Steps to Take when Considering Converting to Organic Farming

IFA Information Meeting on the Organic Farming Scheme 5th March 2021

Elaine Leavy Teagasc Organic Specialist



Step 1: Consider Crop Systems

Can you incorporate a grass/clover break in the rotation?

Do you have a source of on-farm nutrients?

Can you see yourself farming without pesticides and chemical fertilisers?



easasc









Step 1: Consider Animal Systems



- Is your stocking rate below two livestock units per ha?
- Can your animal housing be modified to incorporate a bedding lying area?

 Do you already use no or relatively low levels of artificial fertiliser?





 $\mathbf{A}_{\mathrm{GRICULTURE}}$ and $\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{OOD}}$ $\mathbf{D}_{\mathrm{EVELOPMENT}}$ $\mathbf{A}_{\mathrm{UTHORITY}}$

Step 1: Consider Profitability

Key Components

- Land Quality
- Management / Skills
- Access to markets
- Accessing scheme support
- Producer attitude



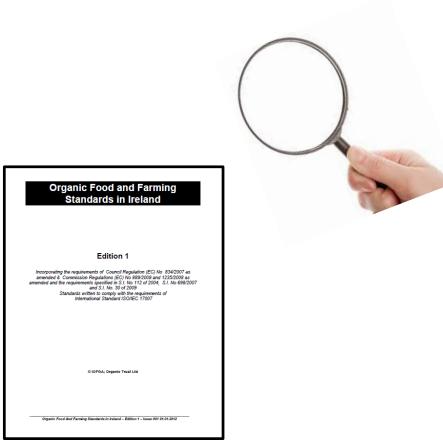






Step 2: Investigate

 Familiarise yourself with organic regulations and standards



Talk to organic farmers





Thank You

www.teagasc.ie/organics

