



**PPA Primary Production Technical Committee (PPTC)  
Minutes of the meeting, 18 November 2025,  
'Claxton Room', Lakeside Conference Centre,  
York Biotech Campus  
Sand Hutton  
York, YO41 1LZ  
United Kingdom**

**Participants**

Richard Baines	Lamb Weston (Chair)
John Sedgwick	Lamb Weston
Ian Rigby	PepsiCo (online)
Amanda Ayres	KP Snacks
Phil Rivas	KP Snacks
Ben Firth	KP Snacks
Ian Pennock	McCain
Kevin Hutchinson	Tayto
Vanessa Richardson	PPA
Andrew Curtis	PPA (Secretary)

**Apologies**

Craig Stephen	Valeo
Gary Collins	PepsiCo
Matt Callan	Proper
Gillian Black	Taylor's
Gemma Chope	PepsiCo

**Guest Speakers**

Kevin Jennings	APHA
Adam Bedford	Fera
Dr Larissa Collins	Fera
Dr Adrian Fox	Fera

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p><b>1. Chair's Business</b>  <b>Welcome and observance of Competition Law</b>            Members were reminded of the new PPA anti-trust statement as practised in meetings.</p>	-
<p><b>2. Minutes and actions arising from the PPTC meeting held 11 March 2025</b>            The minutes of the PPA PPTC Committee meeting held on 11 March 2025 were reviewed and confirmed as correct. It was noted that most items from the last meeting had been actioned, were ongoing (mainly watching briefs), or would be covered elsewhere under the agenda.</p>	-
<p><b>3. Seed Potato Classification Scheme (SPCS) season review and trends</b>  <b>Invited speakers:</b> Kevin Jennings, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)</p> <p>Kevin gave an overview of the SPCS in 2025. He noted that the 2024 season was a very rare one in that Growing Season Inspections (GSI's) were still being completed in September due to late planting caused by wet weather. In most years, the majority of GSI's are completed in June and July.</p> <p>Conversely, the 2025 season had a very early planting season with most GSI's completed in July. However, some delays occurred due to crops stopping due to lack of rain. APHA had focused on inspecting at the right growth stage rather than calendar days since 1<sup>st</sup> inspection.</p> <p>Some crops were still growing a long time after second inspection to when haulm destruction occurred. Risk of in season virus spread not picked up at second inspections. Also, secondary growth on tubers.</p> <p>He noted an 8-9% increase in planted area, certified area and stocks entered in</p>	<p><b>The APHA presentation and the flyer for the SPCS Consultative Panel Meeting on 20 November to be circulated to PPTC.</b></p> <p><b>SASA results for 2025 to be shared with the PPTC.</b></p>

<p>2025 over 2024 figures. He also noted a low number of downgrades in 2025 due to all viruses when compared to previous years, in particular when compared to 2024 (black leg, HD downgrades), and when compared over the last 5-years, for PVY (leafroll had overtaken PVY for the first time: 8.2% of stocks with leafroll came from Scottish Parent Stocks).</p> <p>PPTC was asked whether the 21-day haulm destruction requirement was still important/relevant? (from a grower’s perspective this was increasingly hard to do). Members views were that this should stay as a requirement.</p> <p>In terms of the EU audit (equivalence application for protected regions), Kevin reported that feedback from the Commission had been positive. However, concerns had been raised over delays to the GB authorisations for Dutch, German and French equivalence applications. Kevin noted that the EU/UK SPS discussions were expected to start later in November, and he understood that these would take place in parallel with the discussion on seeds.</p> <p>Kevin also briefly gave his views on the SASA GROWING CROP INSPECTION RESULTS 2025 that had recently been shared, noting that the data was due to be presented as part of the BP2025 event.</p>	
<p><b>4. Fera</b>  <b>Invited speakers:</b> Adam Bedford, Dr Larissa Collins, Dr Adrian Fox</p> <p>Adam gave an overview of Fera’s roles and responsibilities as a fully commercial science service which is joint venture with Government. Fera receives no Government grants but does carry out regulatory compliance work on behalf of Government including on various pests and diseases and border controls.</p> <p>Adrian Fox gave an overview on his ongoing work on virus, and Larissa Collins delivered a presentation on Fera’s work on aphid monitoring (a further presentation on wire worm was shared post meeting).</p> <p>Members discussed areas where PPA might engage directly or indirectly with Fera, in terms of new projects or monitoring work. It was agreed that PPTC members would think about what areas the sector might wish to work on (including emerging issues such as wire worm or Stolbur) and this could be followed up with some suggestions for project work at a future meeting.</p>	<p><b>Fera’s presentations to be circulated to PPTC.</b></p> <p><b>Members to consider areas of possible interest for future work with Fera.</b></p>
<p><b>5. Plant protection products</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Chlorpropham (CIPC)</b>  AC reported that the last CIPC Residues Management Group (CRMG) meeting was held on 28 October 2025. The next meeting was planned for 20 January 2026. PPA had stood down as secretariat from 9 July 2025, and Graham Bannister (GB Potatoes) was now providing the secretariat function.</p> <p>CRMG had submitted the final report for 2024/2025 to HSE on 1 September 2025 and was now awaiting feedback. For the 2024/25 season a total of 156 samples were received. Only 20 samples were found to be above the LOD (most of these are in the lower region).</p> <p>Since the last PPTC meeting the European Commission had published a new temporary MRL for CIPC at 0.2 mg/kg (see <a href="#">here</a>). It was noted that in an EU/UK SPS alignment scenario, GB is likely to move to the same a 0.2 mg/kg tMRL.</p>	<p><b>Secretariat to maintain a watching brief on CIPC.</b></p> <p><b>Members to continue to supply data to the CRMG on an annual basis.</b></p>

