

**Primary Production Technical
Committee (PPTC)
26 March 2026**

Chair: Richard Baines



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.

Agenda

- **Welcome and anti-trust statement**
- **Minutes and actions arising from the PPTC meeting held 18 November 2025**
- **Fera proposal re: review and update of the PPA Knowledge Transfer Exchange document**
- **NEW: Iran/USA conflict: Potential impacts for sector and actions for Secretariat**
- **NEW: Land Use Framework For England**
- **EU/UK SPS Agreement and dynamic alignment**
- **Contaminants update**
 - **Acrylamide**
 - **Glycoalkaloids**
- **Plant protection products**
- **Red Tractor**
- **Plant Health**
- **Water**
- **Genetic Technology**
- **October/November meeting date and venue: TBC**

Matters arising PPTC meeting 18 November 2025

Action	Status
The APHA presentation and the flyer for the SPCS Consultative Panel Meeting on 20 November to be circulated to PPTC.	Actioned (PPTC 251/25).
SASA results for 2025 to be shared with the PPTC.	Actioned (PPTC 251/25).
Fera's presentations to be circulated to PPTC.	Actioned (PPTC 251/25).
Members to consider areas of possible interest for future work with Fera.	Ongoing. To be discussed as part of PPTC on 26 March 2026 (PPTC 076/26).
Secretariat to maintain a watching brief on CIPC.	Ongoing.
Members to continue to supply data to the CRMG on an annual basis.	Ongoing
Secretariat to share the European Potato Value Chain's CIPC report once this has been submitted to the European Commission.	Actioned (PPTC 264/25 [draft], PPTC 269/25 [final]).
Maintain a watching brief on any GB decisions on Mancozeb.	Actioned (PPTC 029/26).
'Doodle poll' for Spring 2026 PPTC meeting to be issued.	Actioned (PPTC 035/26).
Secretariat to issue a summer 2026 update to PPTC. PPTC meetings.	To be actioned.
If required, PPA to call a summer 2026 PPTC meeting.	To be actioned (if required).
Members to advise on possible venues for future physical PPTC meetings.	Ongoing.

**Fera proposal on review and update of PPA Research,
Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (KE) priorities
document:
FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Review the existing PPA KTE document

Fera will assess the relevance and completeness of the four established priority areas:

- Storage efficiency
- Pest & disease management
- Sustainable and resilient production
- Processing challenges

2. Identify emerging issues since 2020

Fera will capture shifts in the industry since including:

- Loss of key PPP actives
- Climate and weather-related impacts
- Evolving agronomic and supply-chain pressures

3. Map existing research activity and highlight gaps

Fera will review relevant programmes to identify where priorities are already being addressed, where there is duplication, and where new investment or coordination is needed.

4. Refresh and prioritise future research needs

Fera will provide an updated, forward-looking set of PPA research and KE priorities that reflect 2026 sector needs and emerging innovation opportunities.

5. Deliver a concise updated strategy report

This will summarise:

- Findings from the review
- Updated sector challenges
- Recommended priority areas
- Research gaps and opportunities
- Suggestions for future KE activity and stakeholder engagement

Timeline

Fera anticipate the work will take approximately six weeks from initiation, including a short kick-off discussion and time for PPA review of the draft report.

Cost: £10,305.04.

Iran/USA conflict: Potential impacts for sector and actions for Secretariat: FOR DISCUSSION

PPA members have contacted the secretariat and asked for us to open discussions within the membership on the real and potential impacts of the military action on the processing sector.

Request for members input issued on 24 March:

- FDF President's Committee meeting, 25 March.
- GB Potatoes engaged with the Scottish Government Food Sector Resilience Group, meeting on 25 March.
- Trade Associations Round Table meeting, 1 April.
- Email request sent to Potato Stakeholder Forum.
- Andrew Opie contacted for BRC positioning.

To support engagement activities/positioning PPA is looking for data on projected costs, timings, impacts arising, including the following:

- Access to and price of 'red' diesel and diesel: on farm machinery and equipment, transport costs.
- Access to fertiliser and active substances in preparation for this season (and next if felt appropriate).
- Access to and price of gas: principally for factory operations.
- Access to and price of electricity: impact on stored raw materials and in factory costs.
- Exports markets and imports (impact on exports to gulf region and any increase in shipping costs for either raw materials or finished products).

Land Use Framework For England (1)

- Defra issued a consultation on the Land Use Framework for England last year (February-April 2025).
 - This was a top-level consultation, setting out government’s view on the long-term type and scale of land use changes that might be needed to meet its legally binding targets under the Environment Act and the Climate Change Act.
 - The consultation was wider than farming, covering new infrastructure and housing, nature recovery, water, and emissions reduction and plans for delivery.
- Following consultation with PPTC, PPA submitted its response on 25 April 2025.
- Defra issued a summary of responses earlier this month:
- Key recommendations include establishing a shared vision for land use, leveraging private investment for environmental goals, and integrating local expertise with national guidance to inform policy development in 2025.
LINK:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69b984486736ec37c8a46681/Land_use_framework_k_summary_of_responses.pdf
- A policy paper on the Land Use Framework was also published.
LINK:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/69ba6ba026909a14239612e7/Land_Use_Consultation_Accessible.pdf

Land Use Framework For England (2)

General points on land use

- Government says there is enough land for food, nature, housing and energy if decisions become more coordinated.
- Food production is prioritised, but ~4% of agricultural land will change use (this will retain primary focus on food production)
- Changes in land use should play to strengths of the land, (i.e. land best suited for growing food should be used for that purpose).
- Defra highlight the need for multifunctional land use, e.g. producing energy and food on the same land. The Annex sets out proposed rates of land use change in England.
- Government has committed to develop a plan for 30by30: conserving and managing 30% of land for nature. Currently 7% of England's land is contributing to this target.

Food security

Defra include an overall ambition to maintain overall food production in England in the long term. To support this, Defra will:

- Develop sector growth plans (beginning with poultry and horticulture).
- Use the new Farming and Food Partnership Board to bring together leaders from across the value chain to drive long-term profitability.
- Safeguard the best and most versatile land from permanent land use change.
- Include permanent agricultural land use changes in future Food Security Reports.
- Assess dependence on imports in the UK Food Security Report in 2027 to ensure that environmental harms are not being exported.
- Introduce flexibility for farmers to create agroforestry systems through tree planting.

