

P.M.B. SEED POTATO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, PERTH, 17th JULY 1981

Present: J. McFarlane (Chairman)  
D. Craib  
G. Galloway  
A. Hitchcock  
R. Kidd  
C. Baker  
T. Hall  
E. Sherriff  
G. Fenton

In attendance H. Davie  
C. Hampson  
D. MacKenzie  
A. Sinclair  
Dr. Taylor

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1. The Committee received a report on the movement of Scottish seed potatoes in the 1980/81 season. The total movement of seed was 210,000 tonnes being 14.7% down on 1979/80.
2. The Committee was given an oral report of the crops entered for certification in 1981. Total entered being 20,870 hectares; a reduction of 1,400 hectares on the previous year.
3. The Committee received a discussion paper on the P.M.B. Seed Complaints Service. It was suggested that the customer should be given a report on the findings of each individual sack including the label serial number instead of a summary report as given at present. This would show whether any faults found were consistent throughout the sample or localised in particular bags. There was a full ranging discussion on whether the procedure if adopted would be more complicated and therefore more costly. It was decided to consider the matter again at a later date when copies of existing PMB and Ministry Complaints Service forms would be available.
4. The Committee discussed the proposed amendments to the Seed Potato Regulations 1978. There was agreement on rejecting the proposal of using the name 'Super Elite' in place of AAL. G. Fenton pointed out that both the S.P.T.A. and the N.F.U. Seed Committee for Scotland favoured the name 'Super Elite' in place of AAL and that this should be noted. The name Elite 1 (E1) and Elite 2 (E2) were thought more appropriate names for the two grades of seed below FS3. There was disagreement on whether foundation stocks ie FS1 - FS3 should be left as such or whether there should be a change of name to 'Super Elite' ie SE1 - SE3. There was general agreement that the 'SS' grade for England and Wales should be discontinued and those growers affected should be allowed to grow FS3 or the new grade E1. It was pointed out that the Ministry would be issuing a further discussion paper and there was a call for further papers on the matter for discussion at a later date.

Ends.

G. Fenton  
18.8.81