERS OWN REQUEST

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#### LIQUID EXTRACT £1050 FREE DELIVERY

With SOPA Approved Preservative added giving a long shelf life if stored properly.

Already filtered, this natural product will go through a fine sprayer

VAT will be added at Standard Rate



# Sopa

#### **RECOMMEND A FRIEND / FARMER**

We will send you a £50 Gift Voucher when your friend/farmer places a first order with a value of £250 or more.

If they place a first order of £750 or more we will send you a Gift Voucher for £100.

PLACE YOUR ORDER EARLY PLEASE, TO ALLOW
PLENTY TIME FOR DELIVERY AND FOR US TO MEET
SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Order on-line at <u>www.seaweedproducts.co.uk</u> or post your order with payment to address below



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# Did you know?

# **SOPA Associate Trade Membership**

is for trade companies selling organic products or services and who wish to keep up to date with progress and issues in the organic industry and who wish to advertise their company to SOPA members via the newsletter and website.

Can you recommend a supplier to other SOPA members?

Contact Debs on 0131 335 6619







We are passionate about local food and want to make it simple for consumers to find good local food anywhere in the UK. Our local food directory is being set up within the established Fine Fayre website (16,000 visitors per month) to raise awareness of local food and to give each producer a significant web presence.

Eat your way around the UK is more than a directory as each advert contains a photo, 100 word description and a link to your website in addition to **an interactive marketing tool** that enables you to market special offer vouchers and communicate news and events to your customers.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR SOPA MEMBERS

1ST YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP FOR ONLY £99 (NORMALLY £125)
PLUS EXTENDED MEMBERSHIP UNTIL SEPTEMBER 09

If you want to put yourself on the map contact us at

Harbro Limited

Markethill, Turriff, Aberdeenshire AB53 4PA

www.finefayre.co.uk or tel 01905 425480

# **Organic Muesli From Mull**

Mull Organics

is a small business making Toasted Muesli on the Isle of Mull. Jo has been making muesli for over thirty years and following enthusiastic feedback from Caroline's B & B guests thought that this was a start to the day that others might enjoy. The first Muesli went on sale in May 2007 at the local Producers Market.

Jo and Caroline, the heart of Mull Organics, moved to the beautiful Hebridean island nine years ago. They met when Jo was struggling with metres of piping as she helped her husband John

install the under floor heating in Caroline's new house. This unlikely beginning formed the basis of a friendship with many adventures revolving around food and community projects. What they have in common, apart from a tendency to giggle at the less serious side of life is a passion for food; food which retains its natural flavours and textures and is, wherever possible, organic.

The oats, seeds and nuts are gently toasted, covered with a light coating of honey and then enriched with a variety of dried fruits. Some people love nuts so Toasted Nutty Muesli, with extra almonds, hazel and cashew nuts was created. Then, of course, you get the fruity people; Toasted Fruity Muesli is enriched with cranberries, raisins, sultanas and tiny blueberries creating a natural sweetness. Mull Organics also caters for the hospitality trade with larger packs of Muesli as well as individual sized Welcome Packs. The product range continues to increase with the recently developed Toasted Oaty Muesli and muesli bars currently on trial.



Caroline and Jo have had an interest in Organic Food for many years and were inspired by the writing of Lawrence Hills becoming subscribers to Henry Doubleday Research Association some time—before the Ryton days. They are always keen to work with local producers and organisations and this was key to them developing a partnership with SOPA whom they have worked with for a number of years. The advice from SOPA has always been supportive and also has ensured that the high standards of organic principles are established in making the muesli. Support from local businesses & friends has been key to helping Mull Organics develop into a successful business; 2008 promises to be an exciting year.

If any SOPA members are interested in trade enquiries for farm shops or box schemes please telephone 01688 400433 or <a href="www.mullorganics.co.uk">www.mullorganics.co.uk</a>

## Letter to the Editor

Livestock marketing in Scotland has always been fragmented, but a catastrophic 2007 has left the organic lamb sector in a particularly parlous state. AS a director of Caledonian Organics, we believe the time has come to address these problems collectively. Farmers still think they can do better than their neighbour in marketing directly. In reality it gives them little power and leads to long term pressure on prices and insecurity of supply. The sceptics must see that the old fashioned and inefficient state sponsored bodies are a thing of the past. Producer strength and professionalism is what modern collaborative marketing is all about.

Organisations like Graig Producers based in Wales have a strong track record in sound management and cost control, working in the interest of farmer members. Caledonian Organics is affiliated to Graig Producers and brings the same ethos to the Scottish organic livestock sector. Everyone in the food chain can benefit from secure and steady supply at a price which leaves everyone with a margin. We all need to learn to operate in the marketplace without featherbedding, but there is no point in farmers being pushed so far that the retailers find that there is suddenly a shortage of marketable product.

We would urge all organic livestock farmers in Scotland to market through Caledonian Organics. This gives farmers the opportunity to manage supply to the benefit of everyone including the buyers who currently have to second guess the market. We must pull together to achieve predictable supply and fair prices for the future of the industry.

