Primary Production Technical Committee (PPTC)
18 November 2025

Chair: Richard Baines

PPA Potato Processors' Association UK

PPA Competition Law

- All PPA meetings are to be conducted in accordance with the relevant competition and antitrust laws.
- As a condition of membership, members of PPA acknowledge that membership is subject to the competition law rules, and they agree to comply fully with those laws.
- In addition, members are reminded to:

  - *not discuss current or future commercial strategy, or disclose or exchange any other commercially sensitive information, in particular specific, non-aggregated information regarding prices including discounts, increases, rebates, and reductions; customers; costs and costs components; conditions of sale; capacities; quantities; turnovers and sales volumes; market shares; confidential technologies and R&D efforts.*
  - *raise any concerns about competition law compliance during a PPA meeting, or in any further discussion, immediately. In such cases, the discussion/meeting will be paused until a competition lawyer is content it can progress.*
  - *enable their cameras for the duration of the virtual meeting unless otherwise agreed, to ensure transparency and engagement.*
  - *ensure any AI-powered notetaking or transcription tools (e.g., Otter.ai, Fireflies) are disabled, as they are strictly prohibited during PPA meetings, unless prior explicit consent has been obtained from all participants. This is to ensure compliance with data protection and privacy regulations, including the UK GDPR and relevant wiretap laws.*

- Failure to follow these guidelines may bring with it serious consequences for you as an individual, your companies and PPA. Such consequences include heavy fines and in certain cases, under national laws, the imposition of criminal penalties and sentences.
- The full PPA Competition Law Statement can be found on the PPA website.

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Agenda

- **Welcome and anti-trust statement**
- **Minutes and actions arising from the PPTC meeting held 11 March 2025**
- **Kevin Jennings (APHA)**

Update on SPCS Scheme and related developments

- **Adam Bedford, Dr Larissa Collins, Dr Adrian Fox (FERA)**

Update on Fera activities

- **Plant protection products**
  - Chlorpropham
  - Mancozeb
  - EUPPA Strategy
  - EU/UK SPS
  - Others
- **Plant health**
- **Water**
- **Genetic Technology**
- **Contaminants update**
  - Acrylamide
  - Glycoalkaloids
- **Meeting dates 2026: TBC**

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Matters arising PPTC meeting 11 March 2025

Action	Status
An amended version of the Emerald Research presentation to be shared with PPTC.	Actioned.
PPA members to supply data of CIPC levels in store to the CRMG.	Actioned.
The CRMG presentation to be shared with PPTC.	Actioned.
RT presentation to be shared with PPTC.	Actioned.
Maintain a watching brief on any GB decisions on Mancozeb.	Actioned.
Maintain a watching brief on the EU General Court's decision on Mancozeb.	Actioned.
Secretariat to prepare a draft PPA response to the Government consultation on land use in England.	Actioned.
PPA to maintain a monitoring brief on virus.	Ongoing.
Volunteers from within the PPTC membership to support WFF.	Ongoing.
'Doodle poll' for the Autumn 2025 PPTC meeting date to be issued.	Actioned.
Secretariat to issue a summer update to PPTC.	Actioned.
If required, PPA to call a summer 2025 PPTC meeting.	Not required.
Members to advise on possible venues for future physical PPTC meetings.	Ongoing.

Kevin Jennings
APHA update

Adam Bedford
Dr Larissa Collins,
Dr Adrian Fox
Fera update

Plant protection products

GB: Chlorpropham

CIPC Residues Management Group (CRMG)

- Last CRMG meeting was held on 28 October 2025. Next meeting is planned for 20 January 2026.
  - As of 9 July 2025, PPA has formally resigned the secretariat function.
  - GB Potatoes has taken on secretariat function and is accessing AHDB legacy funding for some sampling and testing (principally chips shop suppliers, x25 samples in 2025).
  - PPA continues to support the CRMG through attendance and advice (AC and GC attending)
- The final (updated) CRMG report for 2024/2025 was submitted to HSE on 1 September 2025: Awaiting feedback from HSE.
- For the 2024/25 season a total of 156 samples were received.
  - Approx 35 bulk store samples and 120 box store samples. Good geographical spread.
  - Only 20 samples above LOD (most of these are in the lower region).
- Adrian Cunnington calculated Mean values (including non-detects).
  - 0.005mg/kg for box stores.
  - 0.002 mg/kg for bulk stores.
- CRMG has requested Adrian re-calculate Mean value excluding non-detects.

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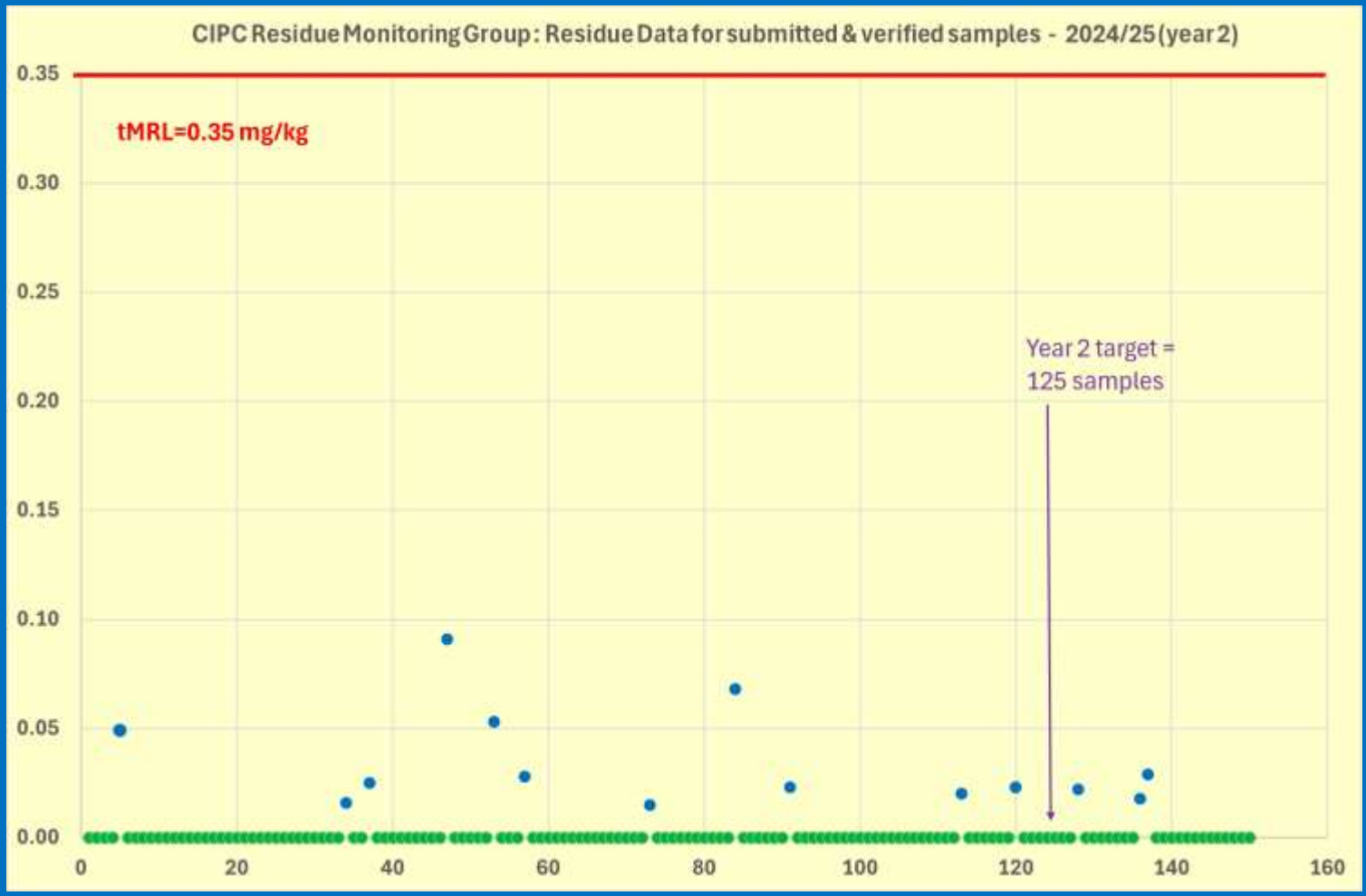
Confidential

2024/25 (year 2) residue data



EU: Chlorpropham

Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/1163 of 13 June 2025 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 triflusulfuron in or on certain products.
EU Temporary MRL has moved to 0.2 mg/kg from 0.35 mg/kg.
➢ PVC will report data to the Commission every two years instead of annually.
➢ Report will be issued to Commission in December 2025.
➢ Next PVC report will be submitted in December 2027.
NB: In an UK/EU SPS alignment scenario UK is likely to move to a 0.2 mg/kg tMRL.

