

Newsletter – May 2025

Contents


Government	1
Food safety	2
Health and wellbeing	3
Food labelling and composition	5
Environment and sustainability	5
Agriculture	7
Plant protection products	9
Groceries supply chain	10
Trade	10
Partners	12
PPA committee meeting dates 2025	13
PPA circulars issued in May 2025	13
Upcoming events	15
Industry meetings	16
Documents to note	16
Current consultations	18

Government


[\[return to contents list\]](#)

 **UK-EU summit**

On 19 May, the UK and EU agreed a wide-ranging package to take forward their future partnership at the first UK-EU Summit in London. A [Common Understanding document](#) sets out priorities for enhanced cooperation, including agri-food, with a commitment to work towards a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. This would cover rules on food safety, consumer protection, live animals, pesticides, organics and marketing standards for relevant products. A [Joint Statement](#) and [Explainer](#) have also been published.

 **Report on UK-EU reset**

Ahead of the UK-EU summit, the Business and Trade Committee of the UK Parliament published a [report](#) calling for a strategic reset in UK-EU relations to unlock economic growth and enhance security. The report recommends reducing border costs, improving energy cooperation, easing trade friction, and establishing a UK-EU Defence and Security Pact.

 **Scotland's 2025–26 Programme for Government**

On 6 May, the Scottish Government published its Programme for Government 2025–26, which includes a commitment to lay the draft Good Food Nation Plan by Summer 2025 and to establish the Scottish Food Commission. There is no reference to forthcoming regulations on restricting promotions of food and drink High in Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS). However, on 30 April, Public Health Minister Jenni Minto [confirmed](#) that the consultation analysis and next steps will be published “in the coming weeks”.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Food Strategy updates



The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) hosted a series of events on the Food Strategy at the start of May, supported by the Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD). Outputs from the workshops will help shape the strategy. IGD is acting as a co-secretariat for meetings of the Food Strategy Advisory Board and has developed a [new website](#) to provide updates on developments related to the Food Strategy. You can sign up for the new IGD newsletter [here](#).

Food safety

[\[return to contents list\]](#)



FSA Building Blocks for Better Food Regulation event

On 20 May, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) held an [event](#) in Birmingham seeking views on the future of food regulation in the UK, with a view to understand how regulation could help address some of the systemic challenges in the hospitality, retail and manufacturing sectors. Views gathered at the event will help the agency identify priority areas and inform future thinking for the FSA Board. To share views, you can contact the FSA directly via sharingperspectives@food.gov.uk.



FSA Food for Thought webinar

FSA ran a webinar on 14 May, titled '*Food for Thought: The Science of Food Safety: 5 years in the past, 25 years into the future*', looking at food science developments and the role of the FSA over the last 25 years. A recording of the webinar can be viewed [here](#).



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Foot and Mouth Disease controls eased for Germany

Earlier this month Defra [announced](#) that Great Britain officially recognises Germany as free from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) without vaccination, lifting previous import restrictions from the affected containment zone. Exports of FMD-susceptible animals and their products from this area can now resume, provided all import conditions are met. Personal import restrictions remain in place.

An Official Veterinary Surgeon [note](#) was issued containing further information. [Guidance](#) has also been amended.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Precision breeding legislation passed

On 13 May, new [secondary legislation](#) on precision breeding completed the Parliamentary process. The regulations will come into force on 14 November, following a six-month review period by the World Trade Organization.



FSA expands powers to tackle food fraud

On 1 May, the Food Standards Agency's National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) gained [new investigatory powers](#) under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, allowing officers to apply for and execute search warrants directly. This change aims to enhance the NFCU's ability to respond swiftly to intelligence and protect consumers and businesses from food fraud. For more information see the [FSA Blog](#).



COT review of T-2 and HT-2 in food

The Committee on Toxicity (COT) has published the [minutes](#) from its 25 March meeting, which, amongst other things, included discussions on work carried out on the mycotoxins T-2 and HT-2. An initial FSA draft statement is expected in July, with the final outcome expected later in 2025.



FSA/FSS issues policy response on ocean-bound plastics



On 20 May, the FSA and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) published a [joint policy response](#) advising against the use of ocean-bound plastics in food contact materials. The advice highlights safety concerns around plastics recovered from unregulated environments such as coastal areas or waterways. It does not apply to materials sourced through controlled UK recycling systems.



NFCU control strategy priorities 2025/26

Priorities for the NFCU have now been agreed, covering the period April 2025-March 2026. Priorities include tackling fraud linked to misrepresentation and adulteration of red meat, poultry and dairy (including waste diversion), and high-risk products such as honey, olive oil, herbs and spices, organic and white fish.



Food Standards Agency guidance on hepatitis A

The FSA has published new [guidance](#) on hepatitis A, an inflammation of the liver caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). The guidance explains that HAV can be contracted through close contact with an infected person or by consuming contaminated food or water, including raw fruit, vegetables, or shellfish.



Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods – June meeting

The 18th session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods ([CCCCF18](#)) will be held from 23-27 June, in Bangkok, Thailand. Agenda items include acrylamide, aflatoxin A in peanuts, ochratoxin A in spices, cadmium and lead.



Codex work on methods of analysis for PAL

The 44th session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling ([CCMAS44](#)) took place virtually from 5–8 May. A key outcome for the UK was the agreement to re-establish the electronic working group on allergen methods for Precautionary Allergen Labelling (PAL), which will now begin its work to assess methods using updated AOAC guidelines for immunoassays.

