

PRESS RELEASE – 07/1/15

Release: Immediate

One-day seminars on organic food production and supply chains

Now is a good time to take a fresh look at organic farming as a realistic and viable business option. The new, favourable Countryside Stewardship support rates for organic farming in England, together with a recovering market, means that the time is right. The Organic Research Centre has put together a programme of seminars aimed at farmers/farm managers, advisers/land agents, researchers, young people including students/apprentices, and others involved in the food supply chain. These seminars aim to introduce the principles and practices of organic farming, alongside up-to-date market and business information, to enable attendees to evaluate the options.

1. [Introduction to organic farming and food supply chains - principles and practice](#)
Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2015, 10 am – 4pm
Venue: Organic Research Centre, Elm Farm, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, RG20 0HR
2. [Introduction to the business of organic food and farming](#)
Date: Thursday, 29 January 2015, 10 am – 4pm
Venue: Organic Research Centre, Elm Farm, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, RG20 0HR
3. [Introduction to organic arable and horticultural production systems and markets](#)
Date: Wednesday, 4 February 2015, 10 am – 4pm
Venue: Wimpole Estate, Arrington, Royston, Cambridgeshire, SG8 0BW
4. [Introduction to organic livestock husbandry and markets](#)
Date: Thursday, 12 February 2015, 10 am – 4pm
Venue: Abbey Home Farm, Burford Road, Cirencester, GL7 5HF
5. [Organic food supply chains and the environment](#)
Date: Wednesday, 25 February 2015, 10 am – 4pm
Venue: Organic Research Centre, Elm Farm, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, RG20 0HR
6. [Farm sustainability assessment for improved performance and customer guarantee](#)
Date: Thursday, 26 February 2015, 10 am – 4pm
Venue: Duchy Home Farm, Broadfield Farm, Tetbury GL8 8SE

Seminar cost (local and organic lunch & refreshments included):

- Reduced price for eligible participants (see below) £50 + VAT
- Full price for participants not-eligible for funding £100 + VAT
- 100% bursaries available for eligible individuals (see below)

On-line booking is available on each event page. Alternatively, you can register directly and pay by cheque, BACS or credit card by contacting [Gillian Woodward](#). Continued...

RDPE support available:

50% fee reduction for English producers and others obtaining a living from agriculture or agricultural products. Eligibility includes producers and employees of producer groups, supply chain businesses, direct retailers, small consultancy businesses, but not multiple retailers, government departments, agencies or public bodies including universities. Participants must be living/working in England. To benefit please download, complete and sign the Trainee Registration form for each event and send to [Gillian Woodward](#) at ORC. You can still register and pay on-line.



This project has been supported through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union.

Bursaries available:

We have funds from various sources, including the [Ernest Cook Trust](#) (nationwide), the Gordon Palmer Memorial Trust (Berkshire residents only), and the [Greenham Common Trust](#) (West Berkshire residents only) to enable young people (students/apprentices/new entrants) with limited means to attend the seminars. If you think you may qualify, for any of the above bursaries please contact [Gillian Woodward](#) with details of your address, age and circumstances to check eligibility.



ENDS

Notes for Editors

The Organic Research Centre based at Elm Farm near Newbury is the UK's leading independent research centre dedicated to the development of sustainable food systems based on organic/agro-ecological principles. Further information on our activities can be found at www.organicresearchcentre.com

For interviews contact: [Nic Lampkin](#): nic.l@organicresearchcentre.com 07771 961279

Details on the financial performance of organic farms over several years can be found in a review report produced by the Organic Research Centre:

http://www.organicresearchcentre.com/?i=articles.php&art_id=704&go=Information%20and%20publications

The most recent organic farm income results for 2012/13 are available in an Aberstwyth University Report:

http://www.organicresearchcentre.com/?i=articles.php&art_id=719&go=Information%20and%20publications

Further information on the Organic Farm Management Handbook can be found at:

<http://www.organicresearchcentre.com/?go=Information%20and%20publications&page=Organic%20FM%20Handbook>