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PPPs: Mancozeb

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

- UPL held a two-day workshop focused on discussing the agricultural benefits and importance of the mancozeb, including its legal status both in the EU and in the UK.
- The outcome was a 'white paper' which highlighted the importance of mancozeb as a disease management tool – a copy was then sent to UK Government.
    - PPA did not co-sign this document as there was no support indicated by members.
- A further letter was drafted over the summer asking UK Government to delay withdrawal of the mancozeb whilst the EU Court Case (below) was still being resolved.
    - Again, PPA did not co-sign this document as there was no support indicated by members.
- UK Ministerial response at start of October informed that the reasons for the GB decision were separate from the EU decision (and therefore a separate issue from the ECJ ruling).
- Informal discussion between GB Potatoes and HSE on possibility of emergency authorisation in future seasons.

EC Court case

- The EC withdrew authorisation for mancozeb in 2020, under Article 21. However, in 2024 the ECJ ruled that the EC had not followed the correct legal procedure
- On 1 July 2025, a further ECJ hearing took place. A final judgment was delivered in open court on 29 October 2025 in Luxembourg.
- The EU General Court agreed that the Commission did make errors in the evidence it used as regards reproductive toxicity. However, the ban was upheld, as other issues with environmental safety and endocrine disruption were not resolved. UPL still has an opportunity to appeal.

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EUPPA PPP Strategy

- EUPPA is developing a framework to allow for proactive communications on use of PPPs within the European potato processing sector.
- Aim is to shift from a reactive stance to a co-ordinated approach to safeguard essential PPPs, whilst also promoting safe alternatives and sustainable practices.
- Broken down into 4 main workstreams. Workstream 1 and 4 are progressed.
- Workstream 4 is essentially criteria for when to act when an active ingredient is at imminent risk.

Workstream 1 – PPP categorisation list

Actions

- Collect national inputs on active.
- Apply a 'scoring' framework based on sector importance, regulatory status, authorisation, alternatives, etc.
- Validate and refine the list at Task Force level.

Outputs

- Consolidated and shortened EU-level list of PPPs.

Strategic value

- Serves as the foundation for all other workstreams.
- Aligns sector priorities and focuses resources.

Workstream 2 – Mitigation measures

Actions

- Engage with suppliers to explore mitigation options.
- Map effective measures such as dose reduction, buffer zones, precision tech, etc.
- Link mitigation strategies to PPPs on the consolidated list.

Outputs

- Mitigation toolkit tailored to the sector.
- Documentation of supplier dialogues and sector best practice.

Strategic value

- Supports continued use of key PPPs.
- Demonstrate responsible use of PPPs and builds regulatory credibility.

Workstream 3 – Communication strategies

Actions

- Develop targeted messages for regulators, the public, stakeholders, etc.
- Showcase best practices and sustainable use stories
- Align comms with outputs from W1 and W2.

Outputs

- Messaging framework.
- Comms materials.
- Case studies and sector narratives.

Strategic value

- Influences policy and public perception.
- Supports the sector's reputation and proactivity.

Workstream 4 – SAI approach

Actions

- Finalise criteria for action on Single Active Ingredients.
- Build a checklist and guidance tool for decision on action.
- Create a protocol for activation with member consultation and response coordination.

Outputs

- Protocol for SAIs
- Criteria checklist/guidance document
- Templates for action (letters, etc.)

Strategic value

- Enables rapid and credible response
- Protects key PPPs and ensures strategic agility

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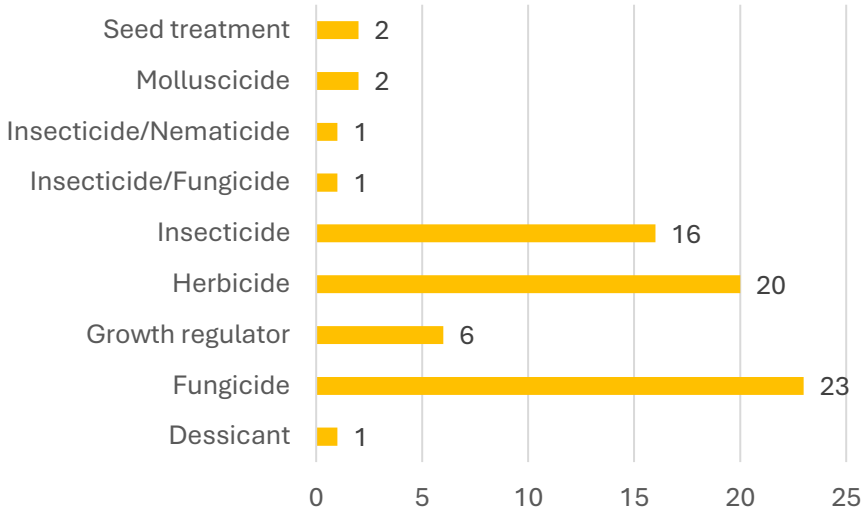
Workstream 1 – PPP categorisation list

Work undertaken so far

- Collection of input from national associations (including PPA prioritisation list/risk matrix).
- The objective now is to reduce the current list (74 actives) to around 25 priorities.
- Compilation in comprehensive Excel database (including expiry dates, candidates for substitution, etc.) and
- Mapping of overlaps in use, existence of alternatives or not.
- Preliminary analysis showing opportunities to streamline based on different criteria including strategic importance for the different countries.

Count of Active ingredients by type of PPPs



Initial EUPPA secretariat observations – *for information*

- 21 of the actives (28.4%) have expired authorisations, or are about to expire before end of 2025
- 35 (47.3%) have authorisations which are due to expire within the next year (before end Oct 2026)
- 4 actives are 'Candidates for substitution' (Commission Implementing Reg (EU) 540/2011)

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Workstream 4 - Approach to single active ingredients work

Context and work undertaken so far

1. *Urgency of the situation*
2. *Alignment with sustainable and reasonable use of PPPs in the sector*
3. *Members agreement to act*
4. *Likelihood of impact of potential EUPPA action*

The aim is to have a guidance document to rely on when assessing whether EUPPA should act on specific single active ingredient at risk on an individual basis (reactive).