Health and wellbeing

[\[return to contents list\]](#)



Announcement on UK LHF advertising restrictions

On 22 May, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) issued a [written statement](#) stating the government's intention to lay new legislation to explicitly exempt 'brand advertising' from the upcoming advertising restrictions of 'Less Healthy Food' (LHF) and also delaying the implementation date the regulations until 5 January 2026. However, the government has asked that industry and other stakeholders to agree to adhere to the new rules on a voluntary basis from 1 October 2025 to secure support from across the government.



Northern Ireland obesity strategy consultation

On 21 May, the Northern Ireland (NI) Department of Health published its [analysis of the 2023-24 consultation](#) on the proposed 'Healthy Futures obesity strategy'.

Key consultation feedback included strong support for cross-sector collaboration, mandatory nutrition standards in healthcare settings, stricter marketing and labelling rules for 'unhealthy' foods, particularly those targeted at children, and greater engagement with the food industry. The final strategy and action plan are expected in 2025.



Welsh Government consultation on Healthy Eating in Schools

On 20 May, the Welsh Government launched a consultation on '[Healthy Eating in Schools](#)', that will inform changes to legislation on school food, as well as guidance on healthy eating promotion. The consultation also has a call for evidence on food provision at secondary schools. The consultation closes on 29 July.



Action on Salt highlights high salt levels in ready meals

During Salt Awareness Week (12–18 May), Action on Salt published a [report](#) claiming that one in five ready meals sold in the UK are high in salt. The group has also [written](#) to the Minister for Public Health and Prevention, Ashley Dalton MP, alongside a list of other stakeholders, urging the government to strengthen efforts to reduce salt intake, including reviewing existing targets and introducing mandatory limits for food businesses.



Healthy Food Environment: Time to Deliver



Obesity Action Scotland and the Scottish Obesity Alliance will host a joint event on 10 June in Glasgow, focusing on regulating HFSS food promotions, advertising, and supporting Scotland's Good Food Nation agenda.

For more information and to book your place, click [here](#).



Food Foundation report on Early Years Nutrition

The Food Foundation has published its final [Early Years report](#), claiming that 17% of UK households with children under four are food insecure. The report raises concerns about the marketing and nutritional quality of baby and toddler snacks such as which are often marketed with numerous health and nutrition claims. The report calls for stronger regulations to ensure these products meet appropriate nutritional standards and calls for urgent policy action to improve access to nutritious food for young children.



Obesity statistics update – May 2025

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) has [published](#) new data indicating that 26.5% of adults in England were living with obesity in 2023–24, with 64.5% being either overweight or obese. Obesity was more common amongst women, while men were more likely to be overweight. Prevalence was highest among those aged 55–64 and in deprived areas. Only 31.3% met the '5-a-day' recommendation, and 22% were physically inactive.

On 29 April, the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and the Committees of Advertising Practice (CAP) published their [2024 Annual Report](#). The report highlights the transformation towards a more proactive and preventative regulatory approach, significantly boosted by AI.

The report reveals a tenfold increase in ads processed, reaching 28 million, and outlines key areas of focus including environmental claims, influencer marketing, and protecting vulnerable groups in areas such as health claims.



WHO report on social determinants of health equity

The World Health Organization (WHO) has [published](#) its 2025 World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity. It reviews global progress since 2008 and sets out 14 recommendations to address health inequities. Amongst others, the report highlights the role of diet and food environments, including the impact of Ultra-Processed Foods (UPF). Recommendations include fiscal measures on unhealthy products, marketing restrictions, stronger regulation, and reforms to public procurement.

Food labelling and composition

[\[return to contents list\]](#)



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Prepare for Phase 3 of ‘Not for EU’ labelling

On 1 July, Phase 3 of the requirement to label certain composite products and other products in scope of product-level labelling which are moved from GB to NI under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) comes into force. Defra confirmed that, despite the recent trade agreement with the EU, the July labelling requirements of Phase will go ahead, although it is likely it will no longer be necessary once the SPS agreement is in place.

Defra has updated the [labelling guidance](#) to provide further clarity on products requiring product-level labelling.

Environment and sustainability

[\[return to contents list\]](#)



EFRA Committee inquiry on the circular economy

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee has launched an [inquiry](#) into the circular economy, and issued a [call for evidence](#) on the Global Plastics Treaty. The inquiry will assess the UK Government’s progress towards a circular economy and how key regulators are supporting sustainable waste management. The call for evidence closes on 18 June.



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Government responds to OEP review on environmental principles duty

On 19 May, the UK Government published its [response](#) to the Office for Environmental Protection’s (OEP) review of how departments are implementing the legal duty to consider the Environmental Principles Policy Statement (EPPS) in policymaking. The Government welcomed the OEP’s eight recommendations and committed to strengthening the application of the EPPS across departments. It highlighted early progress since the duty came into force on 1 November 2023 and pledged continued collaboration with the OEP to embed environmental considerations into policy development.



Environment Agency (EA) consults on new charge for non-compliance

On 15 May, the EA launched a [consultation](#) on plans to introduce a new hourly charge for businesses and occupiers of relevant non-domestic premises that fail to comply with workplace Simpler Recycling requirements in England. This would include micro-businesses, even though they are not in scope until 31 March 2027. The consultation closes on 15 July.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

UK and England carbon footprint to 2022

Defra has released [updated statistics](#) showing a 3% increase in the UK's carbon footprint in 2022 compared to 2021. This rise is attributed to higher emissions from imported goods and household travel. Notably, emissions from imports originating from China reached their highest levels, more than quadrupling since 1996. Despite this uptick, the UK's overall carbon footprint remains 24% below its 2007 peak.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

pEPR legislation notified to EU

On 6 May, the UK Government notified an amending Statutory Instrument (SI) to the EU regarding the [Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging](#) (pEPR) in respect of NI. The amendments are wide ranging, and will be laid in Parliament in November 2025, so that changes can come into force ahead of year 2 of the scheme. Key provisions include enabling the appointment of a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), extending closed-loop offsetting provisions to food grade plastic, and other operability changes.

