

# How your support will make a difference in 2018 and 2019



If you'd like to sponsor a specific project, make a general donation, give once or make regular contributions, donate a few pounds or a few thousand pounds, your help will make a real difference. If you'd like to talk to us about how your money will be used and the kind of change that you can bring about through us, we'd love to talk to you. Here though are just a few of the things we'd like your help with in 2018 and 2019.

# Where your money goes

A close-up photograph of a brown cow's face, looking directly at the camera. The cow has a yellow identification tag hanging from its ear with the number 06479. The background is slightly blurred, showing a wooden fence and some greenery.

## **Handbooks and guides**

At ORC we don't just do science, we work with and for farmers, producers, experts and policy makers as a knowledge hub, providing practical advice and guidance. The more that we can get our know-how into the hands of the people who can put it to use, the more impact we can make in the world.

## **Policy advocacy and making the case for organic**

Government and EU policies and regulations impact producers and consumers and we aim to engage with the debate and to facilitate the sound development of the organic sector. In the coming year we will be contributing to the English Organic Action Plan. If you've read this far, then we're probably on the same page in more ways than one. ORC will speak up for the things that you believe in and make real change in the right places.

## **Farmhouse Refurbishment Planning**

ORC has a house at Elm Farm, which currently provides accommodation for visitors, students and staff but we plan to do a great deal more with it in the future. We want to turn it into a state of the art residential training centre. Right now we need around £10,000 for architectural and planning work and to prepare a prospectus for the refurbishment project ahead.

### **Building on existing research**

ORC has been instrumental in advancing the world's knowledge in many areas and we are at the forefront of innovation in agroforestry, soil assessment and market analysis in the organic food sector. We want to build on all of these successes. We have research and development projects planned and need your help to be able to take them forward. Every penny you give can help us to do just that.

### **Conservation work at Elm Farm**

Elm farm is 85 hectares of beautiful West Berkshire. Containing many hedgerows and trees. At Donkey Field we have a pond area with wildlife value that requires management that could involve goats and pigs. We'd need to use local volunteers and increase staff resource to accomplish this and make the most of the many mixed-use areas on the farm including the walking trails and growing agroforestry systems.

### **Training and bursaries**

Students and farmers from all over Europe and the UK come to Elm Farm to learn about organic farming. What they learn here not only changes their thinking and practice but often starts something even bigger as they go on to teach and inspire others and build the organic communities knowledge and experience together.

### **Events and conferences**

Every year ORC hosts the Organic Producers Conference which usually attracts some 200 participants but we run smaller events too such as farm tours, talks and gardening demonstrations. A major conference can cost tens of thousands of pounds, while a smaller event can cost just a few hundred.

### **Unrestricted and Core Support**

Last but definitely not least, the most valuable form of financial support we can receive is an unrestricted donation. This enables us to direct resources flexibly and to maximise our opportunities. We need at least £150,000 unrestricted or core funds every year but we also need to build our reserves to be able to benefit the organic community in years to come. That sounds like a lot but every penny really does count!

# Ways to get involved

## Make a one-off donation or join one of our regular giving groups

Regular monthly or annual donations help us plan with greater confidence and undertake new initiatives on your behalf. Depending on your level of support, you can get all kinds of benefits too:

**Become a Friend of ORC** giving a regular gift. Individual annual donation is £50 minimum, charities/NGOs £100 minimum and corporate annual donation is £250 minimum.

**Join our Farmer and Business Supporters' Group** and in return for your regular contributions, we will say thank you with a range of benefits including an opportunity to have a say and get involved in our future activities. Annual membership levels range from £250 (Bronze) to £500 (Silver) and £1000 (Gold).

**Leave a legacy**, by including us in your will or adding a Codicil you will be helping us to continue to develop our work and activities well into the future. As we are a charity, all legacies to ORC are free from inheritance tax.

## Donate now

Or **get in touch** to find out more about how you can support our work.

Email: [fundraising@organicresearchcentre.com](mailto:fundraising@organicresearchcentre.com)



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