Criteria	Definition	Indicators	Measurable éléments	Timing considerations	Decision rule
EUPPA members agreement to act	A sufficient number of EUPPA members support action on the active	Survey/email confirmation Country-level importance of the active	**% of members supporting action (to define)** Number of countries where the active is considered essential/valuable (to be determined)	Timing of member input to be considered	**Proceed if majority of members support action AND at least X countries consider the active essential**

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Workstream 4 – Approach to single active ingredients work

Proposed criteria description

Criteria	Definition	Indicators	Measurable elements	Timing considerations	Decision rule
Urgency of the situation	Active is under imminent regulatory threat that requires prompt and timely action.	Official notification of non-renewal, restriction, ban Public consultation or vote scheduled Emergency use authorisations being denied	Days until decision (e.g., under a certain number of days = high urgency) Stage in the regulatory process	Is the active up for renewal? Is emergency use still possible? Are products that may contain traces of the active still in circulation?	Proceed if decision is expected within X months or if public consultation is open.
Alignment with sustainable and reasonable use of PPPs in the sector	The active does not pose clear and substantiated risks to animal/human health and/or the environment and aligns with EUPPA's commitment to sustainable use of PPPs	EFSA/National authorities' assessments Scientific literature Regulatory classifications Evidence of practices of responsible use Absence of public campaigns highlighting major concerns	No unresolved critical areas of concern in regulatory assessments Not classified under high-risk hazard categories Possible use in IMP or with risk mitigation measures	Are any mitigation measures already in place? Is it feasible to put into place any mitigation measures within short timelines?	Proceed if the active is not classified as high-risk and its use can be justified within a sustainable and reasoned plant protection strategy
EUPPA members agreement to act	A sufficient number of EUPPA members support action on the substance	Survey/email confirmation Country-level importance of the active	**% of members supporting action (to define)** Number of countries where the active is considered essential (to be determined)	Timing of member input to be considered	**Proceed if majority of EUPPA members support action and at least X countries consider the actice essential**
Likelihood of impact of potential EUPPA action	The chance of EUPPA action influencing the outcome is realistic	Timing (action to be taken early enough in the process) Openness of decision-makers to input Past successes in similar cases	Stage of decision Known contacts/channels Supplier willingness to engage	Is there time to act before final decision? Are decision-makers open to input?	Proceed if at least 2 conditions are met

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UK/EU SPS agreement

- FSA presentation FLC meeting – 12 November 2025
  - Newly established Defra-led engagement team
  - Negotiations team incl. Defra, FSA, Cabinet Office
- UK –EU Summit Common Understanding document – 19 May 2025
  - Defines initial scope
- EC Recommendation for Council decision on opening of negotiations - 16 July 2025
- Speech Cabinet Office – 27 August 2025 - defining delivery timeframes
- Council agreement on EC Recommendation – 13 November 2025
- EC agreement on mandate – 17 November 2025 (TBC) – negotiations can then start
- Defra Industry Stakeholder Forum – 18 November (further stakeholder sessions to be announced)
- Delivery timeframe: 2027

DETAIL:

- Cover SPS (animal, plant and food) standards and controls – and key wider agri-food rules related to food labelling, organics, key marketing standards and compositional standards, and pesticides.
- Key benefits include removal of certification, removal of SPS checks and resumption of key trade, and easier movement between GB and NI
- Based on dynamic alignment
- Small number of limited exceptions, but subject to negotiations – GIs, organics, wine - TBC
- UK access to EU agencies, systems and databases (e.g. EFSA, Traces, RASFF)
- UK to remain a third country, but will be able to present data/facts to EU agencies – mechanisms TBC
- FLC to prepare a list of divergence concerns (e.g., PPPs, contaminants, labelling) for submission to FSA/DEFRA.

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Defra-led 'Pesticides EU Relations Project WG'

- The WG is to provide technical advice and expertise to government regarding the new UK-EU SPS agreement under negotiation, to ensure effective implementation.
- The potato sector is represented by Alex Godfrey, Chair of GB Potatoes, and by Olayemi Fashesin-Souza at FDF.
- A first meeting took place on 25 July. PPA provided initial positioning for FDF.
- Two key issues were identified during the initial meeting:
  - Timing: What a reasonable transition timeline towards an alignment scenario might look like.
  - Divergence: Differences in approvals and authorisations of active substances and pesticides.
- PPA has provided GBP and FDF with an updated list of actives which are relevant to the GB potato sector, and which were either recently withdrawn, amended or under threat (either at an EU level or at a GB level).
- PPA also provided information on timescales for transition to an alignment scenario for frozen, PC and potato dehydrate products i.e., *how long would it take for the supply chain to adjust, thinking both about active substance/product approvals and MRLs, and highlighting any dependencies?*
- Defra has requested further detail on costs associated with MRLs changes (supplied via GB potatoes and FDF).

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GB Potato Plant Protection Products and Biocides Issues Risk Matrix (November 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 November 2026) [Actions in hand] Dynamic situation	PPP authorisation in 12-36 months out (December 2026 – November 2029) Plans in preparation]	>36 months (after end November 2029) before PPP comes up for reauthorisation
Big Company Impact **Cost** **Reputation** **Media**	Criteria for defining EDs Candidates for substitution	Metribuzin* (H) [GB 31/07/28] Lambda-cyhalothrin* (I) [GB expiry 30/09/27] 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**		Flutolanil (ST) [GB 28/02/29] Glyphosate (H) [GB 15/12/26] 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 31/12/26] Benthiavalicarb (F) [GB 31/07/27] Dimethomorph (F) [GB 31/07/27] Fluopicolide (F) [GB 30/09/27] 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]	

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

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EU Potato Plant Protection Products and Biocides Issues Risk Matrix (November 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 November 2026) [Actions in hand] Dynamic situation	PPP authorisation in 12-36 months out (December 2026 – November 2029) Plans in preparation]	>36 months (after end November 2029) before PPP comes up for reauthorisation
Big Company Impact **Cost** **Reputation** **Media**	Criteria for defining EDs Candidates for substitution Metribuzin* (H) [EU authorisation expiry 31/10/24. Sale and supply 24/05/25. Grace period 24/12/25] Metaldehyde (M) [EU expiry 31/08/26] Lambda-cyhalothrin* (I) [EU expiry 31/08/26] Cymoxanil (F) [EU expiry 31/08/26]	Fosthiazate (N) [EU expiry 31/01/27] 1,4-DMN (GR) [EU expiry 30/11/27] Mandipropamid* (F) [EU expiry 30/06/29]	Maleic Hydrazide (GR) [EU expiry 31/10/32] Carfentrazone-ethyl (H) [EU expiry 31/07/33]
Moderate Impact **Cost** **Material availability** **Working practice**	Plant oils/clove oil [EU Expiry 31/01/26] Plant oils/spear mint oil [EU Expiry 31/01/26] Flutolanil (ST) [EU expiry 15/06/26]	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**	Flufenacet (H) [EU authorisation expiry 10/06/25. Grace period 10/12/26] Difenoconazole* (F) [EU expiry 15/03/26] Fluazinam* (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] Propamocarb (F) [EU expiry 31/01/27] Rimsulfuron (H) [EU expiry 15/08/28]	