EU/UK SPS Agreement



EU/UK SPS Agreement



- On 19 May 2025, the UK government and EU announced their intent to pursue a new Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement.
- Following various discussions, an UK-EU joint statement was published 17 December 2025.
- Government's ambition to **conclude agreement by Spring/Summer 2026** – ahead of next EU/UK Summit (July TBC).
- UK seeking access/participation in key food safety systems and databases, and decision-making mechanisms.
- UK seeking provisions to negotiate exceptions to dynamic alignment – but only where strictly necessary.
- Discussions on exceptions throughout February:
 - FDF/Defra/Cabinet Office roundtable on 5 February.
 - Legislation exp. to be introduced to Parliament by mid-2026 and **made into law by the end of 2026**.
- UK Government **ambition is to implement by mid-2027**



EU/UK SPS Agreement



PPA Engagement

- In 2025 PPA prepared a draft position paper on potential impact related to alignment with EU regs on PPPs.
- This was expanded to cover seeds, food safety, food improvements package, food additives, flavourings enzymes, precision breeding, novel foods, food contact materials, labelling, fortification, and official controls
- In January PPA finalised the position:
 - shared with FDF and GB Potatoes and has informed their positions.
 - shared directly with Defra.
- GB potatoes and FDF are directly represented on the Defra pesticides alignment group: Because of NDAs, only a limited amount of information can be fed back to PPA.
- PPA participated in meetings with FSA in December 2025 ('Star Chamber' - focus on food safety requirements). GB Potatoes were not invited.
- PPA, GB Potatoes and FDF held a sector-specific workshop with Defra on 26 Feb: Focussed on transition arrangements and implementation timings.
- FDF AAG meeting will include presentation from James McCulloch (AIC) on EU/UK SPS.
- Efra report n EU/UK SPS agreement published 5 February 2026
- LINK: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5901/cmselect/cmenvfru/1661/report.html>
- NFU survey (by 8 April 2026): <https://www.nfuonline.com/news/sps-call-for-information/>



EU/UK SPS Agreement



Official guidance on the presumed scope of the UK-EU SPS agreement, published 9 March

Accompanied by an initial high-level list of the legislative frameworks currently viewed as being in scope of the UK-EU SPS agreement:

1. General Food Law & Consumer Information
2. Food Hygiene & Safety of Foods of Animal Origin
3. Food Additives, Flavourings, Supplements & Novel Foods
4. Marketing Standards for Specific Foods
5. Food Contact Materials
6. Other Food-Related Measures
7. Feed Products and Hygiene
8. Genetically Modified Organisms
9. Animal health
10. Animal Breeding
11. Animal Welfare Transport and Slaughter
12. Plant Health
13. Marketing of Plant Reproductive Material
14. Official Controls
15. Plant Protection Products
16. Biocidal Products Regulation
17. Sanitary and Phytosanitary rules – hormonal/thyrostatic substances
18. Veterinary Medicines – Residue Limits and trade-relevant aspects of antimicrobial resistance

IMPORTANT: rules are being negotiated to directly apply within the UK domestic market itself and apply to all food and drink businesses that operate in the UK.



Defra focus on alignment issues, believed to be prioritising:

- Metribuzin (herbicide) - Trade names include Python, Shotput and Artist (flufenacet + metribuzin)
 - GB approval expires 31 July 2028.
 - EU approval expired 21 November 2024. Non-approval was based upon categorisation of active as an ED.
 - PPA Risk matrix identifies Metribuzin as having a 'big impact'.
- Spirotetramat (Insecticide) - Trade names include Movento
 - GB approval expires 31 July 2029.
 - EU approval expired 30 April 2024. Non-approval was based upon it not being supported at renewal.
 - PPA Risk matrix does not identify Spirotetramat as an active of specific importance for the sector.
- Flufenacet (herbicide) - Trade names include Artist, Starfire / Sunfire.
 - GB approval expires 31 October 2027
 - EU approval expired 10 June 2025. Non-approval was based upon categorisation of active as an ED and presence of trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) as a metabolite.
 - PPA Risk matrix identifies flufenacet as having a 'small impact'.
- Flutolanil (Seed treatment) – trade names include Rhino, Monarch, Moncut
 - GB approval expires 28 February 2029.
 - EU approval expires 15 June 2027, recent extended but currently under discussion for non-renewal.
 - PPA Risk matrix identifies flufenacet as having a 'moderate impact'.

Contaminants

To note: FLC will hold a standalone meeting on food safety issues on 20 April 2026 including on:

- UK/EU SPS dynamic alignment
Contaminants/PPPs
- Acrylamide, glycoalkaloids and 3-MCPD
- Precision Breeding/New Genomic Techniques
- Other food safety updates



Acrylamide: EU Regulatory Update

Commission Working Group on Environmental and Industrial Contaminants, 12 January 2026.

- Discussion on the review of benchmark levels for acrylamide in food provided for in Annex IV to Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2158.
- Discussion on the establishment of benchmark levels for acrylamide in certain foods, for which no benchmark level is yet established.
- Discussion on the establishment of maximum levels for acrylamide in certain foods.
- Discussion on possible changes to the mitigation measures provided for in Annex I.
- MS invited to respond to initial proposals.

Standing Committee meeting, 13 February 2026

- Received update on discussion.

Commission Working Group on Environmental and Industrial Contaminants, 12-13 March 2026.

- FDE submitted an updated position to European Commission on 6 March 2026.
- Discussion on MS comments. The initially proposed BML for vegetable crisps will need to be set at a higher level than was anticipated during the Working Group meeting in January (change based on ESA data: see next slides).
- A BML is now also being proposed for canned fruit and vegetables. For breakfast cereals, one broad category is proposed. For bread, COM looking at higher BMLs.

EU proposals snack products

Chips/crisps [proposed is to make no distinction between crisps from dough, and crisps from slices]

- BML: 700 µg/kg (current BML is 750 µg/kg)
- ML: 1000 µg/kg (NEW)

Potato crisp ‘sticks’ (data shows greater variance)

- BML: 700/750 µg/kg
- ML: 1000-2000 µg/kg

Logically there should be alignment with chips/crisps, and COM/MS are therefore discussing:

- BML: 700 µg/kg
- ML: 1000 µg/kg

Potato starch based snack: too limited data

- BML: 700 µg/kg
- ML: 1000 µg/kg

Fruit chips (i.e. plantain chips)

- BML: 250 µg/kg

Cereal based snacks (other than cereal bars and breakfast cereals)

- BML: 300 µg/kg
- ML: 400/450 µg/kg

Dr Steve Powers analysis (all data held by EFSA 2019-2024)

Chips/crisps

- BML: 700 µg/kg (Q90 683.7 ± 10.00 µg/kg) – SAME AS PROPOSAL
- ML: 1000 µg/kg (Q95 is 853.6 ± 13.54 µg/kg) – SAME AS PROPOSAL

Potato crisp ‘sticks’

- BML: 950 µg/kg (Q90 is 920.7 ± 80.97 µg/kg) – HIGHER THAN PROPOSAL
- ML: 1200 µg/kg (Q95 is 1214 ± 125.4 µg/kg) – ALIGNS WITH RANGE PRESENTED IN THE PROPOSAL

Potato starch based snack “dough based products”

- BML: 400 µg/kg (Q90 is 392.6 ± 29.26 µg/kg) – LOWER THAN PROPOSAL
- ML: 550 µg/kg (Q95 is 540.5 ± 20.72 µg/kg) – LOWER THAN PROPOSAL

Fruit chips (i.e. plantain chips)

- NO DATA

For crackers and breadsticks (closest equivalent category)

- BML: 350 µg/kg and 400 µg/kg (Q90 is 325.9 ± 37.91 µg/kg) – HIGHER THAN PROPOSAL
- ML: 400 µg/kg (Q95 is 394.7 ± 36.35 µg/kg) – ALIGNS WITH RANGE PRESENTED IN THE PROPOSAL

