

Primary Production Technical Committee

Deputy Chair: Richard Baines

11 March 2025



Agenda

**Welcome, minutes and matters arising
from the last PPTC meeting on 30 October 2024**

**Overview of work of Emerald Research,
(George Eustice, Iain Meansworth, Simon Fox).**

CIPC Residues Management Group, Adrian Cunnington (CRMG Chair)

Red Tractor activities, Sam Trevey (Technical Manager, Red Tractor)

New Genomic Technologies

Plant protection products

Defra land use consultation

Plant Health

Water

Meeting dates 2025

Matters arising PPTC 30 October 2024

Action	Status
PPA to maintain good communications with CUPGRA, with the possibility of a future PPTC meeting at the NIAB facilities in Cambridge.	Ongoing.
PPA to maintain a watching brief on developments relating to RT.	Ongoing. To be covered later in agenda.
Rothamsted Research presentation(s) to be shared with PPTC.	Actioned.
Summary/Communication paper for wireworm activity to be shared with PPTC.	Actioned.
Summary/Communication paper on WFF/WAG activity to be developed and shared with PPTC.	Actioned.
ARVALIS CIPC report to be issued to PPTC when available.	Actioned.
PPA to maintain a monitoring brief on spread and dominance of EU-43 and emergence of EU-46.	Ongoing.
PPA to maintain a monitoring brief on virus	Ongoing.
ESA presentation on 'Acrylamide mitigation in the European savoury snacks industry' (as presented at ACRYRED conference in September 2024) to be shared with PPTC.	Actioned.
'Doodle poll' for March 2025 PPTC meeting to be issued.	Actioned.
Members to advise on possible venues for future physical PPTC meetings.	Ongoing request for suggestions.

Chairmanship and PPTC Representation

Role	Currently proposed representation
PPTC Chair	TBC (Volunteers welcomed)
PPTC Deputy Chair	Richard Baines
Treaters Group	Matt Smallwood, (Andrew Curtis for correspondence)
NAAC Post Harvest Treatment Group	Gary Collins, Kevin Hutchinson, Andrew Curtis
Potato Stakeholders (fortnightly)	Andrew Curtis, Richard Baines
Nematicide Stewardship Programme	Andrew Curtis (Matt Smallwood as technical support)
GB PCN Forum Variety choice WG	Phil Rivas
CIPC Residues Management group	Andrew Curtis, Gary Collins
UKIA (UK Irrigation Association)	Andrew Curtis (Matt Smallwood as technical support)
Water For Food group	Andrew Curtis, (Volunteers welcomed)
Red Tractor TAC	Andrew Curtis, Ben Firth
Virus Forum	Andrew Curtis (Matt Smallwood as technical support)
Ad Hoc Mancozeb Task Force	Andrew Curtis (Matt Smallwood as technical support)
EUPPA Board	Andrew Curtis (PPA)
EUPPA Agricultural sustainability	Andrew Curtis (PPA)
EUPPA Processing sustainability	Andrew Curtis (PPA)



Emerald Research Ltd

George Eustice, Iain Meansworth, Simon Fox



CIPC Residues Management Group

Adrian Cunnington
Chair of CRMG, PSI
11 March 2025

CIPC Residues Management Group

Chlorpropham (CIPC, sprout suppressant previously authorised for use on potatoes).

Last CRMG meeting held 20 January 2025. Next meeting on 13 March 2025.

PPA continues to support the CRMG through provision of secretariat function. Will be reviewed in June 2025. GB potatoes now funding CRMG activities.

Since last PPTC, a meeting was held between CRMG and CRD (11 February 2025) to discuss CRD recommendations on CRMG report for 2023/2024. Extension for additions/amends has been granted until 10 May 2025.

CRMG has updated guidance on cleaning (on GB Potatoes website), and media communication (further amends to cleaning guidance infographic expected end of year).

CRMG has launched call for data (updated template) – deadline for submission 31 May 2025

At an EU Level:

- In September 2024 *Draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes II, III and V to Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for chlorpropham, fuberidazole, ipconazole, methoxyfenozide, S-metolachlor and triflusalufuron in or on certain products sent to WTO* (deadline 14 February 2025)
- Proposal is to move tMRL to 0.20mg/kg. PVC would also be expected to report data every two years instead of annually.
- Vote on tMRL amend was expected at Standing Committee on 17-18 February 2025. No minutes available
- PVC's report for 2023/2024 was submitted to Commission on 20 December 2024. Results not yet discussed by EU Member States.
- PVC annual call for data also launched.



