

Newsletter – January 2026

Contents

Food safety	1
Health and wellbeing	4
Food labelling and composition	5
Environment and sustainability	5
Agriculture	6
Plant protection products	8
Groceries supply chain	8
Trade	9
Partners	10
PPA committee meeting dates 2026	11
PPA circulars issued in January 2026	12
Upcoming events	14
Industry meetings	15
Documents to note	16
Current consultations	18

Food safety

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



EC restarts discussions on the setting on acrylamide maximum levels and benchmark levels

The European Commission (EC) restarted discussions on acrylamide at a meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Contaminants, held on 12 January 2026. This meeting exclusively focused on acrylamide, including the review of benchmark levels (BMLs), setting of new BMLs, establishment of maximum levels (MLs) for certain foods, and changes to the mitigation measures.

A paper circulated to member state experts before the meeting included draft BMLs and MLs for chips/crisps, potato sticks and potato starch-based snack. BMLs were also proposed for French fries, potato croquettes, rösti, potato-based dishes, fruit chips, and vegetable crisps.

An informal note of the meeting has been circulated to European Snacks Association (ESA) and PPA members. FoodDrinkEurope will discuss next steps as part of a meeting on 6 February. The next Working Group will take place on 12-13 March 2026.



ESA acrylamide data collection activities

In January, ESA published two internal reports on acrylamide levels in savoury snacks, based upon annual data submissions from members. The first, an analysis of dough-based snack products 2017-2024, was published on 15 January. The second report, detailing results for nuts and seed data 2016-2024, was published on 16 January.

ESA also launched calls for data for acrylamide data from 2025, covering potato crisps/chips, dough-based snack products, vegetable crisps/chips and nuts & seeds. These are in anticipation of the annual EFSA call for data on contaminants.



Review of EFSA data on acrylamide

ESA has obtained, through a Public Access to Documents (PAD) request, a full set of data held by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) relating to potato crisps/chips, vegetable crisps/chips, savoury snacks (cereal, vegetable and potato based), and nuts and seeds for the period 2019-2025.

The data is currently being reviewed by statistician, Dr Steve Powers. A report will be made available to ESA and PPA members, and the results will be used to inform discussion with the EC and with EU member states. Dr Powers will also review data received on frozen potato products where this has been made available under the PAD.



EU members states discuss glycoalkaloids (GA) in potatoes

On 19 January, as part of an EC working group on agricultural contaminants, EU member states discussed GA data which has been collected by EFSA. An unofficial report of the meeting suggests that the data showed that processed potato products can contain GAs at levels above the indicative value of 100 mg/kg. However, the Commission believes that the data are still too limited to determine MLs. This point will be addressed in a subsequent working group meeting once more data becomes available.



Europatat Code of Practice on management of GA in retail potatoes

At the end of 2025, [Europatat](#) circulated a draft Code of Practice for management of GA in retail potatoes. Members of the European Potato Value Chain (PVC) were invited to comment on the draft, with a view to the document being co-signed and co-badged.

ESA and EUPPA members provided several comments on the text, including on the storage of potatoes at low temperatures, which would be incompatible with acrylamide mitigation requirements for potatoes intended for processing. Changes will be discussed during the next PVC meeting on 13 February, including next steps.



FSA to inspect plastic recycling facilities for the EU

On 29 January, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) issued a note, following an [Industry and Regulators' Committee evidence session](#), confirming that it will act as the competent authority under European Union (EU) regulations for recycled plastic materials intended for use in food packaging. Building on its existing role regulating food contact materials, the FSA will inspect recycling facilities to support continued trade in recycled plastics, enabling UK-based recyclers to maintain access to EU markets.



New good practice guidance on Listeria monitoring



On 12 January, The Chilled Food Association, with input from FSA and Food Standards Scotland (FSS), published new industry-led [good practice guidance](#) aimed at manufacturers and retailers of certain ready-to-eat (RTE) foods. This updated guidance provides practical advice to help food businesses manage the risk of *Listeria monocytogenes* in RTE foods.



Revised EU guidance on Listeria monitoring

On 18 December 2025, the European Commission (EC) published a [revised guidance document](#) on *Listeria monocytogenes* monitoring and shelf-life studies for RTE foods under Commission Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005.



EFSA guidance on scientific requirements for food additive authorisation applications

On 20 January, EFSA published its final [guidance on the scientific data required for applications seeking authorisation of a food additive](#) under Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008. The updated document sets out the scientific, toxicological, exposure and environmental evidence needed for new food additive applications, as well as for certain requests to amend existing authorisations.



New EC Task Force on import controls

The EC has launched a new [Task Force to strengthen import controls](#). The Task Force will focus on food and feed safety, pesticide residues and coordinated EU monitoring actions on specific imported products.



Updated EU Guidance on Food Additives

The EC has published an updated version (Version 8, November 2025) of the [guidance document describing the food categories](#) in Part E of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 on Food Additives.



European Parliament requests EFSA opinion on microplastics



In December 2025, the European Parliament ([EP](#)) [requested scientific advice from the EFSA on the potential health risks of microplastics in food, water and air](#). EFSA will review the latest evidence and update dietary exposure estimates, with its opinion due by the end of 2027.



