



Organic Agriculture

Policy Headline

Scottish Wildlife Trust supports the underlying principles and definition of organic agriculture by the United Kingdom Register of Organic Food Standards (UKROFS).

Definitions

UKROFS states that “organic production systems are designed to produce optimum quantities of food of high nutritional quality by using management practices which aim to avoid the use of agrochemical inputs and which minimise damage to the environment and wildlife.” This definition is further supported by the following principles:

- To work with natural systems rather than dominating them
- Encourage biological cycles involving micro-organisms, soil flora and fauna, plants and animals
- Maintain or develop valuable existing landscape features and habitats for wildlife, with particular regard for endangered species
- Pay careful attention to animal welfare considerations
- Consider the wider social and ecological impact of the farming system

Policy Statement

Scottish Wildlife Trust believes:

1. that organic agriculture can provide many benefits supporting biodiversity and sustainable development in Scotland. Such benefits should be clearly identified and explored in further detail, including further scientific research relevant to Scotland’s agriculture and various ecosystems. Furthermore, these benefits should be underpinned by development of the supply chain, from farm to consumer.
2. however, organic and conventional farming systems are not mutually exclusive, and consider that there is room for improvement in the performance of both systems for farmland biodiversity. Therefore, all sustainable methods of farming which support biodiversity and sensitive habitat management deserve the full and long term support of the Scottish Executive on behalf of the taxpayer.

Policy approved by Council Sept 2002