



## Conservation Grade Farmers are a step ahead on Integrated Pest Management

The Voluntary Initiative has acknowledged that farmers with Conservation Grade accreditation will automatically satisfy the requirements of the new Sustainability Use Directive, avoiding the need to comply with additional audit conditions. The integrated pest management principles that are embedded in Conservation Grade Standards will give farmers a head start and enable them to clearly demonstrate compliance without additional time or cost.

Voluntary Initiative manager Patrick Goldsworthy says “The VI has formally recognised that The Conservation Grade farm certification standards demonstrate adoption of the required IPM principles and those farmers who have satisfied the CG audit are meeting current VI IPMP requirements.”

Commenting on the recent announcement, Brin Hughes, Technical Manager for Conservation Grade said “Our CG accredited farmers are in a good place and already well prepared for the requirements of IPMP which gives them a great head start.”

-ends-

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For further information contact Conservation Grade on 01767 679950 [info@conservationgrade.org](mailto:info@conservationgrade.org)

[www.conservationgrade.org](http://www.conservationgrade.org)

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### Notes to editors

Companies in the 'Conservation Grade' partnership include:

- **Allinson Flour** – accredited Nature Friendly Farming plain and self-raising flours.
- **The Vitacress Group** – Steve's Leaves product range including Pea Shoots & Baby Leaves, Baby Watercress & Little Leaves, Wild Red Rocket & Milder Leaves, Fennel Tops & Sweet Leaves and Wasabi Rocket & Other Fab Leaves [www.stevesleaves.co.uk](http://www.stevesleaves.co.uk)
- **VHB Herbs** a range of fresh cut and potted herbs
- **Wight Salads** Isle of Wight range of fresh tomatoes and tomato-based products
- **European Oat Millers** – supplying ingredients to major food companies for nearly 30 years; accredited oats, wheat and barley grown for Jordans is processed at their Bedford mill.
- **Norfolk Quail** - a family-run farming business specialising in high welfare quail meat and eggs
- **Abbotts Farm Eggs** – free range eggs from hens living on Fair to Nature accredited farms
- **Honeychop Horse Feeds** – oat straw used as an ingredient in all feeds.
- **Lordlington Lavender** – a range of luxury goods, including essential oils and soaps, all from the French Provençal lavender variety Maillette grown on their own farm.
- **Honeyfields** – a range of wild bird food including grains and seeds grown on Conservation Grade accredited farms
- **ChapelWood** – Conservation Blend wild bird food includes grains and seeds grown on Conservation Grade accredited farms
- **Garden Bird Supplies** – a range of wild bird food including grains and seeds grown on Conservation Grade accredited farms
- **Bardfield Vineyard** – Bacchus and Reichensteiner grapes produce a range of still and sparkling wines from the Great Lodge vineyard in Essex
- **Marriage's Specialist Foods** – A range of wild bird and animal foods sourced from Conservation Grade farms and distributed through independent retailers
- **RSPB** – Online and retail supply of wild bird foods and the country's leading wildlife charity
- **Nature's Own Pet** – Hay and straw bedding for domestic pets all sourced from Conservation Grade Farms and sold through independent and multiple pet retailers
- **Pampurred Pets** – Retail chain of more than 50 pet shops selling a range of Conservation Grade Pet foods and care products as well as wild bird foods
- **Marisma21** – artisan sale production from the salt pans of the Bay of Cadiz

Conservation Grade is an independent accreditation organisation that facilitates commercial relationships between farmers and consumers on an area rapidly approaching 100,000 acres in the UK through a Fair to Nature system of agriculture that optimises both crop yields and biodiversity conservation. Conservation Grade has developed a truly unique system of sustainable farming, founded on science and commercial viability. It is internationally recognised by The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, as well as Natural England and leading NGOs such as the RSPB, for its significant contribution to the conservation of biodiversity through the commercial marketplace.