



Organic Centre Wales  
Canolfan Organig Cymru

## **Response from Organic Centre Wales, IBERS, Aberystwyth University SY23**

**3EB**

**to the DEFRA consultation on:**

### **Draft Organic Standards for the rearing of organic pullets and Draft Organic Standards for Multi-Tiered Poultry Housing**

Organic Centre Wales (OCW) was established in 2000 as a focal point for the dissemination of information on organic food and farming to producers and other interested parties in Wales. In 2003, it was agreed that it should extend its focus to public education, public procurement, policy and strategy development, thus providing support to the whole of the organic community in Wales. It is based at Aberystwyth University.

OCW is run by a partnership of three organizations actively involved in organic farming research and knowledge transfer in Wales: ADAS, The Organic Research Centre Elm Farm (ORC) and Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) at Aberystwyth University.

The funding for OCW comes from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to carry out the co-ordination functions, with additional funding through a separate WAG contract for delivery of the Organic Conversion Information Service. Additional support from the European Union EAFRD provides the Farming Connect Organic Development Programme and the Better Organic Business Links Supply Chain Efficiencies project for the organic sector.

#### **Pullet rearing Standards**

- We do not anticipate that organic pullet rearers in Wales would have significant difficulty meeting these standards.
- Note that at 1.2 forage/ silage would need to be finely chopped.
- We support proposals from Organic Farmers and Growers for an 18 month lead in period to allow the industry sufficient time to plan and prepare for changes.

#### **Multi tiered housing**

- We have no specific comments on multi-tiered housing. However, bird welfare must be paramount in any decision to introduce this system

**Tony Little 16-07-2010**