Acrylamide: Proposed MLs and BMLs

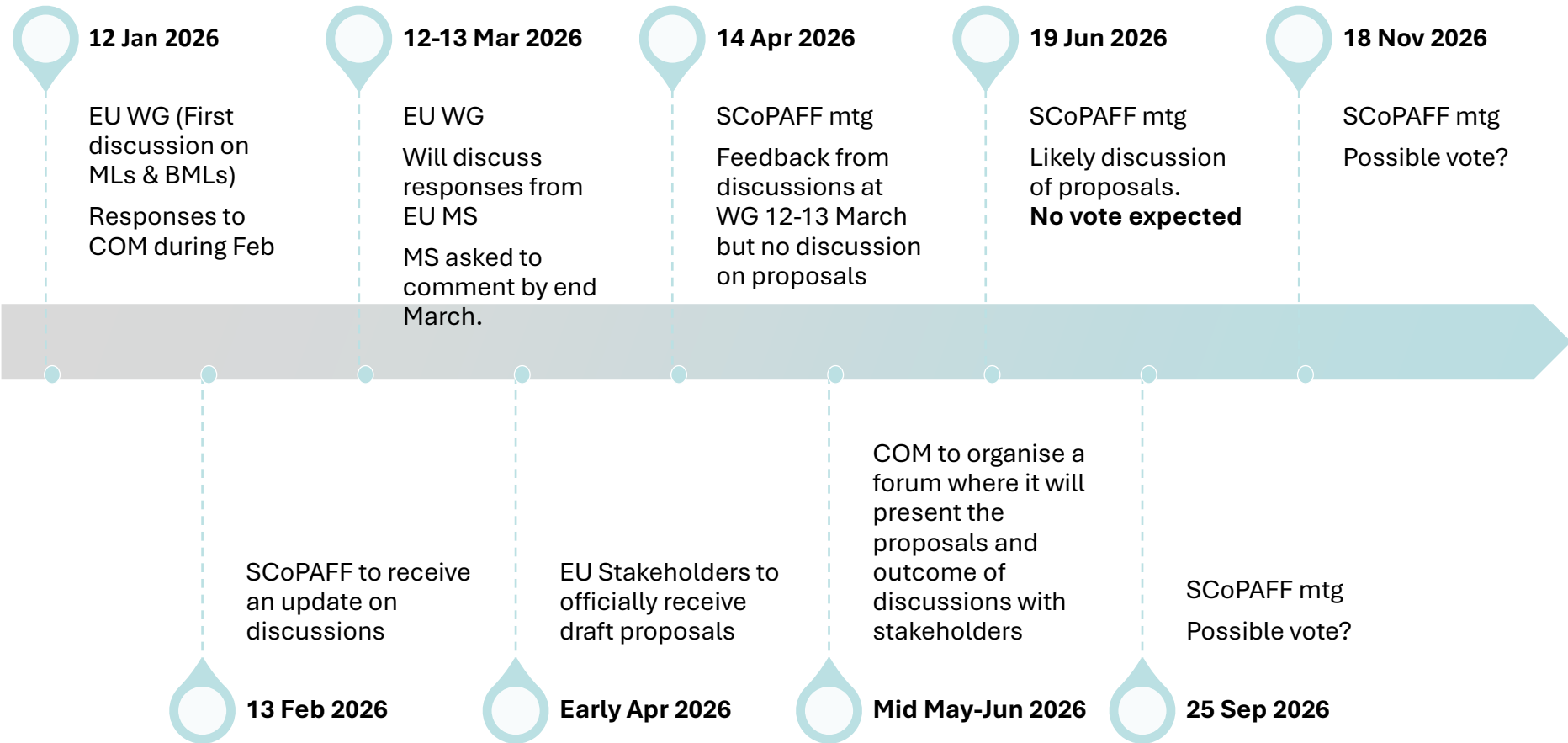
Vegetable crisps

- Vegetable crisps other than potato and cereal crisps: no specific data held by EFSA.
- Commission supposes that data is included in the potato crisps data, therefore:
 - BML of 700µg/kg proposed (no ML proposed)
- ESA was asked by Commission to provide any available data on the occurrence of acrylamide in vegetable crisps (individual data, no averages, etc.) and on concrete mitigation measures to be applied to reduce the presence of acrylamide in vegetable crisps other than potato crisps by 6 March 2026.
- ESA proposed to provide Commission with the most recent summary report on levels and a copy of the draft
 - 3rd Draft ESA guide on managing AA in vegetable crisps (AA 026/25, ECR 220/25, FLC 322/25, PPTC 221/25).
 - Report on ESA data on acrylamide in vegetable crisps, updated with 2024 data (AA 024/25, ECR 187/25, FLC 282/25, PPTC 196/25).
- No objections were raised to the ESA proposal, and the texts were shared before the 6 March deadline.