**Ross Paton, Director, Caledonian Organics** 



## **DIARY DATES**

### COME AND SEE US

SOPA will have a stand at the following Shows

Beef Expo Wednesday 21st May, UA Perth Agricultural Centre

NSA Scotsheep Wednesday 4th June, Teviothill, Hawick, Scottish Borders

Royal Highland Show, 19-22nd June 2008, Ingliston

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Friday 6th June, Dingwall Mart

Followed by a Farm Walk to Milton of Connage Farm and Cheese Dairy

One of the tasks to be carried out at the AGM is the election of Directors and according to the Society's Rules, any persons to be nominated for election as a Director of SOPA, other than existing Directors, should be notified in writing to the Secretary at the registered office 28 days prior to the AGM. The nomination should be accompanied by a letter from the person to be nominated, indicating their willingness to stand for election.

Direct your queries to Duncan Todd, Company Secretary, SAOS, The Rural Centre, West Mains, Ingliston, EH28 8NZ, tel 01563 558 936

Poyntzfield Herb Nursery, Black Isle

Biodynamic Gardening - an introduction. Saturday 7 June 2008, 10am-5pm.

Designed for those who wish to explore and experience the principles and practice of the biodynamic approach to work on the land. Focussing on the composts, preparations and sprays along with the use of the sowing and planting calendar. Bring a packed lunch, notebook and wellie boots! Cost £25/30.

Homoeopathic and Anthroposophical plant medicines Saturday 12 July 2008

See <a href="www.poyntzfieldherbs.co.uk">www.poyntzfieldherbs.co.uk</a> or email <a href="mailto:info@poyntzfieldherbs.co.uk">info@poyntzfieldherbs.co.uk</a> for further details





# Workshop Integrating free range laying hens in agricultural production systems



TUESDAY 8TH APRIL, HILTON HOTEL, COVENTRY, CV2 2SP

The following aspects of these systems will be discussed during the workshop:

- Traditional methods of integrating poultry in agriculture
- Practical and technical aspects of several integrated free range systems
- Environmental aspects (practises that might impact on the environment, nutrient balances for the pollutants nitrogen and phosphorus, efficient water use)
- Economic aspects of integrated free range systems
- The suitability of the system for the expression of natural behaviours and implications for health and welfare

Contact Lynn Holmes on 01522 521 290 or email <a href="mailto:lynne.holmes@adas.co.uk">lynne.holmes@adas.co.uk</a>

# **SRDP Jargon Buster**

At the time of publication, the SRDP has been approved by Brussels and is before the Scottish Parliament to be adopted as a Scottish Statute. SGRPID are working to the website being live sometime in April and the first RPACs to meet in July. This confirms our fears that there will be no organic conversion or maintenance funding available in 2008 and although applications can be made this year, claims will not be paid until December 2009.

APPLICANT	The land manager applying for funding under the SRDP
ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE	RPACs are bound to make transparent assessments on the proposal submitted to them. Financial awards will be based on contribution to the regional priority, value for money and management of risk.
AXIS 1	SRDP budget apportioned to improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector
AXIS 2	SRDP budget apportioned to improving the environment and the countryside
AXIS 3	SRDP budget apportioned to improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy
BRN	Business Registration Number. Every applicant must have a BRN and have a holding registered for SAF.
CASE OFFICER	Staff member based at one of the SRS offices who is appointed to each SoI and follows the proposal throughout it's life to the RPAC.
CAPITAL ITEMS	Such as fencing, water troughs etc, paid on completion of the work. There are specific capital items which apply to organic conversion and maintenance
CONVERSION PLAN	A full farm plan which must be approved by the OCB prior to commencing conversion.
FPMC	FOOD PROCESSINGMARKETING AND CO-OPERATION SCHEME. Part of the SRDP which specifically funds types of measures like capital costs of food processing investment, marketing plans and market research, co-operation between food producers and processors.
LMO	Land Manager's Options (formerly LMCMS i.e. Land Managers Contracts in Tier II). Non competitive. Apply via SAF in May.
Measure	The specific 'thing' the applicant wishes to undertake under RDCs e.g. "Support for the conversion to and maintenance of organic farming"
NP	National Priority—the RPACs must meet NPs as well as RPs
OAS	Organic Aid Scheme: existing conversion or maintenance schemes awarded prior to March 2006 and still within the 5 year agreement.
ОСВ	Organic Certifying Body (e.g. SOPA, Soil Association, BDAA, OF&G, OFF etc)
OPTION	The specific 'thing' the applicant wishes to do under LMOs e.g. "Skills Development Training to improve business, marketing, management or technical skills"