Red Tractor

Sam Trevey

Fresh Produce Technical Manager

11 March 2025

Draft Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Regulations 2025

LINK: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2025/9780348269123>

Laid in Parliament on 25 February 2025.

Secondary legislation is necessary to implement the main provisions of the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023 for plants in England only.

Will come into force six months after the necessary parliamentary processes have been completed (expected to be Autumn 2025).

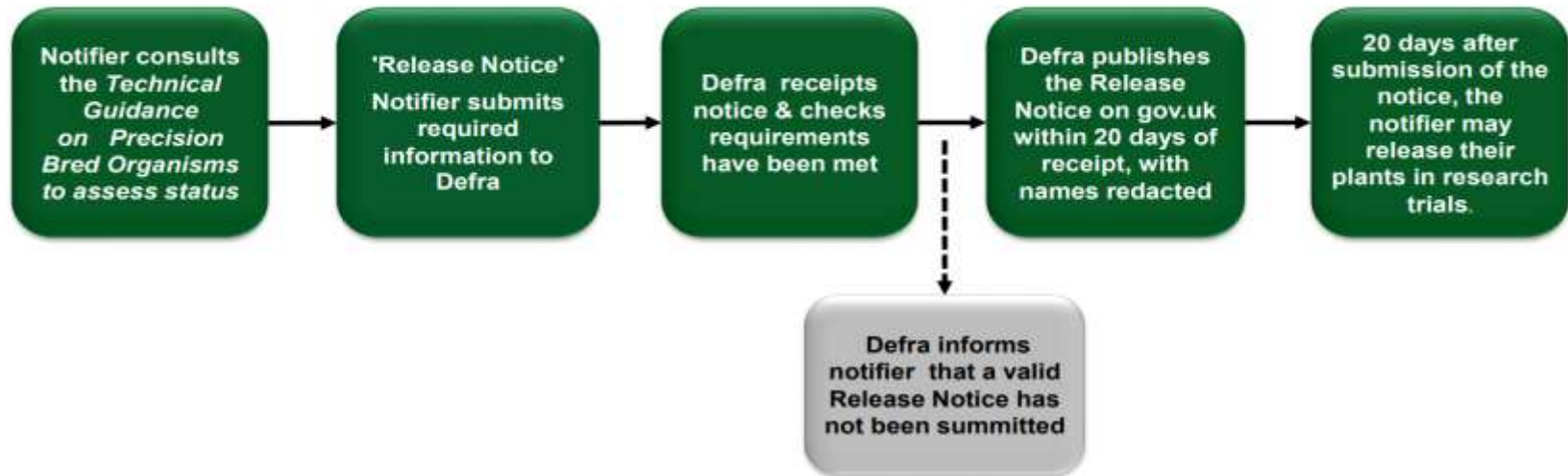
Legislation covers

- The release and marketing of PB plants;
- Revocation of a PB authorisation (by SOS);
- Review and appeals processes;
- Defra's register of PB plants authorised for food and feed;
- Enforcement;
- Consequential amendments to other legislation (e.g., GMO Traceability and Labelling Regulations will not apply to PB plants).

The regulations DO NOT make any amendments to organic legislation.

Draft Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) guidance on release notices for precision bred organisms (PBOs)