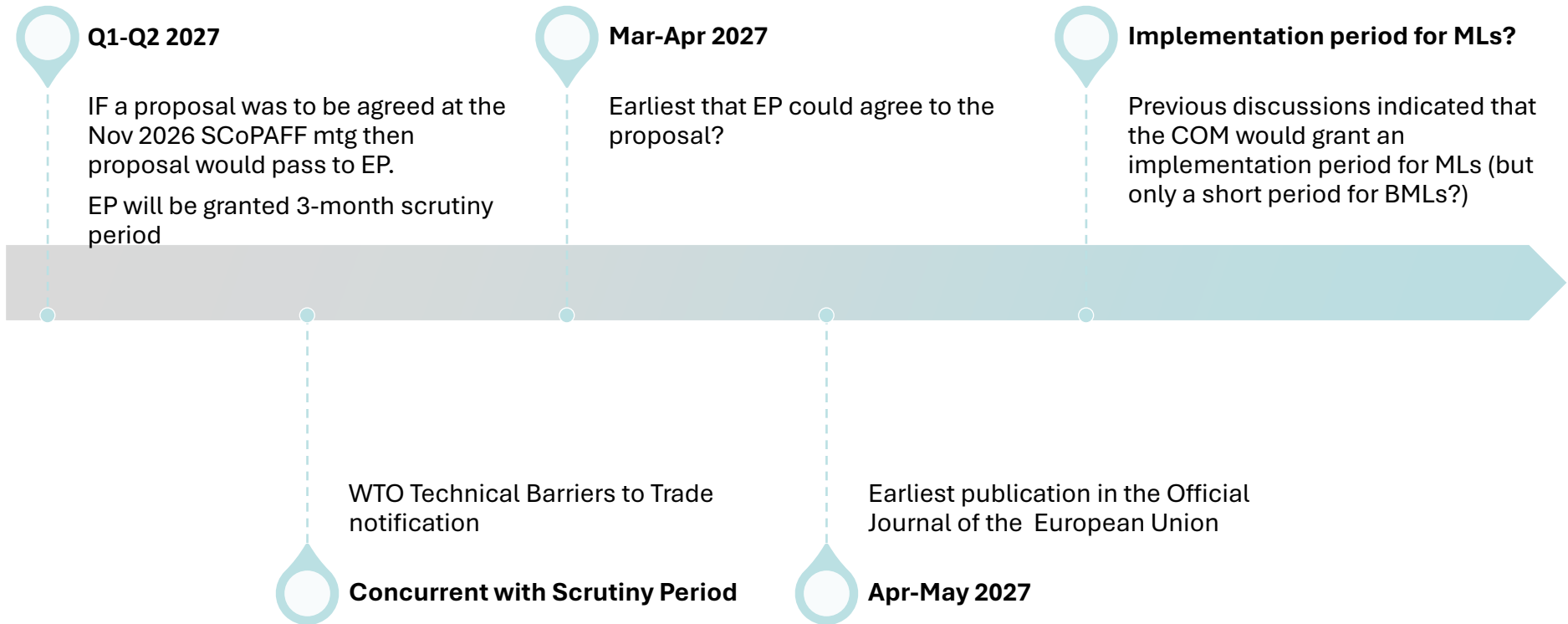
Acrylamide: EUPPA proposals

Product type	Proposed category	Applicable BML
Unbattered straight-cut French fries	French fries	500 µg/kg
Battered and breaded potato croquettes	Potato croquettes	300 µg/kg
Rösti	Rösti	500 µg/kg
Hash browns	Rösti	500 µg/kg
Composite potato dishes (e.g. gratins, potato dishes with cheese/dairy/vegetables)	Potato-based dishes	700 µg/kg
Jacket potatoes, smiles, sauté, pancakes	Potato-based dishes	700 µg/kg
Mash-based shaped products without coating (e.g. duchesse, noisettes, potato balls and non-battered & non breaded croquettes)	Potato-based dishes	700 µg/kg
Non straight cut fried (battered and non-battered) potato shapes e.g. wedges, lattice fries, waffle fries	Potato-based dishes	700 µg/kg
Battered straight cut French Fries	Potato-based dishes	700 µg/kg

AA Estimated Timeline 2026-2027



AA Estimated Timeline 2026-2027



Acrylamide: Other activity

Submission of AA data to EFSA

- EFSA has issued its “Annual call for continuous collection of chemical contaminants occurrence data in food and feed – 2026”. This includes acrylamide. (Opened: 26 February 2026. Deadline for data submission: 30 June 2026. Validation: 31 August 2026).

Codex Alimentarius

- Codex has circulated an updated draft of the Codex Alimentarius “Code of Practice for the Reduction of Acrylamide in Foods” (CAC/RCP 67-2009).
- ESA has submitted comments on draft via FDE.
- Codex meeting will take place in 19-23 October 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Review of the FoodDrinkEurope AA Toolbox

- FoodDrinkEurope has now issued a draft update of the AA Toolbox for comment (ECR 168/26). Comments were requested by 24 March 26.

Acrylamide: Other activity

Annual Data Collection Activity

- As in previous years, ESA issued a call for AA occurrence data in a range of savoury snacks products (ECR 001/26, ECR 002/26).
- Since the beginning of the year the following reports have been issued:
 - Report on ESA data on Acrylamide Analysis of Dough-based Snack Products 2017-2024
 - Report on ESA data on Acrylamide results for nuts and seed data 2016-24
 - Review of EFSA data on Acrylamide results held on snacks 2019-2025
 - Review of EFSA data on Acrylamide results held on non-snack potato products 2019-2025
 - Review of EFSA data on snacks (inadmissible test methods) 2007-2025

UK Food Standard Agency (FSA) call for data

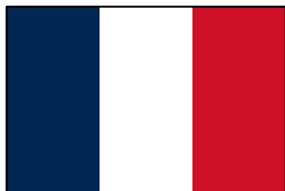
- The UK FSA (and Food Standard Scotland) published a call for AA data on 30 July 2025.
LINK: <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/call-for-data-acrylamide-in-food>
- ESA (sliced potato crisp data only) and EUPPA data (French Fries) was submitted by the October 2025 deadline – matching the data that was submitted to EFSA.
- UK is likely to align on EU Contaminants Regulations under a joint SPS agreement, so this work may have limited relevance going forward.

Glycoalkaloids: Code of Practice and next steps

- ESA and EUPPA put forward new comments to the draft CoP
- The group discussed how to communicate the CoP.
- The idea is to distribute it via members, national associations, the Commission, and Member States, while not recommending sharing with the media or press.
- Aim to have the document before the summer break
- Next Step: EUROPATAT has updated the draft, and this will be sent to MinGlynKa to sense check

Plant protection products

Plant Protection Products: EU-Mercosur free trade agreement French and Polish legislation



EU and Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) signed an FTA on 17 January 2026.

Immediately before, France published an 'emergency measure', which suspends the *import, introduction and placing on the market of food products* containing residues of five actives not approved for use in the EU: carbendazim, thiophanate-methyl, benomyl, glufosinate, and mancozeb.

Indication from French colleagues is that more related measures are expected.

EU Standing Committee meeting held 20 January 2026: Commission opposed French action (disruption of internal market) but no qualified majority in favour of any action.

On 19 March, Commission published "C/2026/1803 Statement by the Commission on production standards applied to imported agri-food products and SPS controls"

States that: *'...for the most hazardous pesticides banned in the EU for health and environmental reasons should not be allowed back to the EU through imported products thus aiming to avoid a competitive disadvantage for EU farmers and the agri-food sector while responding to consumers' expectations'.*

Following a study on impacts (expected summer 2026) Commission will propose amendments to the applicable legal framework.

Meanwhile the Commission has proposed to amend the current legislation for substances that are not approved and that have particularly hazardous properties, Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) could be "set at zero".

Poland issued its own ban on imports of the same five actives on 3 March 2026.

Plant Protection Products: PUS Survey 2024

Potato Stores in the UK

Published 19 February 2026

- Estimated weight of ware potatoes stored from the 2024 harvest was approximately 3.2 million tonnes.
- 44% received no post-harvest treatment (85% of the untreated crop was in refrigerated stores).
 - 69% of the total tonnage of ware potatoes treated with 1,4-DMN.
 - 20% were treated with spearmint oil.
 - 10% with ethylene.
 - 1% with orange oil.
 - <1% thiabendazole.
 - <1% imazalil (not approved for use on ware potatoes).
- Between 2018 and 2024, the use of MH in the field increased by 50% in terms of area treated (between 2022 and 2024, there was actually a decrease of 11% by area treated).
- The total weight of active substances applied to ware potatoes in 2024 was 14% less than in 2022, but over twice that in 2014.
 - This increase since 2014 is almost entirely due to the higher rate of spearmint oil, compared to CIPC.

Plant Protection Products: Recent developments

GB Potatoes statement on Mancozeb Emergency Authorisation Application

- GB Potatoes has explored the feasibility of progressing an Emergency Authorisation (EA) application to allow a continued use of mancozeb on potato crops.
- To meet CRD risk assessment requirements, any authorisation would be limited to a single application of mancozeb per crop.
 - Not commercially viable given additional stewardship requirements.
 - A single application would deliver only very limited resistance management benefit.
- The decision was therefore taken not to proceed with an EA application for mancozeb.

