NFU overview of the UK-EU Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement – PPP and plant health impacts

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NFU response to UK-EU SPS agreement



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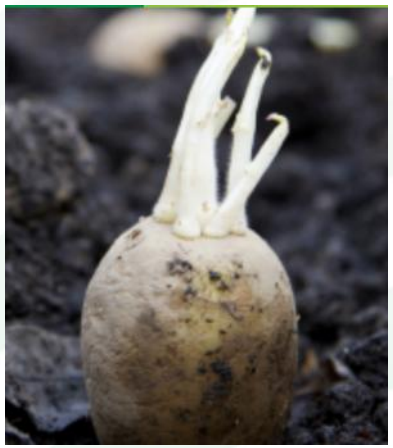
Reduce trade frictions

- NFU supports the intention to reduce trade frictions with our largest trading partner - the EU
- In 2025, 75% of UK's agri-food exports were destined for the EU; however, these exports have dropped in volume by 35% since Brexit





-35%

EU Export volume change since 2019





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Opportunity to regrow exports

- SPS deal will bring the removal of much of the paperwork at the border
- Set to remove most frictions with NI
- Opportunity to regrow lost exports
- Welcomed 3 new agri-food attachés in Europe plus 3 new Defra staff supporting businesses who seek to grow their exports



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The positives…

- Dynamic alignment – GB to follow EU rules on regulations of PPP & sustainable use, plant health, biocides
- Common SPS area - removal of routine plant health border checks – relief from delays, damage, biosecurity risk for growers importing young plants and propagation material
- Enable UK-EU trade in seed potatoes to resume
- 20 new EU actives, & PPPs with new uses. NFU lobbied for mutual recognition - to speed up placing on GB market
- NFU lobbied for access to other level playing field measures – free movement of treated seed, parallel trade of PPPs



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NFU concerns recognised in agreement

Government has negotiated successful outcomes on several NFU priorities



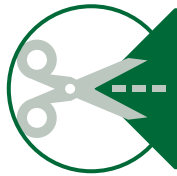
Reasonable transition periods where there are changes to PPP availability



Retaining 3 new PPP actives approved in GB, until EU decision



Sell-through provisions – all crops and goods treated with PPPs under GB rules/transitional arrangements can be harvested and marketed as normal



A bridging mechanism for precision breeding

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Transition periods for PPPs

PPP actives approved in GB, but awaiting EU decision

- GB has approved the use of 3 actives that are still under assessment and not currently approved in the EU - cereal fungicides isoflucypram (e.g., Vimoy) and pydiflumetofen (e.g., Miravis Plus), and the herbicide cinmethylin (e.g., Luxinum Plus)
- **Available for use by GB farmers until the EU makes its own decision on whether to approve them**

PPP actives approved in GB but not approved in the EU

- Withdrawn from the GB market under the transitional arrangements
- **Sale permitted for up to 3 months after start of agreement**
- **Use, storage and disposal will be permitted for up to 9 months after start of agreement**
- Risk of additional losses from ongoing EU reviews, e.g. ornamentals whitefly control buprofezin (Applaud)

PPP actives approved in GB and EU, but needing amendment or withdrawal to meet EU requirements

- Cases where GB active approval or PPP authorisation does not meet EU requirements – conditions of use, formulation, MRLs
- Changes will be made to meet EU requirements
- Includes the desiccant use of glyphosate; protected edibles acaricides bifenazate & etoxazole; 100+ PPPs with MRL differences
- **Sale permitted for up to 9 months after start of agreement**
- **Use, storage and disposal will be permitted for up to 21 months after start of agreement**



PPP actives approved in GB, but no longer approved in EU…

Active substance	Uses
Benthiavalicarb	eg, Versilus and Zorvec Endavia – potato & onion fungicide
Clofentezine	eg, Apollo 50 SC – soft, cane and tree fruit, ornamentals, hops (propagation) acaricide
Dimethomorph	Many products – soft and cane fruit, lettuce, potato, onion family, herbs, ornamentals, grapes, hops – downy mildew fungicide
Dimoxystrobin	Pictor – oilseed rape fungicide
Flufenacet	Many products – cereals, bush fruit, ornamentals , asparagus, soya bean & hemp herbicide
Ipconazole	eg, Conima and Rancona - cereals fungicide seed treatment
Metribuzin	Many products - potato, cereals, root veg, asparagus, ornamentals & bush fruit herbicide
Penthiopyrad	eg, Avella, Fontelis – cereals, apple, pear, brassicas and plum fungicide
Prochloraz	eg, Artemis, Mirage, Monkey – cereals and mushroom fungicide
S-Metolachlor	eg, Camix, Dual Gold – field veg, baby leaf, herbs, peas, beans, strawberry, ornamentals, sweetcorn, forage and grain maize herbicide
Spirotetramat	eg, Batavia, Movento, Spirospan – soft, bush and tree fruit, protected edibles, outdoor veg, grapes, ornamentals, sweetcorn, baby leaf and herbs insecticide
Triflusulfuron-methyl	eg, Debut, Safari, Shiro – sugar, fodder and red beet, chicory, ornamentals herbicide

What next?

- Wins - no hard stop; retaining new chemistry; transitional and sell-through arrangements
- Andersons Centre analysis of cost of alignment - £204m to £350m for arable (cereals removed), horticulture, potato & sugar beet
- Implementation? - EU Partnership Bill & Statutory Instruments - understand legal mechanism → understand detailed impacts
- A new enabling approach by Defra and HSE to provide British farmers and growers with the most effective crop protection toolbox in Europe
- Success of the deal will depend on practical implementation, proportionate interpretation of the rules and a strong UK voice in shaping future EU regulation
- The agreement is just the start....

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