ECHA guidance on PFAS restriction proposal

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published a [Q&A document](#) following its [webinar](#) on the [draft proposal to restrict per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\)](#). ECHA has also issued [guidelines](#) to help stakeholders prepare for the consultation planned for March 2026, clarifying the evidence and information required.



55th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

From 15-19 December 2025, the [Codex Committee on Food Hygiene \(CCFH\) held its 55th Session](#) in Nashville, USA. Amongst other work, the Committee finalised its work on the 'Guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production and processing'. Delegates also advanced updated safety measures for controlling Salmonella and Campylobacter in chicken meat and for managing Listeria monocytogenes in ready-to-eat foods, marking key progress in international food safety standard-setting.



Webinar to launch FAO/WHO report on water quality and food safety



The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) will host a webinar on 10 February, at 14:00 (GMT) to launch their joint report on prioritising food safety issues linked to chemical water quality in agrifood systems. The session will cover key findings, risk-prioritisation approaches and links between water scarcity, food security and human, animal and environmental health. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Health and wellbeing

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



BBSRC/Defra new Diet and Health Collaborative Research and Development programme

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has announced a £3 million investment by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on a new [Diet and Health Collaborative Research and Development programme](#). The programme aims to support the development of novel food products and innovations in food processing to deliver healthier, more sustainable and high-quality food for consumers, and will support delivery against the Good Food Cycle. Priority areas include assessing the impact of food processing and product composition and health and improving environmental outcomes. Applications are now open through the [UKRI Funding Finder](#).



Department
of Health &
Social Care

2018 NPM published

On 27 January, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published the [response to the consultation on the 2018 Nutrient Profiling Model \(NPM\)](#), and [technical guidance](#) on how to apply the new model.

As part of the 10-Year Health Plan for England, a public consultation on the application of the 2018 NPM to promotion and advertising restrictions of food and drink high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS)/Less Healthy Food (LHF) will take place in 2026 (expected Spring 2026).



Department
of Health &
Social Care

DHSC updated impact assessment on HFSS promotion restrictions in England

On 12 January, the DHSC has published an [Impact Assessment \(IA\) on the 10 Year Health Plan](#). Amongst other findings, the IA states that applying the 2018 NPM to the promotion and advertising restrictions of HFSS/LHF products “could reduce calorie intake by up to an additional 30% compared to the current model” making it “equivalent to reducing cases of childhood obesity by up to 170,000 and adult obesity by 940,000”.



FSA research on retail and OOH environment in Northern Ireland (NI)

On 9 January, FSA published a new study titled [‘Mapping the food retail and out of home sector in Northern Ireland’](#). The aim of the study was to determine the number of businesses in the retail and Out of Home (OOH) sector that would be impacted if legislation restricting the promotion of HFSS foods, similar in scope to England, and the future Wales and Scotland restrictions, were to be implemented in NI. Overall, the evidence suggests that promotion restrictions could play a meaningful role in reshaping the food environment in NI.



Department
of Health &
Social Care

UK LHF advertising restrictions come into force

On 5 January, the [new restrictions on the advertising of LHF food and drink](#) came into force. The rules ban advertising of these products on television before 9pm and prohibit paid-for online advertising at all times.



M&S report on the UK’s fibre gap



M&S has published a new report titled [‘Bridging Britain’s Fibre Gap’](#), outlining strategic opportunities to make fibre intake more achievable, accessible and engaging for all. The report, developed in partnership with the British Nutrition Foundation (BNF), highlights that 96% of UK adults fail to meet the daily fibre recommended intake, and calls for clearer labelling, flexibility on fibre claims, wider availability of fibre-rich foods, alongside other recommendations.

Food labelling and composition

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

Which? Which? report on front-of-pack nutrition labelling

On 10 January, Which? published a [report assessing how front-of-pack nutrition labelling](#) supports consumer choices. The research found that the Multiple Traffic Light scheme is well-recognised and preferred by consumers, but should be simpler, more prominent and used consistently across all manufacturers and retailers, on a mandatory basis.



Proposal for an EU harmonised waste sorting labelling system

The EC's Joint Research Centre (JRC) shared its [technical proposal](#) regarding an EU harmonised waste sorting labelling system, in the context of the implementation of article 12 of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation. The EC will now draft an implementing act based on these recommendations, which must be adopted by 12 August 2026.



EU organic rulebook

In December, the EC published the '[Organic Rulebook Fit for the Future](#)', outlining plans to strengthen the EU organic sector by improving competitiveness and reducing administrative burden while maintaining standards. The document signals a targeted amendment to Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and confirms that a consultation to update the Organic Action Plan will be launched in 2026.



Spain updates guidance on precautionary allergen labelling

Also in December, the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN) published new [guidance on managing unintended allergen presence and the use of Precautionary Allergen Labelling \(PAL\)](#). The guidance adopts ED05-based reference doses and confirms that where allergen levels are below action thresholds, PAL and enforcement action are not required.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra updates recognition of organic control bodies

Defra recently concluded a review of applications from organic control bodies offering certification to equivalent GB organic standards in third countries and updated the [online register](#).



