

PRODUCER GUIDANCE NOTE



Sourcing poultry for organic egg and meat production

Organic management of poultry requires special consideration (see SOPA Standard 3.3.5).

If you are establishing a new poultry enterprise for the first time please discuss the details with your Certification Officer before any steps are taken to set-up this new enterprise.

TOP TIPS

Organic pullets must be used where available.

Before purchasing organic pullets please ensure that they are covered by a valid certificate proving that they are organic.

Approval is not required for organic pullets; however you must obtain a copy of the vendor's Organic Certificate and an Organic Livestock Transfer Document can be used for this (OF&G (Scotland) Record Sheet 15).

To assist suppliers of organic pullets, orders should be placed well in advance.

Beak trimming is not permitted in the SOPA Organic Standards

Derogations must be obtained from Defra prior to ordering any part-organic or non-organic pullets. Derogation requests must be submitted to OF&G (Scotland) using RD728 Derogation Form 6 – Derogation Form for Non-Organic Poultry from the SOPA website

Check the List of Poultry Suppliers that accompanies this Technical Guide

1. Part-organic pullets

You will need to obtain a derogation prior to purchasing part-organic pullets (see over).

Derogations for part-organic pullets will not be approved if suitable organic pullets are available.

Poultry must be clearly identified by batch at all stages of the production cycle including preparation, transport and marketing.

Part-organic pullets they must undergo a six-week conversion period under full organic management before the eggs can be sold as organic.

Part organic pullets are usually brought in before they reach 18 weeks of age.

Prior to purchase you should obtain a declaration from your part-organic pullet supplier. The declaration must confirm that the pullet rearing has met the following conditions:

1. the pullets were less than 3 days of age when they arrived on the rearer unit.
2. The pullets have been reared to the organic feed and veterinary standards from the time they arrived on the rearer unit

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2. Non-organic poultry for meat production

To meet the organic standards for poultry meat, non-organic chicks, ducklings and goslings must be less than three days old when brought on to your holding as well as managed organically for at least ten weeks.

Slow growing traditional breeds must not exceed daily liveweight gains of 45 grams or 55grams for turkeys.

The SOPA Organic Standard 3.35 specifies minimum slaughter ages. For example, chicken must be at least 81 days old.

3. Managing the House and Range

Between batches the house must be cleaned and left empty for a sufficient time to break pest cycles to prevent a build-up of parasites and pathogens. The range must also be rested between each batch: for layers there must be nine months between each batch; the range rested at least two months per year and in addition for one year in every three years for table birds; and for pullet rearing two consecutive months break between each batch.

4. The Derogation Process

1. Apply for the derogation by completing OF&G (Scotland) RD728 Derogation Form 6 (Derogation Form for Non-Organic Poultry) from the SOPA website
2. Ensure you submit the Supplier's Declaration (see over) with your derogation request.
3. OF&G (Scotland) check your derogation application and submit it on your behalf to Defra, who are the Competent Authority for poultry derogations.
4. Delays are possible if the derogation application is not completed correctly or in good time.
5. Defra will contact OF&G (Scotland) with approval/refusal.
6. OF&G (Scotland) will inform the applicant of the derogation request.
7. We recommend you do not agree to purchase or take delivery of any non-organic or part-organic pullets until you receive confirmation of approval of the Defra decision from OF&G (Scotland)

5. List of known pullet rearers supplying birds suitable for use on organic farms

See over for a list of poultry suppliers in the UK. This list is not definitive; other poultry suppliers may exist. This information has been supplied by the companies listed and allowing for changes in circumstances you should check with the supplier for their most up-to-date information. SOPA and OF&G (Scotland) take no responsibility or liability for errors.

Inclusion in the supplier list does not constitute a recommendation by SOPA or OF&G (Scotland).

Suppliers cannot usually respond to last minute orders and must be given reasonable notice.

Organic requirements are in addition to other statutory requirements.

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List of pullet rearers supplying birds for organic farms

