

Present: J. McFarlane, Chairman  
I. C. Davies, Vice-Chairman  
D. D. S. Craib  
G. L. Galloway  
J. R. Hertley  
A. Q. Hitchcock  
R. M. Kidd  
C. J. Baker  
T. D. Hall  
E. F. Sherriff  
J. G. H. Fenton

Also present J. Arbuckle - Vice Chairman, Potato Marketing Board.  
C. Davie, Potato Marketing Board, Edinburgh.  
Dr. L. M. Taylor  
A. A. Sinclair.

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1. Discussion took place on the difference of opinion between the D.O.A.S. and M.A.F.F. on powdery scab tolerance in seed potatoes. There have been cases recently when the MAFF have advised growers in England not to plant seed potatoes which show powdery scab infection. The DOAS have asked the MAFF for a chance to inspect rejected consignments in England but, so far, this has not happened. The DOAS are to discuss this matter further with the MAFF to reach an agreement on this subject. It was reported that there had been cases this season where seed potatoes which have been infected with powdery scab on delivery have subsequently dehydrated during storage. There have also been reports that crops planted from powdery scab infected seed tubers have shown severe losses with powdery scab after growing. The committee view the situation with concern and will press for the matter to be resolved.
  2. Scottish seed potato supply position. Oral - Craig Davie.  
Early varieties more or less cleared; light supplies Hawk, Crown and Dell; plentiful supplies Wilja, King Edward and Piper.
  3. Movement of Seed from Scotland. Craig Davie.  
Total dispatched to England and Wales at 28.2.81 125,278 tonnes (1979/80, 166,146 tonnes). Decrease 40,868 tonnes, equal 24.6%.  
Export of Seed Potatoes. Total at end of February, 52,970 tonnes (1979/80 - 59,470 tonnes.)  
Total exports to date - 55,000 tonnes approx. plus 500 tonnes ex England.  
Total of previous seasons - 1979/80 61,162 tonnes; 1978/79 43,604 tonnes; 1977/78 25,720 tonnes; 1976/77 34,316 tonnes.
  4. The future of seed potato production in the protected region of Great Britain.  
A paper was circulated from David Todd, DOAS, Edinburgh. Para. 14 may be of interest "there have been frequent demands in recent years that burning down should be made compulsory. These demands have been related to virus health and they were resisted, mainly because such a measure would have had little effect and would have detracted from the emphasis on roquing as being the principal weapon against aphid borne virus. However, now that the virus storm has passed there is a strong case for timely burning down as a defence against blackleg as well as a prudent husbandry measure in seed production. The administrative difficulties of fixing dates and policing remain that we should consider whether it might be made a condition of the Schemes that crops should be burnt down within say 14 days, of final inspection. This might be the normal maximum delay but individual requests to delay burning down could be considered at local level.
  5. Inspection of Growing Crops of potatoes 1981  
The 'March Letter' from the DOAS to growers in Scotland was discussed. Opinion, on the whole, was in favour of the proposals.

Ends.

G. Fenton.

16.4.81