

# OF&G National Organic Combinable Crops

#NOCC



## The largest on-farm organic event in the UK



**OF&G National Organic Combinable Crops is an annual event built to service the stakeholder community in and around the organic sector. Now in its 12th year this one-day event attracts between 225 and 250 people to a successful organic farm business to discuss and consider the challenges and opportunities with particular consideration for the UK organic arable sector but also relating to the whole UK organics sector generally.**

### UK organic cereals

Domestically grown organic grains and pulses are in short supply. This has led to a reliance on imports for feed and human consumption grain in particular.

While imported supply can help to stabilise parts of the market, for the full opportunity for UK agriculture to capitalise on this opportunity more needs to be done to support and develop the UK organic arable sector.

In part this must be driven by ensuring that there is equivalent level of integrity for imported grain as there is for UK sourced material and also by seeking to support innovative and progressive research and development on UK organic arable farms.

In order to realise the potential that homegrown cereals and pulses can offer OF&G hold an annual farming and food conference to bring together those businesses who are engaged in building their supplies and in strengthening their trading relationships.

#### Estimated crop volumes UK organic cereals

Domestic consumption total - 330,000 tonnes

Approximately one third is for human food and two thirds for livestock feed

Domestic production total - 100,000 tonnes

Approximately half is for human food and a half for livestock feed

This suggests we are 20% self-sufficient in animal feed grains and just over 33% self-sufficient in organic grains overall in the UK.

#### Defra statistics organic cereals 2017

(published in 2018)

Organic cereals = 35.4 thousand hectares

In-conversion cereals = 1.9 thousand hectares

This constitutes a **25%** increase of land since 2016



**The 2019 UK annual crops event for all those interested in growing organic cereals and pulses will be held at York Grounds, near to Hull in East Yorkshire on 3 July 2019.**

Richard and Sue Thompson have kindly agreed to host this year's event at the family farm.

Richard's father, Michael Thompson, took the farm into organic production in 1949 and this year will be the 70th anniversary of organic farming at York Grounds.

NOCC brings the supply chain together; seed breeders and crop researchers with farmers, food businesses, NGOs and policy makers from across the world and across the industry.

The conference gives stakeholders direct access to key data and provides valuable insight as well as providing a trusted platform for debate and detailed discourse.

NOCC delegates come back year after year to improve efficiency, to strengthen relationships and to forge new alliances to help build on the strengths, and gain from, the huge opportunities available to businesses working with UK organics.

Further information overleaf...



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# NOCC19 - York Grounds, Raywell, Cottingham, East Yorkshire HU16 5YS

**3 July 2019. Event takes place 8.30 - 16.30**

This year we are again welcoming Kimberley Bell of the [Small Food Bakery](#) in Nottingham to lead the catering team. Kim will be working with Yorkshire-based food businesses, [Noisette](#) and [Food Circle York](#), and the menu will focus on examples of crops being grown on the farm.

On the day visitors will be able to hear from experienced members of the organic supply network and will get the opportunity to look in detail at crops being trialled on the farm.



## Trial crops

1. Revelation
2. Evolution
3. Edelman
4. Crispin
5. Ehogold
6. The Wakelyns Population - AKA 'the YQ'.

## Timetable

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 8.30  | Organic breakfast  |
| 9.30  | Conference presentations and discussions                 |
| 13.00 | Organic lunch.   |
| 14.30 | The farm walk - taking in the crop trials, soil pit etc. |
| 16.00 | Closing refreshments                                     |

Seed supply and logistics in the NOCC19 crop trials are in association with the [Organic Research Centre](#) as part of the [Liveseed project](#) and are provided through that project and the generosity of [Cope Seeds](#).

Gemma Clarke of Cope Seeds said, "Organic cereal seed is vital to properly building development in UK organics. "A popular variety with organic growers Revelation is a reliable tall wheat resistant to lodging and with an exceptional disease resistance profile.

Ehogold is another tall wheat. We brought it over from an organic breeder in Austria along with Edelman. They both can achieve very good milling quality when grown in organic production systems."

[Organic Arable](#) will be assisting OF&G on the day. They are an independent farmer-controlled business specialising in marketing organic grains and pulses.

This year Organic Arable are celebrating their 20th Birthday and are restructuring their business.

Andrew Trump said, "We have two key objectives for our anniversary year. Firstly, 'Farmer Focus', upgrading our service to our farmers in order to bring them closer to the heart of our business. And secondly, 'Differentiation', better explaining to producers, customers, the organic community and organic consumers the reasons why Organic Arable is different and how this difference benefits the organic sector as a whole.

OF&G are the largest certifier of organic land in the UK and with over 40 years of experience in the organic sector has the expertise in raw material sourcing and food supply chain integrity.

For event trade opportunities, sponsorship and general enquiries please contact Steven Jacobs at the OF&G offices.

## The 2018 OF&G National Organic Combinable Crops event took place in Shropshire at Green Acres organic farm owned by Mark Lea.



**NOCC18 was a tremendous success with 241 delegates from the organic food and farming business community coming together to enjoy a day of talks, discussion and a farm walk, together with an organic lunch.**

The breakdown % of 241 delegates who booked for NOCC18 was as follows:

- Farmers 40%
- Researchers 20%
- Millers/Bakers/Chefs 14%
- Seed/Grain/Equipment companies 12%
- NGO 8%

Previous speakers at NOCC have included:

- Minette Batters – NFU president
- Michael Marriage – Doves Farm organic foods
- Liz Stockdale – NIAB Head of Farming
- Dr Bruce Pearce – Director of Research, Organic Research Centre
- Christopher Stopes – Organic sector analyst, independent consultant and previous IFOAM EU president.

For further information on NOCC19 and booking forms either call Steven Jacobs on 01939 292009, email [info@ofgorganic.org](mailto:info@ofgorganic.org) or go to our website at [ofgorganic.org](http://ofgorganic.org)