Release Notices



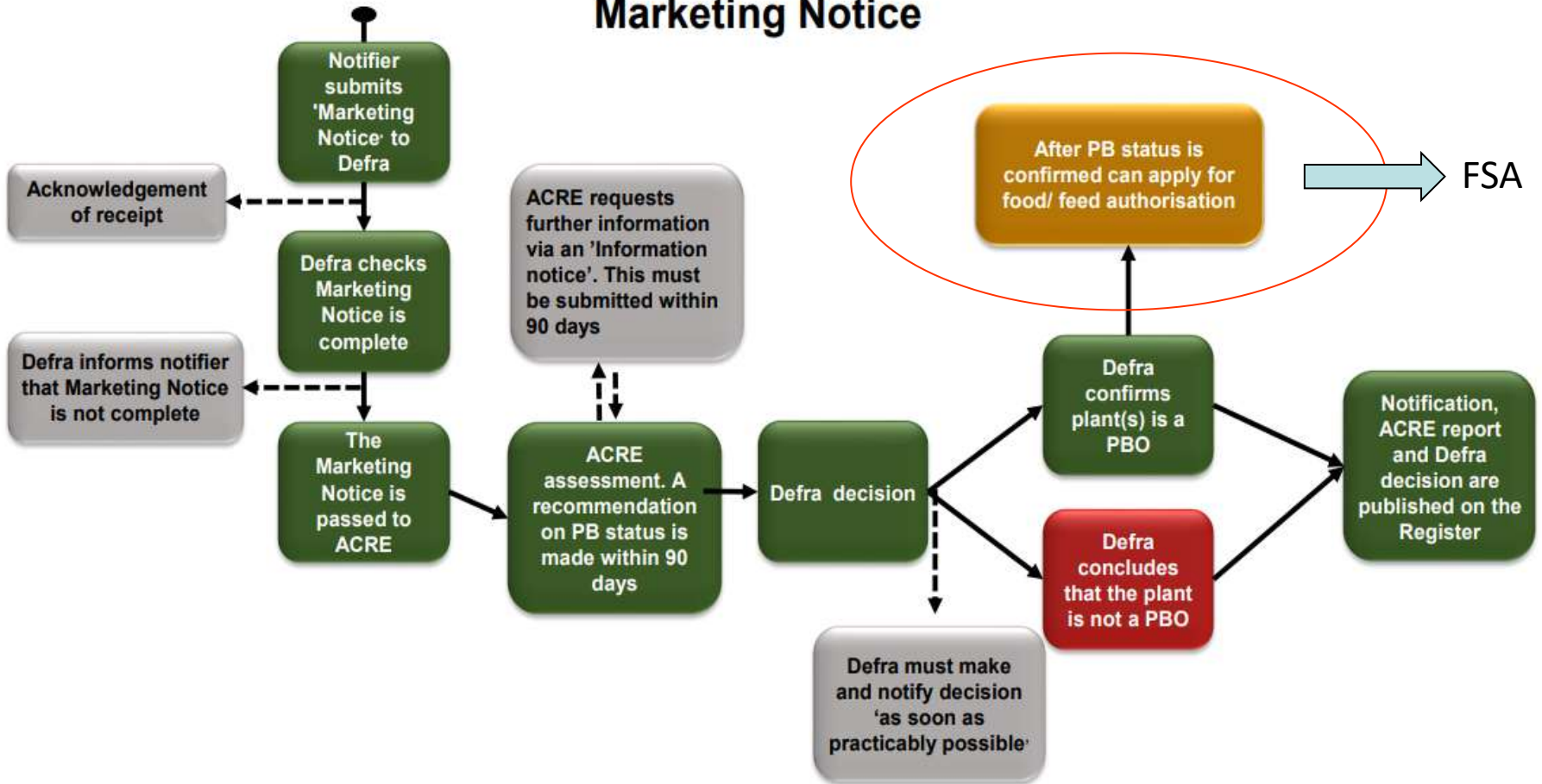
LINK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/acre-draft-guidance-on-release-and-marketing-of-precision-bred-organisms/acre-guidance-release-notices-for-precision-bred-organisms>

Provides developers with more detail on what information is expected under requirements in Schedule 1 and 3 of the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Regulations 2025 for the 'Release Notice' for PB plants which developers must submit to Defra at least 20 days before the field trials take place.

Defra must confirm that a plant is a precision bred organism before it can be marketed.

This decision is based on information provided by developers in a 'Marketing Notice'. Schedules in the SI set out information required in these notices.

