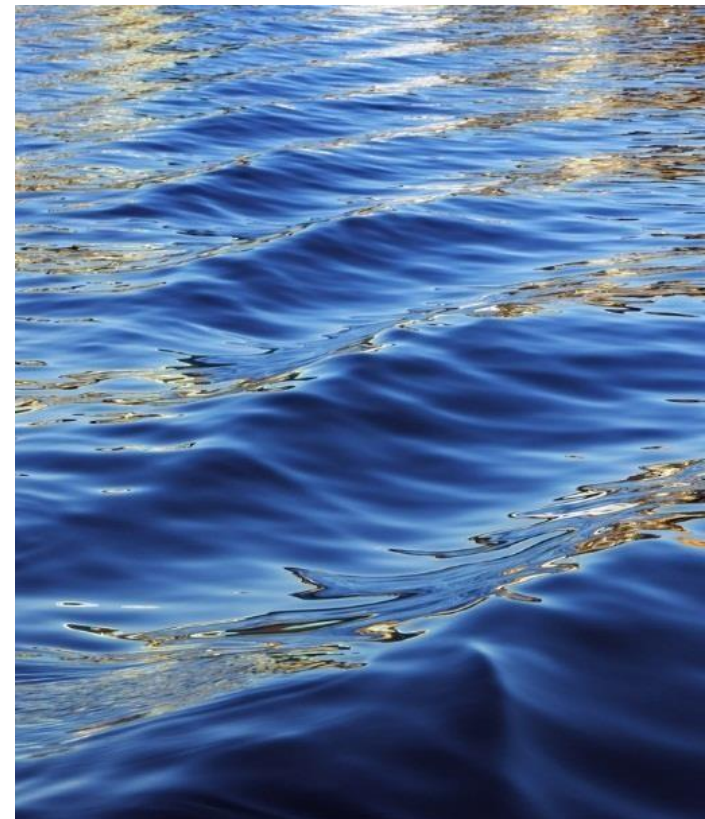




Organic Farming Scheme (OFS)



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

The New Organic Farming Scheme

- The Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) opened in October of 2022 and closed in December of 2022. The second intake is set to open in Autumn 2023. Farmers within the first intake had to begin farming organically from January 1st, 2023.
- The government is committed to bringing the total agricultural area under organic production to 7.5% by 2027 compared to 2% in 2021.
- The 2023 budget sees an allocation of €37 million to organic farming, an 80% increase in budget on last year, which is an unprecedented increase and reflects the level of interest among farmers in organics.
- Applications by new conversion farmers to the Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) has exceeded 1,000.
- The contract for the OFS is **5 years**.

Organic Farming Scheme Payment Rates

Payments under the new Organic Farming Scheme are increasing. See the table to the below for Dry Stock, Dairy, Tillage and Horticultural holding payments.

Enterprise Type	Year 1-2 (in conversion) Area ≤70 ha	Year 1-2 (in conversion) Area ≤70 ha	Year 3-5 (fully converted) Area ≤70 ha	Year 3-5 (fully converted) Area ≤70 ha
Dry stock	€300/ ha	€60/ ha	€250/ ha	€30/ ha
Tillage	€320/ ha	€60/ ha	€270/ ha	€30/ ha
Dairy	€350/ ha	€60/ ha	€300/ ha	€30/ ha
Horticulture	€800/ ha	€60/ ha	€600/ ha	€30/ ha

Participation Payment

In addition to these payments an amount of €2,000 will be paid to OFS participants in the first year of conversion and €1,400 for every subsequent year of the contract

Learn about the potential payments for your farm using the

[Department's Organic Payments Calculator](#)



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Organic Farming Standards

Organic regulation covers all aspects of the production chain.

The farmer must consider:

<p>Animal Welfare and Housing</p> <p>Under EU Organic legislation the permanent housing of all stock is not allowed, while the prolonged confining and tethering of animals is also prohibited. There are specific housing requirements, full details can be found on the DAFM website linked. Ample dry bedding must be provided in the lying area. Provided that 50% of the floor area is bedded, up to 50% of the floor area may be slatted. Castration and dehorning are permitted where it is judged to be necessary for considerations of safety and welfare but only under approved derogation request.</p>	<p>Production methods</p> <p>Synthetic chemicals, fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides are all prohibited under organic farming. Organic material must be used as manure. Planned rotations are regarded as an essential part of successful organic production as it helps to maintain soil fertility, reduce weeds, pests and disease, provide sufficient organic feed for stock and reduce risks by maximising the range of cash grown crops.</p>
<p>Veterinary and livestock nutrition</p> <p>Only where a known farm problem exists may specific drugs be administered. However strict identification procedures and withdrawal periods must be observed. Treatment of healthy animals and the routine use of prophylactic drugs is prohibited. Antibiotics are not generally permitted, and fertility drugs are not allowed. Only where a known dietary deficiency exists in home grown feeds is mineral supplementation permitted</p>	<p>Purchase of stock</p> <p>All purchased livestock should be sourced from organic producers. In practice, in certain restricted circumstances, breeding livestock may be from conventional sources and these animals must undergo a conversion period. The purchase of non-organic stock is restricted under EU organic legislation, is controlled by your Organic Control Body and requires a derogation.</p>



For more information on organic farming regulations, applications and certification visit Ireland's organic control bodies & DAFM :

IOA (Irish Organic Association)

<https://www.irishorganicassociation.ie/>

Organic Trust

<https://organictrust.ie/>

DAFM

gov.ie - Organic Farming (www.gov.ie)



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