

Minute of the Meeting  
between the Scottish Potato  
Trade Association and the  
National Farmer's Union of  
Scotland held  
Ingliston, Edinburgh on the  
20th. September 1994 at  
2.00 p.m.

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PRESENT : S.P.T.A. - Messrs. R. Doig, D. Stewart, J. Hollywood, R. McArthur and R.D. Hunter

N.F.U.S. - Messrs. W. Reid, J. Grant and Ms. C, Lang.

1. FUTURE OF POTATO MARKETING SCHEME: Mr. Reid gave to the meeting details of a timetable prepared by the Potato Marketing Board for the implementing of the changeover to its Successor Body. Mr. Reid added that the English Union do not accept the timetable and is still unrealistically hoping that the existing Scheme will be retained. He added that the English Union is against a Development Council with non-elected representatives and has strong feelings for the Quota System being retained. Mr. Reid stated however that he understood that the Government would be unlikely to allow Quota to be retained. Mr. Reid stated that if it was definitely proposed that Quota should be retained the Scottish National Farmers' Union would require to seek the views of its various local branches before a policy decision could be made.  
There was then further discussion regarding the excess Levy to be imposed for the 1994/95 crop. It was considered that there must be an Excess Levy and that it must be at a sufficiently high level to successfully discourage excess plantings.  
Mr. Reid stated that it was the policy of the Scottish Farmers' Union to have set up a National Potato Development Council with Satellites responsible for the various sectors within the Potato Industry. Mr. Doig confirmed that this is also the policy of SPTA.  
There was then discussion regarding possible methods for the collection of Levies from the Industry in the future after the abolition of the Potato Marketing Board.
2. E.C.POTATO REGIME: Ms. Lang stated that discussions will be resumed early in the New Year regarding the possible introduction of an E.C.Potato Regime.
3. P.M.B. ELECTIONS: It was noted that the P.M.B. Elections were due to be held on 26th October, 1994. At the time of the meeting it was believed that the only nominees for the two Scottish seats would be J.Cruickshank and A. Kay which would result in their election without a vote.

4. S.S.P.D.C: There was an "off the record" discussion regarding the future of the Scottish Seed Potato Development Council. During that discussion Mr.Reid expressed the opinion that it may be that the 1995 review of S.S.P.D.C. may be coming one year too early in view of the changes currently affecting the Potato Marketing Scheme. Mr.McArthur proposed that both S.P.T.A. and the National Farmers' Union of Scotland should write to the Scottish Office seeking an assurance that there will be "a fair and independent" Poll conducted in 1995 on the question of whether S.S.P.D.C. should be continued after the end of 1995 or disbanded at that time. Mr.Reid stated that this proposal would be discussed at the next meeting of his Union's Potato Committee.
  
5. THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF PLANT BREEDERS LTD. Mr. Reid confirmed that his Union had also received a letter from B.S.P.B. seeking the Union's condemnation of the illegal trading of uncertified potatoes for planting. Mr. Reid stated that his Union had not given to B.S.P.B. the condemnation which they were seeking but rather requested a meeting with B.S.P.B. in the first instance to air the Union's dissatisfaction with certain practices being adopted by Controllers. Mr. Hunter reported that S.P.T.A. had responded to B.S.P.B. stating that S.P.T.A. condemned the illegal trading of uncertified potatoes for planting. There was general discussion regarding the manner in which Controllers were exercising their powers. Mr. Stewart suggested that S.P.T.A. should now enter into discussion with the Controllers with a view to devising a form of Contract between Controllers and Growers which was fair to both parties.
  
6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was arranged that the next meeting between the Organisations would be held at 25 South Methven Street, Perth, at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 14th December, 1994.

This terminated the business of the Meeting.