

SHOW DIRECTORY

Welcome to the British Potato Show 2023

THE PREMIER EVENT FOR THE POTATO INDUSTRY

THE
**POTATO
INDUSTRY
EVENT**

BP2023


NOVEMBER 22&23

HARROGATE
YORKSHIRE EVENT CENTRE

WELCOME
BACK TO
HARROGATE!

INSIDE

- **A-Z exhibitor listings**
- **Exhibition Plan**
- **Seminar timetable**
- **Articles from industry bodies**

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 twitter.com/BP2023Harrogate



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BRANSTON



Welcome

Greetings esteemed guests and industry enthusiasts, A warm and enthusiastic welcome to BP 2023, proudly presented by Warners Group Publications! Our seamless collaboration with the accomplished Steve Wellbeloved and his exceptional team has paved the way for a flawless

handover, ensuring the continued excellence of this event. Alongside Potato Review Magazine and the prestigious National Potato Industry Awards, we stand united in our dedication to bringing the industry together, fostering collaboration and driving progress.

This event stands as a vibrant platform where the industry congregates, poised to engage in fruitful business interactions. We extend our gratitude for your unwavering support, and we are thrilled to announce a robust floorplan that anticipates high visitor numbers. The resounding return of almost all 2021 exhibitors, coupled with the resurgence of those previously constrained by pandemic-related travel limitations, paints a picture of great anticipation. Joining our steadfast regulars will be a record number of newcomers, as this event has rightfully earned its reputation as the paramount ‘potato’ affair.

Our unwavering commitment to maintaining the show’s sharp focus on potatoes and its profound impact on businesses remains resolute. As we unveil an array of cutting-edge innovations, our canvas broadens to encompass every facet of the industry, spanning from the inception of the cropping cycle to the talented artisans who craft and package processed delights. The symbiotic synergy between Potato Review Magazine, the National Potato Industry Awards, and our show only amplifies their prominence within this specialized market domain.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our exhibitors, sponsors, trade partners, and media allies for their indispensable contributions. It truly takes a united effort to orchestrate this grand gathering, and everything is meticulously set for an event that promises excellence and productivity.

I look forward to seeing you there. Your feedback is invaluable to us, so please don’t hesitate to share your thoughts.

Until then, here’s to a monumental BP 2023!

Sally Dodds, Head of Events, Warners Shows



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REASONS TO ATTEND

Why you can't afford to miss BP2023

The whole industry, in the same place, at the same time, ready to discuss the issues that matter to you!

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BP2023 covers every aspect of the industry. Unique among shows, it's as relevant to those who process and retail the crop as it is to those who produce it. So it's an unmissable chance to gauge the mood, update on trade changes, take stock of competitors and learn more about innovations at every level of this progressive, fast moving industry. With so much change in the air can you afford to miss this vital update?

Where would we have been without emails, texts, phone and internet to keep potato business moving? But there comes a point when new developments need examining first hand and better deals are sealed in person.

IN SHORT, IT'S TIME FOR A BRITISH POTATO EVENT!

WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Gold sponsors



Silver sponsors



Bronze sponsors





Dozens of potato businesses from across Europe

All types of machinery – farm, packing, processing, packaging

Business news, emerging opportunities and valuable contacts

WHY YOU SHOULD BE AT BP2023



Buyers, suppliers and advisers from across the whole supply chain

The very latest in potato agronomy



Hall 1

- 100 Grimme UK Ltd
- 101 Rowlinson Packaging
- 102 Sun Chemical
- 103 RS Hall Engineering Ltd
- 104 PotatoWorld Magazine
- 105 Team Sprayers Ltd
- 106 East Riding Sacks Ltd
- 107 Restrain Ltd
- 108 Caledonia Potatoes Ltd
- 109 Agrico UK Ltd
- 110 Martin Lishman Ltd
- 111 Animal and Plant Health Agency
- 112 VAM WaterTech
- 113 Burdens Specialist Vegetable Machinery
- 114 Tong Engineering Ltd
- 115 Broadwater Machinery Ltd
- 115 Rushliff
- 116 Bauer GmbH
- 117 R S Cockerill (York) Ltd
- 118 Nufarm
- 119 Standen Engineering Ltd
- 120 Whole Crop Marketing Ltd
- 121 Payne Crop Nutrition
- 122 UPL Europe
- 123 Stored Crop Conservation Ltd
- 124 Vita-Rhize UK Ltd
- 125 Bayer CropScience
- 126 Potato Review
National Potato Industry Awards
- 127 B-hive Innovations
- 127b Greenvale Seed
- 127c Field Farm Tours Ltd
- 128 McCain Foods (GB) Ltd
- 129 BASF
- 130 Farm Electronics Ltd
- 131 SASA
- 132a MJP Supplies
- 132b CXCS Ltd
- 133 B H Leake
- 134 Briggs Irrigation
- 135 Potato Storage Insight Ltd
- 136 Juno (Plant Protection) Ltd
- 137 CUPGRA
- 138 The Crop Smith Ltd
- 139 CHAP - Crop Health & Protection
- 140 Greens of Soham Ltd
- 141 Farm Trans
- 142 Sipcam UK Ltd
- 143 Meijer Potato UK
- 144 Richard Austin Agriculture Ltd
- 145 Cornerstone Systems Ltd
- 146 Azotic Technologies Ltd
- 147 Greencrop
- 148 Bateman Sprayers
- 149 ScanStone
- 150 Alt-Group
- 151 AVR Machinery
- 152 FMC Agro Ltd
- 153 Corteva Agriscience UK
- 154 Agrii
- 155 Fibrophos P K Fertilisers
- 156 Clifton Rubber
- 157 NFU Energy
- 158 OMEX Agriculture
- 159 Certis Belchim
- 160 Howseman Agriculture
DripUK Irrigation services
Netafim UK
- 162 Fenland Mobile Services
- 163 Bradley Refrigeration Ltd
- 164 AB Texel UK
- 165 ICL UK Sales
- 166 Omnivent
- 167 DormFresh
- 168 Solana Seeds UK Ltd
- 169 MSE Systems
MSE Hiller

- 170 Syngenta
- 171 Sencrop
- 172 Verbruggen
- 173 British Potato Trade Association (BPTA)
Fresh Potato Suppliers Association (FPSA)
Potato Processors' Association Ltd (PPA)
Snack, Nut and Crisp Manufacturers'
Association (SNACMA)
- 174 Wolds Produce Ltd
- 175 E Park & Sons Ltd
- 176 Yara UK
- 177 Nutricor Agronomics Ltd
- 178 Thomas Bell & Sons Ltd
- 179 Agri-tech Services (UK) Ltd
- 180 Scotts Precision Manufacturing Ltd
- 181 Cullen Allen Norika
- 182 Cheffins
- 183 HK Timbers Ltd
- 184 Chafer Machinery
Horstine
- 185 SRUC/SAC Consulting
- 186 Biofresh Safestore Ltd
- 187 Crop Systems Ltd
- 188 IPM Potato Group
- 189 James Hutton Ltd
- 190 Cygnet Potato Breeders Ltd
- 191 Wroot Water Limited
- 192 HarvestEye Ltd
- 193 Emerald Research Ltd
- 194 Garford Farm Machinery Ltd
- 195 Fera Science
- 196 Abergavenny Boxes Ltd
- 197 Techneat Engineering Ltd
- 198 AgVantage UK Ltd

Hall 2

- 200 Websters Insulation Ltd
- 201 Statech Solutions Ltd
- 202 Hub4Parts Ltd
- 203 The Vegetable farmer
- 204 Soil Moisture Sense Ltd
- 205 Bradley Engineering Ltd
- 206 Xact Prepack
- 210 BioAtlantis Ltd
- 214 Ploeger UK Ltd
- 215 Egatec A/S - Mpack UK Ltd
- 216 Agritec International Ltd
Watson & Brookman Engineers Ltd
- 217 Newtec Odense (UK) Ltd
- 218 Projx Services Ltd
- 220 Haith
- 221 TOMRA
- 222 David Harrison Handling Solutions Ltd
- 223 Pace Mechanical Handling Ltd
- 225 Polar Systems Ltd
- 228 Jaycraft Food Machinery UK Ltd
- 229 ULMA Packaging
- 230 GIC Ltd
- 232 The Machine Install Company Ltd
- 233 Agrimech
- 234 Downs Vision Ltd
- 235 Welvent Ltd
- 236 Pan Anglia (Country Merchants) Ltd

Outdoor display area

- OS1 Edwards Farm Machinery Ltd
- OS2 AgVantage UK Ltd
- OS3 Standen Engineering Ltd
- OS6 Grimme UK Ltd
- OS8 Agrimech
- OS9 Tong Engineering Ltd
- OS10 Grimme UK Ltd
- OS12 Scotts Precision Manufacturing Ltd
- OS13 Priory Potato Vodka
- OS14 Terry Johnson Ltd
- OS20 Farm Trans

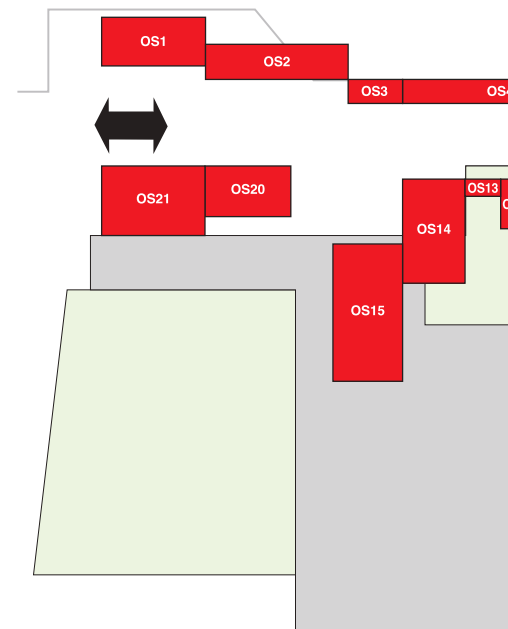
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OUTDOOR EXHIBITS



Key

- Information point
- Event control
- First aid
- Access routes between exhibition areas
- Female toilets
- Male toilets
- Disabled toilets
- Cloakroom
- Food
- Beverages
- Press room
- Seminar room