1,4-DMN

- UK review of 1,4-DMN MRL from 15 to 20mg/kg and WHP reduction from 30 to 3 days.
 - DormFresh were hoping for an outcome in December 2025.
 - CRD response “under review”

DormFresh has also applied for an EMU for use of 1,4-DMN on seed potatoes.

- Already granted in Czech and now in Germany.
- Application not considered for UK.

Plant Protection Products: Recent developments

Mancozeb Emergency Authorisation Application

“Following the announcement that mancozeb would be withdrawn from use in the UK at the end of the 2025 season, GB Potatoes explored the feasibility of progressing an Emergency Authorisation (EA) application to allow a continued use on potato crops. An EA permitting the use of mancozeb for the 2026 season, would have delivered a significant resistance management benefit at a time of increasing pressure from blight resistance.

With support from Horticulture Crop Protection Ltd (HCP), a small group of technical experts was convened to develop an application and to engage constructively with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on what would be required for approval. Positive engagement with the authorisation holder, UPL, enabled productive pre-application discussions to take place.

However, through these discussions it became clear that, in order to meet HSE risk assessment requirements, any authorisation would be limited to a single application of mancozeb per crop. Such a restriction would not be commercially viable given the additional stewardship requirements that would need to be put in place, and the agronomists involved advised that a single application would deliver only very limited resistance management benefit.

As a result, and with great disappointment, the decision was taken not to proceed with an Emergency Authorisation application for mancozeb. All possible avenues were explored, and we are very grateful for constructive liaison with HSE as well as the time and effort invested by the team at HCP and by Eric Anderson (Scottish Agronomy), Ruairidh Bain (SRUC), Graham Tomalin (VCS Potatoes) and David Cooke (JHI).”

Nemathorin availability

- Concerns have been raised within the NFU Potato & Hort group (February 2026) over the availability of nemathorin for UK growers this season
- GB Potatoes action was to approach Syngenta to ask about possible nemathorin shortages and status of reapprovals (EU and UK).
- NFU reported a recent conversation with Syngenta.
 - A regulatory change anticipated in the EU did not occur, leading to higher EU demand than planned.
 - Syngenta believes there should be enough product for GB, but regional shortages are possible.
 - Significant grower concern exists, with some viewing shortages as potentially business-ending, especially for those on PCN land.

Plant Protection Products: Placeholder

UPL – Geoff Hailstone to present

- New data from a trial at JHI on scorch from sprout suppressants
- Updates on propamocarb in blight programmes and orange oil for blight which will be available for next season.

BIOX M[®]

PPA – March 2026

2025 Harvest Season

- An unusually challenging storage season
 - Early planting in good conditions > hot, dry summer
 - Not easy to apply MH to best advantage
 - Physiologically aged crop at harvest; some sprouting in the field
 - Excellent harvest conditions, but warm into store
 - (Very) early dormancy break
 - Hangover of 2024 crop still in the market, larger UK crop than expected and huge European crop
 - Polish crops being ripped; German potatoes being given away
 - Slow movement from store, with many crops remaining in store for much longer than anticipated
 - Post-Christmas quality has begun to deteriorate, particularly for crops with delayed movement
 - 2026 planting has already started, so a late season seems unlikely (a bit early to be sure)
 - However, the planted acreage in the UK and Europe is expected to be well down in 2026

 - *Biox-M* has been widely used to keep crops under control, with some very early treatments and, on the whole, with very good outcomes.
 - Use of *Biox-M* has been noticeably higher, in part due to its considerable flexibility in relation to timing of treatment and sprout development.

Getting the best from *Biox-M*

- Aim to extend the return period to beyond 6 weeks
 - Very wide application window from shortly after curing through to late season control
 - Store preparation – refrigeration off, temperature even
 - Optimise crop coverage and product distribution during fogging
 - Speed of application – not too fast
 - Multiple entry ports – increase opportunity for even distribution
 - Fan speed during fogging – enough to move fog gently but not to ‘race’ down passages
 - Pulsing of fans during fogging
 - Viewing ports or cameras in store – see what is going on
 - Fans during the closed period – occasional
 - Consider storage at 5°C, where possible – reduced respiration, reduced weight loss, reduced cost
 - CO² does not seem to be a particular issue, but should be monitored
 - Extend the closed period after treatment – 2 days minimum; longer if no reason to open (e.g. for part-filled stores). Closed means closed.
 - Attention to detail, as ever

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Plant Protection Products: Chlorpropham

CIPC Residues Management Group (CRMG)

- Last CRMG meeting was held on 25 March 2026.
- The final (updated) CRMG report for 2024/2025 was submitted to HSE on 1 September 2025: Still awaiting feedback from HSE. AC has chased CRD for a meeting.
- Samples requested for 2025/2026 storage season: use same template as in 2025.

European Potato Value Chain (PVC) report 2024/2025

- Submitted to European Commission on 19 December 2025.
 - 82.8% of samples were below the LOQ (0.01 mg/kg) compared with 74.3% for the previous season (2023-2024).
 - Q97.5 was 0.077 mg/kg (down from 0.143 mg/kg in 2023-2024).
- Where CIPC residues were quantified, 99.65% of samples complied with the current EU tMRL of 0.35 mg/kg.
- 98.95% of these same samples were also compliant with the future tMRL of 0.20 mg/kg which will apply across the EU and NI from early January 2026.
- Samples are not requested for 2025/2026 storage season.

Plant Protection Products: Recent Amendments to EU Regulations

Renewals, withdrawals and amendments – to note

- *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/372 of 20 February 2026 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the extension of the approval periods of the active substances 1-decanol, 1-naphthylacetamide, 1-naphthylacetic acid, 6-benzyladenine, aluminium sulfate, **boscalid**, dodine, **esfenvalerate**, eugenol, fenpyroximate, fluazifop-P, **fluazinam**, fluometuron, fluopyram, **flutolanil**, geraniol, malathion, penoxsulam, pinoxaden, prohexadione, proquinazid, prosulfuron, pyrethrins, pyridaben, pyrimethanil, sintofen, spiroxamine, sulphur and thymol*
- Of specific interest to the potato sector:
 - **Boscalid**, [Fungicide] the expiry date for the approval is extended to 30 March 2028.
 - **Esfenvalerate**, [Insecticide] the expiry date for the approval is extended to 30 November 2029.
 - **Fluazinam**, [Fungicide] the expiry date for the approval is extended to 30 November 2027.
 - **Flutolanil**, [Seed Treatment] the expiry date for the approval is extended to 30 November 2029.
- Please note: These technical extensions only. They have been granted because the approval process has not been completed by the EU and/or EFSA. Several of these actives re expected to be lost and are currently being discussed within the Standing Committee .
- *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/321 of 12 February 2026 amending Implementing Regulations (EU) 2017/1506 and (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the conditions of approval of the active substance **maleic hydrazide***
 - Removes previous instructions to avoid livestock exposure, an earlier requirement that implied treated crops could not be fed to animals, though this was not enforced in practice.