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Welsh Heather Honey GI amendment proposal

On 20 January, Defra issued a notice on an application to [amend the product specification for Welsh Heather Honey/Mel Grug Cymru \(Protected Geographical Indication -PGI\)](#). As part of the amendment process, interested parties with a legitimate interest have the opportunity to object. The deadline is 11:59pm on 20 April.

Environment and sustainability

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



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra Circular Economy Forum

The next [Defra Circular Economy Forum](#) will be held online on 2 February, from 14:30-16:00. Attendees are no longer required to pre-register. The link will take attendees directly to the meeting. Calendar invites are no longer issued. Click [here](#) to access the meeting.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Simpler recycling in England

From 31 March 2026, new [requirements](#) for providing recycling services to households in England will come into force under the *Simpler Recycling* scheme. This will include food waste recycling for the first time in some local authorities. [Simpler Recycling regulations for workplaces](#) in England have been in effect since 31 March 2025, applying to businesses with 10 or more employees.



CMA guidance on making green claims across supply chains

On 22 January, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) published new guidance titled '[Making green claims: getting it right across the supply chain](#)', which provides further clarity on how the CMA's Green Claims Code and consumer protection law apply where environmental claims rely on supply-chain information. The guidance applies to all products, including food and drink, and highlights that responsibility for green claims may sit with multiple parties in the supply chain.



PackUK appoints advisory group members and chairs

On 13 January, [PackUK announced the appointment of members and independent Chairs](#) across its four advisory groups supporting delivery of the Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (pEPR) scheme. The voluntary groups will provide expert advice on scheme governance, recyclability assessment, efficiency and effectiveness, and communications and behaviour change.



Implementation dates for EU deforestation regulation postponed

On 23 December 2025, [Regulation \(EU\) 2025/2650](#), amending Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 as regards certain obligations of operators and traders, was laid, postponing the date of application of the EU deforestation regulation by a further 12 months until 30 December 2026 for large and medium enterprises and until 30 June 2027 for micro- and small enterprises.

Agriculture

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



Water update with Steve Moncaster

PPA has arranged for Dr Moncaster (Water for Food, and Norfolk Environment Food and Farming) to present a briefing to members on various items of potential interest, including the EA's consultation on reserving water abstraction rights, the Government's Water White Paper, the status of Water of Food and the Board Plan. The event will take place on 16 January 2026 at 9am.

Interested parties should contact the PPA Secretariat, including if you would like colleagues from within your supply chain to join.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Consultation on regulatory framework reform for sludge applied to agricultural land

On 27 January, Defra launched a [consultation on new England-wide proposals for tighter controls on sewage sludge spreading](#) to protect soils, crops and water. The plans also aim to reduce ammonia emissions as part of the Environmental Improvement Plan and Water White Paper. The consultation closes on 24 March.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Farm Accounts in England 2024/25 published

On 22 January, Defra published the latest [Farm Accounts in England report, for the period 2024/25](#), providing detailed analysis of farm incomes, outputs and costs across all farm types. The report expands on the [Farm Business Income \(FBI\) figures released in November 2025](#), and includes comprehensive data on cropping, livestock, labour, diversification and agri-environment activities. Potato yields are provisional for 2024, and are set at 46.4 tonnes per hectare.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

A new vision for water White Paper

On 20 January, Defra published a White Paper titled '[A new vision for water](#)', setting out the government's plans to reform the water sector and the wider water system. The plan proposes a new integrated water regulator, measures to attract investment, stronger pollution standards and steps to improve water security and infrastructure resilience. A Transition Plan will follow to guide the sector through these changes.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra launches consultation on fairer supply chains for growers

Defra's consultation on '[Contractual practice in the UK combinable crops sector](#)' closes on 4 February. It is seeking views on contractual practices in the combinable crops sector to understand how supply relationships between farmers and purchasers can be improved. The proposals build on Fair Dealing reforms in the dairy, pig, egg and fresh produce sectors and aim to provide arable farmers with stronger protections against unfair practices.



Update to Integrated Pest Management Planning Tool

On 12 January, ADAS released an update to its free [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) Planning Tool](#), improving functionality to support better review and reporting of pest control measures. Enhancements include improved summaries, the ability to record previous control success, add land areas by crop, and new questions for livestock keepers. Also see [IPM Hub](#) and [Defra guidance](#).



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Secretary of State addresses 2026 Oxford Farming Conference

At the 2026 Oxford Farming Conference, the [Environment Secretary Emma Reynolds delivered a speech](#) outlining plans to simplify the Sustainable Farming Incentive. The Secretary also announced a new £30 million Farmer Collaboration Fund, and work towards a long-term Farming Roadmap due later in 2026.



UK Government

Inheritance tax relief threshold to increase for farms and businesses

On 23 December, the UK Government announced that the [Agricultural and Business Property Reliefs threshold](#) will increase from £1 million to £2.5 million from 6 April 2026. The change will allow spouses or civil partners to pass on up to £5 million in qualifying assets before inheritance tax applies, reducing the number of farms and businesses affected.

Plant protection products

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

Report on the potential impact of the new EU/UK Sanitary & Phytosanitary Agreement



A new independent analysis commissioned by CropLife UK and produced by The Andersons Centre explores the impact of GB alignment with the EU on UK crop production.

