



6 April 2018

Circular No 2/2018

To All Organic Control Bodies

Exceptional Provisions to address fodder shortage.

Further to recent press release by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Michael Creed T.D., Department officials are now actively developing a scheme to support the importation of fodder in response to the serious fodder crisis caused by the long and cold winter.

The following arrangements are being put in place specifically to address organic livestock farmers who are experiencing genuine shortages of organic forage.

Due to the exceptional weather condition, The Minister of State Andrew Doyle T.D., with responsibility for organic production, reacting to the fodder crisis on organic livestock farms has, invoked Article 47 of Organic Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008, which provides for exceptional production rules related to catastrophic circumstances in accordance with Article 22(2) (f) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

In accordance with the governing EU Regulation, the Department as the Competent Authority may authorise, on a temporary basis, the use of non-organic feeding stuffs for a limited period and in relation to a specific area by individual operators, when forage production is lost or when restrictions are imposed, in particular as a result of exceptional meteorological conditions.

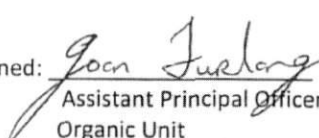
Accordingly Organic Farmers who are experiencing genuine shortages of organic forage, may apply for a derogation to the Department as the Competent Authority via their Organic Control Body on the Derogation Application Form – copy attached. Upon approval by the competent authority, the individual operators shall keep documentary evidence of the use of the above exceptions.

The following conditions apply:

1. The derogation is applicable to whole of Ireland and relates to the provision of non organic fodder on organic farms where it is demonstrated that there is a pressing requirement to access fodder for the animals.
2. Derogation requests will not be entertained after 15th May 2018.
3. Derogations must be submitted on the Standard Application Form available from DAFM via the Organic Control Body.
4. Each request will be evaluated separately: all applicants will be notified in writing. Successful applicants will be authorised to use a definitive quantity of non organic fodder.
5. Detailed records must be kept of the imported non-organic fodder and its use.

The number of animals, type and ages and duration of derogation request will dictate how much non organic fodder may be allocated.

Signed: 
Agricultural Inspector
AES Division

Signed: 
Assistant Principal Officer
Organic Unit

Livestock number on farm at time of application

Please include the relevant information below, where the question is non-applicable please enter N/A.

Dairy Cow No.	
Suckler Cow No.	
Heifer No.	
Weanling No.	
Store Cattle No. > 2 yrs < 2 yrs	
Sheep No.	
Any other stock	
Additional Information:	

Please note the following:

- Each derogation request will be reviewed independently of any other derogation. Granting of derogation in a particular area does not create any entitlement for other farmers in the same region.
- Granting of derogation does not guarantee qualification for future feed request derogations.
- DAFM may request additional documentation if required.
- The farmer shall maintain such records and in such detail as to fully account for the use of the non-organic forage granted under this regulation.

Farmer's signature

Date

OCB Representative's signature

Date