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

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Plant health

Virus forum 2026 – to note

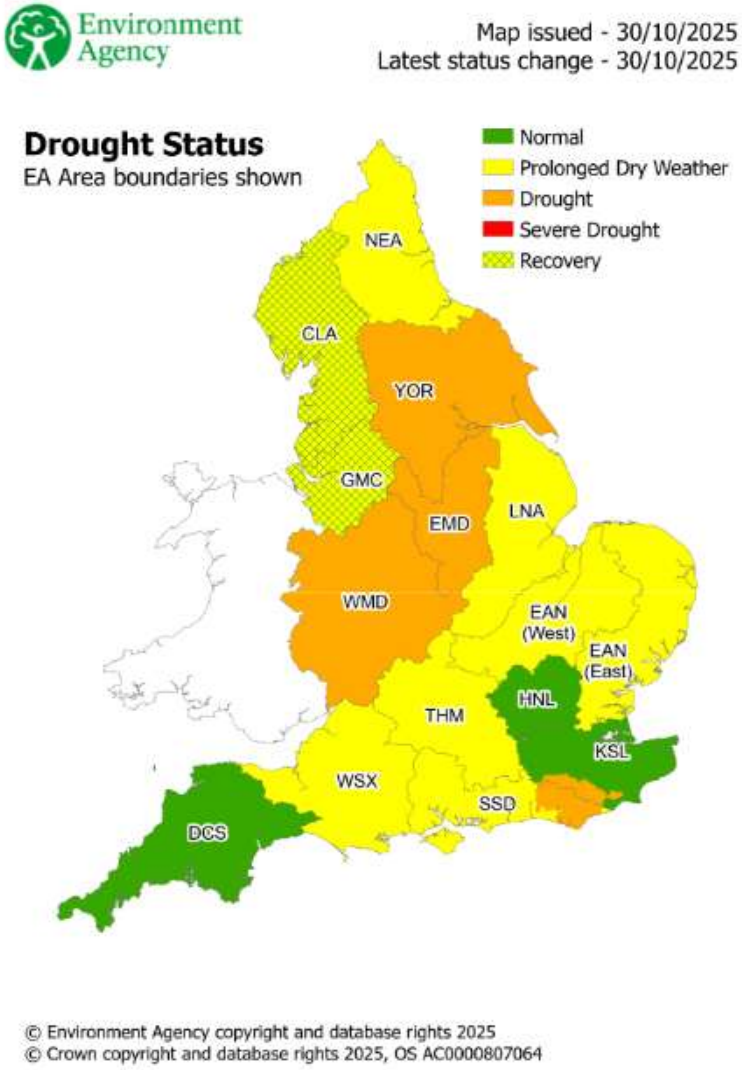
- The next National Virus Forum will take place on 11 February at The James Hutton Institute, Dundee.

Seed exports to EU

- GB received a positive EU audit report, with Defra providing comments to the EU on the report by the end October 2025.
- Next step will be to put the report in front of SCoPAFF.
- This approach to re-open the EU export market is being pursued in tandem with the SPS talks.
- European Potato Value Chain (PVC) is also meeting with Commission (Mr Giraud, Head of Unit, Plant Health) on 27 November (PVC briefing meeting on 21 November).
- Opening up of the European market is not expected for the next planting season.

Water

Water situation reports for England



Source: EA Dry weather and drought in England: 7 to 13 November 2025. Updated 14 November 2025.

For November so far, all parts of England have seen more than a third of the LTA rainfall expected for the month.

- The north-west has already received 62% of LTA rainfall.
- England as a whole has received just under half of the LTA rainfall for November (47%).

Soil moisture deficits (SMD) have continued to decrease in all areas.

- North-west, north-east and south-west England SMD are now around or above average for the time of year.
- Central and south-east England SMD are slightly below average
- East England SMD remains much higher than average.

River flows increased at three-quarters of reported sites after another wet week.

- The majority of sites are now classed as normal or higher for the time of year.
- Five sites were classed as below normal, all of which are in east, south-east and north-east England.
- The River Yare and Ely Ouse in east England were both classed as exceptionally low for the time of year.

Reservoir storage rose 4.1% in the week to 11 November, with stocks across England at 69.9% (LTA is 78.5%) full at the end of the week.

- There are currently 353 hands off flow restrictions in force on abstraction licences (down 26 from 379 last week), where river flows remain low.
- There have been concerns from Water Abstractor Groups in some areas regarding the current restrictions on abstraction licences used to refill winter farm reservoirs.
- The agriculture sector has been advised to plan for a dry winter and take actions to mitigate the impacts from drought continue into next spring.

EA Drought prospects for Spring 2026

Issued 14 November 2025

LINK: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drought-prospects-for-spring-2026/executive-summary-and-acknowledgements-drought-prospects-for-spring-2026

- Current Met Office long-term forecast for the UK shows a 30% likelihood of drier conditions from November to January.
- Many areas in England would almost be back to 'normal' status with the average amount of rainfall over winter, that is 100% of long-term average (LTA) or more.
- The area around Cambridge and Bedford could be more vulnerable due to the groundwater levels not fully recovering.
- Under an 80% of LTA rainfall scenario, there would be drought conditions from in spring that stretch across the country from Wessex to Yorkshire (This would be similar to conditions experienced this year).
- Under a 60% of LTA rainfall scenario, all of England would be in drought at the start of spring.
- EA will publish a further prospects report in spring 2026 that will cover the latest position, risks and actions needed for summer and autumn next year.

Figure 10: Irrigation reservoir refill prospects under 100% LTA rainfall scenario

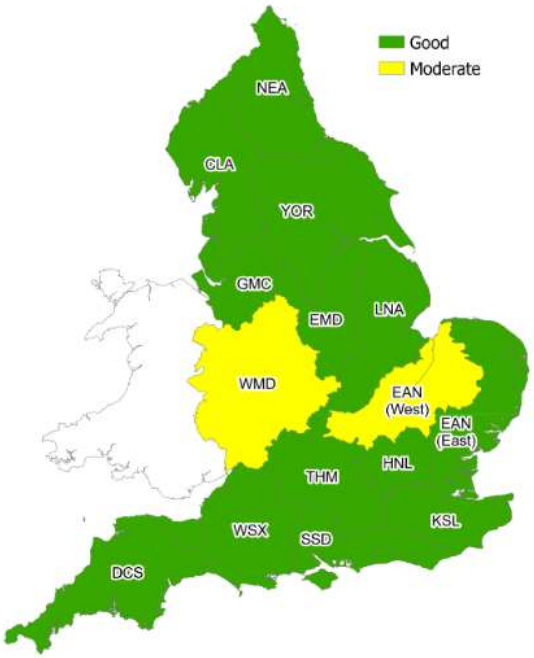


Figure 11: Irrigation reservoir refill prospects under 80% LTA rainfall scenario

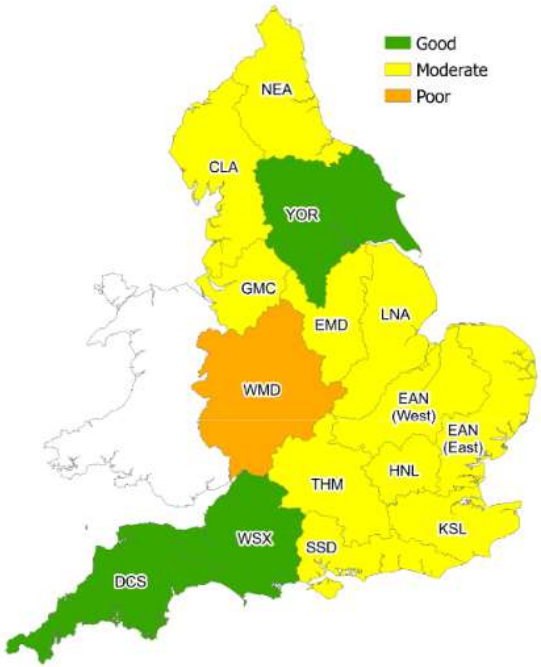
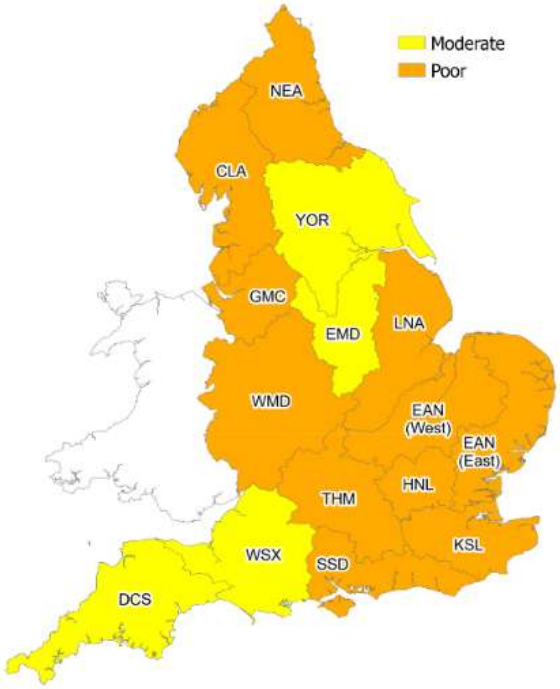


Figure 12: Irrigation reservoir refill prospects under 60% LTA rainfall



Source: EA Drought prospects for Spring 2026. Issued 14 November 2025.

