Organic Trust 2026



Autumn has arrived!
We hope you enjoyed reading our summer newsletter. In this edition, we take a look at just some of the awards that have been won by our members in recent months, we have some important reminders about livestock housing requirements, and much, much more!



Meet the Team:

Julian Pawlowski - Inspector Manager

Julian manages the inspection process for our members and provides high level technical guidance to the team. Along with a highly knowledgeable and experienced inspectorate team, he ensures our members receive a helpful, informative and smooth inspection with confidence. He supports both our staff and members on all matters relating to the organic standards, providing practical solutions while ensuring full compliance with organic regulation.

WEBINAR

Don't miss our next educational webinar on **Wednesday, 9th December.** This episode will be an Organic Trust **processor** focused webinar**.** Your invitation and key speaker details will be communicated via email and OT socials very soon!



The OT team completed the Alzheimer's Memory Walk along the Grand Canal in Naas, Co. Kildare!
The ASI is a charity partner of the Organic Trust, and fundraising is still underway.
Please donate via the QR code above.

Organic Spotlight: Housing

Cubicles

- Cubicles are permitted. They must be bedded with a bedding material. Mats can be used but additional bedding must be applied on top.
- Cubicles must be of optimum size for the animals on the holding with regard to welfare. At least 3m^2 of accessible/available floor area per individual animal must be allowed for dairy cows and larger animals, with lesser areas for smaller animals.
- The minimum area of any cubicle used in organics is at least 2.62m^2, regardless of animal size.

Bedding

- All stock must have access to at least 50% bedded area.
- Straw/Rushes and Woodchip/Sawdust are most commonly used and permitted in organics.
- Woodchip/Sawdust **cannot** be from treated timber but straw may be from a conventional farm. Sufficient bedding must be provided for stock while housed. Peat is not permitted as it is not a renewable source of bedding.

How much space do I need?

Livestock type	Liveweight (kg)	m^2 per head
Cattle	Up to 100	1.5
Cattle	Up to 200	2.5
Cattle	Up to 350	4.0
Cattle	Over 350	5 with a minimum of 1m2/100kg
Dairy cows	n/a	6
Breeding bulls	n/a	10
Sheep	n/a	1.5
Lambs	n/a	0.35
Goats	n/a	1.5
Kids	n/a	0.35



Hay imports

There are a number of suppliers of Organic feeds in Ireland. All feed must be certified organic, and an invoice must be available in all cases. A licence should also be available where feed has been bought from other organic farm.

Outwintering

Livestock can be outwintered but not at a rate higher than 1 LSU per hectare. Sacrifice paddocks are not permitted, and poaching must be minimal. Outwintering is acceptable where conditions permit provided that breeds are suitably hardy and/or there is adequate shelter to prevent any welfare problems.

OT Member Awards & Achievements:



Kay O'Sullivan (centre) being awarded the 2025 Teagasc/FBD Environmental Sustainability 'Organic Production Award'.

Congratulations to Organic Trust member **Kay O'Sullivan**, an organic beef and sheep farmer from Co. Cork, who won Best Organic Farmer (Female) award, on 23 September at the 2026 EU Organic Awards in Brussels. Kay is the first farmer from Ireland to have been nominated for this award since its inauguration in 2022 and is now the first to have won.

The Bord Bia National Organic Awards

Organic Trust members were front and centre at the Bord Bia National Organic Awards on 24th September.

The Best Irish Organic Farmer Award went to Bronagh and Cathal O'Rourke of Burren Beef & Farm!

Coghlan's Artisan Bakers won Best New & Innovative Irish Organic Product!

Solaris Tea won Best Irish Organic Brand!

Kay O'Sullivan of Glynn Organic Farm and Siobhan Hubbard and Ross Newcombe of Newbard Farm were also nominated for Best Irish Organic Farmer!

Ballybrado also received a nomination for Best Irish Organic Brand!


Award winners & OT members Bronagh and Cathal O'Rourke



McNally Family farm won at the Natural Food & Producer Awards 2026. The north Co. Dublin farm took home the Georgina Campbell Food Tourism Experience award. Visitors to the farm on a 90 minute tour can explore the polytunnels and fields on a working, seasonal organic farm, all while learning about sustainable growing practices and regenerative agriculture.