The report suggests that alignment with the EU could wipe out 10% of farm income, reducing UK food production across key staples such as wheat and potatoes, and fresh produce including apples, berries and leafy greens. For more details see [here](#).



French Decree on import restrictions on agricultural products from certain non-EU countries

On 7 January, the French Government published a [Decree suspending imports of certain non-EU foodstuffs](#), including potatoes, containing residues of the prohibited active substances carbendazim and benomyl, thiophanate-methyl, glufosinate and mancozeb. The measures enter into force on 8 January but will not apply to foodstuffs already acquired by an importer or the person placing them on the market up to one month after the Decree's entry into force.

The EC held an [emergency meeting](#) of the Standing Committee on the Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF), Phytopharmaceuticals-Pesticide Residues, on 20 January to discuss the French decree and to decide on EU action. The minutes of the meeting have yet to be issued.



NSP reminder on nematicide best practice for potato growers

The Nematicide Stewardship Programme (NSP) has issued a reminder for potato growers to follow [best practice](#) ahead of spring planting. Simon Alexander, independent potato agronomist and NSP group member, highlights the need for accurate granular nematicide application (such as Fosthiazate), well-maintained and National Sprayer Testing Scheme-certified equipment, and operators trained through the National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO) and National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) to protect yield, margins and the environment. Growers are also advised to incorporate nematicides in a single pass and check treated fields 12–24 hours after application for any wildlife impacts.

Groceries supply chain

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



Groceries Code Adjudicator

Groceries Code Adjudicator annual survey opens

The Groceries Code Adjudicator ([GCA](#)) has opened its [2026 annual survey](#), which will run until 22 February. The confidential survey, conducted by YouGov, invites suppliers to share their experiences of working with large retailers to help identify issues and support compliance with the [Groceries Supply Code of Practice](#).



Webinars on Food Strategy for England

The Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD), which supports Defra on the development of the Food Strategy for England, has made available recordings of the two webinars held in 2025. The [October webinar](#) focussed on engagement, and the [December webinar](#), on the NHS 10-Year Plan and implications for the food sector.



Red Tractor starts latest revision of fresh produce standards

The Red Tractor Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on fresh produce held its first meeting of 2026 on 22 January. This is the start of the revision process for the fresh produce standards, with meetings being planned on a regular basis throughout 2026.

The first meeting focused on reported issues with the current standard, in particular on audit burdens for growers. Red Tractor is proposing to address this issue through crop risk categories. PPA is directly represented on the TAC, with potato growers comprising over half of all licences in the fresh produce category.



NFU Energy webinar on electricity standing charges

In September 2025, the National Energy System Operator (NESO) published its forecast for changes to Transmission Network Use of System (TNUoS) charges, scheduled for implementation between the financial years 2026 and 2030.

To help businesses assess the potential impact of these changes on standing charge costs and to demonstrate the aggregated effect on the sector to government, NFU Energy launched the [TNUoS Charges Impact Calculator](#). All data entered into the tool will remain anonymous.

NFU Energy has announced it will hold a webinar “Standing charges revisited – here’s what you need to know”, on 5 February at 10am. For more details see [here](#).

Trade

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



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Emma Bourne appointed Director General for EU Reset and Trade at Defra

Defra has announced the appointment of Emma Bourne as Director General for EU Reset and Trade, effective from 2 February. Emma previously oversaw Defra’s preparations for EU Exit and led the NI Programme, including negotiations that contributed to the Windsor Framework. Most recently, she headed the Circular Economy Directorate, where she steered major reforms to the UK’s packaging system.



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

National Border Operations Business Readiness Forum

The National Border Operations Business Readiness Forum is a monthly online session that keeps stakeholders up to date on the latest developments in biosecurity and trade. The next session will take place on 3 February. To join the next session and receive invitations to future ones email the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) on APHA-BusinessReadinessForum@apha.gov.uk.



UK Export
Finance

UK Trade and Export Finance Forum – 5 February

The UK Trade and Export Finance Forum will take place on 5 February at the O2 InterContinental London. The event will bring together finance and business leaders for a full day of keynotes, case studies, panels, workshops and networking, covering the latest developments in export and trade finance. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Sevington BCP overview of SPS inspections

APHA released an overview of the end-to-end [Sanitary and Phytosanitary \(SPS\) inspection process to support stakeholders using the Sevington Border Control Post \(BCP\)](#). The summary explains the key stages a vehicle moves through and why clearance times may vary, including documentation checks, inspection requirements and involvement from multiple agencies.



Department for
Business & Trade

DCTS guidance updated

On 19 January, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) published [updated guidance on new Rules of Origin arrangements under the Developing Country Trading Scheme \(DCTS\)](#). The changes provide greater flexibility for participating countries to source ingredients from regional partners while maintaining origin preferences for exports to the United Kingdom.



Department for
Business & Trade

Agri-Tech export market priorities survey launched

The DBT has launched a [short survey to inform its Agri-Tech export market priorities for 2026](#). Responses will help shape future trade missions and in-market support to drive growth in the UK Agri-Tech sector.



Department for
Business & Trade

Free Trade Agreement monitoring report

The DBT has also published a [monitoring report](#) covering the first two years of the UK trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand, and the first four years of the UK's free trade agreement with China.



