

SCOTTISH ADVISORY. 07.02.86

Scottish Potato Trade Association: K. McKenzie, P. Moffat.

The Potato Marketing Board are appealing against decision of courts to find against them for deducting £6,000 due by them for stockfeed against acreage levies payment due to them from Messrs. Craig Eassie Farms. They are not happy at all about decision, if it had been in English courts they would have been able to do it. Board changing wording in future contracts to allow them to deduct any outstanding accounts from payments due by them for stockfeed etc.

Average price last week ~~£50 to 56~~^{£56.64} per tonne. Unfortunately they don't think they can intervene in market because this is not near the release price for February.

A lot of talk centred around this subject and it was felt that the trade was needing confidence put back in it and if the board were to even take 20,000 tonnes off this would probably suffice.

Mr. Hitchcock said it was most unlikely, he was persuaded then to at least hold back from releasing February contracts and try to get the most up to date figures on stocks to allow them at the very least to issue a bullish statement to try and restore some confidence.

Rhizomania, brown rot problems brought up again similar to J.C.C.

Control of overplantings- once again similar to J.C.C.

K A. MCKENZIE