GB Potato Plant Protection Products and Biocides Issues Risk Matrix (March 2026)

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

	PPP authorisation expires or related issues to be reviewed in the next 12 months (Before end March 2027) [Actions in hand] Dynamic situation	PPP authorisation in 12-36 months out (April 2027 – March 2030) Plans in preparation	>36 months (after end March 2030) before PPP comes up for reauthorisation
Decreasing impact on business	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]
	Moderate Impact Cost Material availability Working practice	Glyphosate (H) [GB 15/12/26]	Flutolanil (ST) [GB 28/02/29] Azoxystrobin (F) [GB 31/12/29] Imazalil (ST) [GB 31/12/29]
	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]
			Ferric phosphate (M) [GB 31/12/30] Flonicamid (I) [GB 31/08/31] Thiabendazole* (ST) [GB 31/03/32]

NB: All GB authorisations that were still in place as of 01/01/2021 were automatically extended for a 3-year period. A further extension was granted for some actives as of 12/04/2023

Current issue Changed priority Identified as a potential high profile media issue *Potential Endocrine disruptor

H – Herbicide, F – Fungicide, GR- Growth Regulator, I – Insecticide, ST – Seed Treatment, N – Nematicide, D – Desiccant, M – Molluscicides

, F – Fungicide, GR- Growth Regulator, I – Insecticide, ST – Seed Treatment, N – Nematicide, D – Desiccant, M – Molluscicides

EU Potato Plant Protection Products and Biocides Issues Risk Matrix (March 2026)

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 March 2027) [Actions in hand] Dynamic situation	PPP authorisation in 12-36 months out (April 2027 – March 2030) Plans in preparation]	>36 months (after end March 2030) before PPP comes up for reauthorisation
Big Company Impact Cost Reputation Media	Criteria for defining EDs Candidates for substitution 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	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] Flutolanil (ST) [EU expiry 15/06/27] Plant oils/spear mint oil [EU Expiry 15/01/28] Plant oils/clove oil [EU Expiry 30/06/28]	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] Fluopicolide (F) [EU expiry 31/08/26] Prosulfocarb (H) [EU expiry 31/01/27] Propamocarb (F) [EU expiry 31/01/27]	Fluazinam* (F) [EU expiry 30/11/27] Difenoconazole* (F) [EU expiry 15/03/28] Rimsulfuron (H) [EU expiry 15/08/28] Esfenvalerate (I) [EU expiry 30/11/29]	

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

Red Tractor



Review of Fresh Produce Standards

- Launch of Version 6 of the Fresh Produce Standards planned for spring 2027.
- PPA represented on Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) by Ben Firth (KP Snacks), and Andy Curtis. Potato chain well represented on group, including Simon Alexander, Patrick Mitton.
- Barbara Bray MBE is new chair, replacing David Kennedy. Sam Trevey is secretariat.
- First meeting on 22 January 2026. 7 meetings held to date, 11 further meetings planned. Approx. 683 clauses under review...

Percentage of audits	2022	2023	2024	2025	TREND	ALL TIME REPEATS	PROPORTION REPEAT
0.4%	1.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%		0	0%
0.4%	0.7%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%		0	0%
0.9%	1.3%	0.8%	0.7%	0.2%		1	2%
0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%		0	0%
0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%		1	11%
0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%		0	0%
0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%		0	0%
0.6%	1.0%	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%		0	0%
1.0%	1.0%	0.7%	1.3%	0.8%		3	5%

- Discussions based upon compliance rates over the life of the current standard.
- Focus on language and removal of duplication/gold plating from other audits schemes.
- Alignment with updated legal requirements and other schemes where appropriate.
- No opportunity to consult wider PPA membership at this stage.

Review of Fresh Produce Standards - Meetings and provisional clause to be covered

Date	Clauses to be covered (provisional)	Attending
27/03	EE -Energy Efficiency / Environmental Impact	BF
02/04	IM -Integrated Pest Management	BF
09/04	EC – Environment	AC
16/04	Sm Soil management	AC
24/04	IG - Irrigation	AC
30/04	GM - Genetically Modified Organisms	AC
07/05	HS - Harvesting	BF
14/05	PP -Produce Packing and Site Operations	AC
22/05	ST - Storage	BF
28/05	PW- Post-Harvest Washing	BF
12/06	PC - Protected Cropping	BF (TBC)

LEAF Marque - v17

- New standards due to launch on **4 May 2026**.
LINK: <https://leaf.eco/leafmarque/standard>
- Significant changes to standards – assessments expected to take longer as assessors and growers adjust.
- CBs are working on aligning requirements on checklists to ensure audits run smoothly.
- Conversations started with LEAF to compare standards to identify opportunities for streamlining standards.

LEAF vs Red Tractor



Global Standard



UK Specific



1000 UK Members



1750 UK Members



Focus is on **longer-term improvement plans** and **environmental enhancement**



Environmental focus is on **protection** and **pollution prevention**





IMPORTANT CHANGES IN PROOF OF COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PURCHASERS AND USERS FROM 1ST JANUARY 2026

WHAT TRAINING CERTIFICATION DO YOU NEED?



EITHER

Proof of certification to a CRRU UK approved training course **within the past 5 years.**

CERTIFICATE



OR

Proof of certification to a CRRU UK approved training course **more than 5 years ago** and current membership of a CRRU UK approved Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme

5 year exam certificate expiry date approaching?

EITHER repeat the training and requalify

OR join a CRRU UK approved CPD scheme

To find out more:

<https://www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/>



Plant health

Virus forum 2026 – to note



- National Virus Forum held 11 February at The James Hutton Institute, Dundee.
 - 40 people in attendance with around 50% new attendees.
 - Leafroll: discussion on what industry thinks is the main issue vs what science/research says.
 - Major modification: add a workstream on funding (via Scottish Government new funding call expected)

PPA letter to SASA

- BPTA wrote to SASA regarding a decline in the quality and speed of service that they offered, due to an apparent ‘lack of resource’.
- GB Potatoes and PPA have both written to SASA (Dr Kenyon) reinforcing the BPTA position (PPA letter amended and submitted following BPTA meeting with SASA on 19 March 2026).

Brown rot: Egyptian potatoes

- **8 recent EU interceptions of *Ralstonia* s.** on imported ware potatoes from Egypt. The interceptions took place mainly at ports in Italy, Greece and Slovenia.
- Reporting via ‘Europhyt’ system. LINK:
https://dashboard.tech.ec.europa.eu/qs_digit_dashboard_mt/public/sense/app/537e71fa-93ba-4ad7-85f7-6a00fa611e79/sheet/b7eeb89e-8326-403b-9f23-ef88944b54ad/state/analysis
- The European Commission has already informed EU Member States about these interceptions and is in contact with the Egyptian authorities.
- The number of interceptions is considered high, and the Commission is continuing to monitor the situation closely. The issue is also expected to be raised with Member States during a **SCoPAFF** meeting.
- The areas from which the intercepted potatoes originated have already been removed from the list of “pest-free” areas. As a result, potatoes from those areas are no longer allowed to be imported into the EU.
- The Commission will urge the Egyptian authorities to strengthen the implementation of [Regulation 2025/1289](#), which entered into force in summer 2025.