EU border controls - increased check frequency

The EU announced an increase in border check frequency in October 2025, with the next phase of this intensification due to start on 1 February 2026.

Traders can check if their goods will be subject to increased controls via the following [link](#). Traders of affected products should expect additional checks and delays when bringing products into the EU.

Partners

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



PepsiCo UK signs biomethane purchase agreement

On 21 January, PepsiCo UK announced a biomethane purchase agreement with Engie for offtake from 2027, marking a first for the UK food industry. PepsiCo UK says biomethane will be central to decarbonisation, despite being more expensive than natural gas.

The company is now calling for government to zero-rate gas-grid injected biomethane within the UK Emissions Trading Scheme. See the full press release [here](#).



fdf Sustainability Breakfast – 3 February

The Food and Drink Federation (fdf) will host a Sustainability Breakfast themed 'Forests and Food: How to Procure More Sustainable Commodities' on 3 February, from 08:30-10:30, at the fdf Offices in London. For more information and to sign up, click [here](#).



FDF Scotland/FSS workshop on food fraud

FDF Scotland has partnered with the FSS to offer a free in-person workshop aimed at increasing industry resilience to food incident and food crime threats including vulnerabilities across the supply chain and how these risks may evolve. The event will be hosted by Marsh Commercial, in Edinburgh, on 19 March. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



IFST Binsted Lecture 2026

The Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST), together with the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), the FDF and Campden BRI will jointly host the 2026 Binsted annual lecture titled ‘Leveraging AI in New Product Development and ensuring Food Safety and Quality’ on 12 February, at the FDF Office in London. For more information and to book your ticket, click [here](#).



UKIA Annual Conference – 4 March

The UK Irrigation Association will hold its 2026 Annual Conference themed ‘Farming the future: Getting the best from available water resources’ on 4 March, from 9:00-16:00, at the Orton Hall Hotel and Spa, near Peterborough. For more information, or to book tickets, see [here](#).



ESA activity report 2025

The [European Snacks Association’s \(ESA\) has launched its 2025 activity report](#). The report focuses primarily on key milestones for the association in 2025 and briefly covers the most important issues dealt with by the different working groups.



Futures for All seeks partners to promote food safety careers

Futures for All is seeking employers and organisations interested in supporting a Year 10 project or hosting multi-day experiences for young people aged 14–19 to promote careers in food safety. Organisations interested in getting involved can find further information on [Futures for All’s website](#) or contact Karen Hillis at karen.hillis@futuresforall.org.



Webinar: Cutting the Odds - Managing Risk in Potato Production

Join GB Potatoes’ webinar on Tuesday 17 February at 4.00pm with Alex Godfrey (Chair, GB Potatoes), Blair Richardson (CEO, Potatoes USA), and Rory Gibson (Howden Insurance) to learn what GB Potatoes and Potatoes USA are doing to reduce risk and hear from Rory on how parametric insurance could help you manage the risks of growing a potato crop.

Register using this link: [Register for GB Potatoes Webinar](#).

PPA committee meeting dates 2026

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

PPA Board

2026 dates TBC	TBC	TBC
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Food Law and Consumer [FLC] committee

10 March	13:00-16:00	Microsoft Teams (online)
30 June	10:30-14:30	London TBC (in person)
11 November	13:00-16:00	Microsoft Teams (online)

Primary Production Technical committee [PPTC] committee

2026 dates TBC	TBC	TBC
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PPA circulars issued in January 2026

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

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.
21-Dec	Doodle Poll for 2026 FLC meeting dates	418/25
22-Dec	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 51 2025	419/25
22-Dec	End of year updates	420/25
29-Dec	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 52 2025	421/25
05-Jan	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 1 2026	001/26
05-Jan	MinGlyKa Project Final Presentation (September 2026)	002/26
05-Jan	Food safety incident - Mekong delta	003/26
05-Jan	Annual Acrylamide Data Collection activity	004/26
05-Jan	Healthy sales reporting	005/26
05-Jan	Annual Acrylamide Data Collection activity - snacks and nuts	006/26
05-Jan	CCFL eWG Allergen Labelling 2nd Consultation Paper	007/26
05-Jan	FoodDrinkEurope overview on the FOP nutrition labelling schemes and initiatives in the EU Member States	008/26
06-Jan	ESA Process Contaminants Issues Tracker	009/26
06-Jan	PPA Media Monitoring Annual Summary - 2025	010/26
06-Jan	Agendas for next two Commission Contaminants Working Group meetings, 12 & 19 January 2026	011/26
07-Jan	New French Decree Imposes Import Restrictions	012/26
07-Jan	FDE response to consultation on autocontrols	013/26
07-Jan	First National Good Food Nation Plan - summary	014/26
08-Jan	Updated Paper – FoodDrinkEurope Views on the Use of PAL for Mustard in Wheat-based Products	015/26
09-Jan	NI Nutritional Standards for food served to staff and visitors across Health and Social Care settings revision published	016/26
09-Jan	BSI consultation on draft PAS 96 Protecting and defending food and drink from deliberate attack	017/26
09-Jan	CAP presentation on LHF advertising restrictions and upcoming ASA webinar (13 January)	018/26
09-Jan	EU Pesticide Renewal Monitor, December 2025	019/26
09-Jan	FSA request for feedback on UK/EU SPS agreement on market authorisations and food safety requirements	020/26
12-Jan	Have your say' consultation on Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/632 as regards CN codes for products subject to official controls	021/26
12-Jan	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 2 2026	022/26
12-Jan	Nutrition and Health tracker (Jan.26 update)	023/26
13-Jan	FLC meeting dates 2026	024/26