NFU concerns over water reform

- Defra statutory guidance on 'Enforcing the Farming Rules for Water' [see also 'How to comply with the Farming Rules for Water'].
- NFU concern that there has been a change in the wording in the guidance:
  - Now states "*...nutrients must only be applied where there is immediate crop and soil need...*".
  - Previously read "*...a rotational need...*".
- Farmers are wary of how this should be interpreted: Potential concern around willingness of FACTS qualified advisors to sign off NMP's with autumn spreading.

- Additionally, NFU has alerted sector to Defra's Review of Water Quality Regulations: White Paper expected later this year, possibly early 2026, with a consultation to follow.
  - Results are expected to feed into the new Water Bill in 2026.
  - Review expected to cover: 'Farming Rules for Water', 'Nitrate Vulnerable Zones', and 'Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil' rules.
- PPA Member feedback:
  - observing an increase in nutrient restriction enforcement by the EA so white paper on water is a big risk.
  - no major changes to RB209 because of no new data, however committee informed that this may be used for future statutory limits.

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Genetic Technology

Precision Breeding

Precision Breeding (England)
Summary of the responses to the Defra consultation carried out earlier this year (17 February 2025 and 14 April 2025) LINK: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plant-varieties-and-seeds-framework-for-precision-bred-plant-varieties-in-england The consultation sought feedback on the proposed framework, including the proposed Precision Bred Plant Variety List for England, and the provision of information on precision bred seed and other plant reproductive material.
Key findings:
• Organic businesses were concerned about the implications for certification, citing the need for robust systems to identify and exclude PBOs.
• Concerns about negative impacts of the proposed variety list were most common among organic businesses and individuals.
• There was strong support for publishing the proposed Precision Bred Plant Variety List for England in the Plant Varieties and Seeds Gazette, but many respondents, particularly individuals and organic businesses, stressed that this should not be the only communication channel.
• Strong support for a central searchable register
• Businesses favoured clear labelling and inclusion in marketing materials.
• Individuals emphasised visibility at the point of sale.
The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Regulations 2025 came into force on 13 November, and the FSA has published draft technical and administrative guidance for applicants. Unsure how the UK-EU SPS agreement will impact upon this work.

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Contaminants

Acrylamide EU Regulatory discussions

Latest discussion: Commission Working Group on Environmental contaminants, 6-7 May 2025.

- Last formal item on agenda "Acrylamide: discussion on the review of existing benchmark levels, new benchmark levels for certain foods and maximum levels for certain foods.
  - COM shared a document with monitoring data from the years 2019-2023.
  - Based on this data, no major changes are expected for the MLs that were shared a few years ago during the stakeholder consultation.
  - COM will develop a formal proposal and will organise a virtual WG meeting to further elaborate this.
  - COM aims to finish technical discussions on MLs 'by the end of the year' [next WG discussion expected on 25 November 2025].

EUPPA meeting with Frans Verstraete (DG Sanco) 29 September 2025 – covered AA and GA

- Meeting followed the completion of an EUPPA position paper and update of the Code of Practice for French Fries.
  - Felt to have been a positive meeting, with FV sympathetic and knowledgeable about the issues for potato products.
  - Confirmed that BMLs for AA may be revised in the future if consistent mitigation trends are observed, but no urgency has been raised by EU MS at this stage.
  - The possibility of introducing MLs for AA was discussed. If introduced, MLs would apply to final products as placed on the market (e.g., potato crisps) may be impacted as RTE products, while frozen potato products would likely be excluded.
  - Discussions with EU Member States will resume this Autumn, focusing on AA data from 2019–2024.

PPA Potato Processors' Association UK

Acrylamide data collection (1)

UK Food Standard Agency (FSA) call for data

- The UK FSA (and Food Standard Scotland) published a call for AA data on 30 July 2025.
  LINK: https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/call-for-data-acrylamide-in-food
- FSA/FSS is looking for data for all food categories where AA may form, and that is representative of the levels found in a range of products, including non-detects and high values. Data collected will be published as aggregated data and not attributed to an individual, business, trade body or organisation.
- Following consultation with ESA members, the secretariat has submitted the exact same information with FSA/FSS that is has shared annually with EFSA (sliced potato crisp data only: 2020-2024).
- EUPPA has (through PPA) also shared its 2023-24 data with FSA.

ESA Annual Data Collection Activity

As in previous years, ESA issued a call for AA occurrence data in a range of potato crisp and savoury snacks products. Dr Steve Powers (an independent statistician) has reviewed most of the data and has prepared a series of reports reviewing trends.

The following reports have already been issued:

- Report on ESA data on acrylamide in sliced potato crisps, updated with 2024 data (ECR 117/25)
- Report on ESA data on acrylamide levels in potato sticks and lattice type crisps, updated with 2024 data (ECR 140/25)
- Report on ESA data on acrylamide in vegetable crisps, updated with 2024 data (ECR 187/25)
- Further reports on other savoury snacks and processed nuts are being finalised.
- ESA has submitted a public access to data (PAD) request to EFSA for all occurrence data for AA in savoury snacks and nuts.

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Acrylamide data collection (2)

Submission of AA data to EFSA

- ESA completed the annual submission of acrylamide data to EFSA in August. This year there were a total of 7,794 observations received from 11 producers of sliced potato crisps across Europe.
- EUPPA also completed its annual submission of acrylamide data to EFSA in August. This year there were a total of 836 observations.
  - Broadly stable between 2024 and 2025: limited data for some sub-categories.

	2025							2024			
Product	Number Samples	Samples Above Threshold	Mean (µg/kg)	Median (µg/kg)	Std Dev (µg/kg)	Min (µg/kg)	Max (µg/kg)	Number Samples	Samples Above Threshold	Mean (µg/kg)	Median (µg/kg)
French fries (500 µg/kg)	598	24 (4%)	155	103	159	10	1200	406	6 (1%)	137	95
Pancakes (750 µg/kg)	5	0	266	180	146	140	470				
Potato based dishes (750 µg/kg)	26	0	214	220	100	68	460				
Potato croquette (300 µg/kg)	68	7 (10%)	189	127	209	10	1200	43	1 (2%)	129	120
Rösti (800 µg/kg)	139	2 (1%)	222	200	143	56	1100	85	0	236	207
Overall	**836**	33 (4%)	171	130	162	10	1200	**534**	7 (1%)	152	118

EUPPA European Potato Processors' Association

PPA Potato Processors' Association UK

Acrylamide: Guidance

Review of the FoodDrinkEurope AA Toolbox

- Over the summer FoodDrinkEurope issued a review of the introduction section of the AA Toolbox for comment FLC 252/25, PPTC 169/25). A draft text of the toolbox is still anticipated later this year.

Draft ESA guide on managing AA in vegetable crisps

- ESA has circulated a draft guidance document for managing AA formation in sliced vegetable crisps, for members' input, builds and comments.
- The text was aligned with the format ESA developed in 2016 for potato crisps and dough-based snacks.
- It was also aligned with the existing requirements within the EU regulation on AA, recognising that the COM has previously proposed to set BMLs for these products and has proposed that they utilise the existing mitigation tools for potatoes.
- Three drafts have been circulated for comment (most recently draft with a deadline 31 October). A final text will be presented to ECR for endorsement before circulation to the ESA Board.

Codex Alimentarius

- In April 2024, Codex agreed to start work on a revised version of the Codex Alimentarius "Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Foods" (CAC/RCP 67-2009).
- A discussion paper was reviewed as part of the 18th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Contaminants, on 23-27 June 2025.
- The session agreed that more time was needed to develop the discussion paper, and to identify more information on mitigation strategies that could be included in the updated Code of Practice.