Site map

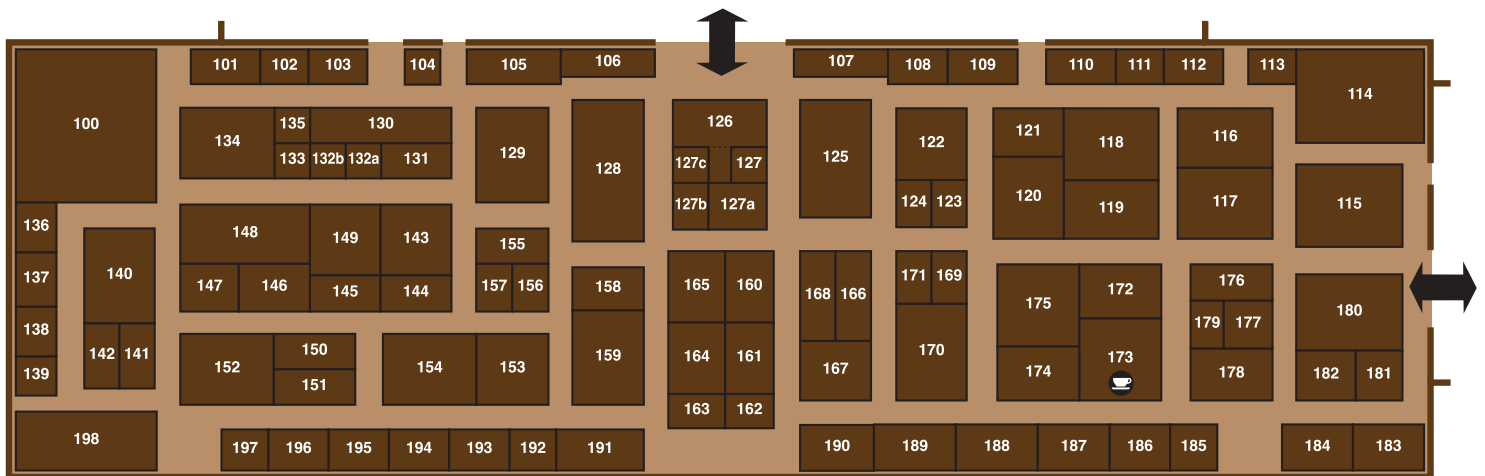
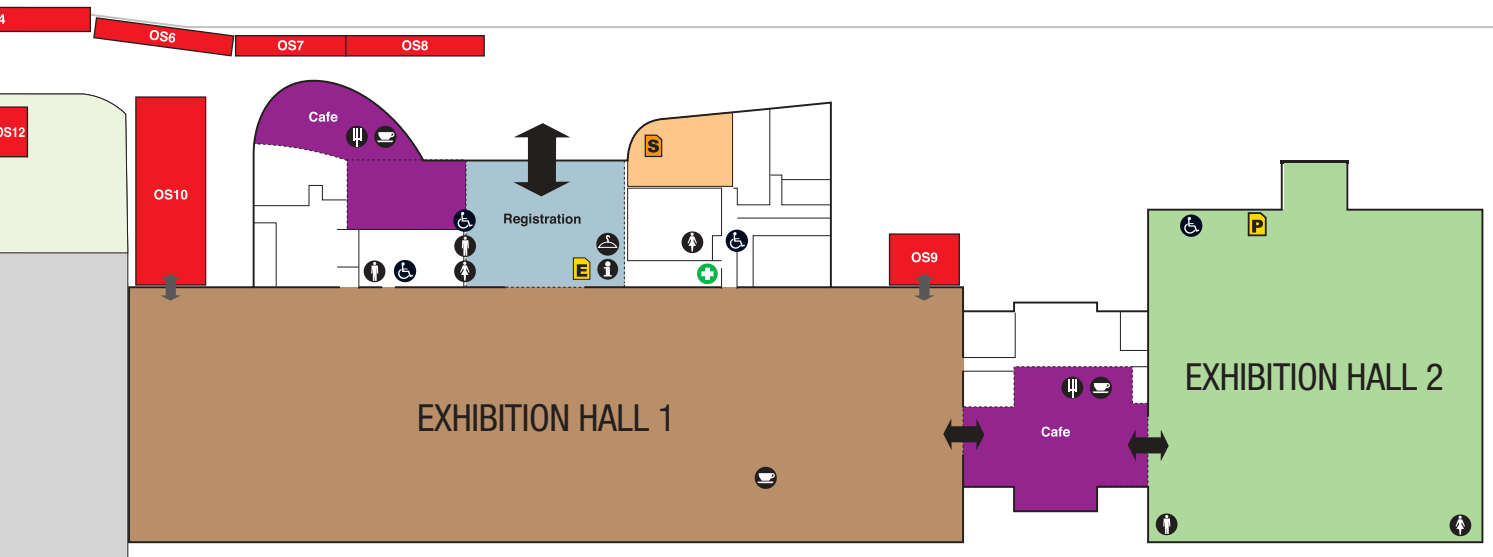
SITE MAP

Finding exhibitors

For convenience the listings on this map are numerical. Alphabetical listings can be found overpage. Full listings for each exhibitor including contact details and description can be found in the back section of the Show Directory.

Information & queries

Please go to the desk in the entrance foyer (Hall 1)



Listings and layout as at late September, but the organisers reserve the right to amend these as circumstances dictate. Please see maps at the event for late entries.

Alphabetical listing

Stands beginning with a 1 are located in Hall 1 and stands beginning with a 2 are located in Hall 2. Stands beginning OS are located in the Outdoor Display area.

Please note that exhibitors relevant to all parts of the supply chain, from seed to supermarket, are located in all three display areas – so please visit them all to avoid missing out.

A		Farm Trans	141/OS20	PotatoWorld Magazine	104
AB Texel UK	164	Fenland Mobile Services	162	Priory Potato Vodka	OS13
Abergavenny Boxes Ltd	196	Fera Science	195	Projx Services Ltd	218
Agrico UK Ltd	109	Fibrophos P K Fertilisers	155	R	
Agrii	154	Field Farm Tours Ltd	127c	R S Cockerill (York) Ltd	117
AgriMech	233/OS8	FMC Agro Ltd	152	Restrain Ltd	107
Agritec International Ltd	216	Fresh Potato Suppliers Association (FPSA)	173	Richard Austin Agriculture Ltd	144
Agri-tech Services (UK) Ltd	179	G		Rowlinson Packaging	101
AgVantage UK Ltd	198/OS2	Garford Farm Machinery Ltd	194	RS Hall Engineering Ltd	103
Alt-Group	150	GIC Ltd	230	Rushlift	115
Animal and Plant Health Agency	111	Greencrop	147	S	
AVR Machinery	151	Greens of Soham Ltd	140	SASA	131
Azotic Technologies Ltd	146	Greenvale Seed	127b	ScanStone	149
B		Grimme UK Ltd	100/OS6/ OS10	Scotts Precision Manufacturing Ltd	180/OS12
B H Leake	133	H		Sencrop	171
BASF	129	Haith	220	Sipcam UK Ltd	142
Bateman Sprayers	148	HarvestEye Ltd	192	Snack, Nut and Crisp Manufacturers' Association (SNACMA)	173
Bauer GmbH	116	HK Timbers Ltd	183	Soil Moisture Sense Ltd	204
Bayer CropScience	125	Horstine	184	Solana Seeds UK Ltd	168
B-hive Innovations	127	Howseman Agriculture	160	SRUC/SAC Consulting	185
BioAtlantis Ltd	210	Hub4Parts Ltd	202	Standen Engineering Ltd	119/OS3
Biofresh Safestore Ltd	186	I		Statech Solutions Ltd	201
Bradley Engineering Ltd	205	ICL UK Sales	165	Stored Crop Conservation Ltd	123
Bradley Refrigeration Ltd	163	IPM Potato Group	188	Sun Chemical	102
Briggs Irrigation	134	J		Syngenta	170
British Potato Trade Association (BPTA)	173	James Hutton Ltd	189	T	
Broadwater Machinery Ltd	115	Jaycraft Food Machinery UK Ltd	228	Team Sprayers Ltd	105
Burdens Specialist Vegetable Machinery	113	Juno (Plant Protection) Ltd	136	Techneat Engineering Ltd	197
C		M		Terry Johnson Ltd	OS14
Caledonia Potatoes Ltd	108	Martin Lishman Ltd	110	The Crop Smith Ltd	138
Certis Belchim	159	McCain Foods (GB) Ltd	128	The Machine Install Company Ltd	232
Chafer Machinery	184	Meijer Potato UK	143	The Vegetable farmer	203
CHAP - Crop Health & Protection	139	MJP Supplies	132a	Thomas Bell & Sons Ltd	178
Cheffins	182	MSE Hiller	169	TOMRA	221
Clifton Rubber	156	MSE Systems	169	Tong Engineering Ltd	114/OS9
Cornerstone Systems Ltd	145	N		U	
Corteva Agriscience UK	153	National Potato Industry Awards	126	ULMA Packaging	229
Crop Systems Ltd	187	Netafim UK	161	UPL Europe	122
Cullen Allen Norika	181	Newtec Odense (UK) Ltd	217	V	
CUPGRA	137	NFU Energy	157	VAM WaterTech	112
CXCS Ltd	132b	Nufarm	118	Verbruggen	172
Cygnat Potato Breeders Ltd	190	Nutricor Agronomics Ltd	177	Vita-Rhize UK Ltd	124
D		O		W	
David Harrison Handling Solutions Ltd	222	OMEX Agriculture	158	Watson & Brookman Engineers Ltd	216
DormFresh	167	Omnivent	166	Websters Insulation Ltd	200
Downs Vision Ltd	234	P		Welvent Ltd	235
DripUK Irrigation services	160	Pace Mechanical Handling Ltd	223	Whole Crop Marketing Ltd	120
E		Pan Anglia (Country Merchants) Ltd	236	Wolds Produce Ltd	174
E Park & Sons Ltd	175	Payne Crop Nutrition	121	Wroot Water Limited	191
East Riding Sacks Ltd	106	Ploeger UK Ltd	214	X	
Edwards Farm Machinery Ltd	OS1	Polar Systems Ltd	225	Xact Prepack	206
Egatec A/S - Mpack UK Ltd	215	Potato Processors' Association Ltd (PPA)	173	Y	
Emerald Research Ltd	193	Potato Review	126	Yara UK	176
F		Potato Storage Insight Ltd	135		
Farm Electronics Ltd	130				

Numbers refer to stand plans shown on the previous page.

For exhibitor contact details and descriptions see the full listings in the back section of the Show Directory.

Join us at BP2023

HALL 1 - STAND 114



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Meet the sponsors

We take a look at the sponsors for British Potato 2023

GOLD

AGRIMECH®

Agrimech is an award-winning agricultural machinery solutions and supply company, making and maintaining equipment for all stages of the weighing, bagging, tray-filling and palletising process. We are also very proud to have received the Queen's Award for Enterprise last year. From initial design to finished product, every process is overseen by our in-house staff and our machinery is stainless steel, meeting the very highest and strongest standards. When a customer purchases an Agrimech product, it's the start of the relationship, not the end. We make the finest quality machines possible, and our staff know exactly how they work. Our team's dedication to service and support has seen us win numerous national customer care awards, so whatever the issue, you know that with Agrimech, you are in the safest and wisest hands. We're also proud of our revolutionary remote engineering system called Agrilink, which enables us to take a virtual visit to your machinery anytime, anywhere.

BRANSTON

Branston was formed back in 1968 as a co-operative of local farmers all growing around the Branston area. Over the years we've embraced the changes in farming and retail to become one of the largest buyers and packers of potatoes in the UK. Our sites are strategically located in the heart of some of the country's best potato-growing land, with a dedicated producer group focused around each one. We firmly believe in a sustainable future for the UK potato industry, and we're delighted to be supporting the British Potato event as a Gold sponsor again this year.

GRIMME

Grimme is a world leader in the manufacture of innovative root crop machinery and supplies an extensive range of specialist equipment to the UK potato industry. This includes machines designed for soil preparation, planting, irrigation, trailed-harvesting, self-propelled harvesting, handling, grading and much more. When a UK grower purchases a Grimme machine, they're also investing in the UK's largest network of trained root-crop machinery specialists. We are dedicated to supporting our customer's needs through a national network of local dealers who offer comprehensive sales and aftersales support for Grimme equipment. Backed by spare parts distribution and technical after-sales support from our head office at Swineshead, making sure every Grimme customer gets the very best support. This year Grimme will have some great aftersales products for you to learn about, including extended warranty, service packages and the online innovation of MyGRIMME. Come and visit the team for some great hospitality and learn first-hand how our experience and award-winning innovations make the experience.

SILVER



As the largest purchaser of British potatoes,

McCain has been building strong relationships with growers for over 50 years, partnering with 250 farmers. We have a dedicated seed business in Scotland and five production facilities across the UK. With a household retail brand, foodservice business and 'quick service restaurant' range, McCain makes one in three UK frozen potato products. With a focus on sustainable farming, we are committed to supporting the long-term viability of the British potato industry.



Haith are renowned for their market leading innovative machinery and systems for root crop handling, designed with ease of maintenance, gentle handling, and efficiency in mind. From single machines to turnkey facilities to suit growers, processors, and packers of all sizes. In 2022, Haith received their second Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Innovation Category, this time for the Rota-Tip TE Box Tippler which is used to transfer crops onto washing, sizing, and packing lines. Handling solutions you can trust.

BRONZE



We believe potatoes deserve our investment; in terms of time,

expertise, knowledge, and protection. Our collaborative and holistic approach provides solutions that help you unlock the potential – and the profits – in your potato crops. It's how we've developed a strong portfolio of highly effective products – including Enervin® SC, Honesty® and ALLSTAR® – and why we've one of the most innovative crop protection pipelines for potatoes. Join us and find out how we can Perfect Potatoes Together. Subscribe to our newsletter & podcast here: agricentre.basf.co.uk/potatoes

NEWTEC

NEWTEC Designed and Manufactured in Denmark

Newtec is a leading manufacturer of weighing, packing and sorting machinery primarily for the fruit and vegetable industry. We're passionate about helping you optimize your production and solving your business challenges with our innovative solutions. To do so, we focus on quality and long-lasting relationships when designing and manufacturing our machines. We have given the industry over 25,000 machines in our 45+ years of manufacturing and are always looking to the future.