Marketing Notice



Draft guidance from the FSA to applicants for the authorisation of PBOs

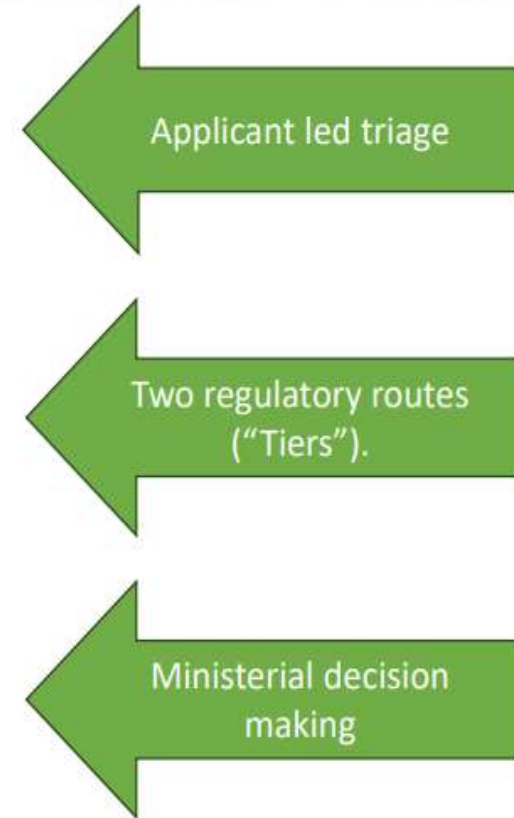
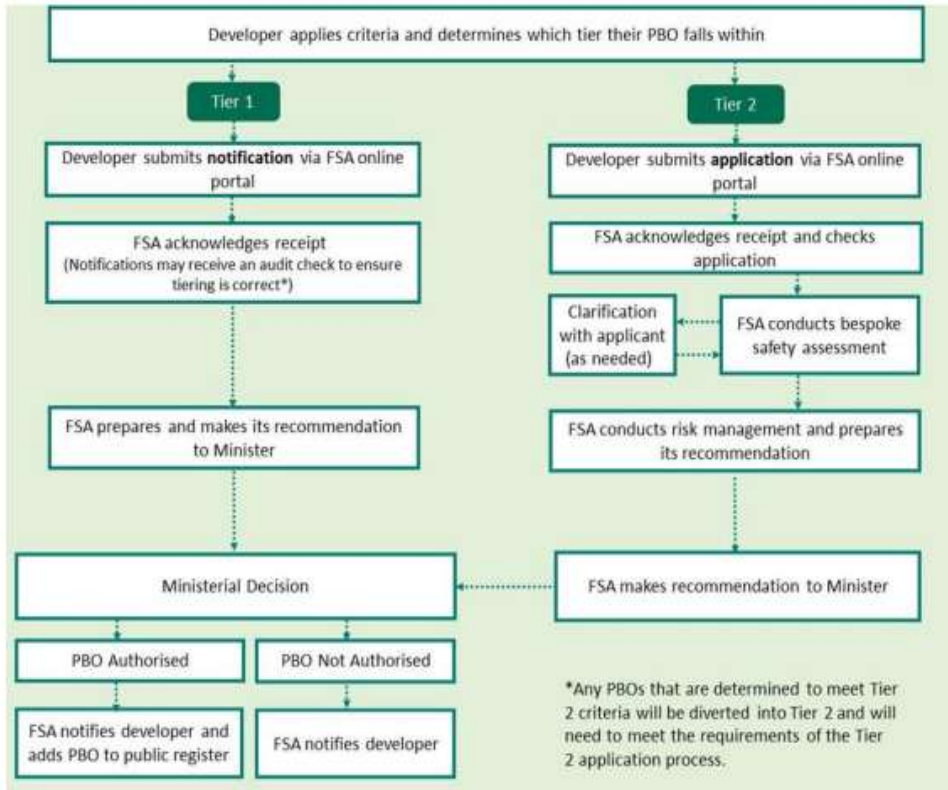
LINK:

https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/Edited%20DRAFT%20Technical%20guidance%20to%20applicants%20for%20the%20authorisation%20of%20Precision%20Bred%20Organisms%20for%20food%20and%20feed_0.pdf

Describes the scientific considerations required for evaluating the safety and nutritional aspects of PBOs **when seeking marketing authorisation for use in the production of food and feed.**

- **Part 1:** Outlines the scope and the technical aspects of the safety assessment of PBOs including general, compositional and specific considerations for all applications.
- **Part 2:** Guides applicants through the Tier 1 safety assessment and the triage process for determining whether a Tier 1 safety assessment is sufficient (Regulation 20 application) or a Tier 2 FSA safety assessment is required (Regulation 22 application).
- **Part 3:** Identifies the information required for all applications under both Regulation 20 and Regulation 22.
- **Part 4:** Details additional information to include when applying for a Tier 2 FSA safety assessment as well as what may be requested during the FSA safety assessment.

Overview of the FSA PBO Regulatory Process



Defra consultation on plant varieties and seeds framework for precision bred plant varieties in England

LINK: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/defra-aphw-plants-varieties-and-seeds/precision-bred-plant-varieties-and-seeds-framework/>

Defra plans to make amendments to legislation applying to the National Listing of PB plant varieties in a separate SI.

- A Precision Bred Plant Variety List for England is proposed in addition to the existing variety lists to facilitate the marketing of seed of PB plant varieties.
- Wants to ensure that there is accessible information on PB plant varieties available to those that require it e.g., farmers who wish to grow non-PB varieties only.
- Exploring a variety of methods and tools to communicate information on the PB status of plant varieties that do not require legislative changes, such as industry-led PB plant variety registers, existing industry lists of recommended varieties, and the official Plant Varieties and Seeds Gazette.
- Also interested in exploring the mandatory inclusion of PB status in labels for PB seed and other plant reproductive material and understanding what impact this would have on businesses.

To note: Scottish Government will also hold a meeting on precision breeding. BPTA will attend and report back.

EU New Genomic Techniques

Proposal for a new Regulation on plants produced by certain new genomic techniques (July 2023)

EUPPA developed a position paper later year. Approved by the Agricultural Sustainability Committee in October 2024. Finalised in February 2025.

