

BASiS

BASIS Foundation Award in Organic Farming



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no entry requirements for the BASIS Foundation Award in Organic Farming course



LEVEL & CREDITS

Level 4 – 15 Credits



TRAINING

A network of independent BASIS Approved Trainers deliver the Foundation Award in Organic Farming throughout the year; each course involves 4-6 days of formal training plus independent study.

About the Course

In the UK there are more than 3,500 organic farmers and growers managing 485,000 hectares of agricultural land; these businesses produce the fruit, vegetables, grain and livestock products which support a £2.8 billion market in the UK. Organic production utilises a farming system which focuses on a whole system approach that avoids the need for artificial pesticides, fertilisers and antibiotics.

Developing an organic production system can provide huge benefits to farmers including access to new markets, enhancing farmland biodiversity, reduced reliance on inputs and premiums on farm produce. However, it can also provide unique challenges such as meeting the requirements of organic certification, more complex management and an obligation to ensure the highest standards of animal welfare continue to be achieved.



THE BASIS FOUNDATION AWARD IN ORGANIC FARMING PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE INTRODUCTION INTO THE PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC CROPS AND LIVESTOCK WHICH WILL BENEFIT ANY FARMERS, MANAGERS AND ADVISERS WORKING WITHIN OR LOOKING TO DEVELOP AN ORGANIC FARMING SYSTEM

This course is divided into 5 distinct modules looking at soil management, crop production, livestock production, conversion planning and legislation. Throughout each module the key principles of developing an organic farming system is covered, with topics ranging from crop rotations and animal welfare to organic certification standards and preparing a farm for organic conversion.

The content within this course allows candidates to develop a holistic understanding of organic production. This will allow them to maximise the benefits of working within an organic farming system, such as how to effectively market produce and improve soil management practices. However, it will also help individuals tackle some of the unique challenges within the industry including suppressing weeds, pests and diseases and promoting the highest standards of animal welfare.



AGRICULTURE



ENVIRONMENTAL



Exam Requirements

1

40 Multiple
Choice Questions
(Closed Book)

2

Three structured short
answer questions
(Closed Book)

2

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR?

The BASIS Foundation Award in Organic Farming is ideally suited for anyone working within organic food production, whether that is as a farmer, farm manager, adviser or other related role. It will be especially useful for anyone looking to develop a new career in this sector, or someone who has had previous experience within conventional agriculture but is looking to improve their knowledge within the organic sector. As this is a Foundation level course, there are no entry requirements, however any experience which can be gained within the organic industry will be invaluable during your time studying for this qualification.

Because this course covers the fundamentals of developing a successful organic production system, including the requirements of organic certification schemes, it will be extremely beneficial for any farmers, or advisers supporting farmers, who are looking to convert to organic production.

Understanding some of the principles of organic crop and livestock production can also be extremely beneficial for anyone working in conventional farming systems. Reducing reliance on inputs, improving soil management and enhancing biodiversity are just a few of the topics covered in this course which are shared goals throughout all industries in UK agriculture.

