

Support mechanisms for organic conversion in England and Wales

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Overview

- Government organic support schemes
- Other government grants
- Non- governmental support
- Useful organisations and contacts

Government organic support schemes



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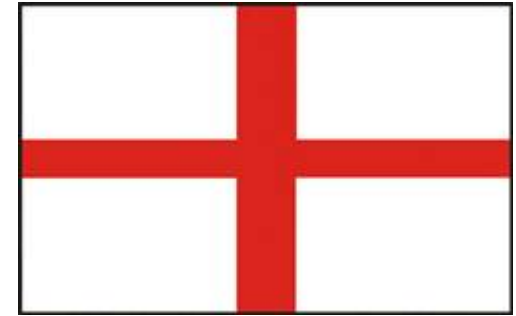
Who pays for what and why?

- Agri-environment schemes funded under the Rural Development Plans (part Member State and Part EU)
- Recognition of environmental benefits of organic farming
- Income forgone
 - Conversion and 'maintenance' payments
 - Different payments for different land categories/ use

What are your commitments?

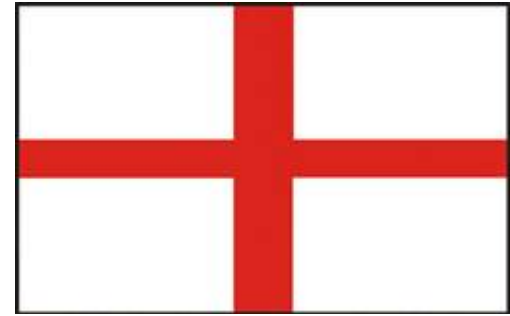
- Land 'in conversion' of 'fully organic' continuously
- 5 year scheme
- Management control
- A plan
 - Organic viability proposal or copy of the conversion plan agreed with the organic control body(England)
 - Organic management plan (Wales)

Payments



Category	Conversion (Years 1&2)	Organic land management (Yrs 3-5)
Improved permanent grassland	£75	£40
Unimproved permanent grassland	£50	£20
Rotational land	£175	£65
Horticulture	£400	£200
Top fruit	£450	£300
Enclosed rough grazing	£8	£8

Definitions



Category	Definition
Improved permanent grassland	Ploughed and/or received artificial fertiliser in last 20yrs
Unimproved permanent grassland	Unimproved permanent grassland & rough grazing below the moorland line in parcels < 15ha
Rotational land	Arable or temporary grassland
Horticulture	Land in a horticultural rotation
Top fruit	Top fruit & permanent bush crops
Enclosed rough grazing	Parcels < 15ha within a SDA & above the moorland line

Payments



	Conversion		Maintenance	Certification*
	Years 1 & 2 (£/ha)	Years 3-5 (£/ha)	Years 1 – 5 (£/ha)	(£/ha)
Rate 1	600	400	400	80
Rate 2	130	65	65	10
Rate 3	15	15	15	3

Definitions



	Definition
Rate 1	Permanent crops, protected crops & land in a horticultural rotation.
Rate 2	All land not in Rates 1 or 3
Rate 3	Unenclosed upland, Sole Grazed Commons & field parcels with > 50% grazed woodland, blanket bog, coastal lowland heath, Saltmarsh or bracken/scrub

Combining management options



- Mid and Higher Tier
- Specific organic rates for some options
 - Overwintered stubble (£116/ha)
 - Wild bird seed mixture (£640/ha)
 - Supplementary feeding for farmland birds (£494/ha)
 - Multi species ley (£115/ha)
 - Under sown cereal (£86/ha)
- Otherwise, organic options can be combined with non organic options unless specifically stated

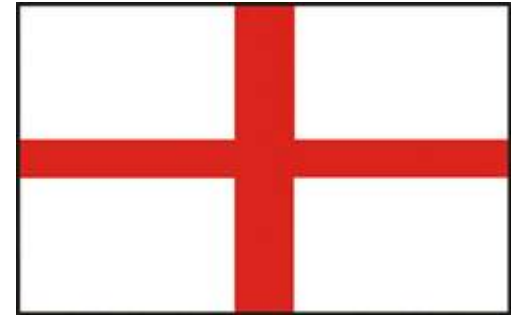
Combining management options

- Glastir Entry and Advanced
- No double funding
- Few options not available to horticultural growers



Maximums and minimums

- Minimum of value of £5000 over the 5 years
- Minimum 3Ha, Maximum 400ha

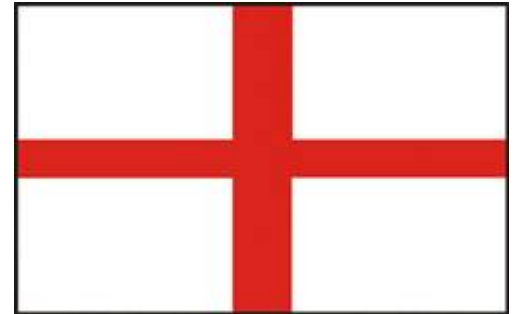


How to apply

- Must be registered with RPA/ RPW Online
- Annual application windows
 - 1 July – 30 September in England (tbc)
 - September/ October in Wales

Conversion start dates

- No more than 12 months prior to claim date (15 May)



- By the start of the agreement (1st January)

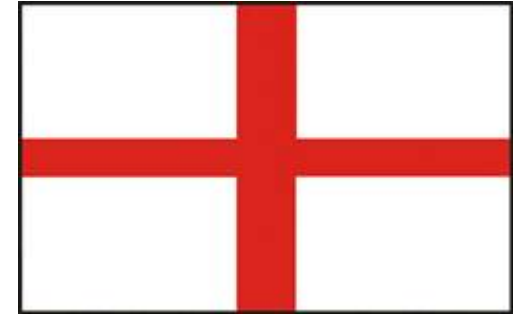


Other government schemes



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Other grants



- Countryside Productivity Scheme
 - [Water management](#)
 - [LED lights for livestock housing](#)
 - [Slurry/ litter](#)
 - [Forestry grant](#)
 - [Controlled atmosphere storage grants](#)
 - [Remote crop sensing and robotics](#)
 - [Animal productivity, health and welfare grants](#)
- Currently closed for applications

Other grants



- [Sustainable Production Grants](#) - Animal health and welfare, crop storage, and nutrient, energy & water efficiency. 40% funded minimum grant - £16,000 (Currently closed)
- [Food Business Investment Scheme](#) –Similar to the old Processing and Marketing Grants. 40% minimum grant - £2,400. (Currently closed)
- [Rural Community Development Fund](#) –Improvement/ expansion of local basic services. Community agriculture/ renewable energy project (Closes 31 Jan 2016)
- Next windows application spring 2018

Non – Governmental support



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- Crowd funding
- Esmee Fairbairn
- Fund for Enlightened Agriculture
- Lottery

Useful organisations



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- Ground spring network (LWA)
- Soil Association
- Organic Research Centre
- IOTA
- Organic Centre Wales
- Organic Certification bodies

Questions?



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