Rushlift will ensure that you always have the right type of machine for your agricultural needs. Outright purchase, contract hire or short-term rental options available. We also make sure that we support you throughout the lifetime of your equipment, with our team of dedicated business managers and highly skilled engineers.



DormFresh Ltd offers the most advanced products and application methods to help control sprouting in potatoes, thereby extending their market life and increasing storage periods. Our highly

experienced research and development team continually investigates new chemicals and application methods, while concurrently developing new equipment to allow us to remain at the forefront of technology.



From nematicides to tuber treatments to foliar fungicides, Bayer's portfolio of crop

protection products helps growers and advisers grow potatoes profitably and sustainably. Our innovations enable growers to manage pest threats, protect against disease and meet market specification and with nearly £5 billion invested in research and development in 2020, we will continue to develop innovative solutions to the challenges of the future. We look forward to welcoming you to the Bayer stand.



Leading UK manufacturer Tong

Engineering is renowned worldwide for unrivalled build quality and the most advanced handling systems for efficient and gentle grading, optical sorting, washing, polishing, processing and box handling. From concept design through manufacture, project management and installation, Tong works closely with customers to offer the complete potato handling solution from post-harvest to pack. Featuring the latest handling technologies alongside intelligent and automated controls, Tong equipment is designed to ensure minimal labour requirements whilst maximising capacity and yield.



Watson & Brookman and Agritec offer a vast range of machinery for the food processing industry. With over 44 years of experience, we can assist customers in designing bespoke solutions for specific projects and pride ourselves on producing quality, high-care equipment.



UPL is on a mission to change the game; to make every single food product more sustainable. As a

market leader in sprout suppression, our new biocontrol orange oil ARGOS is now available in the UK and Ireland.

Children are the future of farming

The late, great Whitney Houston might not have been singing about farming, but she certainly got it right when she said ‘the children are our future’.

According to recent research, the average British farmer is decidedly middle-aged at 59, yet 60 per cent of young people aren’t even considering a career in the industry. So why is this?

The study, which was carried out by McDonald’s UK, reported that over two-thirds of the young people surveyed (68 per cent) feared a career in farming wouldn’t provide job satisfaction, and 79 per cent didn’t believe they had the necessary skills.

In addition, 64 per cent of those aged

19 to 22 saw a lack of young people in the industry as a barrier to entry, while three-quarters of British farmers said there was a significant skills shortage, with over 52 per cent struggling to find the talented workers they needed.

The findings were echoed in a 2022 report from The Institute for Agriculture and Horticulture (TIAH), which found more needed to be done to change young people’s perceptions of careers in the industry.

It’s certainly something we are aware of at Agrimech, where co-founder Belinda Smith and I have recently made way for some home-grown young talent to move up through the ranks, with Jason Rudolph becoming Sales Director at the company and

Matthew Fielding assuming the role of Operations Director.

It was a particularly poignant step for me, as I had spent more than two decades working as a service engineer prior to launching the company in 2009, and this effectively symbolised the end of my engineering career on the tools – and also the end of a large chapter of my life, as a new one begins.

We have always designed, manufactured and maintained all our own products on-site, but the realisation finally set in for me in 2022/2023 that we are Agrimech and not ‘Darren in a Van’ anymore, as it is now a machinery brand in its own right.

Restructuring the company and



Below: Presentation of the Queens Award for International Trade to Agrimech by the Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk

letting the next generation through was an important decision to make, and it has allowed other members of the Agrimech family to move and experience new responsibilities and challenges, Belinda and I included.

Young talent is also essential for growth, and has been instrumental in our own expansion to new premises, as we finally had to admit that we had outgrown our original base in Cambridgeshire.

Purchasing a new site away from where it all began has been another emotional decision, but also a pivotal turning-point in our capacity to build full production lines from start to finish. We can now assemble products in their entirety, then disassemble them and send to site. This is a new era completely and has changed our install practice, fleet of vehicles and times dramatically.

The first building is up and operational, with factory two having its foundation poured and steel work delivered, and factory three ground-cleared for commencement in the spring of 2024. This new, three-acre site will give us the foothold to expand and grow long into the future.

It is also different, as I will never physically work in the new sheds as an engineer, so it is oddly humbling that, after all the hours put in to build the company to this point, I can finally

admire and enjoy the progress that we all created.

Prototyping has been a massive part of what we do for the last 11 years, and we've been constantly making new machines and then evolving them over time. We aim to finalise our last product prototypes by mid-to-late 2025 to complete our range as a manufacturer for the remainder of the twenties, thus giving us time to settle them all into the total end-of-line offering we have chosen to market.

Removing myself from the development of new products for a few years, to again hand over to others, I intend to use my time to strengthen our presence around the world.

As sales begin to grow on a global scale, we will be well placed to compete as a British brand against the market leaders of the rest of the world – something that Belinda and I are very proud of.

From our humble beginnings, we have transformed into the company we are today, and we continue to develop our British-designed and built machinery range, while reinvesting all that we have back into the company to promote its growth and presence as an internationally known and trusted brand, not only in the machinery itself, but with a promise to deliver what we say we will with integrity and commitment, backed up with

award-winning levels of service and after sales.

With fresh talent on board, and new premises, it feels like we are very much moving in the right direction, but how does the farming industry do the same?

The TIAH research, which was carried out in conjunction with Family Kids & Youth Market Research and Consultancy, set out to identify the main barriers preventing young people from taking up careers in the sector.

It found there was a low level of awareness of farming in homes, schools and among career switchers, and that the perception of agriculture was outdated. The conclusion was that this was probably linked to limited coverage in the school curriculum, a lack of contact between the industry and schools, and 'confusing' representation in the media.

While the TIAH is currently working to develop an action plan to address the issue, we must all do what we can to attract younger people into the agricultural sector, if it is to survive. They really are our future, and, to return to Whitney's 'Greatest Love of All', we have to 'teach them well and let them lead the way'.

None of us will be here forever, and without the involvement of the next generation, neither will the farming industry.





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- ✓ Easier application
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- ✓ Easier decision

Velum Prime is the ONLY liquid nematicide formulation to provide excellent potato cyst nematode control with outstanding flexibility and ease of use. Compared to granular nematicides, Velum Prime is easier to handle and transport, with significantly lower dosage rates and the option to apply in-furrow or by broadcast spray. With no harvest restrictions, Velum Prime can also provide nematode control in short-season crops.



To find out more, and to subscribe to our digital newsletter, Potato Monthly, visit cropscience.bayer.co.uk/potatoes

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INDUSTRY SEMINARS

Wednesday 22/11/2023
TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS

10:45 - 11:30am

Chap: Applying Agri-Tech solutions to potato production: Some case studies



12:45 - 13:30 pm

Potato Storage Insight Ltd: Tackling storage challenges on energy and sprout suppression



14:45 - 15:30pm

World Potato Markets: The British potato market – trends and prospects



Thursday 23/11/2023
CURRENT INDUSTRY ISSUES

10.15 - 11:00am

National Potato Innovation Centre: How science organisations can work better together and with industry to help potato production in the future



12.15 - 13:00pm: **GB Potatoes:** Turning Challenges into Opportunities



STAGED IN MAIN SEMINAR ROOM

(off Hall 1 Foyer – the main show entrance)

GRIMME SELECT 200

Next Generation, Same DNA

The NEW SELECT 200 builds on the same DNA as the proven GRIMME GT with a host of advanced new features that make harvesting easier, faster and even more productive.



Telescopic Axle

- 3.0m road transport width.
- Larger (26.5") wheels for enhanced wheel drive and increased flotation.
- Easily open up harvest breaks in the field.



Longer 1st Main Web

- Approximately 0.8m² more sieving area, compared to the GT170.
- Allows for greater separation.



Re-designed MultiSep

- Increased angle for greater separation.
- Simplified maintenance.
- Choice of gentle segments available.



Vario RS Separation System

- Available for heavy conditions.
- Change separation distances simply from the cab.
- Adjustable angles for increased separation and crop flow.



Double MultiSep and Blower Combination

- Third active separator is now possible to remove loose haulm, trash and straw.
- Reduced workload at the grader as haulm and trash is left in the field.



VarioDrive

- Lower power consumption than hydraulic drive.
- Simple mechanics with low maintenance.
- Reversible web direction.



CCI 800 / CCI1200 Operator Terminals

- 8" (CCI100) or optional 12.1" CCI1200 touch screen terminal.
- Improved symbols and screen layout with black, glare free background.
- New joystick box available for active steering.



Windrowing Cross Conveyor

- Reduced drop heights and damage for crops.
- Left to right movement of conveyor.
- Hydraulically folds within the width of the machine.



SmartView System

- 12" HD, multifunction touch-screen.
- Slow-motion, zoom and record functions.
- High definition, wide angle camera system that is unique to Grimme.



myGrimme Connectivity

- Remote viewing of machine via GSC telematic box mounted to the harvester.
- Recording of jobs and machine data for crop assurance schemes.

End-to-end coverage for the British potato supply chain

Stephanie Cornwall, Editor of Potato Review, discusses the changes and challenges the magazine and industry have encountered in recent years.



POTATO Review magazine, along with its website and weekly e-letters, seeks to keep the whole industry informed about what's happening in the potato supply chain – from preparing the soil for seed growth, through the planting, nurturing, protecting and harvesting practices, to storage, transport, sale and ultimate consumption.

As with any fresh or manufactured products, it's never a one-way street.

What happens at 'the end game' will ultimately have repercussions throughout the supply chain. At the end of the day, the greater the number of potatoes being consumed, the greater the demand from growers, suppliers and everything in between.

So when Warners Group was asked whether it would like to take over a small but popular agronomists' journal around six years ago, which it had printed and laid out for its previous owners, it saw an opportunity to widen its coverage and provide an end-to-end news conduit that would keep the

whole industry up to date with latest developments, trends and insights.

Since then, Potato Review has grown in size and content, endeavouring to keep you up to date with everything from growing challenges through to consumer trends and feedback. Our growing number of followers on social media are further testament to our desire to share news, advice and good practices from both ends of the supply chain.

The Covid years were one of the biggest challenges the industry has faced – in supply terms, availability of labour/skills and, of course, diminished demand from the hospitality sector.

But those in the potato industry are made of sterner stuff and rose to the challenge, albeit taking many hits along the way. Some of the repercussions are still being felt, but resilience was a key theme at the 2021 British Potato event, and we're sure the 2023 event will further demonstrate how far we've come.

Having taken on the editorship of this magazine just over five years ago, I've been proud to join this friendly, forward-focussed and ever-evolving industry and can honestly say there's never been a dull moment. The research, trials, technological advances, and individuals' accounts have given us plenty to write about and publish.

We now look forward to the next phase!

“As with any fresh or manufactured products, it's never a one-way street. What happens at 'the end game' will ultimately have repercussions throughout the supply chain”.





Grow with us.

As the largest purchaser of British potatoes, we're proud of the partnerships we have with our 250 potato growers, some of which span three generations of farming families.

We work closely with our growers to ensure the best possible crop is harvested to make the best quality British products. Through our partnerships, we're ensuring that we can feed the nation's appetite for potatoes for generations to come!

Why partner with us?