Water

EA consultations

- PPA submitted a response to the EA Reserving water abstraction rights consultation (PPTC 047/26) – aligned with the NEFF and WFF positions. Influenced both the FDF and GB Potatoes submissions.
 - **Key concern that there should be no automatic prioritisation of any sector.**
 - **A fixed hierarchy would be inappropriate in every location or across the full 25 to 50-year water resources planning horizon.**
 - **Under the proposals, agricultural abstractors would be unjustly penalised due to the absence of strategic planning in relation to the EA’s statutory duty to ensure the proper use of water.**
- Anticipated EA consultation on what to do with funding raised under the Environmental Improvement Unit Charge (EIUC), [expected April/May].
 - **WFF looking to lobby for access the excess funding to fund the regional WAG groups.**
 - **NFU appears to be opposed: wants funding to be returned to growers.**

Cunliffe Review

The **Cunliffe Review** (officially the **Independent Water Commission** report) was published on **21 July 2025**. Chaired by Sir Jon Cunliffe, it represents the most significant overhaul of the water sector in England and Wales since privatisation in 1989.

The final report includes **88 recommendations** intended to "reset" the industry, restore public trust, and address environmental failures like sewage pollution.

Key Recommendations

- **Abolition of Ofwat:** The review recommended replacing Ofwat with a new, single "super-regulator" for England. This new body would integrate functions from the **Environment Agency, Natural England**, and the **Drinking Water Inspectorate** to provide holistic oversight.
- **New Water Ombudsman:** The [Consumer Council for Water \(CCW\)](#) would be converted into a statutory **Water Ombudsman** with legally binding powers to resolve customer complaints.
- **Ending Self-Monitoring:** The current system where water companies monitor their own pollution would be replaced by "**Open Monitoring**"—real-time, publicly available data.
- **Catchment-Based Planning:** A shift toward nine new regional water authorities to manage water at a catchment level, rather than through individual company boundaries.
- **Financial & Governance Reform:** Recommendations include the power to set **minimum capital levels** for companies and stricter controls over ownership changes to prevent excessive debt and ensure long-term resilience.

Water White Paper

In January 2026, Government published [A new vision for water](#), which outlines its plan to overhaul the water system in England. This the official response to the **Cunliffe Review**.

Key points

- **Creation of a Single Regulator:** This body will consolidate functions from Ofwat, the DWI, parts of EA and Natural England to streamline oversight.
- **Long-Term Strategic Planning:** Introduces **25-year delivery plans** with 5-year checkpoints to provide greater certainty for investors and ensure sustainable water supplies.
- **Pollution and Environment:**
 - Commitment of **£11 billion** to improve approximately 2,500 storm overflows.
 - **£5 billion** investment for upgrades to wastewater treatment works specifically to remove phosphorus.
 - A shift toward "**pre-pipe**" solutions, such as sustainable drainage systems and rainwater management, to prevent pollutants from entering the system.

Next Steps

- **Transition Plan:** To be published later in 2026, this will provide a detailed roadmap, including roles, responsibilities, and specific timelines for the new regulatory framework.
- **Water Reform Bill:** New legislation will be introduced during the current Parliament to provide the necessary statutory powers for the new regulator and other systemic changes.

The paper has faced criticism from some environmental groups for not explicitly moving away from the current privatised ownership model or providing enough detail on tackling agricultural pollution.

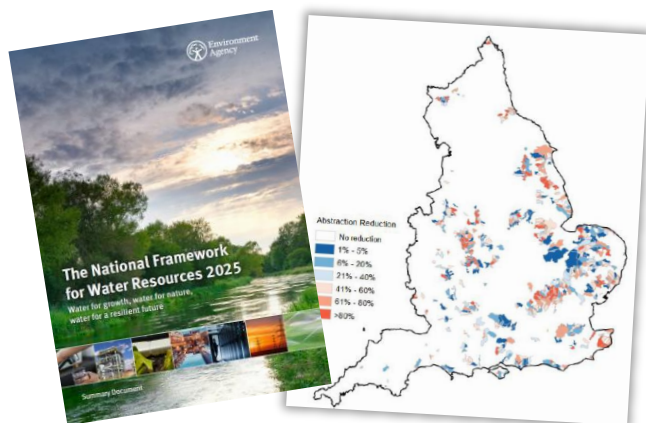
Water for Food



- Water for food update/webinar held 16 February.
- PPA response on *EA consultation on reserving water abstraction rights* (alignment/co-ordination with Norfolk Environment Food & Farming (NEFF), Water for Food (WFF), GB Potatoes and FDF).
- Updated WFF slide/flyer on setting up of Water Abstraction Groups (WAGs).
- Status of WAGs:
 - Norfolk (Steve Moncaster)
 - East Suffolk (John Patrick)
 - Lark (Lindsay Hargreaves)
 - Cambridgeshire (Tim Young)
 - South Lincolnshire (Simon Bartlett/Julian Perowne)
 - Central & north Lincolnshire (Tim Harper)
 - Nottinghamshire (Richard Thomas) & South Yorkshire (Anthony Hopkins)
 - Shropshire (Michael Bubb)
 - Herefordshire (via Sarah Faulkner),
 - Worcestershire (via Sarah Faulkner),
 - Wye (via Sarah Faulkner).
 - Kent (Jack Scott).
- Two further groups are being pursued - North Yorkshire and West Country.
- Terminology document is being prepared.
- Next meeting of WFF in mid-May.
- Anticipated consultation on the Environmental Improvement Unit Charge (EIUC) refund in May 2026.

Abstraction licence reductions

from the National Framework for Water Resources 2025



EA estimate that large numbers of licence reductions are needed!

1. Data from the National Framework for Water Resources 2025 shows that over 3,000 Ml/d of licence reductions are needed to meet current environmental obligations
2. This is equivalent to 3 billion litres per day, 15% to 20% of the total volume abstracted between 2000 and 2018. Many of the cuts are needed in areas where agricultural abstraction is concentrated
3. By 2050, it is estimated that this number will grow to around 5,000Ml/d
4. Water For Food is helping abstractors in these areas get organised into Water Abstractor Groups (WAGs)
 - WAGs will help abstractors with the technical and planning work needed to respond to the EAs proposals
 - Water For Food will help give WAGs a voice at regional and national level
5. For more details contact Steve Moncaster smoncaster@norfolkeff.co.uk or John Patrick (East Suffolk WAG) john@swsllp.co.uk

