



Organic Farming

Is it the option for you?



Consider

Take the quiz and decide if organic farming is an option for you



Investigate

Do your research and get acquainted with the adjustments required



Choose

Choose an Organic Certification Body and Register



Apply

Apply to join the Organic Farming Scheme



Train

Complete an Approved Training Course

Step 1 - Consider

If you can answer yes to some or all of these questions, then you should consider switching to organic production

Animal Systems

1. Is your current stocking rate below 2 livestock units per Ha?
2. Can your housing be modified to incorporate a bedded lying area?
3. Are you in another agri-environmental scheme? Some scheme options may not be eligible for the Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) payment

Crop Systems

1. Can you incorporate a grass/ clover break in your rotation?
2. Do you have a source of farmyard manure/slurry on or near your own farm?
3. Can you see yourself farming without relying on pesticides and chemical fertilisers?

Step 2 - Investigate

1. Get acquainted with the adjustments required by talking to other organic farmers and contacting a local advisor.
2. Familiarise yourself with the Organic Standards

Step 3 - Choose an Organic Certification Body

The Organic Certification Bodies (OCBs) provide an inspection and certification service for all Organic Production Units in Ireland. They have been designated and are regulated by the Organic Unit of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, and are responsible for upholding the organic standards as defined by the EU. The OCB sends an information pack on request. Further information including a guide for completing the application and the conversion plan can be sourced from these certification bodies:

IOA (Irish Organic Association), Golden Island, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
Tel: 090 6433680 | Email: info@irishoa.ie | Web: www.irishorganicassociation.ie

Organic Trust, Naas Town Centre, Dublin Road, Naas, Co. Kildare
Tel: 045 882377 | Email: info@organictrust.ie | Web: www.organictrust.ie

Having registered as an organic operator with an OCB, you may then apply to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine to join the Organic Farming Scheme (OFS).

This requires 2 separate online applications:

- a. Submit separate Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) application ONLINE
- b. Choose “in-conversion” or “organic” land parcels on BISS (Basic Income Support for Sustainability) application ONLINE.

Organic Farming Scheme (OFS)

- Area based payment
- Minimum organic farm area required is 3 hectares (1 hectare for horticultural producers)
- Minimum SR = 0.1 LU/Ha & Maximum = 170kgs Organic N/Ha



Organic Capital Investment Scheme (OCIS)

- Rate of aid of 60% on investments up to a ceiling of €90,000 for Organic farmers, irrespective of age or educational qualifications.



Organic Processing Investment Scheme (OPIGS)

- Funding for processors who wish to invest in developing facilities for the processing, preparation, grading, packing and storage of organic products
- Grant Aid is payable at 60% of the eligible cost for projects above €3,000 (excluding VAT).



An approved **Organic Farming Principles Course** must be completed as part of the Organic Farming Scheme requirements. For information and booking details on courses visit: www.teagasc.ie/organics

- Eliminate pesticides & chemical fertilisers
- Choose an Organic Certification Body & Register as an Organic operator
- Apply to join the Organic Farming Scheme
- Complete an Approved Training Course
- Complete the two year Conversion Period



Contact Us

For more information about the Teagasc Organic Programme you can visit
www.teagasc.ie/organics
or scan the QR code



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