| Company | Contact | Address | Tel | Breed | Quantity | Age | Status* |
|---|---------------------|--|---|---|---|-----------------|--------------|
| JSR Services (Blairgowrie) www.glenraithfarms.co.uk | John Retson | Isla Road, Altamount, Blairgowrie, PH10 6RR | 07831 541703 | Any Breed | Phone to discuss requirements | P.O.L. | Part Organic |
| Glenraith Farms Ltd www.noblefoods.co.uk | Jean-Paul Michalski | Whim Poultry Farm, Lamancha, West Linton, Tweedale, EH46 8BD | 01968 675596 | Various breeds | Phone to discuss requirements | Approx 16 weeks | Part Organic |
| Noble Foods Ltd www.noblefoods.co.uk | | Hives Lane, North Scarle, Lincolnshire, LN6 9HA | 01522 778366 | Lohmann Traditional, Hyline, other commercial breeds subject to availability | 3000+ phone to discuss requirements | Approx 16 weeks | Part Organic |
| Nantclyd Organics www.nantclydorganics.co.uk | Liz Findlay | Nantclyd Llanilar, Abergwyth, SY23 4SL | 01974 241543 | Amblerlinks, other commercial breeds to order | Up to 500 | P.O.L. | Organic |
| Ben & Cathy Wetherden www.organicpullets.co.uk | | Eastwood Farm, Hittisleigh, Exeter, Devon, EX6 6LW | M: 07812 048323 (Ben) or 07515 637562 (Cathy) | Lohmann Brown Classic, ISA Brown, Redco, Rhode Rock, Silver (Amber) Link, White Leghorn, Blues, Cuckoo Maran, Copperhead Maran, Utility Light Sussex, Magpies, Barred Rock, Cheshire Blue Ducks (feared to order). Various breeds | Up to 6000 regular deliveries to Scotland | Up to P.O.L. | Organic |
| S & T Poultry www.sandtpoultry.co.uk | | 39 Windsor Drive, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 3HJ | 01945 585618 07885 718195 | Phone to discuss requirements | POL | Organic | |
| Potters Poultry www.potterspoultry.co.uk | | Leigh Road, Swift Valley, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 1DS | 01788 536161 | Any breed to order | Phone to discuss requirements | 16 weeks | Part Organic |

info@sopa.org.uk

Tel 0300 772 9795

www.sopa.org.uk

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List of pullet rearers supplying birds for organic farms

| Company | Contact | Address | Tel | Breed | Quantity | Age | Status* |
|--|-------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--|----------------|--------------------------|
| Country Fresh Pullets www.countryfreshpullets.com | | Morton, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8BH | 01691 831020 | All breeds | Phone to discuss requirements | 16 weeks | Part Organic |
| MJ Hayward & Sons www.mjhaywardandsons.co.uk | Alan Hayward | Green Farm, North Gorley, Fordingbridge. Hampshire, SP6 2PB | 01425 652007 07785 931388 | All commercial breeds | Any number | Up to POL | Part Organic |
| Hinchliffes www.hinchliffes.com | Andrew Arthurs | Sunnyside Farm, Netherton Moor Road, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD4 7LE | 07917 220888 | Any breed to order | Phone to discuss requirements | 16 weeks | Part Organic |
| The Tom Barron Group www.tombarron.co.uk | Doug Kirby or Keith Kay | Square Lane, Catterthorpe, Preston, PR4 0HQ | 01772 690111 | Novogen Brown | Phone to discuss requirements | | Part Organic |
| Thames Valley Foods Ltd www.stonegate.co.uk | Sarah Meeds | Scopwick Mill, Scopwick Railway Station, Kirkby Green, Lincolnshire, LN4 3PQ | 01526 378666 | British Blacktail, any breed to order | Up to 12000, phone to discuss requirements | Up to 16 weeks | Organic and Part Organic |
| Cuckoo Farm Partners www.rutlandorganics.co.uk | Pat Taylor | Cuckoo Farm, Ketton, Stamford, PE9 3UU | Lincolnshire, 01780 722009 | White Leghorns, coloured egg laying birds and any breed to order | 150 to order | 16 weeks | Organic |
| Abbey Farms—Pillaton Organic | | Pillaton Organic Farm, Pillaton, Penkridge, Staffordshire, ST19 5RZ | David Preece 01249 730700 | British Black Tails | Phone to discuss | Up to 16 weeks | Organic |

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List of suppliers of organic table birds (inc. geese, ducks, etc.)

| Company | Contact | Telephone | Species | Breed | Quantity | Age | Status* always check prior to purchase |
|---|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| S & T Poultry 39 Windsor Drive, Wisbech, Cambs. PE13 3HJ www.sandtpoultry.co.uk | | 01945 585618 07885 718195 | Chickens Ducks | Sasso, WS White Commercial Meat Birds, White Commercial Egg Layers | Phone to discuss requirements | Day old Day old | Organic Organic |
| Middle Whiteleafe Burrington, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9JN www.organicgeese.co.uk | John Burns | 01769 520506 | Geese | Commercial white | Up to 200, Feb-Jun | Day Old | Organic |
| Summerhill Geese Summerhill Farm, Hittisleigh, Exeter, Devon, EX6 6LP www.organicgooslings.co.uk | Ben Mosely | 01647 24250 07590 266902 | Geese | Emden Type/ Commercial White | 2000+ April-July | Day old | Organic |
| Wonnacott Lewdown, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4QU www.wonnacottfarm.co.uk | Rosie Yells | 01837 871238 | Turkeys | Norfolk Black | 1000 per year | Day old, off heat, Pouls | Organic |
| Cuckoo Farm Partners Cuckoo Farm, Ketton, Stamford, Lincs, PE9 3UU www.rutlandorganics.co.uk | Pat Taylor | 01780 722009 | Turkeys | Norfolk Black, Cambridge Bronze, Bourbon Reds | 1000 per week | Eggs, Day old, Pouls | Organic |