It was reported that the European Potato Value Chain (PVC) had continued to collect data for this past season and was due to submit a report to the Commission via the consultancy 'Arvalis' by the end of 2025. However, in line with the Regulation the PVC will report future data to the Commission every two years instead of annually.

➤ **Mancozeb**

- UPL Mancozeb event

Members noted that VR had attended a two-day workshop on 3-4 June 2025, at Rothamsted Research, Harpenden. This was intended to focus on the agricultural benefits and the global importance of mancozeb. Post meeting PPA had been invited to co-sign a UPL drafted white paper.

Members had been consulted on the white paper, and the decision was taken that PPA would not co-sign. This was confirmed to have been the 'correct' decision, considering the Government's subsequent clarification on the reasons for withdrawal.

It was noted that GB Potatoes did co-sign the letter and was in ongoing discussions with UPL and HSE on the scope and requirements for a possible Emergency Authorisation (EA) for to combat emerging blight strains. Whilst there was still the possibility to implement an Article 4.7 authorisation after November 2025, it was noted that EAs tend to be slow to be authorised, restricted in scope and not always used in practice, even when granted.

In terms of the EU Court case, a final judgment was delivered on 29 October 2025 in Luxembourg. The 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, but success seems unlikely.

➤ **EUPPA Pesticide Strategy**

AC informed that EUPPA is developing a framework to allow for proactive communications on use of PPPs within the European potato processing sector. The 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.

EUPPA had compiled a list of 74 actives that were widely used within the sector across Europe and GB and which were under potential threat of withdrawal.

EUPPA hoped to reduce the list to around 25 actives that it could focus on as priorities, based upon: Urgency of the situation; Alignment with sustainable and reasonable use of PPPs in the sector; likelihood of Members agreement to act in support of the active and the likelihood of impact of potential EUPPA action.

➤ **EU/UK SPS agreement**

Noted that on 19 May 2025, a 'Common Understanding' document had been published by the EU and the UK, proposing that GB moves to a position of 'dynamic alignment' with the EU on SPS issues. This includes 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

**Secretariat to share the European Potato Value Chain's CIPC report once this has been submitted to the European Commission**

**Maintain a watching brief on any GB decisions on Mancozeb.**

<p>pesticides. The full scope was not yet understood, but the delivery timeframe was summer 2027. The PPA Food Law and Consumer Committee was leading in the development of a list of divergence concerns (e.g., PPPs, contaminants, labelling) for submission to FSA/DEFRA.</p> <p>Related to this GB Potatoes and FDF were engaged in a Defra-led 'Pesticides EU Relations Project WG'. Due to NDAs limited information could be provided on its activities, but PPA's data and concerns had been fed into both parties and was being widely utilised and referenced in discussions.</p> <p><b><u>Risk matrix</u></b> Recent amends to the matrix were noted.</p>	
<p><b>6. Plant health</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Virus forum 2026</b> Noted that the next National Virus Forum will take place on 11 February at The James Hutton Institute near Dundee.</p> <p>➤ <b>Seed exports to EU</b> As discussed with Kevin Jennings, it was reported that GB had received a positive EU audit report, with Defra providing comments to the EU on the report by the end October 2025. The next step would be to put the report in front of SCoPAFF. It was understood that this approach to re-open the EU export market was being pursued in tandem with the SPS talks.</p> <p>AC also reported that the PVC was also due to meet with the Commission (Mr Giraud, Head of Unit, Plant Health) on 27 November. However, even if discussions were successful the opening up of the European market was not expected for the next planting season.</p>	-
<p><b>7. Water</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Overview of current situation.</b> AC highlighted the November Water situation reports for England, noting that Met Office long-term forecast for the UK showed a 30% likelihood of drier conditions from November to January.</p> <p>Many areas in England would almost be back to 'normal' status with the average amount of rainfall over winter. Under an 80% of LTA rainfall scenario, there would be drought conditions from spring that stretch across the country from Wessex to Yorkshire (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 was expected to publish a further prospects report in spring 2026 that will cover the latest position, risks and actions needed for summer and autumn next year.</p> <p>➤ <b>NFU concerns over water reform.</b> Defra had recently published statutory guidance on 'Enforcing the Farming Rules for Water' and NFU had raised a 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...", where previously it had read "...a rotational need...".</p> <p>Farmers were wary of how this should be interpreted, with a potential concern around the willingness of FACTS qualified advisors to sign off NMP's with autumn spreading.</p>	-

