



ELM FARM RESEARCH CENTRE CONFERENCE

Elm Farm Research Centre (EFRC) is one of the UK's leading research, development and advisory institutes for organic agriculture.

For more than 20 years EFRC has played a central role in the development of policy and standards for organic farming and food within the UK, EU and internationally.

The Centre's alliance of practice and policy – on-farm and desk research and consultancy and advice is unique.



We acknowledge and thank Sheepdrove Trust for its financial support towards this Conference and the use of the beautiful setting of The Kindersley Centre and its facilities.

DOES ORGANIC FOOD HAVE AN 'EXTRA QUALITY'? New Research, New Perspectives and New Insights

TUESDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER 2004

**The Kindersley Centre
Sheepdrove Organic Farm
Lambourn, Nr Newbury,
Berkshire UK**

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Charity No. 281276

**This Conference is sponsored by Sheepdrove Trust
in collaboration with**



FQH (International Network for Food Quality and Health)

Sustain (the alliance for better food and farming)



PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

10.00 Registration and Conference Start

Chair: Jeanette Longfield of Sustain

Past Policy Analyst at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and Co-ordinator of the National Food Alliance. Currently Sustain's Co-ordinator, liaising with the Food Standards Agency and contributing to a number of food policy committees.

PERSPECTIVES ON ORGANIC FOOD QUALITY

This session will explore whether a range of criteria of food quality is valid; whether biological and nutritional differences between organically and conventionally produced food have a relevance to health and whether an 'holistic' approach to assessing food is feasible.

Lawrence Woodward – Director of Elm Farm Research Centre

Dr. Kirsten Brandt – Senior Researcher, University of Newcastle

Presently coordinating the establishment of a Research Centre on Food Quality. Researching links between agricultural methods, plant chemistry, food quality and health of humans and animals.

Prof. Dr. Angelika Meier-Ploeger, University of Kassel

Scientific Adviser to the Nutrition and Agriculture Working Group of the Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection
Chairperson of International Organic Food Quality and Health (FQH) Research Association
Scientific Adviser Federation Ecological Food-Economics

ASSESSING WHAT IS 'EXTRA'

A presentation of research findings where organic and conventional food has been assessed using complementary or holistic methods.

Dr. Jurgen Strube, Kwalis

Managing director and head of the biophysics department of the quality research company KWALIS. External expert for the German Federal Research Institutes' working group on the differences in food from organic and conventional farming.

Dr. Johannes Kahl, University of Kassel

Head of the Food Quality Group at the University of Kassel.

Chair: Peter Melchett – Policy Director of the Soil Association

RESPONSES AND QUESTIONS

Comments from 3 Different Perspectives:

Dr. Rafe Bundy and **Dr Steve Hicks** of The Hugh Sinclair Unit of Human Nutrition, University of Reading

Alex Smith, Alara Wholefoods and Chair of the Organic Working Group of The Food and Drink Federation

Lynda Brown, writer on food and consumer issues. Guild of Food Writers

OPEN DEBATE

A chance for participants to debate, discuss and question the Conference issues and themes.

FOOD QUALITY AND HEALTH – Concepts into Practice

Prof. Dr. Angelika Meier-Ploeger of the University of Kassel

Lawrence Woodward, Director of Elm Farm Research Centre

Conference closes at 16.45

Is it worth the money?

Organic farming might be good for the environment but is organic food healthier than conventional? Is it more holistic?

Constantly asked questions that will be addressed in this conference which presents new research and insights into the concepts and methodologies that can be used to assess organically produced food.

German R&D has given a new boost to the drive to assess organic food holistically. Other research in Europe and the UK has found differences between organic and conventionally produced food but what does this mean for health?

Leading researchers and commentators on organic good and farming will present research findings and encourage participants to air their views on these issues which go to the heart of the question of whether the quality of organic food can be linked to environmental health and that of the soil, plant, animal and man.

Who should attend?

Everyone concerned about the quality of food and its impact on health – researchers, policy makers, farmers, 'foodies' whether consumers or writers, and especially citizens.

Transport will be available for delegates from Didcot Station

**Cost: £60.00 plus VAT (£70.50) including lunch and refreshments
*see accompanying Booking Form***