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Glycoalkaloids: EU developments

EUPPA meeting with Frans Verstraete (DG Sanco) 29 September 2025 – covered AA and GA
The COM will continue analysing EFSA data as part of the monitoring process of GAs in potatoes.
• EC to assess reporting, analysis methods & potential induced gaps in the 2024 GAs data (2025 data collection submission).
• No regulatory steps are envisaged at this stage for the establishment of Benchmark or Maximum Levels for GAs.
EC works in close collaboration with the EURL (European Union Reference Laboratories) network to discuss matters related to analytical methods.
FV advised against using the term “compliant” in any reporting of GA data collection, as the current levels are indicative and could misleadingly suggest that formal maximum limits are in place.

MinGlyKa project
Monitor glycoalkaloid (GA) formation in processing potatoes due to post-harvest and storage conditions.
Assess GA degradation during manufacturing, including alkaloid degradation products.
Improve analytical methods (e.g., HPTLC) to detect GA derivatives like Solanidine, β/γ-Solanine, and Chaconine.
• Confirms: Raw material selection is key-low GA formation potential is crucial; Light exclusion significantly reduces GA; mechanical damage and warm storage had minimal impact.
• GA reduction during processing: French fries: up to 97% (fat-free dry matter basis); Potato crisps: up to 87%, but lower on fresh matter due to frying concentration effect. Highest GA levels found in products with peel.

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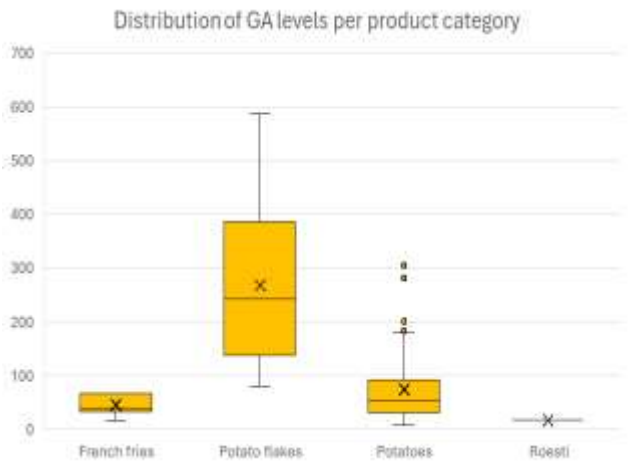
Glycoalkaloids: EUPPA data collection



Product (monitoring level 100 mg/kg)	Number of Samples	Samples Above Threshold	Mean (mg/kg)	Median (mg/kg)	Std Dev (mg/kg)	Min (mg/kg)	Max (mg/kg)
French fries	10	0	45	39	17	16	67
Potato flakes	13	11 (85%)	268	242	156	80	588
Potatoes	35	15 (43%)	102	82	72	16	305
Potatoes with peel	30	3 (10%)	49	37	42	8	187
Potatoes without peel	10	0	51	61	19	22	70
All potatoes	75	18 (24%)	74	53	62	8	305
Overall	99	29 (29%)	96 (excl. Flakes: 64)	62	104	8	588

- Levels varied significantly across product categories, **with potato flakes showing the highest concentrations and exceedance rates.**
  - Flakes in a dual capacity: ingredient and private label products in retail.
- Most French fries and peeled potato samples remained well below the 100 mg/kg threshold, indicating lower risk for these products.
- While the data shows **encouraging trends**, the **low number of samples may limit representativity.**

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	2025							2024			
Product (monitoring level 100 mg/kg)	Number Samples	Samples Above Threshold	Mean (mg/kg)	Median (mg/kg)	Std Dev (mg/kg)	Min (mg/kg)	Max (mg/kg)	Number Samples	Samples Above Threshold	Mean (mg/kg)	Median (mg/kg)
French fries	10	0	45	39	17	16	67	23	1 (4%)	40	33
Potato flakes	13	11 (85%)	268	242	156	80	588	5	5 (100%)	232	245
Potatoes	35	15 (43%)	102	82	72	16	305				
Potatoes with peel	30	3 (10%)	49	37	42	8	187				
Potatoes without peel	10	0	51	61	19	22	70				
All potatoes	75	18 (24%)	74	53	62	8	305	82	25 (30%)	79	56
Overall	99	29 (29%)	96 (excl. Flakes: 64)	62	104	8	588	110	31 (28%)	77	46

- Pretty consistent levels year-to-year, with no exceedances in French fries and similar mean values across most potato categories.
- **Potato flakes continued to show the highest concentrations and exceedance rates in both years, with a slight increase in mean and maximum values in 2025.**
- Potatoes showed a small increase in mean GAs levels and exceedance rate in 2025, perhaps due to a slightly higher variability in raw material.
    - Potatoes with and without peel remained below threshold in most cases, but variability persisted, especially in peeled samples.

