

The Organic Food and Farming Targets Bill Campaign

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PRESS RELEASE

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Butterflies will flourish on organic farms

- If Organic Food and Farming Targets Bill becomes law

The Organic Food and Farming Targets Bill, which is presented for its Second Reading in the House of Commons on July 21st, would help bring butterflies back to our countryside.

If the area of land devoted to organic farming in the UK rose from the current figure of 3% to the target of 30% proposed by the Organic Targets Bill, there could be an estimated 26% increase in the number of non-pest butterflies found in lowland farm areas.

Currently the UK's farmland butterflies are in steep decline with 40% of the UK's 59 butterfly species under threat. Research shows that twice as many non-pest butterflies live on organically farmed crop areas, than on conventionally farmed crop areas.

The Organic Food and Farming Targets Bill aims to:

- Encourage the Government to develop an integrated strategy for the organic farming sector;
- Ensure that by 2010, 30% of UK farmland will be organic and at least 20% of the food sold will be organic;
- Ensure better access to organic food for all sectors of society.

Paul Tyler MP, Liberal Democrat for North Cornwall and sponsor of the Bill says:

"A substantial increase in organic farming will bring benefits for all farmland biodiversity, including butterflies. That's why 221 MPs and 76 organisations support the Organic Targets Bill. With the huge level of support it already has, we are confident it will become law."

Although the Bill is unlikely to go through its Second Reading on July 21st, with such strong support from MPs and organisations, it has a good chance of being taken up by another MP in the next session of Parliament.

CONTACTS

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