



Organic Farming - Opportunities and Steps to Conversion

Teagasc Farm Business Options Webinar
13th April 2021

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Teagasc Organic Specialist

Outline

- Organic Production in Ireland
- The Future ?
- Steps to Organic Conversion

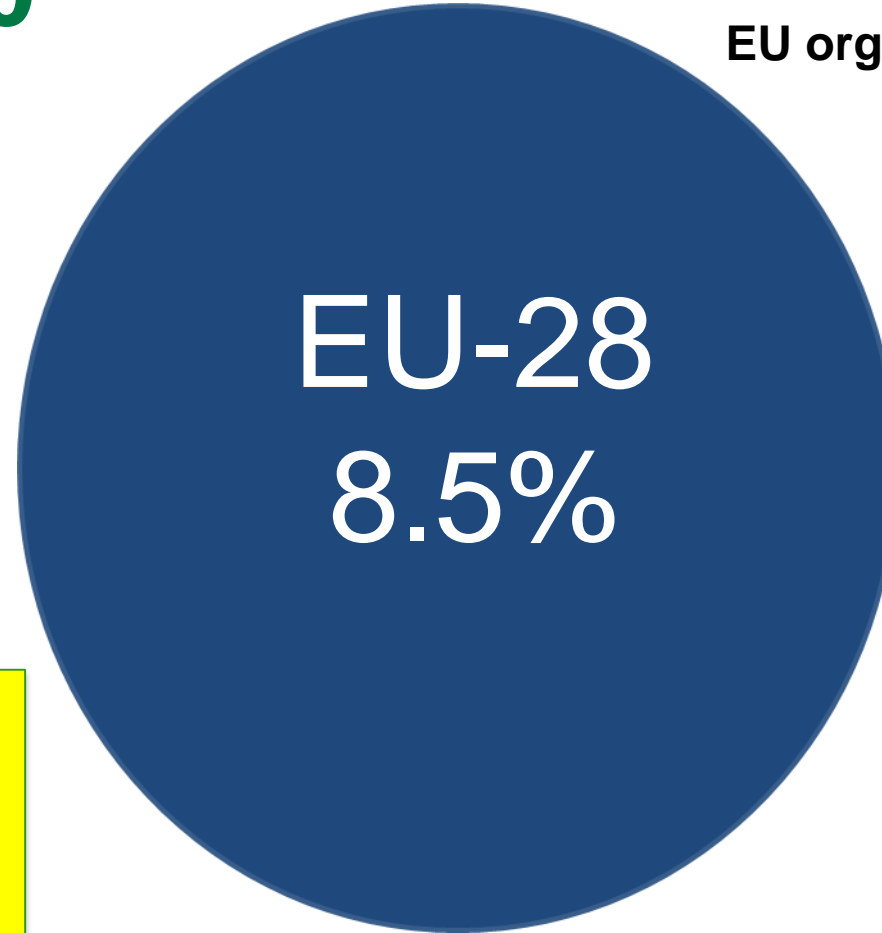
Organic Land Area 2020



EU organic logo



Ireland
2%



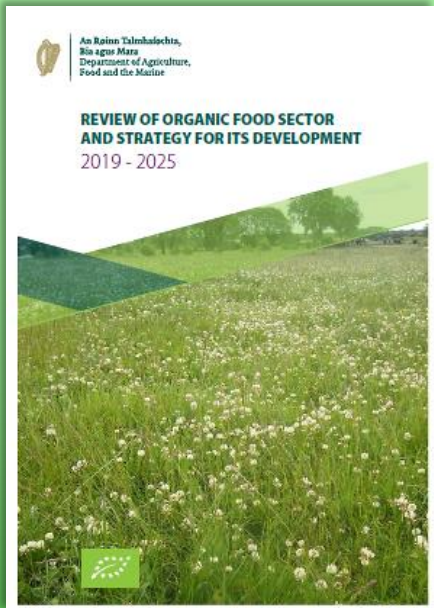
EU-28
8.5%

EU Green Deal:

“Suggestion of
25% EU Organic
land area by 2030”



The future?