- Recognises the potential of NGTs to foster quicker innovation compared to conventional breeding methods.
- Recognise that NGT applications could provide for more resilient, sustainable and efficient varieties for our sector.
- Believes that fostering consumer acceptance is a crucial point for the success and uptake of NGT-derived products in Europe.
- On IP rights as applied to NGTs, supports regulation that strikes a balance between ensuring growers and breeders have fair access to new genetic material under reasonable licensing terms, whilst also upholding the significance of patent protection and ensuring fair financial returns for trait innovators.
- Supports a public repository of NGT potato varieties while emphasizing that labelling for derived products should not be required.

Mancozeb

Mancozeb (fungicide used to control late blight in potatoes).

Mancozeb Summit, 3-4 June 2025, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden

- UPL has announced a two-day workshop focused on discussing the agricultural benefits and importance of the broad-spectrum fungicide mancozeb.
- Format: Presentations and panel discussions with academic, industry, and government experts, as well as breakout sessions and field trips.
- Anticipated outcome: A consensus statement/white paper to capture the importance of mancozeb as a disease management tool.
- Invite only: PPA will be represented by Vanessa Richardson.

GB: Following the loss of mancozeb last year, it is understood that there is still the possibility to implement an Article 4.7 authorisation after November 2025: this is where an active substance is necessary to control a serious danger to plant health which cannot be contained by other available means including non-chemical methods.

EU: Appeal against the Commissions' removal of mancozeb from the approved list - UPL still awaiting outcome the general court's decision on whether the Commission's decision to refuse renewal still stands.

- UPL issued a simple holding statement in December (PPTC 229/24)

Other PPP issues of potential relevance (1)

Renewals, withdrawals and amendments – to note

*Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2806 of 31 October 2024 concerning the **non-renewal of the approval of the active substance metribuzin**, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/408*

- EU Member States shall withdraw national authorisations by 24 May 2025.
- Any grace period shall expire by 24 November 2025.
- Within GB (not NI) metribuzin remains authorised until 31 July 2028.

EU Standing Committee meeting (4-5 December 2024)

*Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) concerning the **non-renewal of the approval of the active substance flutolanil** in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, and amending the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011*

- Flutolanil is a PFAS and its metabolite, trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), has been detected in succeeding crops.
- Due to the presence of TFA, the lack of data on the (geno)toxicity of other metabolites, and the incomplete information on the metabolic behaviour of flutolanil residues in poultry, EFSA deemed the available data insufficient to complete the consumer risk assessment for its use on potatoes.

Other PPP issues of potential relevance (2)

Renewals, withdrawals and amendments – to note

EU Standing Committee meeting (4-5 December 2024)

- *Fludioxonil: substance meets the criteria for endocrine disruptor to humans and non-target organisms by the EAS modality.*
- *Applicant did not submit data to demonstrate negligible exposure nor on the importance of fludioxonil under Article 4(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 within the statutory deadlines*
- *Renewal of approval seems unlikely.*
- *9 MS stressed that the possibility to apply Article 4(7) should be seriously considered.*

Glyphosate resistance in the UK reported in a single field of Italian Ryegrass ([New Scientist](#), [The Daily Mail](#), [The Guardian](#), [BBC News](#), [The Times](#), [Metro](#), [The Telegraph](#)).

- In GB, glyphosate is currently authorised until 15 December 2025.
- In the EU the authorisation was extended until 15 December 2033, with additional conditions applied.

GB Potato Plant Protection Products and Biocides Issues Risk Matrix (February 2025)

Level of risk, imminent, medium-term to longer-term



Decreasing impact on business

Risk Analysis	PPP authorisation expires or related issues to be reviewed in the next 12 months (Before end February 2026) (Actions in hand) Dynamic situation	PPP authorisation in 12-36 months out (February 2026 – January 2029) Plans in preparation]	>36 months (after end January 2029) before PPP comes up for reauthorisation
Big Company Impact Cost Reputation Media	Criteria for defining EDs Candidates for substitution	Lambda-cyhalothrin* (I) [GB expiry 31/03/26] Metribuzin* (H) [GB 31/07/28]	Cymoxanil (F) [GB 31/08/29] Fosthiazate (N) [GB expiry 31/10/29] 1,4-DMN (GR) [GB 30/06/31] Mandipropamid* (F) [GB 31/07/31] Maleic Hydrazide (GR) [GB 31/10/32] Carfentrazone-ethyl (H) [GB 31/07/33] Spearmint oil (GR) [GB 31/08/31]
Moderate Impact Cost Material availability Working practice	Glyphosate (H) [GB 15/12/25]		Flutolanil (ST) [GB 28/02/29] Azoxystrobin (F) [GB 31/12/29] Imazalil (ST) [GB 31/12/29] Ferric phosphate (M) [GB 31/12/30] Flonicamid (I) [GB 31/08/31] Thiabendazole* (ST) [GB 31/03/32]
Small Impact Cost Materials Change	Esfenvalerate (I) [GB 31/12/25]	Fluopicolide (F) [GB 31/05/26] Benthiavalicarb (F) [GB 31/07/27] Dimethomorph (F) [GB 31/07/27] Flufenacet (H) [GB 31/10/27] Difenoconazole* (F) [GB 31/12/28]	Fluazinam* (F) [GB 29/02/29] Rimsulfuron (H) [GB 30/04/29] Propamocarb (F) [GB 31/07/29] Prosulfocarb (H) [GB 31/10/29]