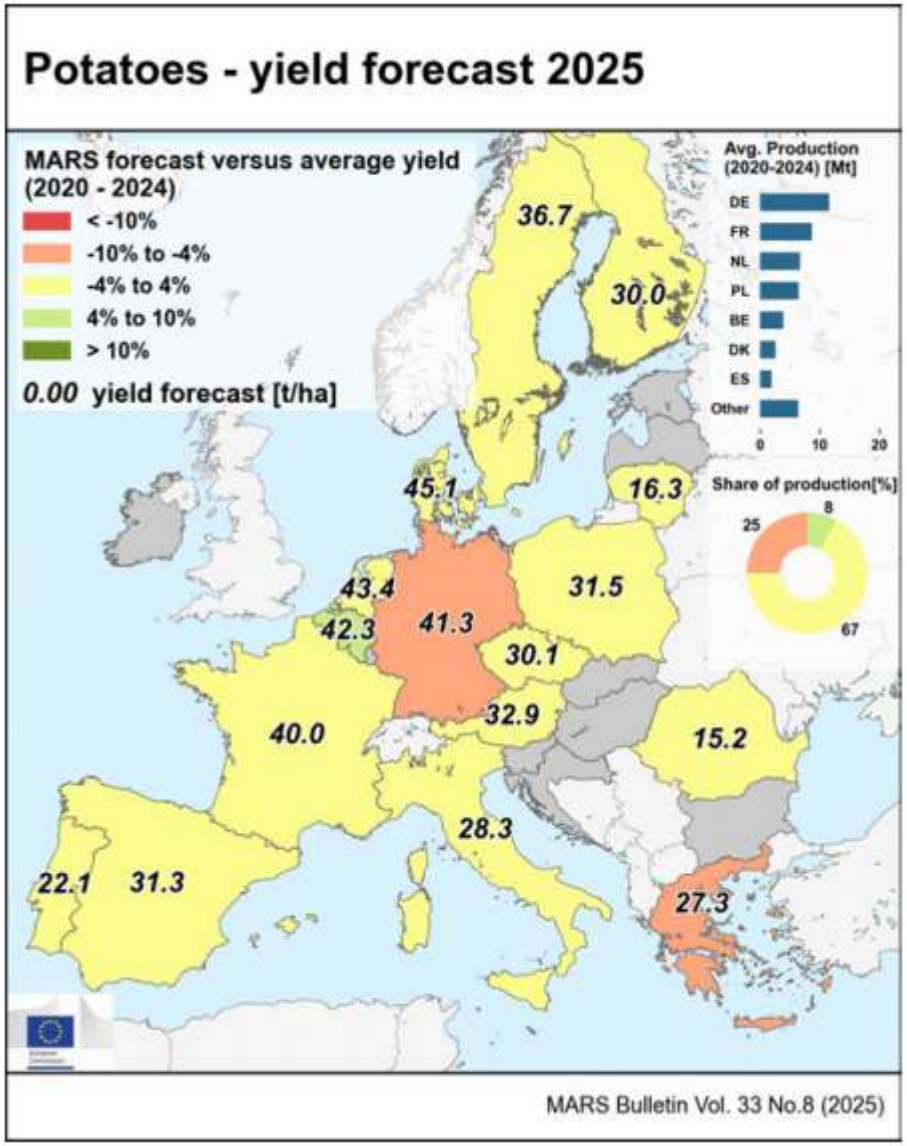
PPA Potato Processors' Association UK

Annex 1

Yield predictions for 2025

EU predictions 2025

Country	Potatoes (t/ha)					
	Avg 5yrs	2024	MARS 2025 forecasts	%25/5yrs	%25/24	% Diff September/ August
EU	36.4	36.7	**36.5**	+ 0	– 0	– 1
AT	32.8	31.7	**32.9**	+ 0	+ 4	– 0
BE	40.7	39.2	**42.3**	+ 4	+ 8	+ 0
BG	—	—	—	—	—	—
CY	—	—	—	—	—	—
CZ	29.0	28.8	**30.1**	+ 4	+ 5	+ 0
DE	43.1	45.0	**41.3**	– 4	– 8	– 1
DK	44.0	44.2	**45.1**	+ 2	+ 2	+ 0
EE	—	—	—	—	—	—
EL	28.7	25.9	**27.3**	– 5	+ 6	+ 0
ES	31.6	29.8	**31.3**	– 1	+ 5	– 0
FI	29.3	31.2	**30.0**	+ 2	– 4	+ 0
FR	41.1	41.9	**40.0**	– 3	– 5	– 2
HR	—	—	—	—	—	—
HU	—	—	—	—	—	—
IE	—	—	—	—	—	—
IT	28.9	28.8	**28.3**	– 2	– 2	+ 0
LT	15.9	18.1	**16.3**	+ 2	– 10	+ 0
LU	—	—	—	—	—	—
LV	—	—	—	—	—	—
MT	—	—	—	—	—	—
NL	42.2	41.7	**43.4**	+ 3	+ 4	+ 0
PL	31.2	30.2	**31.5**	+ 1	+ 4	– 2
PT	23.0	22.0	**22.1**	– 4	+ 0	+ 0
RO	15.3	12.5	**15.2**	– 1	+ 22	+ 3
SE	35.8	35.6	**36.7**	+ 3	+ 3	+ 0
SI	—	—	—	—	—	—
SK	—	—	—	—	—	—

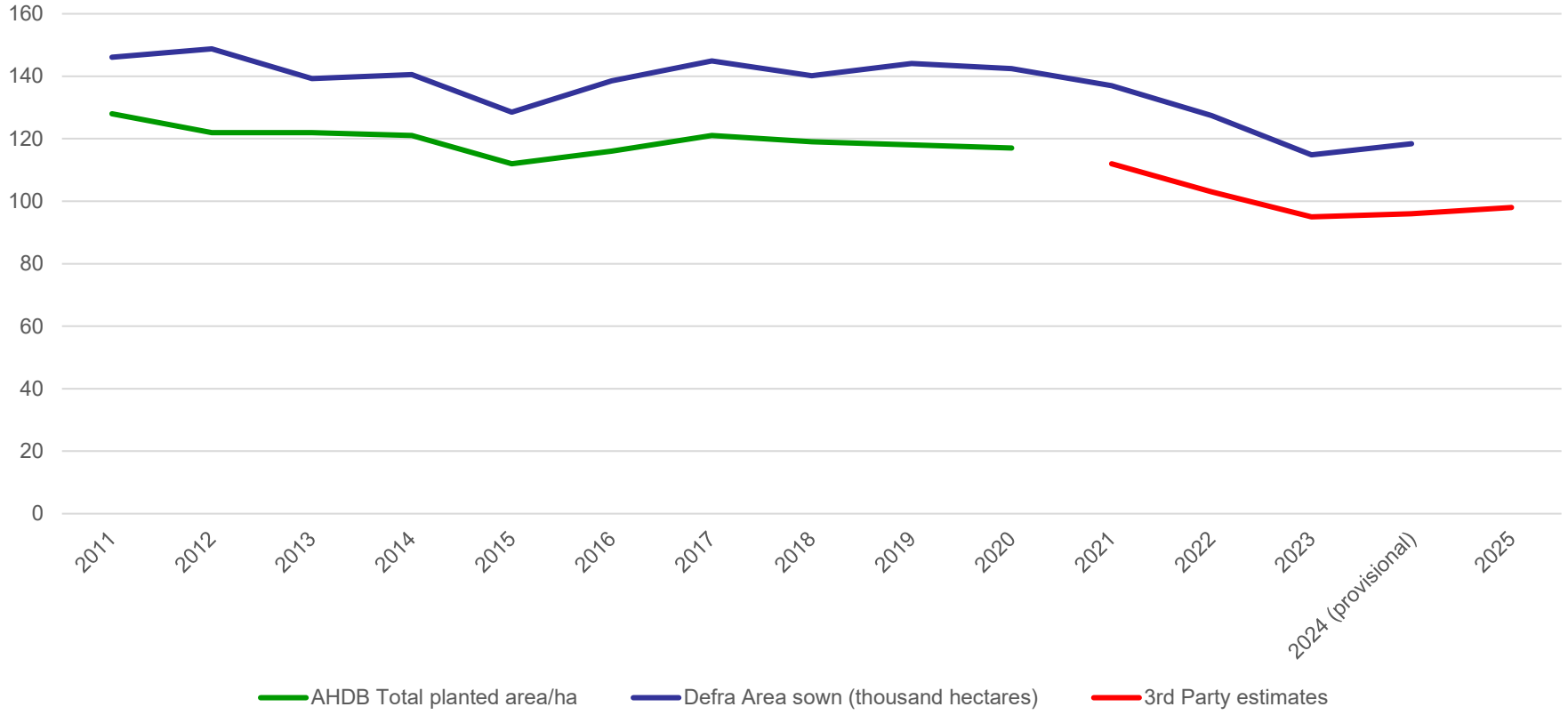


Source: JRC MARS Bulletin Crop monitoring in Europe September 2025

North-western Europe Growers (NPEG) estimates for 2025

- Early plantings in good conditions and an extension of the potato hectarage is leading to a record harvest.
- In 2024, growers planted 7% more potatoes (+ 37.000 ha)than the year before.
- This trend continued in spring 2025, with a further increase in plantings: nearly 40.000 additional hectares were devoted to potatoes for consumption, bringing the total area to 608.000 hectares in the EU-04 (BE, DE, FR, NL), 7% more than last year.
- Based on trial digs across the zone, NEPG expects a record harvest of around 27,3 Mt. This is 2,65 Mt (+ 11%) more than the 2024 harvest.