Grow with us **Locally.**

- Largest purchaser of British potatoes
- Buying 15% of UK crop
- Building strong partnerships for over 50 years
- 250 British farmers
- Committed to British potatoes
- Seed potato business in Montrose

Grow with us **Sustainably.**

- Committed to implementing regenerative agricultural practices across 100% of our potato acres by 2030
- Three UK demonstration farms to trial regen practices and test thousands of varieties
- Sponsored 3600ha of cover crops
- Member of the Sustainable Markets Initiative Agribusiness Task Force to accelerate the scaling of sustainable practices

Grow with us **Together.**

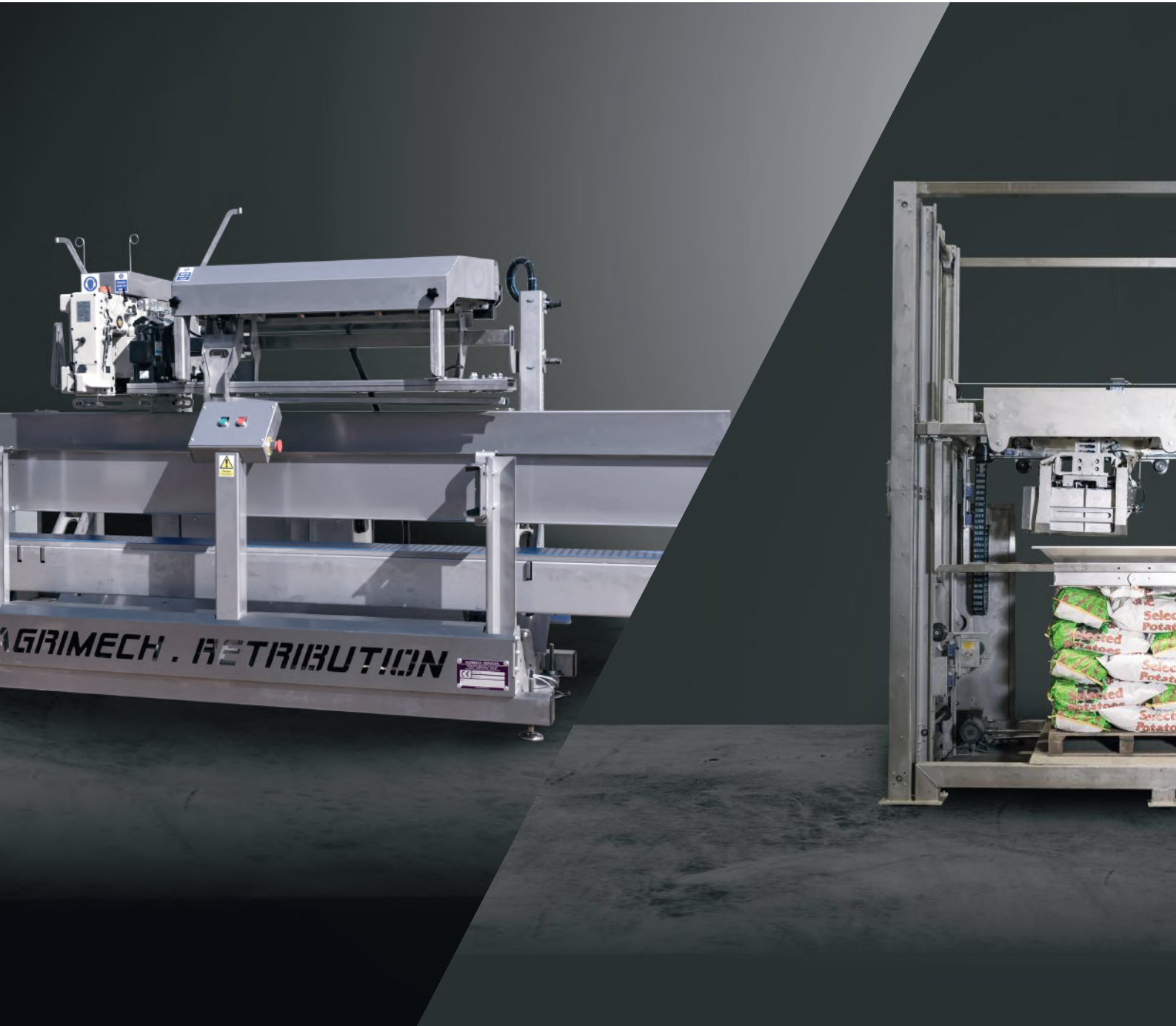
- Future proofing our supply chain through sustainable contracts
- Working with agility to help growers manage inflation
- Invested £50 million into contract pricing over last two years
- Commenced roll out of a pipeline of innovative digital platforms
- Next Generation programme to support young growers

Grow with us **Safely.**

- Safety is our number one priority
- Committed to helping agriculture improve its safety record
- Working with the Farm Safety Foundation to provide training and resources for our team
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Sprout Suppressants: Life after CIPC!

Since the withdrawal of sprout suppressant chlorpropham (CIPC), growers, store managers fogging contractors have been adapting to recently approved products, and also different uses for older ones. Lottie Pridmore speaks to two potato storage industry specialists.

Prior to deciding on your sprout suppressant, work closely with your customer base and make sure you know their priorities, advises Tim Kitson, independent consultant and store manager at Potato Solutions.

Current options for the processing sector are 1,4-DMN, Biox-M (mint oil), ARGOS (orange oil), and ethylene, underpinned by maleic hydrazide (MH) which is applied in the field. 1,4-DMN received approval for use in GB for the 2022-2023 storage season, although it has been used in other countries for a number of years.

Tim used 1,4-DMN for the first time in processing stores that he manages, and his overall assessment is that he has gained great confidence in the product's ability to deliver a good result even when storage conditions are not ideal.

2022 provided challenging conditions for storage, as potatoes in the field were exposed to excessive heat with high day degrees resulting in tubers being physiologically older than normal at harvest, says Tim. In addition, he had some fields where it had been impossible to apply MH to kickstart dormancy.

"Following the advice from Dormfresh to make the first application of 1,4-DMN promptly, we applied three weeks after loading. As the weather remained mild, ambient stores were warm and after structured assessments we reapplied as and where required.

"I was concerned at this point, and spoke to some store managers in the Netherlands, who have been using 1,4-DMN for a number of years, and they calmed my reservations and told us to keep going."



"...a total of three applications of 1,4-DMN were made, with good quality tubers still coming out of store at the end of June..."

Tim monitors sub-samples weekly within the store to assess development, and he was pleased to find that his Dutch colleagues had given him good advice; by January, potatoes had slowed down their respiration rate, become dormant and were looking good.

Speaking at the end of July he recounts that a total of three applications of 1,4-DMN were made, with good quality tubers still coming out of store at the end of June, and one of the stores was still going at the end of July, without showing any movement.

...a total of three applications of 1,4-DMN were made, with good quality tubers still coming out of store at the end of June...

"This has helped us develop real confidence in 1,4-DMN."

He reminds store managers of the importance of teamwork, and collaboration with the customer base is key to knowing when they will be looking to move tubers, so they can ensure that the harvest interval for 1,4-DMN is adhered to.

Reflecting on the different sprout suppressants now available, he notes

ABOVE: Chris Francis, Potato Storage Treatment

OPPOSITE PAGE: Tim Kitson, Potato Solutions



“All the products have caused minor scorch on crops; for example, with ARGOS and Biox-M creating problems round cabling. However, the damage has been minimal and have created no long term issues.”

He also warns that some sensors and CO2 detectors may need to be removed prior to applications as they can be corrupted.

Moving on to talk about ethylene, he reports that it works well and is simple to operate although there can be fry colour complications.

“This is variety dependent, and as processing varieties are being developed with greater sugar stability, the impact on fry colour may decrease in the future.”

Getting the best results also depends on best practice store management, and Tim recalls that he is often asked about weight loss.

“Good store management will help keep it at a low level, but passing drier air across tubers will always result

in some weight loss; but it varies according to the time the fans are running, humidity and air temperature – and also there are differences from year to year.

“Also, if you have issues such as soft rot, you will have to run the fans, and this will cause some dehydration of the other tubers.”

Running newer control systems in stores will help keep weight loss to a minimum, he says, adding: “It doesn’t detract from the store managers role, which is still vital, but the technology supports the end result.”

Looking forward to the 2023 harvest, he points out that applying MH will be challenging again, this time because incessant showery weather in July has not provided ideal conditions for applying MH.

“Nonetheless, we are confident that we are able to control sprouting, including in the absence of MH, and can output good quality stored potatoes twelve months of the year.”

“..1,4-DMN has done a better job than many expected at the start of the season, with minimal weight loss too..”

that the industry is now in a better place than it was when CIPC use was ubiquitous.

“All the products have their niche uses; for example ARGOS is cost effective for short term storage situations in bulk stores.”

He explains that as ARGOS and Biox-M work on contact and provide reactive treatment to sprouting and are good at cleaning up sprouting issues, but they both need good air distribution.

It is easier to find this within bulk storage than in box stores, many of which are still overhead throw (OHT) style.

“On the other hand, 1,4-DMN is more mobile and able to move well in stores.”

All the products applied in stores Tim oversees are done by fogging contractors, with good coordination with the store owner/manager to ensure good temperature and air flow to avoid condensation.

MODERN SPROUT SUPPRESSANT CHEMICALS

All the modern sprout suppressant chemicals have certain uses and all of them work well under the right conditions, says Chris Francis of Potato Storage Treatment.

1,4-DMN is the closest alternative to CIPC for the processing sector, and ironically, is a product which for years Chris had wanted to use in combination with CIPC.

Chris says: “Last year the tubers going into store were already stressed from the adverse weather during the growing season, and 1,4-DMN has done a better job than many expected at the start of the season, with minimal weight loss too.”

Looking at the options in our toolbox now he notes 1,4-DMN works differently from the other suppressants as it has a residual effect, while Biox-M and ARGOS work on contact to burn off the sprouts.

“We have used extensively both Biox-M and ARGOS with very good results and both benefit from short withholding periods.

“We are finding that using a combination of products can help store managers work with any scenarios they may find themselves in. There is definitely a place in the market for all of the products available to us now.

“The key to good sprout suppression is attention to detail by all involved. Growers, store managers and applicators working in unison all have their parts to play.

“We need to look closely at ventilation rates going forward. I find high ventilation rates always causes earlier repeat treatments and tuber weight loss”.

He goes on to say that since the withdrawal of CIPC, maleic hydrazide (MH), which is applied in the field before harvest has become the backbone for sprout suppression.

“It is now used in combination with all the different sprout suppressants available to us.”

Bauer introduces new E-series reel irrigators

New E-series reel irrigators from Bauer feature several improvements designed to make operation and maintenance easier while maintaining the product's outstanding reputation for strength, performance and durability.

Adrian Tindall, Bauer UK & Ireland sales manager, said: "Bauer has put in a lot of R&D investment over recent years to equip the market-leading Rainstar E-series for new digital technologies, including the Smart Rain remote monitoring and control app.

"Now, attention has been turned to some aspects of the mechanical components, mainly to improve access for servicing, maintenance and setting-up to further improve the operator experience."

The most obvious visual change is the development of a single hinged side panel allowing easy access to gearbox,

turbine and controls.

Opening the new cover also reveals a larger battery to power the Ecostar 6000 controller with its 4.3in LED touch-screen, which is supplemented by membrane buttons for the most frequently used functions. The battery itself is now maintained by more efficient solar panels for more reliable charging.

Remote operation using either SMS, or SmartRain internet based irrigation management app give operator's unrivalled control and data management to ensure maximum water efficiency of water usage and labour.

Other changes include easy access to the drum centre, higher specification hydraulic rams to improve jack leg operation, heavier duty drive for drum rotation system, and uprated chassis to allow retro-fitting of brakes on both two wheel and four-wheel variants.

The Bauer E-series comprises five



models from the E 100 to E 500, each available with from seven to 11 different diameter and length combinations of Bauer's own polyethylene (PE) pipe manufactured at the group's principle factory in Voitsberg, Austria.



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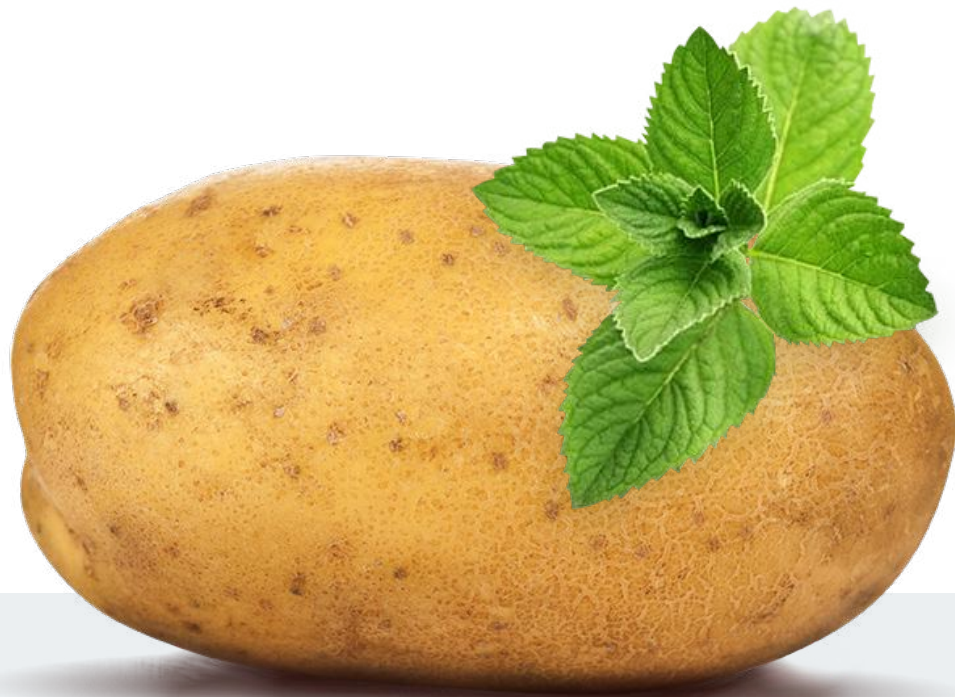
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New insecticide from Bayer offers excellent virus protection

Flupyradifurone, a new aphicide with translaminar movement and a wide application window, is expected to receive approval in time for the 2024 season.