Please see [here](#) the latest 'Regulators' agreed positions and technical interpretations' document on pEPR for 2025 and subsequent submissions.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Expression of Interest – Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO)

An [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) process](#) has been launched for the role of PRO. [Completed EOIs](#) should be submitted to packaging@defra.gov.uk by 10 June. The four nations will invite selected potential candidates to engage on proposals for the role by September 2025.

[PackUK](#) will launch the formal application process in October 2025, with appointment by March 2026.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

FDTP seeks new Eco Working Group members

The Food Data Transparency Partnership (FDTP) is recruiting new members for its Eco Working Group to help Defra shape proposals on measuring and communicating environmental impacts in the agri-food sector.

Applicants should bring expertise in areas such as retail or horticulture sustainability, biodiversity reporting, or agri-food skills and capacity building. [Expressions of interest](#) are due by 5pm on 27 May. Terms of reference, existing members and objectives can be found [here](#).



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

May Joint Stakeholder Engagement Forum on Collection and Packaging Reforms

On 6 May, Defra held the latest [Joint Stakeholder Engagement Forum](#). Topics discussed included [Circular Economy](#), [Simpler Recycling in England](#), [pEPR](#), [PackUK](#), [Recyclability Assessment Methodology \(RAM\)](#), [fee modulation](#) and [Report Packaging Data \(RPD\)](#).



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

pEPR guidance for small producers

On 2 May 2025, Defra published updated [guidance](#) on pEPR for small producers. This applies to organisations with a turnover above £1 million and up to £2 million that supply over 25 tonnes of packaging annually in the UK, or those with turnover above £1 million supplying more than 25 and no more than 50 tonnes of packaging in the UK per year.

Agriculture

[\[return to contents list\]](#)



New GB Potatoes/CUPGRA PCN Management Guide

GB Potatoes, in partnership with CUPGRA, has published a new [guide](#) to support UK potato growers in managing Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN).



Focussing specifically *Globodera pallida* and *G. rostochiensis*, the guide provides science-based, practical recommendations to help mitigate one of the most persistent challenges facing the sector. Members of [GB Potatoes](#) and [CUPGRA](#) can access the full guide via their respective member portals. For non-members, a free summary factsheet will be available soon.



Alistair Mackintosh appointed as Red Tractor Chair

On 23 May, Red Tractor [announced](#) the appointment of Alistair Mackintosh as Chair of the Assured Food Standards Board. Mackintosh, a Cumbrian beef, sheep, and arable farmer, had been serving as Interim Chair since July 2024. He is the first farmer to hold the position in the scheme's 25-year history. His appointment follows progress on implementing recommendations from the Campbell Tickell and Farm Assurance Reviews.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

New AHDB Chair appointed

On 21 May, Emily Norton was [appointed](#) as the new Chair of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). Emily, who has 25 years of experience in the food and farming sector, will take on the role for three years from 1 June, succeeding Nicholas Saphir, who is stepping down as Chair after more than five years in the role.



APHA raises awareness of Colorado beetle threat

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has issued a call for gardeners, allotmenters, and farmers to watch for [Colorado beetles](#) following sightings in 2023. The pest, which is endemic in some parts of Europe, poses a significant risk to potato crops and other plants.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Historic UK agriculture statistics released 1989-2010

Defra has published a collection of archived annual reports covering [UK agriculture from 1989 to 2010](#). The reports provide detailed historical data on farm incomes, land use, production, and trade, and are intended to support policy development and analysis.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Government’s vision for farming: EFRA Committee report

The EFRA Committee has published its first [report](#) of the 2024–25 session, examining the government’s vision for farming. The report raises concerns over premature policy announcements and calls for a comprehensive 25-year Farming Roadmap to guide future decisions. It highlights challenges in farm profitability and inheritance tax, urging the government to delay proposed reforms to Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief by two years amid fears of potential impacts on food supply chains.



England’s peatlands mapped to aid restoration efforts

Natural England has [announced](#) the publication of what it claims is the most comprehensive [map of England’s peatlands](#) to date, revealing that approximately 80% are dry and degraded. The map, developed using satellite imagery and AI, aims to guide targeted restoration efforts to enhance carbon storage, water management, and biodiversity. Restoring 55% of peatland could yield an estimated £50 billion in carbon emission reductions and other environmental benefits. An accompanying report can be found [here](#).



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

UK Organic farming statistics 2024

Defra has [released](#) a set of statistics on the UK's organic farming sector for 2024. According to the data the total area farmed organically increased by 1.0% compared with 2023, to 503,000 hectares. However, fully organic land decreased by 1.7% to 454,000 hectares, while land in conversion rose by 36% to 49,000 hectares. England accounts for 59% of the UK's organic land, followed by Scotland (26%), Wales (14%), and NI (1.4%).



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Government grants for farmers

On 7 May, Defra [announced](#) £50 million in grants to help farmers invest in new equipment and technology. This includes up to £25,000 per item through the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF), and support via the Investor Partnerships programme for innovative tech such as seed-planting robots.