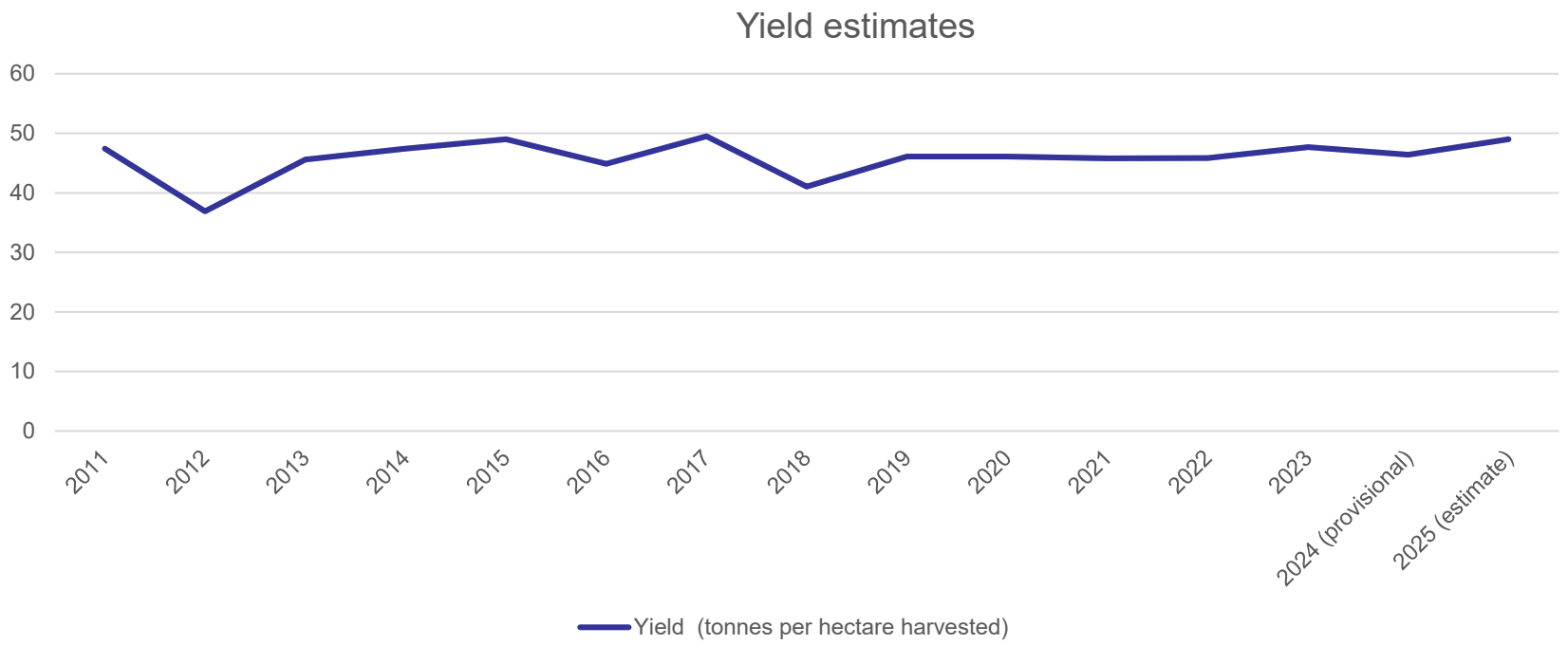
UK estimated planted area 2025



Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (prov)	2025 (est)
AHDB Total planted area/ha	128	122	122	121	112	116	121	119	118	117	-	-	-	-	-
Defra Area sown (thousand hectares)	146	149	139	141	129	139	145	140	144	142	137	127	115	118	N/A
3rd Party estimates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112	103	95	96	98

[ii] Source: Calculation based on PPA own data (above) and Defra. Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2024. Table 7.10a. Total production estimated at 5.137 thousand tonnes in 2024. Published 9 July 2025. https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/agriculture-in-the-united-kingdom

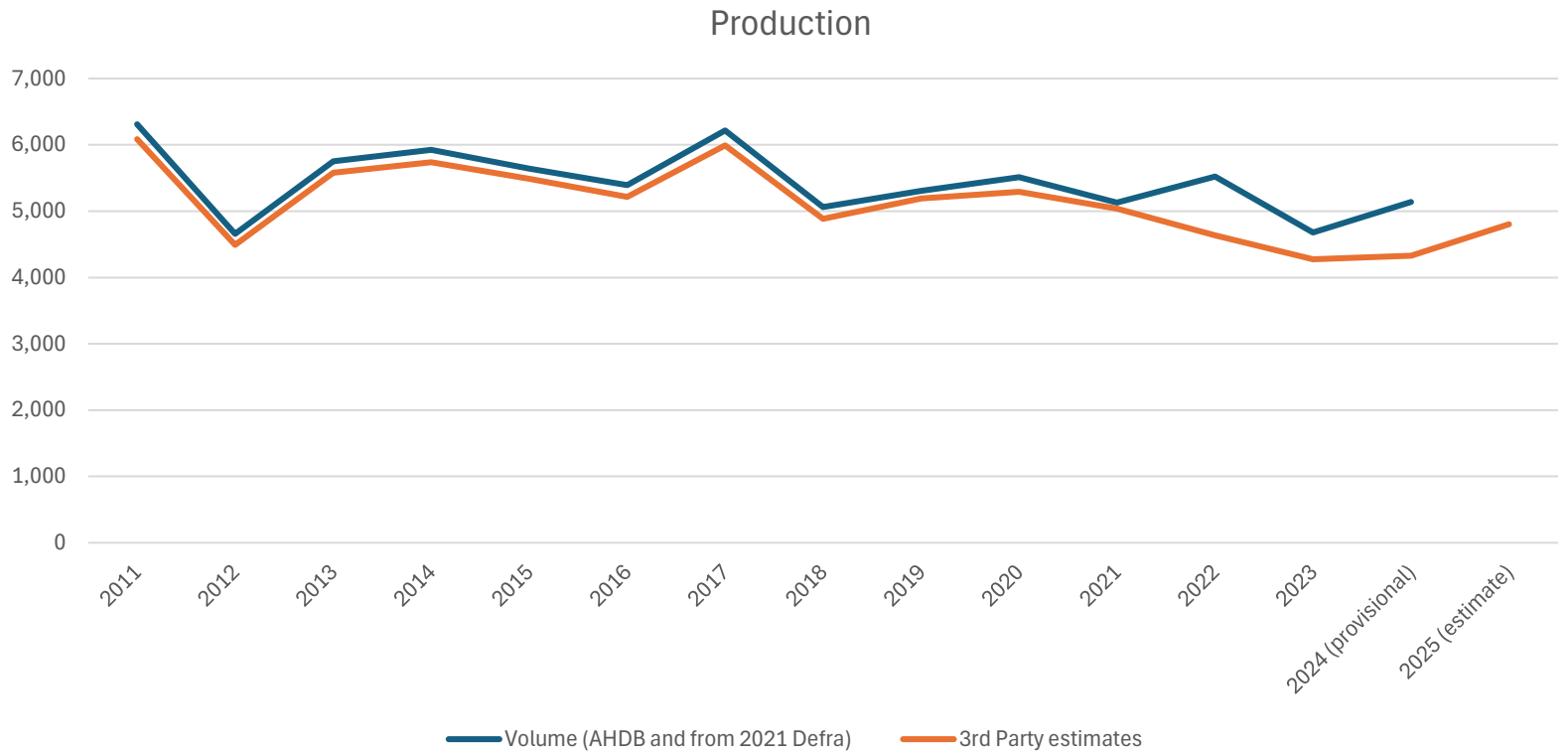
UK yield estimates 2025



Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (prov)	2025 (est)
Yield (tonnes per hectare harvested)	47.4	36.9	45.6	47.4	49	44.9	49.5	41.06	46.1	46	46	46	48	46	49

[ii] Source: Calculation based on PPA own data (above) and Defra. Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2024. Table 7.10a. Total production estimated at 5.137 thousand tonnes in 2024. Published 9 July 2025. https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/agriculture-in-the-united-kingdom

UK volume predictions 2025



Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (prov)	2025 (est)
Volume (AHDB and from 2021 Defra)	6,310	4,658	5,754	5,923	5,644	5,395	6,218	5,060	5,307	5,513	5,127	5,522	4,678	5,137	N/A
3rd Party estimates	6,086	4,494	5,581	5,740	5,488	5,217	5,990	4,886	5,193	5,293	5,040	4,635	4,275	4,329	4,802

[ii] Source: Calculation based on PPA own data (above) and Defra. Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2024. Table 7.10a. Total production estimated at 5.137 thousand tonnes in 2024. Published 9 July 2025. https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/agriculture-in-the-united-kingdom

2026 meeting dates

PPTC Committee

March (Date and Timing TBC)	Location TBC
July (Date and Timing TBC) OR Summer update	Location TBC
October (Date and Timing TBC)	Location TBC