Virus-carrying aphids represent a significant threat to potato production. Unfortunately, the task of protecting crops against the threat of virus transmission has become harder in recent years. This is due in large part to the spread of vectors resistant to insecticides containing pyrethroid and carbamate substances and the loss of systemic insecticides such as those containing neonicotinoids. In their place growers have resorted to regular applications of mineral oil while experimenting with cultural measures such as the use of straw mulch and wildflower strips within fields. The success of these measures has been variable but the rise in crops demonstrating virus symptoms suggests they have been insufficient to deliver the high-level protection needed.

Evidence of how difficult it has become to protect crops from infection is perhaps most evident in the increasing incidence of virus in Scotland's seed crops, especially those exhibiting mosaic symptoms. In the space of a single season, the proportion of seed crops found with mosaic symptoms more than tripled. From 7.3% in 2018 to 22.3% in 2019, the highest level recorded in 20 years. In the years since the upward trend has been reversed – down to 10% in 2022 – with those involved suggesting it is the result of wider adoption of cultural measures.

Within the complex of mosaic viruses, Potato Virus Y (PVY)

dominates. It accounted for 87% of cases recorded in 2019. Analysis by SASA concluded that of the cases identified in symptomatic leaf samples during 2019 crop inspections, 88% were from aphid-transmitted viruses and 70% were PVY^{NTN} making it the principal virus threat. The amount of crop affected by another virus, potato leaf roll virus (PLRV), has fluctuated. It fell in 2019 but has increased steadily since. In 2022, the incidence of PLRV was recorded at 9.4%, up from 5.0% in 2021 and 3.5% in 2020.

The cost of virus in all its guises to growers is significant. A recent study published in the journal *Potato Research* investigated the economic costs of PVY in 2002 (see table). Including lost output, the cost of treatments, downgrades or rejections, crop roguing, replacement seed and the effect of tuber necrotic ringspot disease caused by PVY^{NTN}, the aggregate loss to the potato sector in Europe during 2002 was reckoned to be €187.2 million.

Average loss per hectare due to PVY for all potato sectors in the European Union (EU) in 2002

Potato sector	Loss (€/ha)	Crop area ('000 ha)	Aggregate loss (€ million)
Seed	427.3	224	95.9
Table	43.6	774	33.7
Processing	43.1	1337	57.6
Total	-	2335	187.2

Reference: Economic impact of Potato Virus Y (PVY) in Europe. Potato Research (2023)

The economic impact of PLRV is widely accepted to be less [than for PVY]. This was not always the case, but the introduction of seed verification schemes has greatly reduced the seed-borne reservoir.

PVY impact by variety

Depending on the cultivar and whether it is a ware or seed crop, the economic value of lost yield arising from PVY infection varies greatly (see fig 1). From 9.6% for Lady Christl to 37% for Bintje with an average of 23.5%. From this, the researchers at the Swiss research institute Agroscope calculated the average yield loss for 1% PVY infection as 223 kg/ha.

A new insecticide from Bayer

Flupyradifurone is a new active substance for the control of aphids. Bayer is seeking approval for a single application in a range of crops including pulses, potatoes, sugar beet, carrots and apple.

"Flupyradifurone is a new aphicide with translaminar movement, so is efficacious on insects feeding on the underside of the leaf even when applied to the upper surface of the leaf," Richard Phillips, Bayer campaign manager for roots and horticulture crops, says.

"We have trials investigating its performance across a range of crops in Great Britain, but the initial observations prove promising with good activity against the main aphid

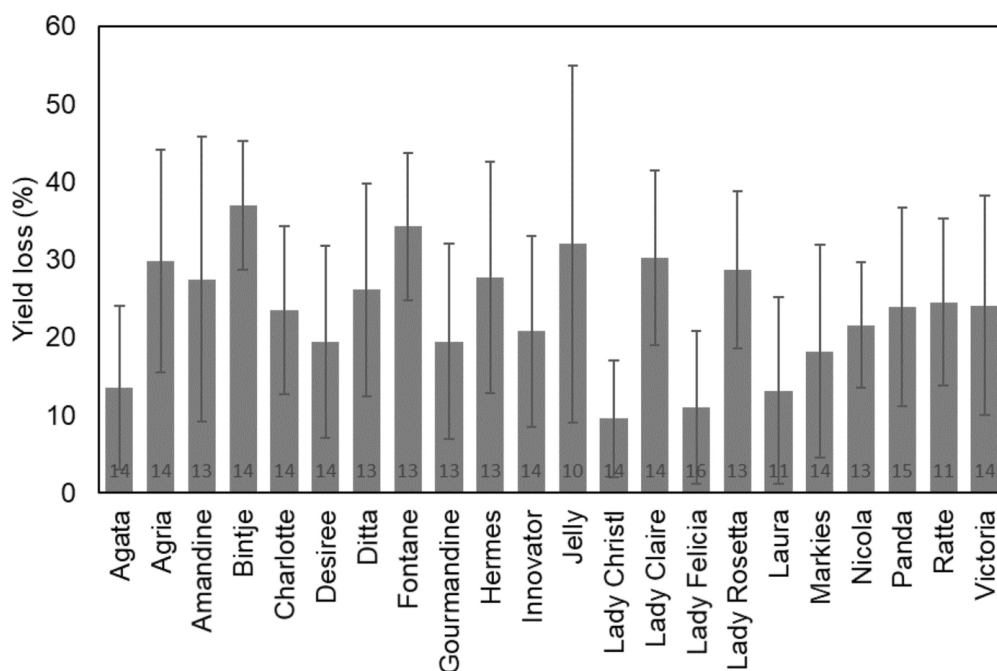


Fig 1. The percentage average yield loss due to PVY for 22 cultivars tested in the field for at least 10 years. The number shown in the bars is the number of years of trials for the corresponding cultivar. The error shown is the standard deviation.

Reference: Economic impact of Potato Virus Y (PVY) in Europe. Potato Research (2023)

“In the space of a single season, the proportion of seed crops found with mosaic symptoms more than tripled”.

species. It is also performing well in a programme with other active substances which will support integrated measures intent on promoting anti-resistance,” he adds.

It works after oral ingestion or direct contact but is also systemic - if applied to the leaves and stems it is also readily taken up and translocated via the xylem to newer leaves and is redistributed within leaves exhibiting translaminar activity.

Flupyradifurone applied at the recommended rate leads to a quick feeding (honeydew excretion) cessation within two hours of product application, even on aphids feeding on the under-leaf side and not directly exposed to the spray droplets.

Rapid knockdown of pests can be expected. Obvious control usually occurs after two days and is dependent upon pest stage, with youngest larvae being most susceptible and adults least susceptible. For optimum control, application should be made as soon as possible once pest thresholds have been surpassed.

At the anticipated application rate of 0.125 litres per hectare, flupyradifurone achieves moderate control of the group of aphids known to circulate in potato crops. Trials in vegetable crops have shown that control can be further improved – close to that seen with Movento (spirotetramat) – with the addition of an adjuvant oil. Work this season will

determine the appropriate rate for inclusion.

“Flupyradifurone will bring a new mode of action to insect control strategies which will support anti-resistance measures while bringing much-needed flexibility to programmes. It has a wide application window of BBCH 31 (beginning of crop

cover: 10% of plants meet between rows) to BBCH 89 (end of ripening) with a seven-day harvest interval,” says Mr Phillips.

● The Economic Impact of Potato Virus Y (PVY) in Europe can be seen at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11540-023-09623-x>

Below: Richard Philips believes flupyradifurone will be welcomed by potato and vegetable crop growers



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- ✓ Reduced N requirement

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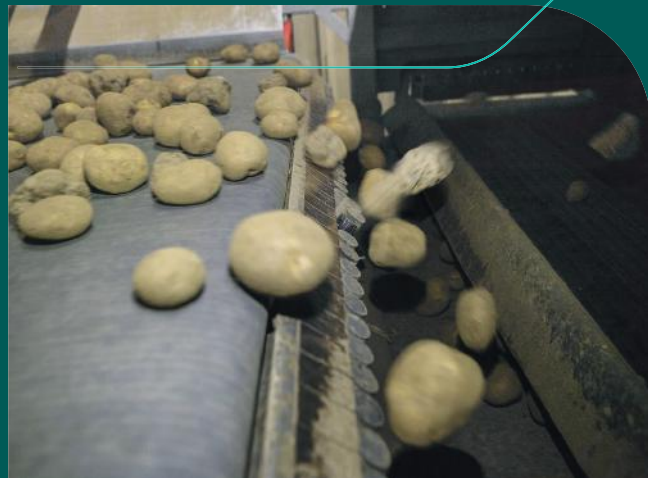
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Investing in automation:

The Role of Automatic Weighing Technology in Fruit and Vegetable Production

In the competitive realm of fruit and vegetable production, packhouses continually strive to deliver high-quality produce efficiently and profitably to the market. Questions such as how to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and ensure the highest quality of their products are often raised.

A pivotal tool aiding packhouses in this endeavor is the transition to automation. One crucial investment that can significantly impact these goals is the acquisition of industrial weighing sorting and packing machinery. However, this is a considerable capital investment that requires careful research and evaluation. This article explores the key considerations, pricing factors, and costs associated with investing in food machinery with focus on the advantages of weighing technology.

The Advantages of Automatic Weighing Technology

1 Precision and Accuracy: Automatic weighing machines provide precision in measuring produce, minimizing product giveaway, and reducing waste. High-tech equipment ensures that the weight of each product is precisely calculated, enhancing the overall quality of the produce and optimizing profitability.

2 Increased Efficiency: The high-speed operation of automatic weighing machines significantly improves packaging efficiency. These machines can handle large volumes of produce swiftly, streamlining the weighing, sorting, and packaging processes. This efficiency results in enhanced throughput and faster

delivery to retailers, meeting consumer demand effectively.

3 Labor Savings: By automating weighing and packaging tasks, fruit and vegetable producers can reduce their dependence on manual labor. The workforce can then be allocated to more specialized roles, optimizing labor resources, and potentially reducing overall labor costs.

4 Flexibility and Adaptability: Modern automatic weighing machines are designed to handle various types of produce and packaging formats. They offer customization options to accommodate different sizes, shapes, and weight requirements, making them versatile for a wide range of fruits and vegetables. This adaptability enables producers to respond quickly to changing market demands.

5 Improved Product Handling: Gentle product handling is paramount for delicate fruits and vegetables to maintain their quality and appearance. Advanced automatic weighing machines are equipped with features that ensure gentle handling, minimizing bruising or damage during the weighing and packing process.

Key Considerations for Transitioning to Automatic Weighing Solutions

1 Initial Investment: Automatic weighing technology requires a significant capital investment. However, the long-term cost savings and increased productivity must be taken into account. Evaluating the return on investment (ROI) will help determine whether the adoption of automatic weighing technology is economically



viable. Switching from manual labor to machine automation can lead to substantial labor cost reductions.

2 Customization Options: Reputable manufacturers offer customization options to tailor machines to suit specific operations, ensuring optimal performance and efficiency. Choosing the right automatic weighing solution for their customers entails understanding the unique needs and requirements of each packhouse.

3 Price and Customization: When businesses begin searching the

market for the right solution, pricing and costs become top priorities. While some off-the-shelf machines may be available, finding the optimal solution often involves customization to meet specific production requirements. The degree of customization required can vary each time, leading to fluctuations in initial costs. Generally, more complex and bespoke solutions tend to have higher initial costs.