EA urges action amid driest spring since 1956

On 7 May, the EA convened a meeting of the [National Drought Group](#) following England's driest start to spring in 69 years. March was the driest since 1961, and April received just half its usual rainfall. Reservoir levels in the northeast and northwest are notably low, prompting early crop irrigation. While no regions are officially in drought, the group has stated that there is a medium risk this summer without sustained rainfall.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Farming Innovation Investor Partnership Competition

A new £5m round of [the Investor Partnerships competition](#) will open on 2 June. A [webinar](#) for interested SMEs will take place on 5 June.

Investor Partnership competitions are delivered by Innovate UK and funded by Defra as part of its [Farming Innovation Programme](#). They are intended to enable agri-tech businesses to receive grants for innovative projects alongside private capital from investors, supporting commercialisation and growth of emerging agri-tech.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Farming Futures R&D Fund: Precision Breeding Competition

Defra has opened [applications](#) for a new £12.5 million funding competition under the Farming Futures R&D Fund. The initiative supports mid-stage collaborative research projects focused on precision breeding in arable and horticultural crops, aligning with the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023. Eligible UK-registered businesses can apply for grants covering projects costing between £1 million and £2.5 million. Projects must demonstrate benefits to farmers or growers in England. The competition closes at 11:00 am on 25 June.



UK Government

UK-Scotland roundtable on agriculture



On 30 April, the UK and Scottish governments convened a [roundtable](#) in Edinburgh with agriculture sector leaders to address key challenges in Scotland's agri-food supply chain. Discussions focused on immigration and labour access, supply chain fairness, and economic growth. The meeting was held in support of the UK Government's Plan for Change and the SG's Vision for sustainable agriculture.



The James
Hutton
Institute

NPIC Workshop Report: Potato Research and Food Security

Following a series of workshops held earlier this year, the James Hutton Institute published a National Potato Innovation Centre (NPIC) [report](#) titled 'Strategy for Potato Research in the UK', outlining the outcomes of the discussions. The report highlights strategic priorities to enhance the UK potato industry. Key focus areas include breeding for climate resilience, improving pest and disease resistance, and advancing sustainable production methods. The report emphasises collaboration between academia, industry, and government to drive innovation and ensure long-term sector sustainability.



EU drought conditions worsen

The European Commission's (EC) Joint Research Centre has [warned](#) of intensifying drought across large parts of Europe due to low rainfall and high temperatures. Central, eastern, and south-eastern regions are most affected, with river levels dropping significantly. Conditions are expected to remain dry into June, raising concerns for agriculture and ecosystems.

Plant protection products

[\[return to contents list\]](#)



ECP annual report 2024

The UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) has published its [2024 annual report](#), outlining its activities over the year. The report covers the Committee's audit of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), its advisory role on approval applications and changes to conditions of approval for active substances, including emergency authorisations, its input into ecotoxicological risk assessments, and its work on the Biopesticide Cloud.



Changes to the GB MRL statutory register

To meet the requirements of international trade, and to accommodate new authorisations for plant protection products, new Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) have been set in the [GB MRL Statutory Register](#) for the several active/commodity combinations, including cycloxydim in potatoes. The evaluation reports, reasoned opinions and decision documents supporting the new MRLs are available on the [HSE website](#).



EC confirms non-renewal of flufenacet

On 21 May the EC published a [regulation](#) confirming the non-renewal of the herbicide flufenacet, due to concerns over endocrine disruption and groundwater contamination from a metabolite, trifluoroacetic acid. EU member states must withdraw any existing authorisations by 10 December 2025, with any grace periods ending by 10 December 2026 at the latest.

Groceries supply chain

[\[return to contents list\]](#)



Department for
Business & Trade

Government launches statutory review of Groceries Code Adjudicator

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) has opened a [consultation](#) to assess the performance of the Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA) from April 2022 to March 2025. The review will examine how the GCA has exercised its powers, enforced the Code, and whether changes to its remit or penalties are needed. Stakeholders, including retailers, suppliers, and consumers, are invited to submit views. The consultation closes on 5 August.

Trade

[\[return to contents list\]](#)



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra clarification on 'Not for EU' labelling for HRFNAO via NIRMS

Defra has issued a clarification note on how High-Risk Foods Not of Animal Origin (HRFNAO) are considered with regard to product-level labelling when moved from GB to NI via the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) as part of the implementation of Phase 3, applicable from 1 July 2025. The note is available to members on request.

Defra will further update the guidance and issue a FAQs document consolidating key queries received from stakeholders.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra updates guidance on NIRMS labelling

Defra has amended its guidance on ['Labelling requirements for certain products moving from Great Britain to retail premises in Northern Ireland under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme'](#) with regard to products in scope of product-level labelling in Phase 3. The guidance now includes a list of ['Products that are exempt from individual labelling in all settings'](#).

Please note that PPA is now in talks with Defra to further clarify the exemptions applicable to snacks.



Department for
Business & Trade

UK-US trade deal announced

On 8 May, the [UK and US announced a new trade agreement](#) reducing US tariffs on British car exports steel and aluminium, though the 10% additional duty on most goods remains. The UK has agreed to increased market access for US beef and ethanol, with no changes to UK food standards. [General terms](#) have also been published.