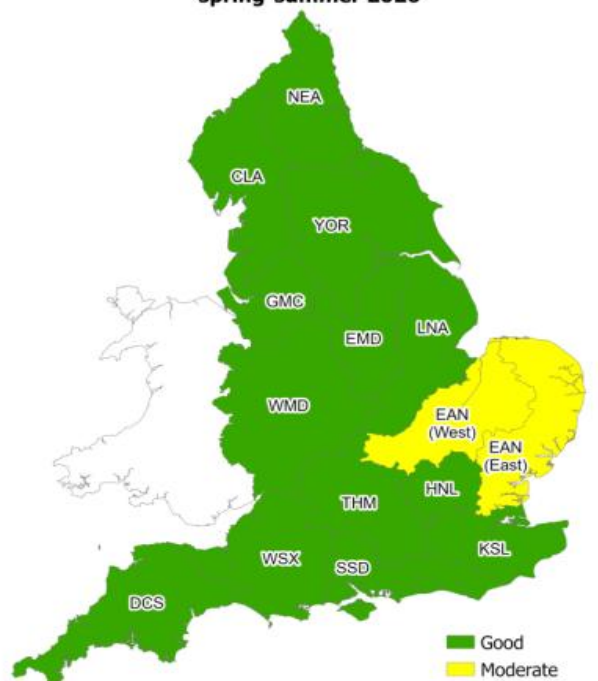
Region	Baseline RA	Baseline FL	Current 2050 'Wetter range'	Inter-mediate 2050 'Wetter range'	Full 2050 'Wetter range'	Current 2050 'Drier range'	Inter-mediate 2050 'Drier range'	Full 2050 'Drier range'
WCWR	190	320	460	500	410	480	540	450
WR East	460	660	760	970	1,020	790	1,000	1,050
WR North	320	430	590	650	670	620	660	680
WRSE	360	560	1,810	2,100	2,170	1,840	2,070	2,140
WR West	880	1,210	1,120	1,150	1,150	1,000	1,020	1,020
Total	2,200	3,180	4,740	5,370	5,420	4,730	5,290	5,340

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-water-resources-2025-water-for-growth-nature-and-a-resilient-future>

EA prospects for irrigation – Initial forecast for 2026

Prospects for individual areas

Figure 1 - Initial irrigation Prospects spring-summer 2026



Creation date: February 2026



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Area	Prospects for Summer 2025 irrigation season
Environment Agency Cumbria and Lancashire	Good
Environment Agency Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	Good
Environment Agency East Anglia East (covering Essex Norfolk and Suffolk)	Moderate
Environment Agency East Anglia West (covering Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire)	Moderate
Environment Agency East Midlands	Good
Environment Agency Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire	Good
Environment Agency Hertfordshire and North London	Good
Environment Agency Kent, South London and East Sussex	Good
Environment Agency Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire	Good
Environment Agency North East	Good
Environment Agency Solent and South Downs	Good
Environment Agency Thames	Good
Environment Agency Wessex	Good
Environment Agency West Midlands	Good
Environment Agency Yorkshire	Good

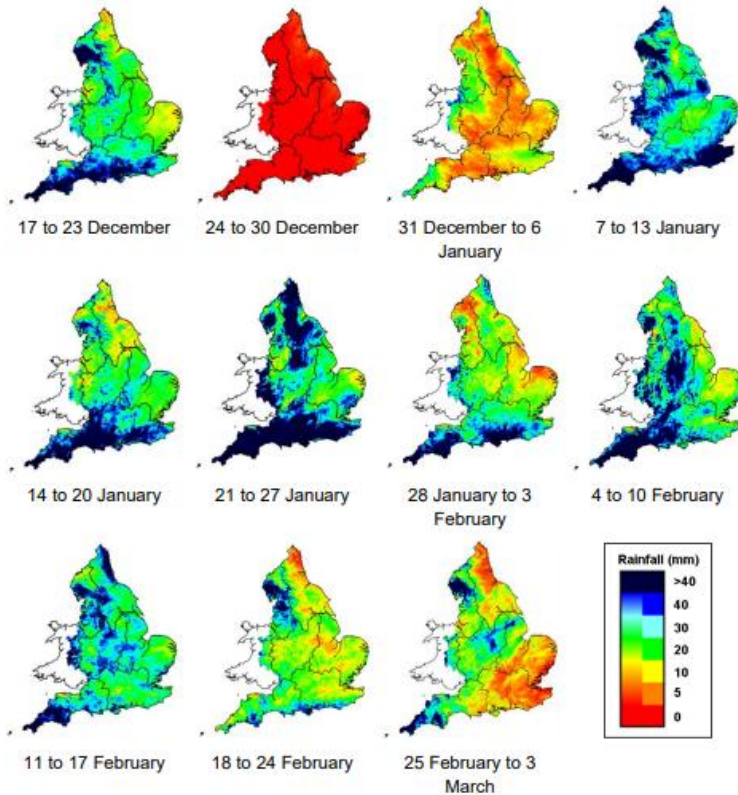
Source: EA Initial prospects for irrigation - forecast for 2026. 26 February 2026.

Water situation reports for England

Rainfall

Figure 2: Weekly precipitation across England and Wales for the past 11 weeks. UKPP radar.

Note: Images may sometimes include straight lines originating from the centre of the radar, resulting from tall trees and buildings located near the radar installation affecting its performance. This does not reflect actual conditions on the ground.



Rainfall totals for February ranged from 229% of the long-term average (LTA) rainfall in central England to 111% LTA across the north-west.

(Source: Met Office. Crown copyright, 2026). All rights reserved. Environment Agency, AC0000807064, 2026

Source: EA Weekly rainfall and river flow summary. Wednesday 25 February to Tuesday 3 March 2026.

Genetic Technology

Precision Breeding (UK)

CUPGRA event:

- Precision Breeding for the UK Potato Group - Exploring Opportunities and Challenges (Monday 16 March - 10:00 am to 3.00 pm).

CUPGRA / Sainsbury's laboratory project:

- Previous work with GB Potatoes has shown that target traits (blight resistance, Potato Virus Y [PVY], low-reducing sugars / bruising control) express well with no obvious yield penalties.
- Discussion with 'ACRE' indicates that blight and virus resistance originates for sources that are sexually compatible with cultivated potatoes, and these would therefore be classed as 'cisgenic' and should be Precision Breeding Act compliant.
- However, the low-reducing sugars / bruising control construct used would not be compliant.
- The Sainsbury Laboratory has developed a new cisgenic construct combining 3 blight resistance genes with resistance to PVY and Potato Leaf Roll Virus (PLRV) and transformed Maris Piper and Charlotte varieties to give 'Piper Plus 3.0'.
- Trials will take place this year at NIAB Farm, Cambridge.

New Genomic Techniques (EU)

Status of New Genomic Techniques (NGT) regulation:

Political agreement

- 3 December 2025 trilogue settled core political issues of the file.
- Council, EP and EC reached a provisional agreement.

Endorsement of the EP underway

- The ENVI Committee approved the compromise text on 28 January 2026.
- File is advancing toward final plenary adoption.
- Plenary vote is the next formal and procedural step, no reopening on the substance.
- Planned for March/April.

Endorsement by the Council

- COREPER endorsed the text at end of 2025
- Awaiting formal Council adoption

Next steps

- Formal adoption by the co-legislators
- Publication in the Official Journal expected in 2026
- Application date foreseen to be two years after entry into force of the text

2026 meeting dates

PPTC Committee

July (Date and Timing TBC)

Location TBC

OR Summer update

October/November (Date and Timing TBC)

Location TBC