4 Maintenance and Support: Regular maintenance and prompt technical support are vital for keeping

"Advanced automatic weighing machines are equipped with features that ensure gentle handling, minimizing bruising or damage".

Below: Newtec's accurate weighing machine, model 4015B2

automatic weighing machines operating at their best. Partnering with a reliable manufacturer that offers ongoing support, spare parts availability, and efficient repair services is essential for smooth operations.

5 Training and Workforce Integration: Transitioning to automation may require training the workforce to operate and maintain the new equipment. Proper training ensures seamless integration of automatic weighing technology into existing production processes.

6 Cost of Ownership (TCO): Beyond the initial purchase price, a crucial aspect to consider is the total cost of ownership (TCO). TCO takes into account the operating costs, maintenance expenses, and reliability of the machinery over its lifetime. Choosing a reliable machine with low downtime is essential for ensuring a continuous output of saleable products. Frequent breakdowns or lengthy downtime can lead to missed orders and potential product waste.

In conclusion, investing in automation requires thorough research and consideration of the total cost of ownership and return on investment.

By partnering with reputable manufacturers that emphasize reliability and provide ongoing support, businesses can optimize production efficiency and achieve significant cost savings over the machine's lifetime.

Automatic weighing technology plays a crucial role in the fruit and vegetable production industry, enhancing precision, efficiency, and productivity. By evaluating specific needs and considering long-term benefits, fruit and vegetable producers can make informed decisions and successfully adopt automatic weighing solutions, contributing to their competitiveness and overall success in the market. As a leading provider of automatic weighing technology, Newtec offers tailored solutions that cater to the evolving demands of the industry.



PACE TO CELEBRATE A RECORD BREAKING YEAR AT BRITISH POTATO 2023

One of the UK's leading suppliers of automated packing solutions will celebrate a record-breaking year at British Potato in November.

PACE Mechanical Handling, which designs and installs robotic and automated packing lines, has revealed that 2023 will be the company's best-ever year.

Orders received in the first eight months of 2023 have exceeded the company's previous best-ever year, and with four months remaining and enquiries still coming in, PACE is looking forward to celebrating in Harrogate.

According to PACE's managing director Nick Cesare, interest from the potato industry has played a significant part in the company's success.

"Orders from potato growers and packers represent about a third of our sales in 2023, so it's a very important sector for us, and we're looking forward to exhibiting at British Potato," says Nick. "We've had an excellent year so far, and in the first eight months of 2023, we have beaten our previous best year, which was 2018, when we saw turnover reach seven figures.

"I think we've benefited from several factors. Potato packers and growers are looking for ways to cope with labour shortages, and they're looking to pack more quickly and effectively. Automation and robotic packing and



Above: Nick Cesare

Below: One of PACE Mechanical Handling's automated packing lines for potatoes.

palletising are therefore increasingly popular with them."

Mr Cesare celebrated 40 years of working in the fresh produce and potato sector earlier this year and has been pioneering automated packing through PACE Mechanical Handling since 1996.

PACE uses four core products to develop reliable, efficient and cost-effective automated packaging and palletising solutions: the Gemini twin head weigher, Orion Weigher, Orion Weigher and sack placer and the CBC sack placer and stitcher line.

Thanks to its long-standing partnership with Motoman of Japan, PACE Mechanical Handling offers a wide of robots, from pick and place up to specialist heavy lifting models. By having its own team of fabricators and software engineers and extensive experience in designing and installing complete production lines, Nick and his team can deliver everything from a small automated packing robot to a complete turnkey solution.

One potato grower who has benefited from installing a bespoke PACE packing line is OGE Chapman & Son, which supplies potatoes to fish and chips shops.

"We installed the PACE palletising

system five years ago, and it was one of the best things we've done," says Jamie Chapman. "We needed to reduce our labour costs, so, with Nick's help, we installed a sack placer and stitch line.

"Our potatoes come into a hopper, over the grader, through Nick's equipment which packs them into 25kg sacks, which are then placed on the pallet.

"By installing the sack placer, we no longer needed a man there to do the job. As that person was checking the quality of the stitching, we installed a stitch line too. Stitching can be temperamental, but the PACE machine never lets us down."

As well as reducing labour, the PACE solution has increased Chapman & Son's capacity and throughput.

"On a good day, we can have up to 100 tonnes being packed. Before we automated the process, this would have been two days' work! Nick's double-headed weigher is also more accurate than our previous weigher and increases our output."

● To learn more about PACE Mechanical and its automated solutions for potato packing, visit stand 223 in hall 2 at British Potato or www.robotpalletizing.co.uk.





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Perfecting Potatoes Together

A CAMPAIGN OF COLLABORATION

Luke Pollard, BASF Campaign Manager for Speciality Crops talks about the focus of their Perfecting Potatoes Together campaign and it's success.

When BASF launched Perfecting Potatoes Together in 2021, the objective was to develop a network that would collaboratively support each by sharing interesting stories, news and events, helping fill part of the void following the demise of AHDB Potatoes.

The company engaged with growers and agronomists, and continues to do so, to help develop and drive the topics and content, ensuring it remains engaging and relevant to the sector. It wanted to offer something that was quick to consume, valuable and provided a regular touchpoint.

What the company didn't anticipate is how quickly it would grow and the significantly high level of engagement. Their dedicated monthly newsletter alone records an opening rate three times the industry average, whilst their monthly short podcast is seeing growers now email in with requests for speakers.

In 2022 they set up three regional potato hub sites, welcoming hundreds of people to see trials and learn more about their new pipeline, providing a chance for growers to get together and catch up.

What is key is that the campaign does not focus, and often does not even mention, chemistry or the products made by the manufacturer. Stories look to learn more about what is happening on the ground, advancing technologies and machinery, new techniques being put into practice, genetics, regenerative agriculture, and diversification to name a few topics. It explores the challenges from disease and weed pressure to climate, supply chains and markets. It also looks to promote the opportunities available to growers from new ideas and solutions to industry developments.

On-Farm Trials

Jim Reid who grows seed potatoes in Montrose, Scotland and has been

supplying McCain with processing varieties since 1987 was one of the first to feature in the campaign, sharing his experience with science and research on-farm, as well as some of the results.

"The toolbox is almost empty for insecticides, so we need to be exploring and embracing more natural forms of defence.

"Straw mulching, as an alternative to chemicals, has been a success here at Milton of Mathers, and last year (2021) we had a higher saleable seed yield, as the wheat straw we applied pre-emergence of potatoes, provided insulation to the plants during the cold spring, as well as providing protection from aphids.

"As host of Scotland's Strategic Potato Farm (sPot) we have been trialling a new biological treatment to help eradicate potato cyst nematode (PCN) and have been using GPS to selectively target infected areas on-farm. We have then been applying a chitinous soil amendment, made from



woodchip and shellfish waste, to help kill any active cysts. This approach has allowed us to be more precise in our placement of chemicals and to ensure good land isn't taken out of production unnecessarily.

"We have also been participating in desiccation trials and have been testing four different nozzle types for spraying, then analysing and comparing the deposition of chemicals on our plants. We have found that some of the modern nozzle designs can deliver a spray quality that minimises spray drift without compromising either spray coverage or product efficacy."

Learning from across the world

And it doesn't just bring forward information from the UK. Brendon Rocky is a third-generation farmer in Colorado. His approach to potato growing is an unusual one. The productive land is in rotation with a 16-species cover crop mix grazed by livestock, and the potatoes are grown with companion crops and flower strips.

Initially, Brendon planted a single species cover crop, sorghum sudan, but says the biggest leap forward was when he discovered 'cocktail' mixes and went from one to seven species. He shared his journey with trying something new, and the positive impact on his yield, as he explained during a feature for the campaign.

"It was such a mindset shift – you're taught that plants compete with each other but that's not true, if you select the right ones.

"We had a beautiful potato crop

the following year, and with hindsight I know why. We'd changed the composition of the soil by bringing in more carbon, leading to better aggregate stability and soil structure."

With a growing desire for more diversity, Brendon was keen to incorporate the principal into his cash crop but wasn't sure how. He describes the moment when he elected not to hand rogue some volunteer field peas that were growing in among his potatoes as an 'ah-ha' moment.

"As both plants thrived, the next year I purposefully hand-planted pea seed in with some rows of potatoes. The year after I was in the market for a new planter and found a manufacturer able to help.

"It's taken a little trial and error but 10-15 pounds / acre is the ideal seeding rate. It provides the density but doesn't waste expensive seed."

With diversity still very much at the forefront of Brendon's mind, he has subsequently added chickling vetch, chickpeas, faba beans and buckwheat to his companion crop mix.

Extending the flowering season has been another piece of the jigsaw. "Now, we have flowering strips not just surrounding crops but between them," Brendon explains. "They flower before the cash crop and its companion plants, allowing populations of beneficial insects to build before they are needed.

"Being a seed producer, we're always analysing crops for aphid vectored viruses and that shows how successful this approach is."

Brendon's quest for diversity hasn't stopped with plants. Most recently he has added 1,400 head of sheep and

95 head cattle to his rotation and says they've helped bring some 'niggly soil-borne diseases' under control, though it has meant tweaking the cover crop mix to enhance its nutritional value.

Wide industry support

Perfecting Potatoes Together is about ensuring wide industry support, from scientists and researchers to manufacturers, processors, packers, and growers.

The positive response from those who have already contributed is testimony to the success of the campaign, including Eric Anderson and Jim Wilson from Scottish Agronomy, Lucinda Smith at Dyson Farming, Simon Faulkner of SDF Agriculture Ltd, Soil Scientist Jenni Dungait, Mike Renouard from the Jersey Royal Company, Cedric Porter from World Potato Markets, Dr Glenn Bryan from the James Hutton Institute, Stephanie Cornwall from Potato Review, Charlotte Wood from Priory Vodka, Archie Gibson from Agrico and GB Potatoes, and Ed Hodson from Grimmie UK.

All podcasts are available on the usual streaming platforms, just search "BASF Agricultural Solutions" and features and articles can be found on the BASF website, by searching for "Perfecting Potatoes Together". You can register for their monthly newsletter by visiting agricentre.basf.co.uk/potatoes or by scanning the QR code below.

● *And if you would like to get involved, have a story to share or would like to find out more, don't hesitate to email Luke Pollard, Campaign Manager via luke.pollard@basf.com*

TOP MIDDLE: Luke Pollard

TOP RIGHT: Jim Reid



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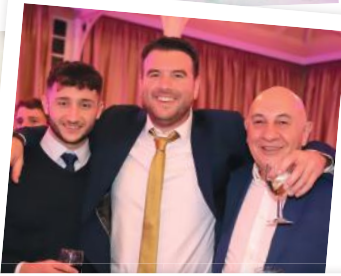


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Three years on; The Unintended Consequences of Brexit on the Seed Potato Industry

Jon Rooke, president of the BPTA. (British Potato Trade Association) talks about the current political situation and the impacts it's having on seed production in the UK.

RIGHT: Jon Rooke,
President of the BPTA.

Back in December 2020 many in our industry expected the politicians to pull the preverbal rabbit out of the hat at the eleventh hour of Brexit negotiations and maintain the status quo for the movement of potatoes to and from Europe. Whilst an agreement was reached to include the UK within the list of third countries that are allowed to export ware to the EU, no such agreement was reached as far as Seed Potatoes were concerned.

The stumbling block remains a political one with the 'powers that be' in the EU, requiring us to dynamically align with the EU on our plant health regulations before considering our 'Article 44' application, that is a necessary step to enable UK Seed Potatoes to be marketed within EU. This is an increasingly insurmountable request for Westminster, as more divergence is occurring between the UK & EU plant health regulations. The UK is attempting to protect its borders from a myriad of plant health threats, present in the EU but not yet present or established in the UK. The Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act, that passed into law in the UK on the 23rd March, further demonstrates a divergence of policy between the EU

and UK.

What many in the industry don't appreciate is that the EU's requirement for 'dynamic alignment' doesn't just simply apply to Seed Potatoes, but all other plant species and because there are a number of potentially devastating plant pests and diseases present within the EU but not present within the UK the UK Government, understandably, refuses to acquiesce to this requirement.