13-Jan	Scottish Government consultation - Code of practice for managing controlled waste - plastic films	025/26
13-Jan	Spanish Guidance on Precautionary Allergen Labelling (PAL)	026/26
14-Jan	DHSC FURTHER questions on mandatory reporting of healthy food sales	027/26
14-Jan	FoodDrinkEurope overview on the FOP nutrition labelling schemes and initiatives in the EU Member States	028/26
14-Jan	FoodDrinkEurope Overview of national requirements regarding nutrition and health claims	029/26
15-Jan	ESA data on acrylamide in dough-based snacks	030/26
15-Jan	49th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL), 11 – 15 May 2026 – FoodDrinkEurope delegation	031/26
15-Jan	Guidance document describing the food categories in Part E of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 on Food Additives - Update: Version 8	032/26
16-Jan	Additional Information/clarification from the Spanish Snacks Association on the Spanish Guidance on Precautionary Allergen Labelling (PAL)	033/26
16-Jan	FSA Incident Prevention update –January 2026	034/26
16-Jan	Results for nuts and seed data 2016-2024	035/26
16-Jan	FDF Q&A session with CAP on LHF advertising restrictions	036/26
19-Jan	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 3 2026	037/26
19-Jan	PPA position on potential impact of UK/EU SPS agreement on the processed potato sector	038/26
19-Jan	JRC Final Report on harmonised waste sorting labels under the PPWR	039/26
21-Jan	Commission WG paper on Acrylamide MLs and BMLs	040/26
22-Jan	CMA new guidance on making green claims across supply chains	041/26
22-Jan	BExG Food Labelling work on updating the FSA Guidance on Clear Food Labelling	042/26
23-Jan	DRAFT EC Implementing Reg. amending Implementing Reg. (EU) 2019/1793 on the temporary increase of official controls & emergency measures (13th amendment)	043/26
23-Jan	56th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) 13-17 April 2026, Chongqing, China	044/26
23-Jan	IOFI/EFFA Information letter latest developments & activities on acetaldehyde	045/26
26-Jan	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 4 2026	046/26
27-Jan	New 2018 NPM published - consultation response and guidance	047/26
27-Jan	New regulations published in the OJEU	048/26
27-Jan	EFSA evaluation Flavouring Group Evaluation 87, Revision 3 (FGE.87Rev3)	049/26
27-Jan	Informal summary report of the EC Working Group on agricultural contaminants of 19 January 2026	050/26
28-Jan	Informal summary of Commission Working Group on Environmental and Industrial Contaminants, 12 January 2025	051/26
28-Jan	GSI – Presentation on QR Codes & Useful Links (Ad Hoc Call – 21 January)	052/26
28-Jan	EC response to industry concerns on EmpCo Directive grandfathering clause	053/26
29-Jan	AgriFish Council – Country of origin labelling discussion	054/26
29-Jan	EC Implementing Reg. amending Implementing Reg. (EU) 2019/1793 on the temporary increase of official controls & emergency measures (13th amendment) published	055/26
30-Jan	Monthly digest of EU legislation (January 2026)	056/26
30-Jan	Plant protection products log – January 2026	057/26

30-Jan	Food Industry Liaison Group (FILG) meeting notes	058/26
30-Jan	PPA Monthly Members' News sheet: January 2026	059/26

Primary Production Technical Committee (PPTC)

Date	Subject	Circular No.
22-Dec	End of year updates	274/25
05-Jan	MinGlyKa Project Final Presentation (September 2026)	001/26
05-Jan	Annual Acrylamide Data Collection activity	002/26
05-Jan	Annual Acrylamide Data Collection activity - snacks and nuts	003/26
06-Jan	ESA Process Contaminants Issues Tracker	004/26
06-Jan	PPA Media Monitoring Annual Summary - 2025	005/26
06-Jan	Agendas for next two Commission Contaminants Working Group meetings, 12 & 19 January 2026	006/26
06-Jan	Informal stakeholder engagement: Seed Potato Classification Scheme in England and Wales	007/26
07-Jan	French Decree on import restrictions on agricultural products from certain non-EU countries	008/26
07-Jan	FDE response to consultation on autocontrols	009/26
08-Jan	SG First National Good Food Nation Plan	010/26
09-Jan	Notes from Potato Stateholder meeting, 08 January 2026	011/26
09-Jan	EU Pesticide Renewal Monitor, December 2025	012/26
13-Jan	EA Abstraction licensing consultation	013/26
15-Jan	Acrylamide: Analysis of Dough-based Snack Products 2017-2024	014/26
16-Jan	NSP press release	015/26
16-Jan	UKIA Newsletter	016/26
19-Jan	PPA position on potential impact of UK/EU SPS agreement on the processed potato sector	017/26
21-Jan	Commission WG paper on Acrylamide MLs and BMLs	018/26
26-Jan	Water for food update/webinar	019/26
27-Jan	Informal summary report of the EC Working Group on agricultural contaminants of 19 January 2026	020/26
28-Jan	Informal summary of Commission Working Group on Environmental and Industrial Contaminants, 12 January 2025	021/26
30-Jan	Monthly digest of EU legislation (January 2026)	022/26
30-Jan	Plant protection products log – January 2026	023/26
30-Jan	PPA Monthly Members' News sheet: January 2026	024/26