NB: All GB authorisations that were still in place as of 01/01/2021 were automatically extended for a 3-year period. A further extension was granted for some actives as of 12/04/2023
 Current issue Changed priority Identified as a potential high profile media issue *Potential Endocrine disruptor
 H – Herbicide, F – Fungicide, GR- Growth Regulator, I – Insecticide, ST – Seed Treatment, N – Nematicide, D – Desiccant, M – Molluscicides

EU Potato Plant Protection Products and Biocides Issues Risk Matrix (February 2025)

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Moderate Impact Cost Material availability Working practice	Flutolanil (ST) [EU expiry 15/06/25] Plant oils/clove oil [EU Expiry 31/01/26] Plant oils/spear mint oil [EU Expiry 31/01/26]	Ethylene (GR) [EU expiry 30/11/26] Flonicamid (I) [EU expiry 30/11/26] Imazalil (ST) [EU expiry 31/05/27] Azoxystrobin (F) [EU expiry 31/05/27]	Ferric phosphate (M) [EU expiry 31/12/30] Thiabendazole* (ST) [EU expiry 31/03/32] Glyphosate (H) [EU Expiry 15/12/33]
Small Impact Cost Materials Change	Benthiavalicarb (F) [EU authorisation expiry 13/12/23. Sale and supply 13/06/24. Grace period 13/12/24] Dimethomorph (F) [EU authorisation expiry 20/05/24. Sale and supply 20/11/24. Grace period 20/05/25] Propamocarb (F) [EU expiry 15/06/25] Flufenacet (H) [EU expiry 15/06/25]	Difenoconazole* (F) [EU expiry 15/03/26] Fluzinam* (F) [EU expiry 15/04/26] Esfenvalerate (I) [EU expiry 31/05/26] Fluopicolide (F) [EU expiry 31/08/26] Prosulfocarb (H) [EU expiry 31/01/27]	Rimsulfuron (H) [EU expiry 15/08/28]

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Defra Land use Consultation

Government has launched a consultation on land use in England.

LINK: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use-framework/land-use-consultation/>

Set out government's view on the long-term type and scale of land use changes that might be needed to meet its legally binding targets under the Environment Act and the Climate Change Act.

Wider than farming, it covers new infrastructure and housing, nature recovery, water, and emissions reduction and plans for delivery.

Identifies that:

- 9% of existing agricultural land needs to be converted into non-agricultural uses, for environmental and climate benefits.
- a further 10% of agricultural land needs to introduce either small changes to use or transition to more substantial changes for both food and environmental / climate benefits.
- most changes are about making land more multifunctional alongside food production, rather than taking land out of production entirely.
- On agricultural land not subject to specific land use change, Defra still expects that the majority of agricultural land will undertake some land management changes.

NFU will present at a future meeting of the fortnightly Potato Stakeholder group to discuss the key issues in the consultation and outline the NFU's thinking.

Virus

Summit on Addressing the Virus Threat to Scottish Seed and Ware Crops on 3 December in Dundee (notes circulated as PPTC 002/25)

Virus management guides (seeds and ware)

- Guides fit for purpose, but greater awareness required across industry.
- Difficulty interpreting information from tuber virus indexing: Clearer guidance is required.
- Industry must actively discourage the cultivation of dual-purpose crops.

Managing your Farm Saved Seeds to be at least an E grade

- Properly managed FSS is not a problem. However, in some cases farm-saved seed can act as a virus reservoir.
- Increased capacity is required for tuber virus index testing.
- Packers and processors are well-positioned to effectively share information

Revision of virus disease tolerances during field inspection

- E grade should become a "Fall Grade," meaning that any seed only achieving an E grade cannot be replanted for further production of seed (including FSS) within Scotland.
- Seed stocks are being retained for too long. Reducing the number of seed generations is a positive step.
- Statutory tuber virus indexing within the SPCS should be targeted at higher-risk varieties.