Many stakeholders within the industry have lobbied SCoPAFF (the committee, that advises the EU Commission on all matters relating to Plants, Animals, Food and Feed) over their decision on Seed Potatoes, including a presentation by Europatat supported by the BPTA at an EU Parliamentary hearing, but so far to no avail. Defra have also raised this issue at each of the Trade Cooperation Agreement meetings between the UK and EU. Some progress has been made under the so called 'Windsor

Agreement' such that Seed Potatoes may now be exported from GB to Northern Ireland, but only to professional growers who are registered as "Professional Operators" under the Plant Health Regulations.

A quirk between the UK Plant Health Regulations and England and Wales Seed Potato Marketing Regulations has, however, resulted in EU Seed Potatoes being allowed to be imported into England and Wales but NOT allowed to be marketed, a situation that is causing severe frustration for many of our members who rely upon the ability to market seed potatoes for their income. Neither is this imported seed eligible for entry into the E&W Seed Potato Classification scheme that, prior to Brexit, enabled continental breeders to cost effectively multiply up stocks of new and promising varieties.

The consequences of Brexit have been disastrous for all involved in seed potatoes in the UK. Seed Potato growers not only have lost access

“The lack of ability to move any surplus Seed Potatoes to the EU is a discouragement to any international potato processor to further invest here”.

to the stocks they previously could import, but the trade have also lost that crucial release valve that the EU offered for seed surpluses. It has also increased the risks and time taken to develop any promising new varieties bred on the continent within the UK, as multiplication of these varieties has now to go through the quarantine process at SASA followed by mini-tuber production and four years of field multiplication to produce cost effective Seed Potatoes for ware production.

As a consequence of the non-availability of Seed Potatoes for multiplication from the continent along with the increased risks to Seed Potato producers we have seen the area planted for Seed Potato production in the UK reduce. This potentially could

leave the ware sector without enough Seed Potatoes should there be any problems with the production of Seed Potatoes within the UK.

Furthermore, the lack of ability to move any surplus Seed Potatoes to the EU is a discouragement to any international potato processor to further invest here.

Many countries within the EU, particularly Ireland and France, would like to regain access to high grade GB Seed Potatoes especially following the increased virus pressures being experienced as a result of climate change and reduced availability of pesticides amongst other issues. The increase findings of Potato Virus Y and Potato Leafroll Virus in seed crops is a concern though, but inevitable

considering the restrictions being implemented on the seed industry and the pressures from encroaching ware growers. Surely its time now for a High-Grade Protected Region to protect what is Great about British seed production before the proverbial horse bolts.....

Prior to Brexit the UK both supplied to and imported from the EU around 25-30,000 tonnes of Seed Potatoes per year and whilst some markets have been filled elsewhere during the intervening period there remains a strong case for a resumption of the reciprocal trade that was happening prior to Brexit. The industry across Europe would like to see a resumption of trade. We just need the political willpower to be exercised to make it happen!

“The consequences of Brexit have been disastrous for all involved in seed potatoes in the UK”.



Agrii, helping growers be better at potatoes

Improving control of potato cyst nematodes and wireworm has been a focus for Agrii, it is happy to discuss its learnings at stand AAH.

Potato cyst nematodes and wireworm are amongst the greatest challenges facing growers. Without better control of both, the economic viability of potato production is under threat, but with fewer crop protection solutions to this dilemma finding a way to protect yields and quality is proving difficult.

PCN and wireworm are just two of the research areas that will be of interest to growers. Trials with a phosphate release product, a new mode of action for late blight control and a new aphicide featuring translaminar movement. Trials with both have so far been positive.

As the leading potato advice, technology and supply business, trials are essential to supporting the Agrii proposition and demonstrating our value to growers. Trials are just as essential to the future of the industry. Without the insights and understanding that comes from good data, growers would struggle to turn a respectable profit or farm in a way that doesn't threaten the environment.

Through our trials, many of which have been incorporated into the Potato Partnership, we have shown that there is cause for optimism. We have shown that half-rate Nemathorin (fosthiazate) in sequence with Velum Prime (fluopyram) can deliver yield protection close to that of full-rate Nemathorin as part of an IPM approach. Similarly, work investigating the French practice of applying lambda-cyhalothrin granules at planting has shown benefit and we are hopeful that HSE CRD will approve the active substance for this purpose ahead of the 2024 season.

Our trials investigating the role of potassium-phosphonate as both a plant elicitor and a new mode of action for late blight control have been encouraging, but also confounding. We



Above: Photo taken at James Foskett Farms, Woodbridge, Suffolk

have seen excellent results, just not with all product formulations. This is perhaps one of the most evident demonstrations of value we could hope to see from trials.

Potassium phosphonate is currently the only viable alternative to mancozeb, should one be needed. It could be vital to protecting the efficacy of single site chemistry, such as oxathiapiprolin and fluoxapiprolin (if approved) and could also be used to protect two of our most effective anti-sporulant products in Ranman Top (cyazofamid) and Infinito (fluopicolide + propamocarb) from reduced sensitivity – but only if we opt for the formulation that actually works.

The spread of blight strains with reduced sensitivity to fungicides is a constant threat. As an industry we are heavily reliant on fungicides in the CAA group, especially, mandipropamid, bentiavalicarb and dimethomorph. The advice we provide reflects the need to protect the efficacy of these active

substances for as long as possible. The Fight Against Blight (FAB) programme run by the James Hutton Institute is essential to identifying any changes in sensitivity that might indicate the need to adapt practices. We are proud to support this initiative, but it's future is by no means secure.

For 2024, we will expand the late blight trials to better integrate all forms of control, such as plant elicitors and biological controls in a programme with conventional fungicides. The intention of which is to showcase the potential for IPM to deliver a programme with a low environmental impact quotient (EIQ) value.

RHIZA – your digital farm

The RHIZA team will be on hand to demonstrate how live data from soil and moisture probes can be used to inform irrigation scheduling and disease monitoring (late blight) in potatoes and other vegetables.

There will be results briefings at 11.45am on both days.

Agrii **RHIZA**

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About the Potato Processors' Association

Whilst challenges have been abundant over the last two years, there are also great opportunities for the UK potato industry, says Andrew Curtis, Director General of the Potato Processors Association. With UK processed potato sales exceeding more than £4bn and UK processing sites sourcing 95% of their crop locally, the sector is in a great position to tackle issues head on.

The Potato Processors' Association (PPA) is the umbrella trade association for UK manufacturers of frozen and chilled chips and potato products, potato crisps, potato-based snack products and dehydrated potatoes. Membership is open to any UK manufacturer and includes the leading manufacturers in these sectors.

Our role is to ensure that the UK maintains a world-leading potato processing industry that is technologically advanced, socially & environmentally responsible, competitive, and sustainable. We act to protect the interests, values, and concerns of our members through active engagement with HM Government, Devolved Administrations and all relevant stakeholder organisations in the UK and also the EU.

PPA operates two main committees, the 'Food Law and Consumer Committee', which mainly deals with factory and commercial issues, and a 'Primary Production Technical Committee' which deals with all aspects of potato growing, handling, and storage, with the aim of optimising marketable yields of raw potato material for the sector.

PPA is closely linked in with the European Snacks Association,

the European Potato Processors' Association, FoodDrinkEurope, GB Potatoes and the Food and Drink Federation, putting us at the heart of regulatory discussions and developments both in the UK and in the EU, and ensuring that the sector has a strong voice.

PPA is also an active participant in many cross-sector platforms, for example the Water for Food Group (which is due to publish its Water Resource Management Plans for the Agri-Food Sector, and Framework for Producing Drought Plans for the Agri-Food sector, in late 2023). PPA has also played a key role in groups such as the CIPC Stewardship group, the Potato Value Chain in Europe (securing a tMRL for CIPC) and has been at the centre of recent efforts to secure authorisations for alternative actives for use in storage in the UK.

Collectively PPA members are the largest customer for UK potatoes, purchasing around 1.47 million tonnes annually (approximately 46% of the estimated potato volume in 2022), and accounting for circa 94% of all potatoes processed into frozen chips and potato products, potato crisps and snacks produced within the UK.

As a sector, we also directly employ over 13,000 people. If we were to include other dependent

jobs, including those within the farming sector, the total is more than double this number. The sector therefore makes a clear and significant contribution to the country's economy, with the value of the UK processed, and prepared potatoes market estimated at more than £2.7 billion, and the sliced potato crisps market estimated to be worth an additional £1.27 billion in 2022.

Challenges over the last two years

Since the potato industry last met in Harrogate in 2021, UK and global supply chains have continued to suffer from significant market uncertainty, with the number of issues and challenges that the sector faces seeming to multiply monthly.

Brexit (remarkably the referendum took place over 7 years ago), the Covid pandemic and the loss of AHDB Potatoes are still very much live issues, and their impacts continue to be felt, with the sector been forced to adapt to a new and constantly moving legislative environment and working practices.

However, in 2022, just as we seemed to be turning a corner the sector was suddenly hit by the additional stresses caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The invasion significantly impacted on energy costs, on access to diesel and to fertilisers, and has ultimately contributed to massive inflationary pressures across the whole global economy.

Climate change has also presented increasingly significant problems for the UK potato sector, with a hot dry



Country	Potato (t/ha)				
	AVG 5 yrs	2021	MARS 2022 forecasts	%22/5 yrs	%22/21
EU	34.2	36.3	33.4	-2	-8
AT	32.0	34.1	31.5	-2	-8
BE	40.9	42.9	36.8	-10	-14
BG	-	-	-	-	-
CY	-	-	-	-	-
CZ	28.2	29.4	27.6	-2	-6
DE	41.6	43.8	38.1	-8	-13
DK	41.6	42.3	42.1	+1	-0
EE	-	-	-	-	-
EL	28.0	25.5	29.9	+7	+17
ES	31.9	32.9	28.8	-10	-13
FI	28.7	27.5	28.2	-2	+3
FR	41.4	41.4	38.0	-8	-9
HR	-	-	-	-	-
HU	-	-	-	-	-
IE	-	-	-	-	-
IT	29.2	29.2	29.1	-0	-0
LT	15.0	13.1	15.9	+6	+22
LU	-	-	-	-	-
LV	-	-	-	-	-
MT	-	-	-	-	-
NL	41.8	42.0	41.3	-1	-2
PL	27.4	30.0	28.1	+3	-7
PT	22.7	24.6	22.0	-3	-11
RO	16.7	16.5	14.9	-11	-10
SE	34.4	34.8	35.6	+4	+2
SI	-	-	-	-	-
SK	-	-	-	-	-



ABOVE: Challenges and opportunities abound for the UK potato industry, says PPA director general Andrew Curtis.

BELOW: Whilst the UK has seen a very wet season in 2023, EU yields appear to have been impacted by extreme heat.

summer in 2022 threatening agricultural drought, and excess water in Autumn of the same year causing problems for lifting, leading to one of the lowest estimated yields in recent years.

Whilst river-flow and ground water recovery in 2023 has been remarkable, it has also led to late and reduced planting which will likely have consequences for this season's yield. Our competitors in Europe have also been impacted by drought, in 2022 and 2023, with overall yields estimated to have fallen by around 8% in 2022 as a result of weather patterns, and major EU producers particularly badly hit (Belgium 14%, Germany 13% and France 9%).

Climate change also threatens to bring us further challenges, such as increased blight and aphid risk, and from invasive species such as the Colorado potato beetle. Other emerging issues include regulations on contaminants, soil health and emissions.

