The research and development will result in appropriate feeding strategies established for organic farming with 100% organic feed, which are profitable, have low environmental impact and high animal welfare.

Follow the progress of the project and learn the results on these websites:
www.europeanfarmersnetwork.org/
www.thepoultrysite.com
www.thepigsite.com

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ICOPP is a CORE Organic II project
www.coreorganic2.org
The Problem

This project is looking into the problems faced by farmers in meeting the future requirement to feed organic pigs and poultry on 100% organic feed. Up until now organic pig and poultry (monogastric) production systems have been allowed to use small amounts of feed ingredients of non-organic origin. The aim is to produce economically profitable feeding strategies with the ingredients produced organically and sourced within Europe rather than relying on protein imports and feed supplements of non-organic origin. The local 100% organic feeds must provide the required level of nutrients for different phases of production thus supporting high animal health and welfare.

The Solution

The following specific objectives will be addressed:

- Improved knowledge of availability and nutritional value of underutilized or new organic feed ingredients per animal category with a focus on local feed resources
- Improved understanding of the possible benefits of roughage inclusion in relation to nutritional and behavioural needs as well as its impact on health and welfare
- Understanding how direct foraging in the outdoor area can contribute to meeting the animals nutritional needs
- Assessing the economic and environmental consequences of increased reliance on local organically produced feed

The Project

Through cooperation between 15 partners across Europe, an extended knowledge of the characteristics of different local feeds will be brought together. Their wider impact on growth, health and welfare and the environment will be used to produce feeding strategies which comply with the organic principals for high animal welfare and environmental concerns whilst maintaining production economy.

A range of feeding experiments will be carried out with pigs (sows, piglets and finishers) and poultry (layers and broilers), clustered around concentrate feedstuffs, roughage, and foraging. The results of desk studies and experimental work will be drawn together to give a comprehensive overview of what Europe can grow to feed our monogastric animals in a way which is sustainable; for animal health and welfare, the environment and the economy.