Upcoming events

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

2 February 2026	Defra Circular Economy Forum, online
3 February 2026	FDF Sustainability Networking Breakfast, London
3 February 2026	FDF webinar: Sustainability Breakfast: Forests and Food: How to procure more sustainable commodities, online
3 February 2026	APHA National Border Operations Business Readiness Forum, online
5 February 2026	UK Trade and Export Finance Forum, London
7 February 2026	26th SACAPP Conference, Dundee, Scotland
12 February 2026	Business academy webinar: Demystifying sanitary and phytosanitary requirements when selling to the EU, online
12 February 2026	IFST Binsted Lecture 2026: Leveraging AI in New Product Development and ensuring Food Safety and Quality, London
12 February 2026	FDF/WRAP webinar: The UK Packaging Pact, online
13 February 2026	FDF: State of Industry: Insights webinar, online

25-26 February 2026	Crop Production in Northern Britain 2026: The Dundee Conference, Dundee
4 March 2026	IFST seminar: Managing Allergens in Food Manufacture, Birmingham
11-12 March 2026	PSI Potato Store Managers' Course, Rutland
25 March 2026	FDF Food and Drink Industry Dinner, London
30 Mar-1 Apr 2026	IFE 2026, London
4 March 2026	UKIA 2026 Annual Conference, Orton Longueville
27-29 April 2026	World Retail Congress, Berlin
20 May 2026	SDF/PSI Strategic Potato Day 2026, Holbeach St Marks, Lincs
3-4 June 2026	Europatat Congress, Radisson Collection Hotel Grand Place, Brussels
17-18 June 2026	Snackex 2026, Lisbon
18 June 2026	EUPPA General Assembly, online
1 July 2026	FDF Annual Summer Parliamentary reception, London
17 September 2026	FDF Awards, The Troxy, London
12-14 October 2026	ESA Savoury Snacks Production Course Part 3: Snack Nuts, Origin to Packet. Porto, Portugal
13-14 October 2026	EUPPA General Assembly and Committee meetings, Brussels

Industry meetings

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

2 February 2026	FoodDrinkEurope Food Improvements Agents (FIA) Committee meeting, online
3 February 2026	FoodDrinkEurope Information to Consumers (INCO) Committee meeting, online
3 February 2026	IFST Food Regulatory SIG meeting, online
3 February 2026	EUPPA Board meeting, online
4 February 2026	FDF Organic (ORG) Committee meeting, hybrid
4 February 2026	FoodDrinkEurope Contaminants (CONT) Committee meeting, online
4 February 2026	EUPPA CMO Task Force meeting, online
4 February 2026	NAAC POHTG meeting, online
5 February 2026	Cabinet Office/FDF member discussions on SPS agreement, online
5 February 2026	Potato Stakeholder Fortnightly call, online
6 February 2026	FoodDrinkEurope Acrylamide Task Force meeting, online
9 February 2026	FDF Nutrition Committee (NUT) meeting, hybrid
10/11/13 Feb 2026	Adhoc virtual meeting of FDF President's Committee on NPM (date TBC)
11 February 2026	FDF International Trade Committee (ITC) meeting, hybrid
11 February 2026	FDF Allergens Steering Group (ASG) Committee meeting, hybrid
11 February 2026	National Virus Forum, The Plant Health Centre, JHI Dundee
13 February 2026	EU Potato Value Chain (PVC) call, online
16 February 2026	PPA Water update with Dr Steve Moncaster, online
17 February 2026	EUPPA CMO Task Force meeting, online
18 February 2026	FDF Residues & Contaminants (RAC) meeting, hybrid
19 February 2026	Potato Stakeholder Fortnightly call, online
24 February 2026	CUPGRA Research Review, NIAB Soperi Taylor Building, Cambridge
25 February 2026	Food Industry Liaison Group (FILG) meeting, online
25 February 2026	FDF Microbiology Committee (MIC) meeting, hybrid
25-26 February 2026	EFSA data submission training, online

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 15 January 2026)

[COLLECTION: Customs, VAT and excise UK transition legislation from 1 January 2021](#) (last updated 20 January 2026)

[COLLECTION: Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee](#) (last updated 26 January 2026)

[COLLECTION: REUL \(Revocation and Reform\) Act 2023 statutory instruments](#) (last updated 27 January 2026)

Windsor Framework

[Defra Guidance: Labelling requirements for certain products moving from GB to retail premises in NI under NIRMS](#) (last updated 16 June 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Commodity codes for NIRMS](#) (last updated 15 July 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Movement Assistance Scheme: get help with moving agrifood goods to NI](#) (last updated 4 July 2025)

[NI-GB Trader Support Service](#)

[TSS bulletins](#) (latest bulletin 29 January 2026)