Did you know?

The Organic Trading Hub is a free, online platform for organic operators to buy and sell certified organic livestock, feedstuffs, and more.

Search www.organictradinghub.ie on your web browser, or scan this QR code with your phone →

SCAN HERE

Organic Trust AGM

The Organic Trust AGM kicked off on Wednesday, September 9th in Strandhill, Co. Sligo.

The 'Big Organic Breakfast' that began the day was one of the highlights of our AGM, as our members Justina and Liam Gavin and their staff at Honestly Farm Kitchen treated attendees to a wide and delicious range of organic food.

Across the road at the National Surf Centre we began our AGM with the stunning scenes of Sligo Bay providing a perfect backdrop for the day.

The Organic Trust Strategy 2026 – 2030 was also launched at the AGM during the proceedings. Following the AGM, two panel discussions chaired by Kevin Fagan of NOTS got underway.

The 'Organics in Practice' discussion featured Justina Gavin of Drumanilra & Honestly, Aine Bell of Enniscoe Organic Garden, and Clive Bright of Rare Ruminare.

This discussion was followed up by the 'Education and Awareness' panel, with Marcus O'Halloran of Agri Aware, Clair Culkin of Alzheimer Society of Ireland, and biodynamic farmer, Andrew Chilton.





















We thank our members Justina and Liam Gavin and their staff at Honestly Farm Kitchen for hosting the 'Big Organic Breakfast' and for giving our staff and members the chance to see the exceptional work they are doing to promote and grow organic food in the west of Ireland.

The team from the Organic Trust's charity partner, Alzheimer Society of Ireland, were on hand in their information bus to provide valuable information to our members throughout the day and we thank them for their time and expertise.

We must thank our panel speakers on the day who were generous with their time and knowledge in our discussions.

A special thanks must go to Kevin and the team from NOTS for ensuring the panel discussions and livestream to our members who attended the AGM remotely ran smoothly.

Lastly, and most importantly we thank our members who travelled to Strandhill for our AGM, our team enjoyed interacting with you all throughout the day and we hope you had a lovely day.

We do value a chance to speak with you all, and look forward to seeing more of our members throughout the year ahead!

Education Highlights

Agri Aware | Organic Trust Patronage

Two farmers have been selected for the Organic Trust Bursary Awards 2026 in conjunction with the Department of Land Sciences at South East Technological University (SETU).

Liam Gilligan from Co. Sligo and James Conway from Co. Cavan are the recipients of this year's Organic Trust Bursary Award. The bursary scheme aims to support the students as they pursue postgraduate studies in organic agriculture and related disciplines at SETU.



(L-R) Yvonne Grace, programme leader – organic horticulture, Stephen Connolly, Organic Trust CEO, James Conway, bursary award winner, Eleanor Kent, head of department of land sciences SETU, Liam Gilligan, bursary award winner, Chloe Egan, OT- member relations co-ordinator, and John Geraghty, programme leader

Education Ambassadors



Meet James Conway, one of our OT 2026 Educational Bursary Awardees, who will be completing an MSc in Organic and Biological Horticulture

"I come from a mixed suckler and tillage farm in Virginia, Co. Cavan. I have a keen interest in developing a strong suckler herd, based around Charolais, Limousin, Shorthorn and Simmental breeding. In the last 4 years I have started growing cereals. I enjoy the forward planning that goes into a tillage crop. I also enjoy the machinery work involved in planting and harvesting a crop and I have invested in some equipment so that I can do this work myself. I am really looking forward to the MsC and becoming an Organic Trust ambassador because I want to develop my knowledge in sustainable crop production, and I want to understand my farm's soil biology. I also have a keen interest in sharing this knowledge and I am fortunate to have my own farm to implement the knowledge I gain from this MsC programme. I also want to share this knowledge on my farm, in an ongoing series of farm walks so that I can show those attending the ways in which I am putting the knowledge gained into practice."

Your voice matters! Share your feedback with us, email: memberrelations@organictrust.ie. Follow us on social media to stay updated on our supports, events, and other member opportunities.