

Organic Farming – An Update

Pat Barry

**Organic Specialist Advisor
Teagasc Moorepark, Fermoy, Co Cork**



- Background
- Profitable Organic Farming
- Markets for organic produce
- REPS4 & Organic Scheme Payments
- Completing a conversion plan
- Making an application to Organic Scheme



Organic Farming – the present situation

- Just over 1% of UAA certified organic
- 1230 farmers average farm size of 36 hectares
- Retail market worth €2 million/week
 - Only 40% home produced



Principles of Organic Farming

- Minimum use of non renewable resources
- Efficient nutrient recycling
- High animal welfare standards
- Respects nature's systems and findings



Profitable Organic Farming

- Maintain production
- Achieve premium price for produce
- REPS4 & Organic Farming Scheme
- Lower inputs



Markets for organic beef

Major players – AIBP, Good Herdsman, Jennings, Leitrim Organics.

UK supermarkets – major opportunities

Initiatives to grow domestic market



€3.90 - €4.00/kg at present – under 30 mths



Organic Scheme Payments

Holding	3-55ha	55ha+
In Conversion	€212	€30
Full Symbol	€106	€15



Examples of Payments REPS4 & OFS

Area	In conversion	Full status
20 ha	€8,920	€6,800
40 ha	€17,620	€13,020
55 ha	€21,670	€15,840
85 ha	€22,870	€16,590



Completing a conversion plan

- **Current management practices on the farm**
 - ✓ Physical Characteristics of Holding
 - ✓ Current Cropping, Soil Fertility & Weed Control
 - ✓ Livestock enterprises
 - ✓ Conventional enterprises
- **Future management practices on the farm**
 - ✓ Soil Fertility Maintenance Plan
 - ✓ Grazing rotation and weed control
 - ✓ Livestock management system
 - ✓ Animal Housing Plan
 - ✓ Animal Health Plan



Making an application

- **Conversion plan to Organic Certification Body**
IOFGA or Organic Trust
License no awarded
- ❖ Completed OFS1 Form,
- ❖ Copy of Organic License
- ❖ REPS4 plan
- ❖ Farm map

**To local
DAFF
office**



Summary

- Organic farming is just another system of farming
 - Market Opportunities
 - Organic Farming Scheme
- Conversion planning – no template

