

SCOTTISH ADVISORY EDINBURGH.14th MARCH, 1985

1. Outstanding levies in Scotland amounted to £158,000. has since been reduced by £10 - 15,000 through FMB contracts. Hearing in Forfar court today but P.M.B. wants test case of one producer to be taken to High Court if all else fails. Test case they are looking at has a debt of £40,000.
2. D.I.S. Great concern from early producers re no price structure to date - very full discussion over promises made earlier that prices would be approved before plantings, however it would appear N.F.U.'s and P.M.B. putting plenty pressure on government to sign the financial agreement which would allow structure of D.I.S. to follow.
3. Market Reports- G.B. average 14th February, 1985 £43.12 inc. bags, up to date £45.64 inc. bags. Bag price has been increased from £4.55 / tonne to £4.99 / tonne. Other reason for increase in average price is processors, merchants, pre packers etc., seeking out better samples and prepared to pay slightly more for them. Very poor samples are being dressed in bulk and sold direct to stock feeders. Pre packing samples becoming very difficult to find. In Scotland again first class samples are difficult to find.
4. Supply Position looks likely that at the end of May 400,000 tonnes approx. could be the carry over figure.
A motion was passed that another stock census be taken as it was felt that this year especially, it was most important to find out more exactly what the carry forward figure is.
5. Seed exports look likely that 82,750 tonnes will be the figure.
6. Stockfeed movements
Tonnage in Scotland moved is about the amount ^{of} ~~of~~ contracts ^{which are} 127,000 tonnes by end of March. By end of March 26,000 tonnes will still have to be shifted but this amount is being helped by orders from North of England which to date amounts to 14,000 tonnes of Scottish Stockfeed which has been supplied South of the Border.
7. Riddle size for potatoes
Unanimous decision to leave riddle @4.0mm for 1985/86 as it would appear that this was a ploy by the government to effectively get rid of about 150,000 tonnes rather than as we pointed out starting at the correct end by reducing the target area.
However if it was a 'fait accompli' then we would insist on any future board contracts for seed producers to be on a 4.0mm riddle.
8. A.O.C.B.
A. Arbuckle informed the meeting that John Hay was retiring as potato convenor of the N.F.U. and as such would no longer be on the Scottish Advisory - He was thanked for his tremendous contribution over the years and wished well for the future.