Groundkeeper control

- Implementing groundkeeper control as a mandatory condition would help but may have a negative impact upon the availability of rented land for potato production. New technology is viewed as a long-term solution.
- As part of the classification system, SASA should include monitoring for groundkeepers.

Mitigation measures that reduce need for ware crop destruction

- Need to investigate the differences in between the epidemiology of PVY and PLRV in the field.
- Need to determine whether implementing segregation distances between crops is as an effective strategy for controlling PLRV.

Virus

National Virus met on 20 February in York (notes circulated as PPTC 053/25)

- Discussed the proposed changes to Scottish seed certification scheme.
- Strong support for making E grade a fall grade, that would mean restricting the marketing of E grade to outside of Scotland.
- A majority of attendees supported a reduction in field generations to 6.
- Some support for reducing field generation to 5: recognition that this would have an impact on supply as it would put a lot of pressure on mini tuber and pre-basic production
- Strong support for setting up a technical working group.

PPA to maintain a monitoring brief.

Plant Health / SPS issues

EU SPS equivalency audit

Defra still hasn't received the draft audit report from the EU auditors.

Defra import/export inspection fees consultation

Import/Export inspection fees are likely to be increased by 20% (in line with inflation since the last time fees were reviewed) - some trade kickback particularly from the fresh produce sector. No changes yet proposed to the fees in Scotland.

Plant Varieties and Seeds Strategy

Ongoing PVS strategy consultation. Will be published/finalised in early 2026 with more opportunities to feed into through the course of 2025.

The strategy will cover a 5-year period 2026 to 2031.

Workshops in February and March

Suggested that UK and EU should seek mutual recognition of their DUS testing/aligning PVS authorisations with the European authorisation systems to avoid additional costs/dual costs for EU and GB markets.

Briefly touched upon the PBO work: how will the PB strategy be aligned with the activities in GB and how will PB authorisation be managed given the different regs / views in the devolved regions.

Plant Health / SPS issues

Ring Rot

- Ring Rot detected in two related consignments of ware potatoes imported from Poland by the same exporter.
- Product was imported pre-packed and destined for Polish stores.
- Consignments not yet sold to consumers have all been destroyed.
- Enhanced inspection measures are now in place for Polish ware potato imports (100% inspection rate for all consignments).
- Shipments from the affected exporter will be held until latent test results are confirmed, regardless of visible symptoms.

Brown Rot

- EU detected Brown Rot in consignment of Egyptian ware destined for the European market.
- Also *G. palida* in ware potatoes from the UK destined for Europe.

Blight

- Oxford Agricultural Trials Ltd (OAT) is a field trials contractor conducting trials across the UK.
- Currently looking for additional trial site hosts in the Southwest of England.

Stolbur phytoplasma

- Increasing concern in Germany over Stolbur.
- BOGK is attempting to elevate the issue to Ministerial level.
- EFSA is apparently also considering it as an emerging issue (a previous EFSA review was published in 2014).

EA Irrigation Prospects 2025 (February)

Current irrigation prospects are good across the whole of England for 2025.

Overall rainfall across England (Nov 2022 to Jan 2023) was 102 % of the LTA.

Majority of areas across England received normal rainfall between Nov 2022 to Jan 2023

Northwest and northeast rainfall slightly below average.

River flows at most reporting sites are classed as normal or higher for the time of year.

Groundwater levels at the end of January across England ranged from normal to exceptionally high.

Into March, it is expected that more unsettled conditions are likely in northwestern areas while high pressure is likely to be more influential across the south of the UK, bringing more settled conditions.

Later into March, there is an increasing chance of unsettled conditions becoming more widespread across the country.

Figure 1- Initial irrigation prospects spring-summer 2025



<https://www.farmingadvice.org.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/National%20EA%20Initial%20Irrigation%20Prospects%20Overview%20February%202025.pdf>



Creation date: February 2025

Jamie Harrison is the interim Chair of WFF and will remain in post until the group decides a successor for Mark Taylor

WFF has set up a programme of quarterly meetings with the EA Deputy Director of Water Resources, Richard Thompson.

WFF will use these meetings to raise issues at a senior (i.e. Board) level within the EA, with Richard viewing WFF as the agrifood equivalent on water resources to Water UK, the water company trade body.

Issues raised so far include:

- Competition for resources, and areas where WFF see the water companies being favoured
- Transition to EPR.
- Availability of compensation for licence revocations linked to the “restoring sustainable abstraction” programme.