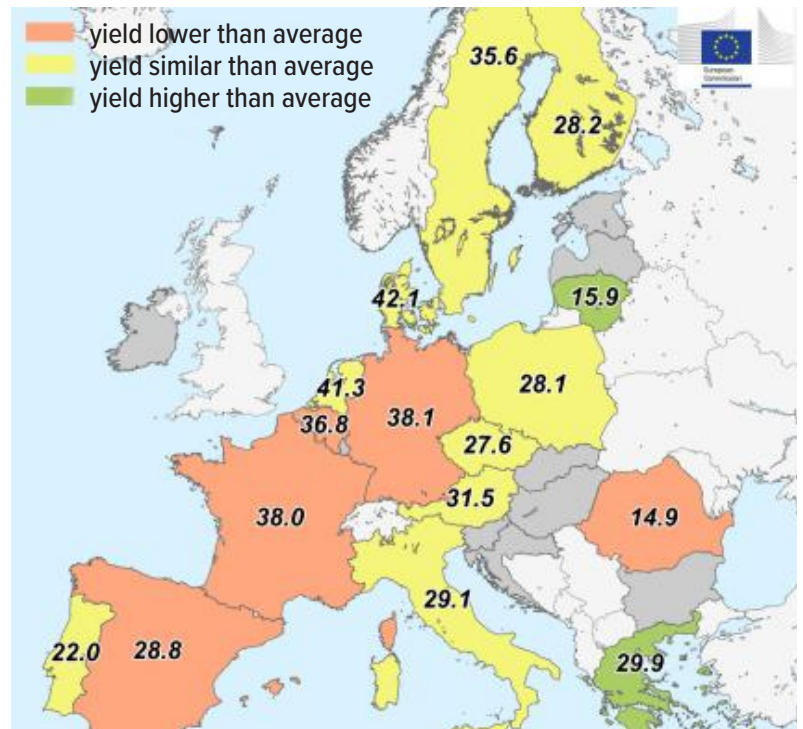
Future challenges and opportunities

Despite the many challenges, the potato processing sector remains positively engaged and is actively pursuing research and support in areas such as regenerative agriculture, improved potato storage and sprout suppression, pest and disease management, and improved use-efficiency of land, soil, water and crop nutrition.

Some of this work is already being

Potato - Yield Forecast 2022

Mars forecast versus average yield (t/ha) 2017-2021



MARS Bulletin Vol. 30 No. 10 (2002)

undertaken on a one-to-one basis between individual manufacturers and growers, whilst other projects involve an array of research bodies including as CUPGRA, JHI and CHAP. Cross sector bodies such as GB Potatoes also have the knowledge base and potential to help co-ordinate whole strands of work. As GB Potatoes continues to grow PPA will continue to support, and we hope to get to a point where they are able to take a leading voice on issues of concern to the potato sector as a whole. We hope that this will put us in a great position, to tackle whatever issues arrive in the near future.

Lastly, the recently published Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023 also offers the potential for the UK sector to utilise a range of breeding technologies, such as gene editing (GE), to make targeted genetic changes to produce beneficial traits. This will theoretically allow a range of foods,

including potatoes, with health, environmental or commercial benefits to be developed more quickly than traditional breeding methods. These new breeding technologies may help to tackle some of food security and climate change issues that threaten the sector. However, these technologies should not be seen as a panacea as there are still many commercial aspects to consider, including the cost and time in developing varieties and taking them through to a commercial application. Furthermore, grower, consumer and retailer perceptions need to be considered alongside the potential issue for exports to the EU (where these technologies are not yet authorised) and even within the internal market in the UK.

The future is challenging, no doubt, but with our current representation, the direction of travel, and the willingness to act, the sector is in a great position to lead again and tackle whatever issues are heading towards us.

I) Water for Food Group. <https://www.ukia.org/waterforfood/#:~:text=The%20Water%20for%20Food%20Group,is%20considered%20an%20essential%20need.>

II) Source: PPA own data, collected from members annually. Latest data May 2022. Covers period 1/06/21 -31/05/22.

III) Source: Calculation based on PPA own data (above) and Defra. Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2022. Chapter 7 Data set, which includes "Table 7.11a Potatoes; production, value, supply and use (a)" and "Table 7.11b Potatoes". <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/agriculture-in-the-united-kingdom>

IV) Source: Kantar 52 w/e 22 January 2023.

V) Crop monitoring in Europe - October 2022 Vol. 30 No 10. <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC127966>



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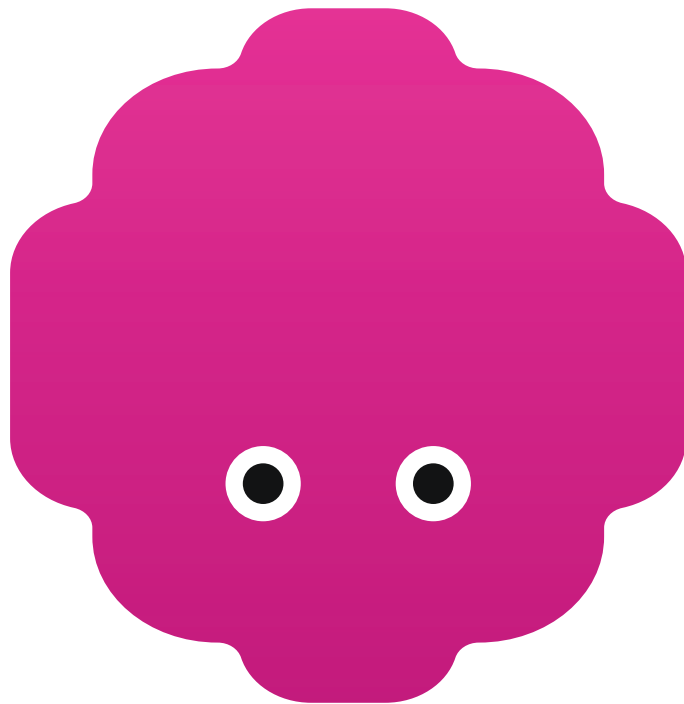
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“ Let’s celebrate and promote the potato!”

Mark Taylor FPSA Chairman writes...

As you read this hopefully all the crop is harvested and safely in store and will have been for some time!

FPSA represents the interests of Fresh potato packers and their supply chains across the UK.

2023 has seen FPSA busier than ever representing the fresh sector to DEFRA, regulators, and policy makers. Having a “seat at the table” is no guarantee of influencing change, but it does give us the best opportunity!

FPSA are at the forefront of the fight to retain our future access to water and retention of essential PPP’s. These are just two examples and much more work goes on behind the scenes. Change is a constant, how we respond is a choice. Engaging in a positive and informed way will hopefully deliver benefits. When we reflect on the last decade the potato sector has had some obvious challenges and these have been well documented, but we have weathered that storm and made some real progress and shown innovation in best and changing practice. Do I think we have told this story well enough? I have to say not really. Is this a missed opportunity or just one we need to embrace now? I think the latter!

Storage of the national crop remains a very significant part of the annual calendar. The costs associated with storage have rocketed and our use of a larger range of sprout suppressants has stepped on significantly. Are we using these products to best effect? Again, I’m just not sure, but the lack of independent assessment and guidance is a gap in our knowledge and exposes the industry to increased risk. Re-establishing product reviews and informing growers is essential if we are to make best use of the materials available and store our crop in top condition.



ABOVE: Mark Taylor
FPSA Chairman

OPPOSITE PAGE: The
Glorious Potato!

Representing the industry works as individual trade associations but is even stronger when we work as a “collective” promoting industry needs, working together, and speaking with “one voice” FPSA supports the on-going and developing activity of GB Potatoes. We remain an important sector of UK agriculture and need to fight our corner!

Our collective challenges of balancing the need to maintain our crop productivity and at the same time embracing the opportunity in reducing our GHG emissions and driving improvements in input efficiency is a fine line.

I have always lived in a very practical world and accepted change as part of that. The needs of the environment are rightly getting suitable attention and as a sector we have an important

part to play in future management of our land base. However, the same attention needs to be applied to the continuing production of high-quality food. The two conversations today tend to be heard as separate strands, but in all reality must be connected. It’s not environment or food, it’s BOTH! FPSA continues to champion this conversation and create the important links, in particular with policy makers to apply balance and truly illustrate the “cumulative impacts” of changing legislation. This work will continue.

The risks associated with growing potatoes have increased significantly over the last decade. The potential for changes in blight populations and increased aphid numbers is compounded by the loss of vital actives. Our collective efforts to both understand and manage these changes as a “collaborative industry” is essential. We operate in a sector that sees us connected by a mutual interest in “getting it right” Individual agendas are best put to one side as we embrace an open and honest cross industry responsibility to communicate and resolve the challenges ahead.

Fresh potatoes continue to represent a really “good news story” when you look at how well we can grow the crop in the UK. Producing high quality, traceable and nutritious products. Potatoes offer a high degree of value for money for consumers in a time of high inflation and in terms of calories and nutritional value. We need UK consumers to continue to see potatoes as a key part of their shopping basket.

Industry consensus agrees that 2023 saw the UK potato cropped area fall to its lowest area in the last two decades. The exact area is speculation as accurate figures are just not available. It is something we need to look at and

address, as flying blind is not an option!

There is without doubt a swing in consumer demand within the UK and on the back of that changes in variety choice, crops planted and target markets.

In the EU growers have sacrificed starch and seed production area to plant more ware crops driven by higher prices and very strong demand for processing varieties. The UK is no different. Fresh potato sales have fallen, but the demand for processing volumes steps on.

We are in a market that is experiencing significant change. For me this continues a journey of change and regardless of how consumers buy potatoes in the UK we must promote the crop as “Carb of 1st Choice”

“The needs of the environment are rightly getting suitable attention and as a sector we have an important part to play in future management of our land base”.

Whilst the fresh market is changing the continuing innovation in varieties and product offering continues to create a “destination” for customers in the fresh isle.

I think we should all reflect on the question “where next for the UK Potato Crop?”

We need to retain our “critical mass” of planted area to support UK supply chains and resist the ever-growing risk of imports, particularly from French Fries. If DEFRA figures are to be believed the import of processed product currently equates to c1.5million tonnes of fresh material! The result of this sees UK potato self-sufficiency drop to an all-time low.

The on-going financial returns back to the farm must reflect the increasing risk in growing the crop and create sufficient funds to support re-investment. If not, we run the severe risk that our industry contracts even more and potentially we become less competitive compared with our European colleagues!

Recent and on-going cost inflation has hit the industry hard with no individual part avoiding its impacts.

I believe we have established a “new baseline” of costs that are here to stay, and returns must reflect these costs and provide sufficient incentive and reward to rebuild confidence and look to the future.

We need to get the balance right and manage the changes required across the industry.

The 2023 crop has experienced some real extremes of weather and as I write this article it's too early to truly assess both yield and quality for the national crop. The marketplace will find its own level, but all parts of the supply chain must see a return on their efforts and a future to invest in.

My encouragement to the industry would be to start to take a collective view focussed beyond just one year and think of a future “stronger together” Supply chains work best when collaborating and facing challenges with a “joint agenda” The race to the bottom reducing our products to mere commodities does nothing for farm incomes or the profile of what is a great product.

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From the West M56 – M62 – A1 (M).
Exit A1(M) at Junction 47 and follow Harrogate A59, then A658 and then A661. At the traffic lights on the A661 next to the Sainsbury’s store, turn left onto Railway Road.

From Leeds A61 or Bradford A658: At the roundabout joining the two routes follow signs for York/A1 along the A658. At the next roundabout take the A661 signed Harrogate. At the traffic lights on the A661 next to Sainsbury’s store, turn left onto Railway Road.

The show will be signposted on all major approach roads. **The postcode for Satnavs is:** HG2 8QZ. Please follow event-specific signage and traffic

marshals’ directions as you arrive onsite. Limited disabled parking is available for Blue Badge holders adjacent to Hall 1. Please contact us in advance for a car pass or speak to a traffic marshal on arrival. The specific entrance gate will be clearly signed.

Rail: Harrogate is located midway between the mainline stations at Leeds and York, with regular commuter services on the local line.

Timetables: www.nationalrail.co.uk
The venue is c.2 miles from Harrogate’s main train station, where taxis and buses are available to complete your journey. Hornbeam Park station is a little closer to site and connected by the Showground Greenway if you wish to cycle or walk. Taxis from this station should be pre-booked.

Air: Leeds Bradford International Airport (LBIA) is c.13 miles from the venue. **Flight information:** www.leedsbradfordairport.co.uk
Taxi transfers widely available. Alternatively, the Airport Direct 737 bus runs hourly to Harrogate bus station, from where you can take a taxi or the 770 bus to the showground.

CPD points

BASIS and NRoSo attendance points are available. Please go to the Enquiry Desk in Hall 1

Tickets

Get in FREE and avoid queues by registering at: www.bp2023.co.uk
See it all – come for both days!
See website for accommodation options.

Enquiries

- **Email:** bpinfo@warnersgroup.co.uk
- **Telephone:** 01743 395 020
- **Visitor website:** www.bp2023.co.uk



Visitor website - www.bp2023.co.uk

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