

PRESS RELEASE

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New farm technical manager for OMSCo

Sara Ogborne has been appointed as the new Farm Technical Manager for the Organic Milk Suppliers Co-operative (OMSCo). Sara joins from the Soil Association and succeeds Peter Savidge who is retiring.

“My job is to build on Peter’s success of equipping our members to meet the varying production demands of our customers,” says Sara.

“OMSCo is the leading organic dairy co-operative in the UK, and their strategy to develop global organic dairy markets and a specialist export product portfolio sets them apart.”

Having worked with the Soil Association for five years, Sara brings a wealth of specialist certification and regulatory knowledge.

In her new role at OMSCo Sara looks forward to rolling out a range of technical projects with the membership and helping them overcome any certification questions. “As part of my role, I’ll also look to work with both ends of the supply chain, to ensure good customer perceptions are maintained,” she adds.

Sara joins OMSCo with a background steeped in dairying, having grown up on an organic dairy farm in Chew Valley.

Commenting on the appointment, Richard Hampton, OMSCo’s Managing Director says that Sara’s role will be critical in helping members meet the exacting requirements of new global customers as well as maintaining high quality standards in the UK. “Our growth strategy has focused on added value and specialist product areas where we have leadership and we will continue to diversify our portfolio. This is important for price stability for our members, and allows us to balance our core customer demand efficiently and reliably, in a market that’s known for its volatility.

“I’d like to take this opportunity on behalf of all our members to thank Peter for his service to the co-operative. His knowledge and expertise has been a key component of unlocking some of our new markets and I wish him a long and happy retirement.”

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Notes to editors:

OMSCo is the UK's largest organic dairy producer and is the only 100% organic, farmer-owned and farmer-run dairy cooperative in the UK. For more information, please visit www.omsco.co.uk.

About OMSCo:

- OMSCo has over 250 farmer members spread across the UK, and is the only national 100% organic, farmer-owned and farmer-run dairy cooperative in the UK.
- OMSCo is the largest producer of organic dairy, and represents 65% of the UK's organic milk market, and is the second largest dedicated organic dairy producer in the world.
- OMSCo is also the longest established organic dairy cooperative in the UK, now with an annual turnover of £100 million.
- As well as supplying the majority of the UK's organic dairy processing needs, OMSCo also has extensive experience of exporting raw milk, bulk ingredients, specialist milk ingredients and consumer products to overseas markets
- OMSCo is the only European dairy company under the EU-US Equivalency Agreement, to be able to sell dairy products in the US that are certified organic by the USDA.
 - OMSCo partnered with Organic Valley in the USA in 2013, when together they launched the Kingdom cheddar cheese brand in the USA. Kingdom, which was the first European organic cheese certified as organic by the USDA, has won several awards for its taste and due to its performance has recently expanded its range.
 - OMSCo and Organic Valley took their partnership a step further in 2015 by agreeing a mutual financial stake in each other's cooperatives and cementing a long-term alliance.
- OMSCo achieved accreditation to the Chinese organic standard in November 2015 and started exporting UHT to China in 2016.

For more details, go to our website:

<http://www.omsco.co.uk/>

Or our Twitter feed:

<https://twitter.com/omsco>

Look at our USA partner, Organic Valley

<http://www.organicvalley.coop/>

The website for Kingdom Cheddar

<http://www.kingdomcheddar.com/>

The Facebook page for Kingdom Cheddar

<https://www.facebook.com/KingdomCheese>

The twitter account for Kingdom Cheddar

<https://twitter.com/kingdomcheese>