To support these meetings there will be an on-going dialogue with EA managers including Andy Turner, Team Leader for the Agriculture and Resilience Team and Niall Jones, Team Leader for the Sustainable Abstraction Team.

The updated National Framework document will be published in June, and WFF plan to have a meeting then with all the WAGs to finalise terms of reference for WFF.

WAGs are continuing to develop with funding and support from the EA and the regional planning groups. The areas making most progress appear to be Nottinghamshire & Shropshire.

BAWAG is also meeting abstractors in South Lincolnshire for similar discussions about WAG formation and have interest from the Lark Abstractor Group about a possible future collaboration.

Steve Moncaster has asked, if possible, if he could have another discussion with secretariat and key PPTC members about support for WAGs from processors and others in the supply chain.

The model WFF is considering is based on the previous contribution to BAWAG for work on their Norfolk Sustainable Abstraction programme, albeit over several years this time rather than a single year.

BAWAG has had some interest from Marks & Spencer and would like to build on this with the retailers.

M&S's focus is WRAP & the Courtauld 2030 roadmap (recently rebranded as the UK Food and Drink Pact). These are 100% aligned with the scope and objectives of the Norfolk Sustainable Abstraction programme.

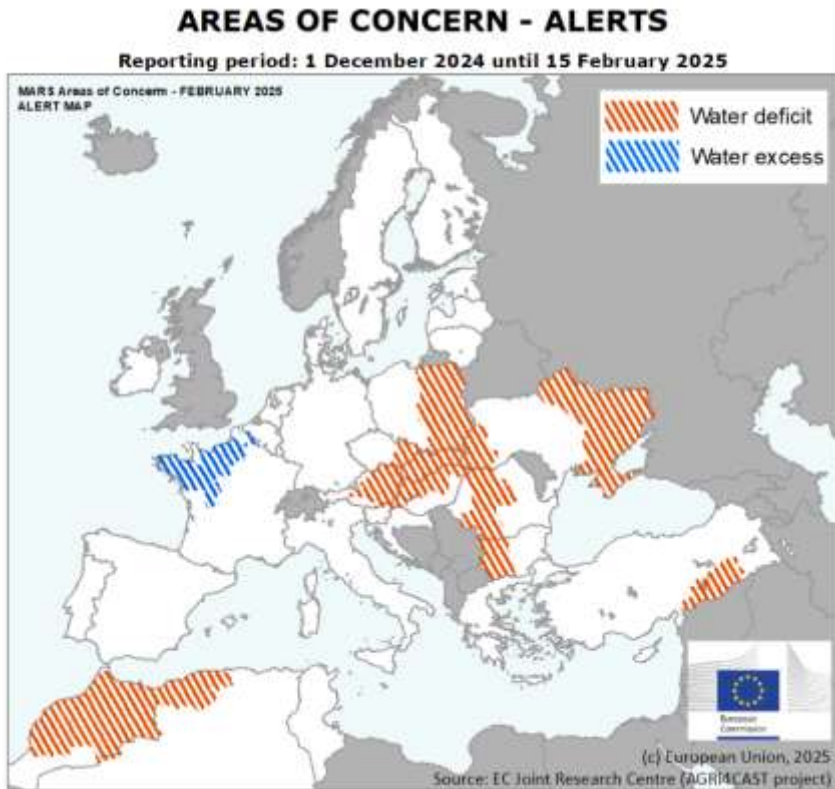
BAWAG AGM is on 12 March 2025 and the membership will be voting on a 3-year subscription package to fund work in response to the EAs licence review & change programme in Norfolk.

BAWAG see this as key to the long-term picture for irrigated agriculture in the County and are hoping for a positive result. The proposal is to increase subscriptions to £5/1,000m³ licenced volume of abstraction with a minimum charge of £600.

The next WFF stakeholder meeting is provisionally scheduled for 11 April 2025.

Action: PPTC Volunteers to support this work welcomed!

European Rainfall



Source: JRC MARS Bulletin Crop monitoring in Europe February 2025

Heavy rainfall hampered crops in north-western France

Heavy rainfall in north-western France in January, combined with the already high soil moisture levels and relatively low temperatures, created unfavourable conditions for crop development.

Precipitation deficit raises concerns in central and eastern Europe

A distinct rainfall deficit is observed in much of central and eastern Europe.

Further concern in these regions is that there is little or no snow cover, so winter crops are exposed to an increased risk of frost kill in the event of an intense cold spell.

2025 meeting dates

PPTC Committee

July (Date and Timing TBC)

Location TBC

October (Date and Timing TBC)

Location TBC