



ELM FARM E-Bulletin No. 36, March 2015

Cultural methods to control black grass

This field lab at John Pawsey's Shimpling Park Farm on 24th March, will examine the approaches and experience that John Pawsey has had bringing sheep back onto his arable farm and the range of strategies available for dealing with a black grass problem. We will also be joined by black grass expert Dr Stephen Moss from Rothamsted who will give a talk on black grass: the potential of non-chemical control. [More...](#)

Comings and goings at ORC

We were sorry to say goodbye to our Head of Crops & Agroforestry [Dr. Robbie Girling](#) in February as he left to take up a new post as Lecturer in Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture in the School of Agriculture. We wish him all the best in his new position and on the recent birth of his second daughter Cora. We welcome [Dr Beth Cullen](#) who joins us as an Information Officer working on the Ecofarming info hub and the [OK-NET Arable project](#). Beth is a social anthropologist specialising in the use of participatory research methods and communication tools.

News

Embedding crop diversity and networking for local high quality food systems

ORC is a partner in DIVERSIFOOD a new four-year European project, funded through HORIZON 2020 and led by INRA the French National Institute for Agricultural Research, which will bring together farmers, scientists, processors, traders and consumers to promote the greater use of diverse plants and produce with a local and cultural identity. [More...](#)

Developing best practice networks of health in organic agricultural systems

ORC is leading this new project which aims to create an international network of producers and scientists in order to initiate new and interdisciplinary approaches to health measurement and health research in ecological agriculture. [More...](#)

Organic Knowledge Network Arable:

The OK-Net Arable project is a three-year project, funded under Horizon 2020, which aims to improve the exchange of innovative and traditional knowledge among farmers, farm advisers and scientists to increase productivity and quality in organic arable cropping all over Europe, in order to satisfy future market demand. [More...](#)

Coordinating organic plant breeding activities for diversity:

3rd newsletter, including crop reports from ORC wheat trials, available online [More...](#)

Identifying sustainability themes for organic agriculture:

Take part in our research by filling out our survey [More...](#)

Hedgerow harvesting machinery trials at Wakelyns:

Photos and videos from TWECOM trials at Wakelyns [More...](#)

UK organic market shows improved growth:

The Soil Association's Organic Market Report 2015 [More...](#)

Upcoming events

16 March 2015: [Soil analysis: It's use and interpretation](#)

Field lab at Tolhurst Organic

24 March 2015: [Cultural methods to control black grass](#)

Field lab at Shimpling Park Farm will examine the approaches and experience that John Pawsey has had bringing sheep back onto his arable farm and the range of strategies available for dealing with a black grass problem.

14 April 2015: [Cultivating Innovation](#)

How (and how not) to think about Intellectual Property in agriculture and plant science

16 April 2015: [Harvesting woodfuel from your farm](#)

One day event at Wakelyns Agroforestry

28 April 2015: [Fertility building leys and green manures](#)

Field lab at Tolhurst Organic

7 July 2015: [National Organic Combinable Crops 2015](#)

View ORC trials and more at Shimpling Park Farm

For more Field Lab events and Soil Association farm walks click [here](#)

Photo albums

Hedgerow information board at Elm Farm [Photos](#)

Hedgerow harvesting machinery trials at Wakelyns [Photos](#)

More about us

Farmers' Organic Research Club – join in!

The Participatory Research Network is now the Farmers' Organic Research Club (FORC). FORC provides producers and others with the opportunity to undertake their own farm trials, collaborate with fellow farmers and growers and to engage directly in the organic research programme of ORC.. [More...](#)

Subscribe to the ORC printed Bulletin

The quarterly ORC printed Bulletin is available on subscription in printed form, with back issues also on-line. [More...](#)

2014 Organic Farm Management Handbook

This is a 'must have' publication for everyone interested in the business of organic farming and growing. Available now. [More](#)

Other publications available

A wide range of our research and other publications can be accessed via our website, and some printed versions are available to order. [More...](#)

About the ORC E-Bulletin

The E-Bulletin is circulated monthly free of charge to ORC's Friends, regular supporters and Bulletin subscribers, as well as to individuals who register via the ORC's homepage at www.organicresearchcentre.com. The aim is to provide regular updates on ORC's activities and related work, with links to more detailed information on the ORC website. Previous E-Bulletins can be found in the Bulletin [archive](#). Comments on any items are very welcome by e-mail to comment@organicresearchcentre.com and may be published in future E-Bulletins and on our website (unless marked not for publication).

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