Department for
Business & Trade

UK signs trade deal with India

On 6 May the UK signed a comprehensive [free trade agreement with India](#), marking a significant milestone in the relationship between the world's fifth and sixth largest economies. The agreement reduces tariffs on 90% of current UK exports to India on items, including some agri-food.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

New guidance on Official Controls at the EU Border for GB exports

Defra has released new [guidance](#) for UK exporters of animal products from GB to the EU. The guidance outlines procedures when goods are subject to intensified official controls (IOC) or imposed checks due to non-compliance with EU import requirements. Repeated failures can lead to increased inspections, testing, and potential trade restrictions. Businesses are advised to ensure compliance with export health certificates and to address any issues promptly to avoid escalation.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

UK trade in food, feed and drink: 2024 statistics

On 1 May Defra published its latest '[UK trade in Food, Feed and Drink](#)' report, presenting the latest statistics for the value of trade in Food, Feed and Drink in the UK. According to the report, in 2024, UK exports of food, feed and drink rose by 0.5% to £24.6 billion in current prices but declined by 2% in real terms after adjusting for inflation. Imports increased by 5% to £64.1 billion in current prices and by 7% in real terms. While export values have recovered from pandemic and Brexit-related lows, they remain below 2018 levels when adjusted for inflation.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra guidance on SPS parcels sent from GB to NI

Defra has issued [new guidance](#) on sending parcels that contain SPS goods GB to NI by post, which includes the provision of samples of agri-food goods, plants and products containing animal or plant elements. The new guidance facilitates the movement of small amounts of SPS goods from GB to NI. However, parcels containing SPS goods must be clearly labelled as per the guidance.

Guidance for exporting or moving [composite products](#) and [plant products](#) have also been updated.



HM Revenue
& Customs

Customs guidance on parcels sent from GB to NI

[HM Revenue & Customs](#) has also updated its guidance on sending parcels from businesses in GB to private individuals or businesses in NI.



New UK Export Academy free events

The UK Export Academy will be running a series of free online events for traders in June including:

- [US Tariffs: Country Risk and Economic Proposition](#): 2 June 15:00-16:00.
- [Food and Drink Opportunities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#): 4 June, 10:00-11:00.
- [US Tariffs: The Windsor Agreement Opportunities and complications](#): 11 June, 14:00-15:00.
- [How to work with a Freight Forwarder](#): 30 June, 11:00-12:00.



EU-US: New consultation launched by the Commission

The EC has launched a [public consultation](#) on new US tariffs on imports of various products originating in or from the EU, and possible EU measures in response. Proposals from the EU include several US origin tree nut and ground nuts.

ESA is now consulting its members on a response to the consultation.

Partners

[\[return to contents list\]](#)



Open Farm Sunday returns on 8 June

Now in its 19th year, [Open Farm Sunday](#) will take place on 8 June, helping to raise public awareness and support for British agriculture. LEAF is encouraging more farm businesses to take part, offering online resources and [recorded webinars](#) to support preparations. Members can also email OpenFarmSunday@leaf.eco or phone 02476 413911/07912 463151 for more information.



EU Green Week Partner Event – 17 June

On 17 June, as part of EU Green Week, NSF will host an online panel discussion focusing on upcoming EU policy changes impacting the food and water sectors. The event will address the challenges posed by new circular economy requirements, the European Water Resilience Strategy (adopted 7 May), and the EU's 55% emissions reduction target by 2030.

Industry experts, regulators, and standardisation bodies will explore how to ensure food and water safety in a circular economy. To register for the event, click [here](#).



Europatat Congress 2025: 11–13 June

On 11–13 June, the [Europatat Congress](#) will convene at Hôtel Barrière in Lille, France. Organised by Europatat and Fedepom, the event will focus on the theme 'Potato leaders of the future: deciding under uncertainty'. The programme includes panel discussions on the French and European potato markets, networking sessions, and an optional visit to the Port of Dunkirk.



PotatoEurope 2025: Innovation Award Jury Announced

The organisers of [PotatoEurope 2025](#) have now confirmed the expert panel for this year's Innovation Award, held in partnership with PotatoWorld magazine. The trade fair takes place on 3–4 September at WUR's Open Crops site in Lelystad, the Netherlands, and will showcase leading developments in the potato sector.



IFST brief: new technologies and food safety considerations

The Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) has published [a technical brief](#) offering guidance on integrating emerging technologies, such as AI, robotics, smart packaging, and 3D food printing, into food production while maintaining safety standards. It outlines best practices across pre-implementation, implementation, and post-implementation phases, including risk assessments, hygiene validation, and stakeholder engagement. The brief also addresses managing misinformation, evaluating supplier credibility, and ensuring regulatory compliance.



SciMed seminar on food testing



On 18 June, SciMed in collaboration with Reading Scientific Services Ltd (RSSL), will be holding a free, in-person 'Seminar on the Methods and Techniques for Food Testing'. It will explore the analytical techniques and innovations shaping food testing across the supply chain. The event will be held at the RSSL offices in Reading, from 9:30-16:00. For more information and to secure your place, click [here](#).

Farmers Guardian has launched a new [survey on regenerative agriculture](#) and is inviting farmers to share their experiences. Responses will inform a special edition of the publication, set for release on 27 June. The survey seeks insights from those already practicing regenerative methods and those exploring the transition.



New FDF State of the Industry Report Q1 2025

On 14 May, the Food and Drink Federation (FDF) published its latest [State of Industry Report](#), for Q1 2025. Findings show that 41% of manufacturers are cutting back or cancelling long-term investments due to economic pressures, taxes, and regulatory burdens. Business confidence remains low at -43%, with rising costs and skills shortages pushing companies to focus on automation and productivity. The FDF is calling for a coordinated government approach to support sector growth.



Innovative Farmers potato pest webinar recording

Conclusions and recommendations from an [Innovative Farmers](#) field lab that were presented as part of a recent Wireworm and Integrated Pest Management Webinar, are now available to view on [YouTube](#).