[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](#) (last updated 4 November 2025)

[NICTA website](#)

[Defra Guidance: NIRMS: how to move goods](#) (first published 31 October 2025)

UK Imports

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

[Defra Guidance: Import compound products to GB](#) (last updated 19 September 2025)

[APHA guidance: BTOM risk categorisations \(EU and non-EU plant and plant products\)](#) (last updated 2 December 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 & Wales Fees](#) (last updated 19 January 2026)

[HMRC Guidance: Importing SPS controlled goods into GB that interact with the Border Trade Matching Service](#) (last updated 8 September 2025)

[HMRC Notice: Notices made under the Customs \(Import Duty\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018](#) (last updated 12 January 2026)

[DBT/HM Treasury/HMRC Guidance: UK Trade Tariff: duty suspensions and autonomous tariff quotas](#) (last updated 26 November 2025)

[Defra: EU and EFTA countries approved to export animals and animal products to GB](#) (last updated 28 January 2026)

[HMRC Guidance: Goods Vehicle Movement Service - service availability and issues](#) (last updated 1 December 2025)

[HMRC Guidance Create a goods movement reference](#) (last updated 1 September 2025)
[Defra: Non-EU countries approved to export animals and animal products to GB](#) (last updated 21 November 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 2 January 2026)
[Defra/APHA Guidance: Animals, animal products and HRFNAO imports: authorised border control posts in the UK](#) (last updated 7 November 2025)
[Defra Form High risk food and feed of non-animal origin \(HRFNAO\): official certificates](#) (last updated 11 August 2025)
[Defra/APHA Guidance: Imports, exports and EU trade of animals and animal products: topical issues](#) (last updated 8 January 2026)

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 27 January 2026)
[Defra Guidance: Businesses approved to export to the EU](#) (last updated 23 January 2026)
[HMRC: Safety and security declarations](#) (last updated 2 January 2026)
[HMRC: Moving licensed goods into or out of NI](#) (last updated 15 September 2025)
[HMRC Guidance: Make an entry summary declaration using the Import Control System 2](#) (last updated 1 January 2026)

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

[Defra Collection: Extended producer responsibility for packaging](#) (last updated 12 November 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Packaging data: what to collect for extended producer responsibility](#) (last updated 16 December 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Extended producer responsibility for packaging: generate a packaging data file](#) (last updated 20 August 2025)
[Defra/EA Guidance: Packaging data: how to create your file for extended producer responsibility](#) (last updated 29 September 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Organisation details: how to create your file for extended producer responsibility \(EPR\) for packaging](#) (last updated 9 September 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 5 August 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Extended producer responsibility for packaging: check the public register of producers](#) (last updated 11 September 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Simpler recycling: workplace recycling in England](#) (last updated 3 October 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Recyclability assessment methodology: how to assess your packaging waste](#) (last updated 4 September 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Packaging data: check reporting periods and submission deadlines](#) (last updated 16 December 2025).
[Defra Guidance: Extended producer responsibility for packaging: fit and proper person](#) (first published 18 March 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Recyclability assessment methodology: supplementary guidance](#) (last updated 2 December 2025)
[Defra Guidance: Extended producer responsibility for packaging: contact and support](#) (first published 10 October 2025)
[PackUK: Preparing for pEPR year 1 invoicing: key information for liable producers](#) (first published 9 September 2025)

[PackUK/Defra Guidance: Year 2 illustrative waste disposal fees: Extended producer responsibility for packaging](#) (first published 16 December 2025)

Water

[EA: Water situation reports for England](#) (last updated 28 July 2025)

[EA: Dry weather and drought in England: summary reports](#) (last updated 23 January 2026)

[EA: Rainfall and river flow: weekly reports for England](#) (last updated 29 January 2026)

[EA: Guidance. Environmental permits: when and how you are charged](#) (last updated 22 September 2025)

[EA: Guidance. Water resources licences: when and how you are charged](#) (last updated 22 September 2025)

[EA: Statutory guidance Environmental permits and abstraction licences: tables of charges](#) (last updated 15 October 2025)

[EA: Guidance Abstract or impound water: hydrological and hydraulic information needed for your licence application](#) (last updated 29 August 2025)

[EA: Guidance Environment Agency fees and charges](#) (last updated 22 September 2025)

[EA: Policy paper. Drought: how it is managed in England](#) (last updated 23 September 2025)

Current consultations

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

EC: [Consultation on Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending the Annex to Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/632 as regards CN codes for products subject to official controls](#)(closes 3 February 2026)

Defra: [Consultation on Contractual practice in the UK combinable crops sector](#) (closes 4 February 2026)

SG: [Consultation on Duty of Care: code of practice for managing controlled waste](#)(closes 5 February 2026)

FSA: [Consultation on Market Authorisation of 4 Regulated Food Products December 2025](#) (closes 8 February 2026)

EA: [Consultation on reserving water abstraction rights](#) (closes 16 February 2026)

GCA: [2026 annual survey](#) (closes 22 February 2026)

Defra: [Consultation on regulatory framework reform for sludge applied to agricultural land](#) (closes 24 February 2026)

Defra: [Consultation on new England-wide proposals for tighter controls on sewage sludge spreading](#) (closes on 24 March 2026)

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