<p>NFU had also alerted PPA to Defra’s Review of Water Quality Regulations: with a White Paper expected late in 2025 or early 2026.</p> <p>PPA Members had observed an increase in nutrient restriction enforcement by the EA and saw the white paper on water as potentially a big risk.</p>	
<p><b>8. Genetic Technology</b></p> <p>AC informed that a summary of the responses to the Defra consultation carried out earlier this year had been published. 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.</p> <p>It was reported that The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Regulations 2025 entered into force on 13 November 2025. The FSA had also published draft technical and administrative guidance for applicants. For the moment it was unclear how the EU/UK SPS agreement would impact upon this work.</p>	-
<p><b>9. Contaminants</b></p> <p>AC gave an update on recent relevant developments on acrylamide. See slides for further detail. Slides on glycoalkaloids were not covered due to time constraints.</p> <p>➤ <b>Acrylamide – MLs and BMLs.</b></p> <p>It was noted that the latest EU discussion on acrylamide had taken place in May 2025. Commission had been aiming to finalise technical discussions by the end of 2025 but had run into problems – especially on interpreting EFSA data. Nevertheless, the Commission had apparently shared a document with EU Member States reviewing monitoring data from the years 2019-2023. Based on this data, no major changes were expected for the MLs and BML proposals that were shared at the end of 2021 during the stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>EUPPA had also met with the Commission in September, where it was confirmed that the IF introduced, MLs would apply to RTE products as placed on the market (e.g. crisps, biscuits). Frozen potato products would likely be excluded (maintaining a BML only) as they required cooking by the final consumers.</p> <p>➤ <b>Acrylamide – FSA/FSS call for data</b></p> <p>It was noted that the FSA and Food Standard Scotland (FSS) had published a call for AA data on 30 July 2025. Following consultation with ESA members, the secretariat submitted the exact same information with FSA/FSS that it has shared annually with EFSA (sliced potato crisp data only: 2020-2024).</p> <p>Additionally, EUPPA had (through PPA) also shared its 2023-24 data with FSA/FSS.</p> <p>➤ <b>ESA/EUPPA data collection for EFSA</b></p> <p>In was noted that since the last meeting, ESA had submitted 7,794 observations received from 11 producers of sliced potato crisps across Europe. EUPPA had also submitted a total of 836 observations.</p> <p>Lastly members were informed that work had also started on a review of the FoodDrinkEurope Acrylamide Toolbox, a draft ESA guide on managing acrylamide in vegetable crisps and a revision of the Codex Alimentarius “Code</p>	-

of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Foods”	
<p><b>10. Meeting dates 2026</b></p> <p>PPTC agreed to hold meetings in March/April 2026 and again in October/November 2026, with a summer 2026 meeting called only if there were major developments – otherwise for the secretariat to issue a short slide deck providing updates on issues that are relevant to the PPTC.</p>	<p><b>‘Doodle poll’ for Spring 2026 PPTC meeting to be issued.</b></p> <p><b>Secretariat to issue a summer 2026 update to PPTC.</b></p> <p><b>If required, PPA to call a summer 2026 PPTC meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Members to advise on possible venues for future physical PPTC meetings.</b></p>
<p><b>11. Site visit</b></p> <p>The meeting concluded with a tour of the Fera facilities, including the black soldier fly insect unit (connected to food waste and new fertilisers) plus the nematology and plant clinic services. Members were joined by Dr Maureen Wakefield (BSF unit) and Bex Lawson (nematology).</p>	-