Ireland:
7 year Govt.
Strategy Plan 2019-
2025



CAP:

Prospect for
future CAP
funding for
organics looks
positive.



Market:

Forecasted to
continue
growing globally.



Steps to Organic Conversion

Step 1: Consider

- **Crop Systems**



- **Animal Systems**



- **Profitability**

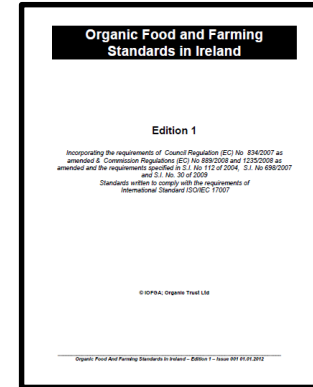


Step 2: Investigate

- Familiarise yourself with organic regulations and standards

- www.teagasc.org/organics.ie

- Talk to organic farmers



Is Organics an option?



Steps to Organic Conversion



Schemes & Grant Aid



Training



Frequently Asked Questions



Research



Step 3: Assess the Market

What are the Options?

- Processors



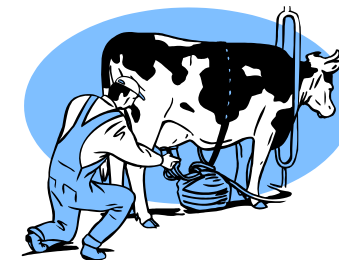
- Direct Sales



- Other Organic Farmers



- Farmer led organised groups



Step 4: Register with Organic Certification Body



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Competent Authority in Ireland

Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the
Marine



Approved private sector body

Organic Certification Bodies



Step 5: Organic Support Schemes



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

- 1) Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) 2021**
- 2) Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme
Organic Capital Investment Schemes (OCIS)**
- 3) Development of the Organic Processing Industry-off
farm scheme (awaiting announcement)**

Apply to join the Organic Farming Scheme 2021

Having registered as an organic operator with an Organic Certification Body a person then can apply to the DAFM to join the OFS



IOA (Irish Organic Association)

Unit 13, Inish Carraig, Golden Island, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. N37 N1W4.

Tel: 090 6433680 | Email: info@irishoa.ie | Web: www.irishorganicassociation.ie



Organic Trust

Unit M4, Naas town centre, Dublin Road, Naas, Co.Kildare. W91F7X3

Tel: 045 882377 | Email: info@organictrust.ie | Web: www.organictrust.ie



Applying to join the OFS 2021

Requires 2 separate online applications

- 1) Submit application for OFS through the Departments online system agfood.ie closing date **30th April 2021**
- 2) Submit a 2021 BPS (Basic Payment Scheme) application online closing date **17th May 2021**

Organic Farming Scheme 2021



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Terms and Conditions of the Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) 2021

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[Download](#)



Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) 2021-Guide to the OFS Application Process (Individual)

[Download](#)



Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) 2021-Guide to the OFS Application Process (Agent)

[Download](#)

www.gov.ie/en/service/d46aec-organic-farming-scheme/

Step 6: Complete 25 hour QQI Course on Organic Production



For information on Teagasc
25 hour QQI
Organic Farming Principles
course go to:

www.teagasc.ie/organics



A copy of Certificate showing successful completion must be uploaded as part of the OFS online application on or before 1st April 2022

Step 7: Start Organic Conversion

Enterprise	Conversion period
Livestock Systems (grass based) 	2 Years
Arable and Horticulture 	2 Years (only crops sowed after the conversion period has elapsed achieve full organic status)

Summary

- Organic sector in Ireland is small and growing
- There are future opportunities
- Organic market is forecasted to grow globally
- There are a number of steps in converting to organic farming

Thank You

www.teagasc.ie/organics



Is Organics an option?



Steps to Organic Conversion



Schemes & Grant Aid



Training



Frequently Asked Questions



Research

Rural Economy & Development Programme

Organic Farming
A Step-by-Step Guide to Conversion



teagasc
Association of Food Development Authorities
March 2021 update