PPA committee meeting dates 2025

[\[return to contents list\]](#)

PPA Board

Other 2025 dates TBC	TBC	TBC
----------------------	-----	-----

Food Law and Consumer [FLC] committee

1 July 2025	11:00-15:00	In person – FDF offices - London
12 November 2025	13:30-17:00	Microsoft Teams (online)

Primary Production Technical committee [PPTC] committee

Other 2025 dates TBC	TBC	TBC
----------------------	-----	-----

PPA circulars issued in May 2025

[\[return to contents list\]](#)

Historic PPA circulars from 2022 onwards are also stored online via the ‘SLACK’ system. If you would like access to this system, please inform the secretariat and we will grant you access to the system.

Food Law and Consumer Committee (FLC)

Date	Subject	Circular No.
01-May	FSA Horizon Scanning (Apr.25 update)	136/25
01-May	Draft ESA response to targeted consultation on MCPD and Glycidyl esters	137/25
01-May	Changes to SPS samples from GB-NI (plant products and composites) and Windsor Framework FDF summary	138/25
02-May	Codex consultation on PAL Guidelines	139/25
02-May	England Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition guidance	140/25
07-May	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 18 2025	141/25
07-May	FDE and ESA responses to the target consultation on 3-MCPD-esters	142/25
07-May	Slides from FDE Contaminants meeting	143/25
07-May	ESA Glycoalkaloids: data collection activity 2025	144/25
08-May	ILSI Proposal for a COST Action on furan	145/25

08-May	HMRC Stats 2022- 2024	146/25
09-May	EPR and other packaging updates	147/25
09-May	EU Pesticide Renewal Monitor, March 2025	148/25
12-May	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 19 2025	149/25
13-May	Annual crisps, snacks and nuts salt data collection 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025	150/25
13-May	Annual popcorn salt and sugar data collection 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025	151/25
14-May	The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Regulations 2025	152/25
14-May	Updated draft guidance on the evaluation of new active substance data post (renewal of) approval	153/25
14-May	FLC meeting minutes: 25 March 2025	154/25
15-May	ESA notes from meeting with DG SANTE - 12 May 2025	155/25
16-May	Defra clarification on updated 'Not for EU' Labelling Guidance re. HRFNAO	156/25
19-May	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 20 2025	157/25
19-May	UK/EU Trade Deal	158/25
20-May	Summary of EFSA data on Furan	159/25
20-May	UK/EU Trade Deal - FDF analysis	160/25
20-May	European Commission study on "health taxes" in the European Union	161/25
21-May	EU non-renewal of Flufenacet	162/25
21-May	Consultation analysis NI Obesity Framework 'Healthy Futures'	163/25
22-May	Defra note on the new UK/EU deal and 'Not for EU' labelling	164/25
22-May	Update on TV and online advertising restrictions for LHF food and drink	165/25
23-May	WG consultation on Healthy Eating in Schools	166/25
27-May	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 21 2025	167/25
27-May	ESA data on acrylamide in sliced potato crisps	168/25
28-May	Informal summary reports of the meeting of Commission Working Group on Flavourings	169/25
30-May	ESA legislation digest (May 2025)	170/25
30-May	PPA PPP Log (May 2025)	171/25
30-May	PPA Monthly Newsletter (May 2025)	172/25

Primary Production Technical Committee (PPTC)

Date	Subject	Circular No.
01-May	Updated Defra guide on the Seed Potato Classification Scheme and Approved Stock Scheme	097/25
02-May	The National Potato Innovation Centre (NPIC): Strategy for Potato Research in the UK	098/25
07-May	Slides from FDE Contaminants meeting	099/25
07-May	ESA Glycoalkaloids: data collection activity 2025	100/25
09-May	EU Pesticide Renewal Monitor, December 2024	101/25
12-May	NPIC webinar "Potato: The path to a brighter future"	102/25
13-May	Updates from Potato Stakeholder meeting, 1 May 2025	103/25
14-May	The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Regulations 2025	104/25
14-May	Updated draft guidance on the evaluation of new active substance data post (renewal of) approval	105/25
15-May	Updates from Potato Stakeholder meeting, 1 May 2025	106/25
16-May	Potato Tuber Treatments document	107/25
19-May	ECP Annual Report	108/25
19-May	Press release on Colorado beetle	109/25
19-May	UK/EU Trade Deal	110/25
20-May	UK/EU Trade Deal - FDF analysis	111/25
20-May	1,4-DMN Update	112/25
21-May	EU non-renewal of Flufenacet	113/25

27-May	Pesticide Residues Monitoring Programme - March 2025 Rolling Report (GB)	114/25
28-May	Seed Potato Trade Day NIAB 2025	115/25
30-May	ESA legislation digest (May 2025)	116//25
30-May	PPA PPP Log (May 2025)	117/25
30-May	PPA Monthly Newsletter (May 2025)	118/25

Upcoming events

[\[return to contents list\]](#)

