



MEETING OF THE HGCA BOARD

22 October 2014 at Woodside Conference Centre, Glasshouse Lane, Kenilworth
SUMMARY MINUTES

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2014 were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

Revised GM report would be circulated to board members.

Problems with live reporting of grain prices on website had now been resolved.

Levy had been discussed at the Strategy Day held on 21 October.

HGCA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A second meeting of the Mycotoxins forum had been held. There was some agreement that a long-term plan for the industry was needed and it would be based around the seed breeding sector. ADAS had been commissioned to do in-season monitoring this year.

The timing for the ePassport pilot had slipped slightly with testing being delayed. Integrating ePassport into the internal systems of some of the merchants/processors had taken longer than anticipated. Some electronic testing had been completed and a desktop exercise where a consignment was successfully inputted had been undertaken. A live load would be put through, hopefully in the next two to three weeks. Following this we would start testing the ability of the system. 20 Smartphones loaded with a haulier app were ready to be used in the testing.

SECTOR DIRECTOR REPORT

A report on Cabbage Stem Flex Beetle damage had been completed and released following an NFU request. It had not been discovered why the problem appeared to be so regional. A call to growers for CSFBs for testing had been put out and samples from approximately 30 different farms had been tested where 60% were found to have kdr resistance. Further samples were currently being tested.

HGCA PENSION PLAN

The Chairman and Secretary of the plan joined the meeting to present their annual update.

FINANCE AND STRATEGY

It was clarified that the HGCA Management accounts for P6 forecast for August did not include any decisions taken at the finance committee (15 October) on levy income. The actual levy to date figure had been broken down to provide greater transparency.

Second quarter returns were sent out at the end of September and we would know during November what our levy income for Q2 would be.

The Finance Committee had recommended the following to be used for the levy income re-forecast 2014/15.

- Processor Feed tonnage was held at 6M tonnes
- Processor Other tonnage was reduced to 8M tonnes
- Fed on Farm tonnage was increased to 3.9M tonnes

AHDB CORPORATE PLAN

The draft plan was approved for presentation to the AHDB board for their approval before going out for industry consultation.

CHINA PROTOCOL

A follow-up to discussions from the July board meeting and answers to the questions raised then were included in this paper.

It was not possible to guarantee the results of any trade resulting from this work but China appeared very interested in doing business with the UK. It was likely that any protocol would be reviewed after five years. Funding would be hard to come by from any external source but costings had been estimated on the worst case scenarios.

Spring 2015 would be the best time to host a Chinese delegation and the proposed itinerary would cover the supply chain, including monitoring, testing and control and include parties from both England and Scotland. Preparation would also involve agencies (e.g. FERA), risks would be assessed and post-inspection protocol agreements may be required. It was confirmed that the trade's view of the project was positive now that they were aware of more details.

HGCA BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

The review had covered HGCA and all the other committees within the AHDB family had been looked at although some did not have the committee structure of HGCA.

The existing committee Chairmen and supporting members of HGCA had been asked for their views on possibilities to combine committees and changes to take forward.

Input from trade associations was awaited (by end of October) when a report and a set of recommendations would be produced and presented to the January 2015 HGCA Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE

The board approved funding for the following projects:

- a) Brassicas – further development of “in field” tests for testing spores of clubroot and the development of clubroot control based on detection (RD-2008-3525 Extension)
- b) Development of UK wide risk forecast scheme for Ramularia Leaf Spot in barley (2140016)
- c) Understanding risks of severe phoma stem canker caused by *Leptosphaeria biglobosa* on winter oilseed rape in the UK (2140018)
- d) Developing new types of wheat with good bread making quality at low protein content (2170005)
- e) Using field pathogenomics to study wheat yellow rust dispersal and population dynamics at a national and international scale (2140022)
- f) HGCA Disease monitoring network 2015-2016 (2130002 Extension)
- g) UK Cereal pathogen virulence survey project review
- h) Identification and characterisation of azole sensitivity shifts in Irish and UK populations of *Mycosphaerella graminicola* sampled from HGCA-fungicide performance winter wheat trials covering season 2014/15.
- i) Potential impact on UK cereals and oilseeds of the Community Strategy for Endocrine Disruptors (EDs) (2140020)
- j) HGCA Regional Cropping Systems Pilot (20133794)
- k) ADAS Harvest Report – extension to monitor region damaged caused by cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB survey)
- l) Integrated aphid advisory alerts (2140013)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The issue of agri chemical price and availability would be raised at the next NFU Crops Board to determine if there were concerns from others and to ask NFU to lead on this issue.

It was agreed that ideas discussed at yesterday's Strategy Day would be expanded and brought back to the January 15 board meeting.

The next meeting of the HGCA Board would be held on 21 January 2015, the venue was yet to be arranged.