

starting are not propitious and in a state of flux it is always a problem to know whether to extend or to conclude the study. Dr. Lang confirmed the Colleges will continue to operate tests to identify bad stocks. Mr. Bethel stated that the latest Israeli tests of imported seed had shown Scottish seed had only half the peak infection rate of seed from other sources. Mr. McEwan also reminded the Panel of the historical background of the study to determine whether bacterial testing should be part of the classification scheme. In his summary the Chairman stated a further report will be made to next year's Panel meeting.

(5) Reporting on a survey of crop areas the Chairman stated this had been carried out as part of normal inspections, not as a separate survey. Results had been much as expected, bearing out Mr. McArthur's suggested explanation last year.

(6) The Chairman explained that resulting from consideration of "change in the approval of use" of the chemical 2AB, its use in the human and cattle food chains is to be withdrawn from 1st August, 1990. As from 1st March, 1992 its use is to be withdrawn altogether, unless nil contamination at ultimate user stage can be demonstrated. Mr. McArthur sought more information on how this would have to be demonstrated, stressing that 2AB use on seed after 1st March, 1990 must continue. Mr. McEwan felt East Craigs would become involved in this. In reply to Mr. Arbuckle he explained the announcement of these changes would be made by MAFF and in the Pesticides Register. In summing up the Chairman noted the Panel's concerns but urged a 'softly softly' approach to avoid a media "blow up" at all costs.

INSPECTIONS
REPORT:

Mr. Robb enlarged briefly and in general terms on the salient points in the pre-circulated 1989 Growing Crops Inspections Report. In reply to Mr. Arbuckle he stated Inspectors had been specifically instructed NOT to target any suspect areas of crops. In respect of VTSC results Mr. Hall stated the number of raisers (42) is being increased each year to extinguish the present waiting list and he also reported that use of mini-tubers is increasing. Ensuing discussion included silver scurf, closer co-operation with customers on requirements, effects of control of varieties and (inconclusively) classification as Field Generations. Dr. Clayden enlarged on aphid matters, postulating slightly reduced 89/90 survival rates. Granules are not recommended at 1990 planting, Dr. Howell again urging close attention to Roguing. Discussion also included PCN matters. On blackleg levels Mr. Quinn regarded the results as acceptable and Mr. Robb also enlarged on the 1988/89 labelling results. Over all, Mrs. Gordon felt, the best measure of the Inspection Scheme is the number of complaints received from England, in reply to which DAFS reported normal numbers during Season 1988/89 but a marked reduction from about 100 to 40 for the current season to date.

100%
INSPECTIONS:

Introducing discussion of this topic the Chairman explained the pre-circulated Paper on Implementation proposals was consultative at this stage. Mr. Robb enlarged on the Paper in general and several points in particular./

particular. Prolonged discussion provided a wide-ranging exchange of views including a call for clearer printing of labels, palletising, "lugs out", self-dated closure, licensed self inspection, double and triple handling, etc. After summarising the discussion the Chairman asked for written responses to be sent to DAFS within the next three to four weeks and under pressure from Mr. Arbuckle, Mr. Robb indicated an ultimate mid-to-late June deadline.

1990
FEES:

The Chairman announced that fees for 1990 Growing Crops Inspections are to remain unchanged from the 1989 levels. To take account of 100% tuber inspections, however, (now aimed to be in operation by 1st January, 1991) Labelling Fees have had to be increased from £1.50 to £2.80 per tonne. Mr. Robb explained that if only 90% tuber inspections for 1990 had been set, last year's £1.50 charge would have required to be increased to £2.00 per tonne in any event. Mr. Arbuckle urged emphasis of the earlier implementation, to reduce protests against such a substantial rise in costs.

WARE IN
THE HIGH
GRADE
REGION:

The Chairman introduced DAFS' pre-circulated Paper on Implementation of the Prohibition on Planting of Unclassified Seed Potatoes in the Protected Region of Great Britain. Mr. McEwan expressed the view that the Paper illustrated that DAFS' staff are well geared up for implementation of the new legislation. He outlined the methods for doing so and felt there would be a requirement for a gentler, educative approach by DAFS in genuine cases of ignorance/confusion during the first year. The Chairman stressed, however, that there should be no illusion that an "anything goes" situation will be allowed during that year and that any intentional breaches will be vigorously pursued. Mr. Arbuckle referred to his understanding of an earlier assurance by DAFS regarding allowable latitudes but this was quickly seen to have been based on misunderstanding.

PCN SOIL
SAMPLING:

In response to discussion of soil sampling arrangements and reference to some instances of delayed issue of test results, scientific staff explained that some applications and receipts of samples remained sporadic. Of necessity, these caused pressures on staff at a time when their efforts were having to turn to other activities and delay in the testing timetable was unavoidable. Discussion also considered the effect of 100% tuber inspections on sampling staff during the mid-February to end-March period.

DAFS
VISITS TO
ENGLAND:

The Chairman stated that copies of the Report on the Inspectorate's visit to England in 1989 were available on request. Mr. Robb explained that in addition to the usual three days of visits arranged by NASPM for 1990, DAFS had arranged a further two days of independent sampling visits accompanied by PHSI staff.

A.O.C.B.:

DAFS administrative staff distributed copies of the Press Release issued announcing Lord Sanderson's decision to introduce a Voluntary Higher Quality Seed Scheme.

There being no further business the meeting then ended, Mr. Arbuckle voicing the visitors' Thanks to the Chair and their appreciation of the use of East Craigs' excellent facilities along with DAFS' hospitality.