2 June 2025	UK Export Academy webinar: US Tariffs: Country Risk and Economic Proposition, online
3 June 2025	UK Export Academy webinar: Food and Drink Opportunities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, online
3 June 2025	FDF/Marsh webinar: Common causes of allergen recall, online
3 June 2025	IFST Lecture: Prof Susan Jebb – Science on the menu: how innovation shapes regulation and keeps food safe, London
3 June 2025	Making accessibility a reality with QR codes powered by GS1, online
3 June 2025	ClearBorder webinar: ‘What’s new for UK-EU trade?’, online
3-4 June 2025	NCSU/UPL Mancozeb summit, Harpenden
4 June 2025	FDEA Summer Network Forum, London
7 June 2025	World Food Safety Day
10 June 2025	FDF/Ramboll webinar: Safety leadership and culture, online
11 June 2025	FDF SME Forum, London
11 June 2025	UK Export Academy webinar: US Tariffs: The Windsor Agreement Opportunities and complications, online
11-13 June 2025	EuroPatat Congress, Lille, France
17 June 2025	CUPGRA Field Day 1, Cambridge
17 June 2025	FDF Parliamentary Summer Reception, London
17 June 2025	FDF/Ashbury webinar ‘Navigating the regulatory environment for developing sustainable products’, online
18 June 2025	FDF Nature Risk workshop, London
19 June 2025	HSE course: Using drones for the application of pesticides in GB, online
24 June 2025	GS1 webinar: Powering the future of traceability with QR codes powered by GS1, online
24 June 2025	FDF webinar: Ensuring compliance with HFSS Regulations across the UK, online
30 June 2025	UK Export Academy webinar: US Tariffs: How to work with a Freight Forwarder, online
1 July 2025	HSE course: Plant protection product registration under the provision of Article 34 (exemption from the submission of studies) under plant protection regimes in GB and NI, York
10 July 2025	IFST/University of Oxford: Oxford Food Summit 2025, Oxford
15 July 2025	GS1 webinar: Combating food waste with QR codes powered by GS1, online
17 July 2025	HSE course: Hints and tips for writing a biocides efficacy product assessment report under GB biocidal products regulation, online
22-23 July 2025	HSE course: Technical equivalence tier I assessments for plant protection products in GB and NI, online
5 August 2025	CUPGRA Field Day 2, Cambridge
7 August 2025	Potatoes in Practice 2025, Dundee
2 September 2025	PSI Potato Storage Management course, Rutland
3-4 September 2025	Potato Europe, Lelystad, The Netherlands
1 October 2025	IGD conference: The Future of the UK Food System, London
7 October 2025	IFST Autumn Conference 2025, Nottingham
9-5 November 2025	Agritechnica, Hanover, Germany
19-20 November 2025	British Potato 2025, Harrogate, Yorkshire
9 December 2025	CUPGRA Conference, Cambridge

Industry meetings

[\[return to contents list\]](#)

5 June 2025	FDF Diet & Health Committee (DHC) meeting, hybrid
4 June 2025	FDF Residues and Contaminants (RAC) Committee meeting, hybrid
10 June 2025	EUPPA Food Law Committee meeting, Brussels
11 June 2025	EUPPA Processing Sustainability Committee meeting, Brussels
11 June 2025	EUPPA Agricultural Sustainability Committee meeting, Brussels
11 June 2025	Chlorpropham Residues Management Group (CRMG), online
12 June 2025	Food Industry Liaison Group Meeting, online
12 June 2025	Potato Stakeholders Fortnightly Call, online
18 June 2025	FSA Board meeting, Birmingham and online
18 June 2025	Stakeholder engagement meeting with GB Potatoes, PPA and Defra, online
19 June 2025	FDF Food Law and Labelling (FLL) Committee meeting, hybrid
19 June 2025	EUPPA Board meeting, online
24 June 2025	FDF Food Contact Materials (FCM) Committee meeting, hybrid
24 June 2025	FDE ad-hoc joint call between Nutrition and Science Working Groups, online
25 June 2025	FDF Allergens Steering Group (ASG), hybrid
26 June 2025	Potato Stakeholders Fortnightly Call, online
30 June 2025	Mondra branded Working Group meeting, London

Documents to note

[\[return to contents list\]](#)

Government position/policy papers/guidance and related resources

EU exit

[Check if you need to declare goods you bring into or take out of the UK](#)

[DBT Research and analysis: Retained EU law and assimilated law dashboard](#) (last updated 23 January 2025)

[COLLECTION: Customs, VAT and excise UK transition legislation from 1 January 2021](#) (last updated 2 April 2025)

[DIT/DBT Guidance: UK trade agreements in effect](#) (last updated 7 February 2025)

[Cabinet Office Guidance: Brexit transition helplines](#) (last updated 31 March 2025)

[COLLECTION: Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee](#) (last updated 13 May 2025)

[COLLECTION: REUL \(Revocation and Reform\) Act 2023 statutory instruments](#) (last updated 22 April 2025)

Windsor Framework

[Policy paper: Update on 'not for EU' labelling for retail products across Great Britain](#) (first published 30 September 2024)

[Defra Guidance: Labelling requirements for certain products moving from GB to retail premises in NI under NIRMS](#) (last updated 23 May 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Commodity codes for NIRMS](#) (last updated 20 March 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Movement Assistance Scheme: get help with moving agrifood goods to NI](#) (last updated 21 May 2025)

[NI-GB Trader Support Service](#)

[Guidance: Moving qualifying goods from Northern Ireland to the rest of the UK](#) (last updated 31 January 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Move seed potatoes from GB-NI using NI plant health labels](#) (first published 20 February 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Apply to renew a Northern Ireland plant health label \(NIPHL\) scheme authorisation](#) (first published 18 March 2025)

[Defra Guidance: NIRMS: how to register and seal consignments](#) (last updated 21 February 2025)

[NICTA website](#)

UK Imports

[Defra Guidance: Import animal products for human consumption to GB](#) (last updated 22 April 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Import plants and plant products from non-EU countries to GB](#) (last updated 12 November 2024)

[Defra Guidance: Import compound products to GB](#) (last updated 23 January 2025)

[APHA guidance: BTOM risk categorisations \(EU and non-EU plant and plant products\)](#) (last updated 24 April 2025)

[Defra/APHA Guidance: Check risk categories for animal and animal product imported from the EU to GB](#) (last updated 26 March 2025)

