

Curriculum Vitae

Tony Little



Key attributes

- 18 years' experience of organic & sustainable agriculture
- In-depth knowledge of organic practical principles & standards
- 9 years' experience delivering the Farming Connect Organic Development Programme
- In depth knowledge of the market for organic food
- Strong scientific background
- Very strong links with organic farmers and food businesses in Wales
- Experience in policy development & implementation and intimate knowledge of the RDP
- Practical farming & growing experience
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

Experience

The Sustainable Farming Consultancy (July 2015). I established my own consultancy company in July 2015, delivering a range of services to organic, low input and agro-ecology based businesses. Clients include farmers and growers, organic certification bodies, other consultancy firms and research and development based organisations

Organic Centre Wales (2001 – 2015). In the 14 years I worked for Organic Centre Wales I took on many roles. I identified opportunities for organic businesses, and built the relationships and supply chain structures to realise them. For 9 years, I was responsible for developing and delivering knowledge exchange programmes for organic farmers and growers as part of Farming Connect and ran the Organic Conversion Information Service in Wales. I was heavily involved in several campaigns explaining organic food and farming to the general public through social and broadcast media, advertising and shows & events. I made a significant contribution to organic policy development and implementation and was involved in drawing up Glastir Organic and its forerunner, the Organic Farming Scheme.

CABI Bioscience UK (1998 – 2001). I was part of the 'Farmer Participatory Training & Research' team. We were taking what was, at that time, a novel approach to knowledge transfer, moving away from 'message' based instruction towards developing farmers' understanding of agro-ecological principles, empowering them to make decisions based on a sound understanding of their own farming systems. My role was to prepare

technical briefings and run training workshops for extension staff in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, and to develop and validate training exercises.

CIBA Bunting Biological Control (1997). I ran a series of short term research trials to validate the efficacy of biological control agents in ornamental production in Florida, to inform the company's decision to extend their market to this area/ cropping system. I designed the trials, collected data on pest and predator populations and collated and analysed results.

Farming and Growing. An active involvement in practical farming and growing has always been an important part of my work. I currently work on an organic upland sheep farm, which I am diversifying into horticulture, and my previous experience has included a stint in the Falkland Islands growing field vegetables and salads, seasonal horticultural work throughout the UK and a mixed farm in the Scottish Borders.

Education

- MSc Pest Management , Imperial College of Science and Technology (1996)
- BSc Agricultural and Environmental Science, University of Newcastle upon Tyne (1994)
- A' levels in Biology (B), Chemistry (B) and Physics (D) (1988), Malvern College
- 10 GCSEs above Grade 'C' (1985), Malvern College

Transferable skills

- I have excellent communication skills and a talent for explaining complex ideas clearly and concisely through many different media
- I am able to develop and maintain excellent working relationships with people of all backgrounds. My close professional network includes farmers and growers, food and supply chain businesses, academics, policy makers, union representatives, advisors and many more
- I am a competent user of all MS Office programs, website content management, online databases and social media platforms
- I have a working knowledge of Spanish and Welsh
- I hold a full, clean UK driving license

Professional organisations

- Member of the [Institute of Organic Training and Advice](#)
- Committee member of the [Organic Growers Alliance](#)
- Board member of the [CSA Network UK](#)

Selected publications

Over the course of my career I have written or co-authored over a hundred publications including scientific papers, technical guides, factsheets and videos. Below is a small selection of my total output. Full listings available on request.

- [Reinvigorating Wales' Local Grain Economy \(2015\)](#) Organic Centre Wales (OCW)
- A series of 3 on lectures on organic farming principles, its contribution to global and local food security and diversification into horticulture (Video) (2015) [The Advanced Training Partnership](#)
- [Making poultry feed more sustainable: The potential for home grown sunflowers \(2014\)](#), OCW
- [Linking Farmers: Growing and feeding oats for poultry in Wales \(2013\)](#), OCW
- [Charlie's Organic Dairy Farm \(video\) \(2013\)](#), OCW
- [Thatching Straw: An opportunity for Wales? \(Video\) \(2013\)](#), OCW
- [Lucerne: An Alternative Forage Crop \(2011\)](#), OCW
- [Phosphorus and potassium in organic systems: Getting the best from your soils \(2011\)](#) OCW
- [Organic Poultry Production for Meat \(2011\)](#), OCW
- [Carbon footprinting for farm businesses \(2010\)](#), OCW
- [A farmer's Guide to Fruit and Vegetable Production](#) (2008), OCW

Contact Details

Email: tony@sustainablefarming.co.uk; Web www.sustainablefarming.co.uk

Telephone: 01974 282813; Mobile: 07969 541133

Post: Llwynbedw, Pontrydygroes, YstradMeurig SY25 6DP