

# The **co-operative** loan fund borrower case study.

## **Cambrian Organics:**

Working together for collective benefit

Cambrian Organics is an award-winning co-operative of farms in West Wales that is committed to producing organic meat that comes from animals born, reared, and processed with care in Wales. It is certified by the Soil Association, which guarantees its organic authenticity, and all of the farms involved also have a conservation plan in place to ensure that all operations carried out on the farms are sensitive to the environment and local biodiversity.

The co-op was established in 2001 with the aim of enabling its members to collectively market their products and bargain more effectively with purchasers. To assist with this, it sought financial support from The Co-operative Loan Fund and has since fully repaid its loan.

The majority of meat produced by the members - of which there are over 30 - is sold to supermarkets and this accounts for most of the co-op's turnover, however it now also sells directly to individuals via its online store. Its range includes a selection of organic lamb, beef, pork and welfare-friendly chicken. It also offers cured gammon and hams, alongside a selection of sausages, burgers and gourmet foods.

The high quality of Cambrian Organics' products is widely recognised - it has won the Gold Award True Taste Organic 2005-6 for its Muscovy duck and received Soil Association Organic Food Awards for its meat balls and lamb pasanda.

In 2002 it also received an Organic Food Award for its Welsh mountain lamb - a prestigious accolade as top chefs including Sophie Grigson, Rose Gray and wine journalist Charles Metcalf were among the 70-strong judging panel who helped decide the winners from over 1100 entries.

As well being committed to providing excellent organic produce, the co-operative is also involved in environmental schemes such as Defra's Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme which was introduced in 1987 to offer incentives to encourage farmers to adopt agricultural practices which would

safeguard and enhance parts of the country of particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value.

It is also part of Defra's Habitat scheme which was launched in May 1994 to create or enhance certain valuable habitats by taking land out of agricultural production, or introducing extensive grazing, and managing it for the benefit of wildlife.

For further information contact Cambrian Organics on 01559 363151, or go to [www.cambrianorganics.com](http://www.cambrianorganics.com)

For more information about The Co-operative Loan Fund please contact the fund managers, Co-operative & Community Finance, on 0117 916 6750, email [info@co-opandcommunityfinance.coop](mailto:info@co-opandcommunityfinance.coop) or visit [www.co-operativeloanfund.co.uk](http://www.co-operativeloanfund.co.uk)