[Defra Guidance: BTOM risk categories and inspection rates for animal and animal product imports from non-EU countries to GB: summary tables](#) (last updated 1 April 2025)

[Defra/APHA: EU imports to England and Wales April 2024](#) (last updated 25 February 2025)

[Defra guidance: Importing and exporting fresh fruit and vegetables](#) (last updated 13 September 2024)

[HMRC Guidance: Importing SPS controlled goods that interact with ALVS](#) (last updated 13 February 2025)

[HMRC Notice: Notices made under the Customs \(Import Duty\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018](#) (last updated 27 May 2025)

[DBT/HM Treasury/HMRC Guidance: UK Trade Tariff: duty suspensions and autonomous tariff quotas](#) (last updated 24 April 2025)

[Defra: EU and EFTA countries approved to export animals and animal products to GB](#) (last updated 27 May 2025)

[HMRC Guidance: Goods Vehicle Movement Service - service availability and issues](#) (last updated 19 May 2024)

[Defra: Non-EU countries approved to export animals and animal products to GB](#) (last updated 19 May 2025)

[Defra/APHA Guidance: Check import risk categories, inspection rates and related rules for animals and animal products imported from non-EU countries to GB](#) (last updated 1 April 2025)

[HMRC: Safety and security declarations](#) (last updated 1 May 2025)

[Defra/APHA Guidance: Animals, animal products and HRFNAO imports: authorised border control posts in the UK](#) (last updated 28 March 2025)

[Defra/APHA Guidance: Imports, exports and EU trade of animals and animal products: topical issues](#) (last updated 22 May 2025)

Exports

[APHA Find an Export Health Certificate website](#)

[HMRC Notice: Notices made under the Customs \(Export\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#) (last updated 1 May 2025)

[DBT/DIT Guidance: UK trade agreements in effect](#) (last updated 7 February 2025)

[HMRC Guidance: Search the register of customs agents and express operators](#) (last updated 9 April 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Businesses approved to export to the EU](#) (last updated 23 May 2025)

[HMRC: Safety and security declarations](#) (last updated 1 May 2025)

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT) and Simpler Recycling

[Defra Guidance: Packaging data: what to collect for extended producer responsibility](#) (last updated 19 May 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Extended producer responsibility for packaging: generate a packaging data file](#) (last updated 18 March 2025)

[Defra/EA Guidance: Packaging data: how to create your file for extended producer responsibility](#) (last updated 3 April 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Organisation details: how to create your file for extended producer responsibility \(EPR\) for packaging](#) (last updated 18 March 2025)

[Defra/EA Guidance: Extended Producer Responsibility: who is affected and what to do](#) (last updated 19 May 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging: how to assess household and non-household packaging](#) (last updated 25 April 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Find large producers on the 'report packaging data' service](#) (first published 15 April 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Simpler recycling: workplace recycling in England](#) (first published 21 May 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Recyclability assessment methodology: how to assess your packaging waste](#) (last updated 19 May 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Packaging data: check reporting periods and submission deadlines](#) (last updated 3 April 2025).
[Defra Guidance: Extended producer responsibility for packaging: fit and proper person](#) (first published 18 March 2025).

Other

[Food Data Transparency Partnership](#)

[IGD Food Strategy](#)

[Defra Collection: Protected geographical food and drink names: applications, objections and decisions](#) (last updated 31 March 2025)

[AHDB Horticulture and Potatoes Archive website](#)

[Environmental management: Water: detailed information](#)

[EA Licence: Abstract water \(England\)](#)

[EA Licence: Impound water \(England\)](#)

[Defra/RPA Guidance: SFI Handbook for the SFI 2023 offer](#) (last updated 15 April 2025)

[Defra/RPA Guidance: SFI scheme: expanded offer for 2024](#) (last updated 12 May 2025)

[Defra/RPA/FC Guidance: Funding for farmers, growers and land managers](#) (last updated 12 May 2025)

[Defra/RPA Guidance: Delinked payments: replacing the Basic Payment Scheme](#) (last updated 9 April 2025)

[EA Research and analysis. Water situation: area monthly reports for England](#) (last updated 15 May 2025)

[EA Research and analysis: Rainfall and river flow: weekly reports for England](#) (last updated 22 May 2025)

[DfE Guidance: School food standards practical guide](#) (last updated 13 February 2025)

[DBT Guidance: UK Sustainability Reporting Standards](#) (last updated 25 November 2024)

[Defra Guidance: Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) in farming](#) (last updated 13 March 2025).

Current consultations

[\[return to contents list\]](#)

Defra/WG: [Consultation on Exemptions Reform to the Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2016](#) (closes 3 June 2025)

DESNZ: [Consultation on voluntary carbon and nature markets: raising integrity](#) (closes 10 July 2025)

EA: [Consultation on charge proposals for simpler recycling](#) (closes 15 July 2025)

HMRC/HMT: [Strengthening the Soft Drinks Industry Levy consultation](#) (closes 21 July 2025)

WG: [Consultation on Healthy Eating in Schools](#) (closes 29 July 2025)

DBT: [Consultation on Groceries Code Adjudicator \(GCA\) statutory review 2022-2025](#) (closes 5 August 2025)

Defra: [Consultation on Farm Practices Survey](#) (closes on 1 September 2025)

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

You have received this newsletter because you are a member of PPA Ltd. If you prefer not to receive further issues, please notify us. This bulletin aims to contain helpful headline news items of interest to all PPA members, together with information about the Association, our members, committees, events etc.

If you would like a colleague to receive future issues of this newsletter, please email andrew.curtis@ppauk.org or vanessa.richardson@ppauk.org with the email address of the person to be added.