# SRDP Jargon Buster cont...

OVP	Organic Viability Proposal. All Organic conversion proposals require an OVP which is a simple template to be completed which outlines the organic conversion. This must be submitted to the OCB for approval prior to going before the RPAC. If the RPAC approves the proposal, a Full Conversion Plan must be submitted to the OCB and prior to acceptance to the organic certification scheme. Compliance to a organic certification scheme is mandatory for the 5 years of the SRDP Organic package.
PACKAGE	One or more similar measures grouped together because they will deliver similar outcomes. A package is easier to apply for because the SGRPID has already agreed the package will deliver the outcome. Less justification is required. More than one package can be proposed.
PROPOSAL	The application which is put to the RPAC for assessment.
RDC	Rural Development Contract. A proposal which has been approved by the RPAC. Officially, the land manager enters into a contract with the Scottish Government to deliver the public benefits outlined in his/her proposal.
RP	Rural Priority. The Tier III funding of measures. Each RPAC is selecting different priorities specific to their region. Competitive.
RPAC	Rural Priority Assessment Committee. There are 11 RPACs (Scotland is divided into 11 Regions). They will meet 3 times per year to assess all RDC applications. Because the RPACs meet regularly, there are no deadlines for applications.
SAF	Single Application Form (formerly IACS form) due 15 May
SFP	Single Farm Payment, paid in December. RDC payments will be made at the same time.
SGRPID	Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspection Directorate (formerly SEERAD)
SoI	Statement of Intent. The first step in lodging an application. The SoI is a brief online statement made to the Case Officer with brief information about Who, What, Where, Why, When and How much it will cost.
SRDP	Scottish Rural Development Programme
SRS	Single Rural Service. One-stop shop designed to integrate all the Scottish Government departments which administer to the land (SGRPID, SEPA, SNH, FCS), thereby reducing administrative burden and inspections of land managers.
SSI	Scottish Statutory Instrument (in law)

## **CLASSIFIEDS**

<u>Livestock For Sale, Dumfries & Galloway</u>Fully Organic Jacob ram lamb. Nice conformation and markings. Born September 2007.Ready to work this Autumn. £40. Tel :01988 700518

Forage For Sale, Aberdeen In-con & organic 4x4 silage bales available. good quality. hard standings. loader available. Oldmeldrum area

Forage For Sale, Selkirk100 bales organic hay (4x4 rounds). SOPA Member. Please call Kath on 01573 420 500

<u>Livestock For Sale, Selkirk</u> fully organic pigs. Weaners, Stores and breeding pigs. Saddleback/Middle white crosses and Large Black/middle white crosses. Will sell in btaches of any number. Call Kath on 01573 420 500

Cereal For Sale, PerthOrganic feed barley (Optic). SOPA Member. 5 tonnes approx Ph 07703 528100

Forage For Sale, Falkirk200 organic bales of silage ,100 organic bales of hay both good quality, contact Mr Orr tel 01501 751 288

Forage For Sale, Perth Fully organic hay. Small bales. Palletised and shrinkwrapped for outside storage. 07703 528100

<u>Livestock Wanted, Aberdeen</u> Strong store cattle wanted, organic. 450kg+. Tel Richard on 01691 831 603 or Mob 07973 565 690 OF&G member

Forage For Sale, Dundeeorganic stock feed potatoes for sale Phone John Skea 07711 807786 01382 320770

Other Wanted, Edinburgh Fresh organic goats milk Tel 01573440365

Grazing Wanted, Perthapprox 20 organic acres of good strong sward 3-4 years old, for grazing youngstock. Would prefer within 25 mile radius of Blairgowrie. Please contact Peter Drysdale Mob 0775 208 1716 or Tel 01250 886265

Cereal For Sale, Aberdeen40t SOPA registered 2IC feeding oats Tel Kenneth 07734 702 579

<u>Livestock Wanted, Aberdeen</u>Wanted up to 40 Organic Bulling heifers to go to bull summer 2008. 12-18 months old, good quality, any breed considered. Would prefer Hi Health Scheme but not necessary. Tel Kenneth 07734 702 579





#### Dumfries Mart Organic Store Sale 21st April 2008

After the success of the 2007 store sales, Dumfries Mart are looking to build on this in 2008 with a sale of organic stores on the 21st April. As usual, we look for strong competition and good fair prices and look forward to a nice show of organic stock from SOPA members.

Entries welcome. Call Tom Struthers 07880 527 067



#### Aberdeen and Northern Marts

# INAUGURAL SALE OF ORGANIC STORE AND BREEDING CATTLE

to be held within Thainstone Centre, Inverurie

on Wednesday 30th April 2008

Entries close Friday  $25^{th}$  April at 12 noon

For further information and entries please contact John Angus, Store and Breeding Cattle Manager, Mobile: 07801 186312 or any of our auctioneers, fieldsmen or offices.

If required, we can assist with haulage arrangements and overnight lairage at Thainstone

SOPA is delighted to confirm the recent organic certification of Thainstone Mart as a registered organic auction mart and collection centre. This is a significant development for infrastructure and trade amongst organic livestock producers in the north of Scotland and SOPA would encourage all organic farmers to support the Sale