

Management Systems Comparison

A comparison of conventional management system and an organic management system at Beechenhill Farm

Subject	Conventional	Organic
Winter cow accommodation	Cubicle housing	Straw yard and loafing area, improved animal welfare
Medical treatments	Routine anti-biotics-dry cow tubes. Problems treated with anti-biotics. Milk withheld for 74 hours Wormer, Ivomec used	No routine anti-biotics used, anti-biotics only used to respond to serious problem. Milk withheld for minimum 14 days. Uddermint, homoeopathy, seaweed meal. Routine health visits by vet. Worms avoided by careful grazing
Food	Maize gluten, hipro soya, rape seed, maize, molasses, wheat, sunflower meal, brewers' grains, breakfast cereal, salt, minerals, calcium carbonate, veg fat coating £130/tonne	Organic wheat, organic oatmeal, peas, distillers' grains, linseed meal, prairie meal, maize gluten, molasses, calcium carbonate, salt, magnesium oxide, minerals £230/tonne
Fertiliser-manure	1 or 2 loads of slurry (liquid muck) spread every day from Oct to May	Muck from straw yards composted and turned for 3 months, then spread on fields when soil bacteria are active, March to Oct
Fertiliser-other	Compound fertiliser- 23N 10P 10K applied on 36 ha, spring and mid-summer, 500kg/ha, £60/ha Lime when necessary	Clover planted - it extracts nitrogen from the atmosphere, makes it available to grass. Clover naturally proliferates if not sprayed or fertilised. Lime when necessary.
Weeds	Sheep eat ragwort. Spray thistles, docks and nettles with systemic hormone weed killer.	Sheep eat ragwort also pull ragwort. Hand dig spear thistles and docks. Cut nettles and creeping thistles.
Sheep	Dip sheep in organophosphate systemic insecticide annually for sheep scab.	If a problem occurs, treat with organically permitted remedy.
Milk	Milk sold to Zenith, son of Milk Marque. Average 1999 price of 15p/litre. Subject to collection charges, seasonality and quality price variations.	Milk sold through Organic Milk Suppliers Co-operative (OMSCO). Flat price of 29.5p/litre, Membership fee of £395 deducted from first 3 month's milk cheques.
Rainwater	40% of roof rainwater collected for use in ponds and troughs	80% of roof rainwater collected for use in ponds and troughs