



Promoting Seed Innovation



**BRITISH SOCIETY OF
PLANT BREEDERS LTD**

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Information from the British Society of Plant Breeders

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INTRODUCTION FROM SAM BROOKE - CEO

Following the relaxation of the pandemic rules it has been a pleasure to connect with members, farmers, and others in the industry, at events such as Cereals this summer. The harvest has come in at an alarming rate due to the hot and dry conditions and many will reflect on how early crops were taken off.

In this issue of Promoting Seed Innovation we have chosen to focus on pulses as an important break crop. Pulses represent a growing sector following increasing interest in home grown protein. However, with few seed treatments available for pulses, seed quality is paramount, and with competition from foreign markets and unpredictable weather we assess the value of pulses in the market.

The precision breeding bill is progressing and is expected to be passed through parliament and onto the House of Lords before requiring royal assent early next year. BSPB continues to work closely with DEFRA to promote the importance of precision bred organisms (PBOs) and differentiate them from genetically modified organisms (GMOs). BSPB attended and gave evidence at the committee stage for the bill and has also submitted written evidence to support the use of PBOs in England.



FOCUS ON PULSES

Roger Vickers – CEO - PGRO

Overall, pulses are environmentally the best break crop. Whilst not always considered the most profitable, there are significant benefits including reducing fertiliser use, encouraging beneficial insects, and fixing nitrogen, as well as the recognised yield benefit for a following cereal crop. In general, pulses prices have risen with the market for other commodity grains throughout the year and have remained good thorough 2022 to date.

The results of crop 2022 will not be fully appreciated for a little while, but it cannot be denied that the drought and heat certainly took a toll on spring sown crops, which for some growers was severe.

A real assessment of the likely supply for the trade will be more reliably available once the DEFRA June survey crop area figures are released later this month, laying to rest the uncertainty about the areas sown in 2022.



■ Roger Vickers

FOCUS ON PULSES

Values in brief

Feed beans - Traded from around £300 to £310/t ex farm, the market is stable at the moment, but the future is uncertain.

Bean exports - Spring bean quality is poorer this year, yet winter varieties have been strong. A small premium for human consumption exports is currently around £20-25/t (perhaps £325/t ex farm) due largely to difficulties in the economies of the importers presenting risk to the exporter.

Green peas - A generally good crop yield with little bleaching apparent in the earlier harvested crops and a good overall colour. Prices from £295/t to £330/t ex farm might be achieved for crops off contract.

Marrowfats - Of the different pea types these perhaps suffered most. Grains are often small and lacking their characteristic blocky shape. The smaller seed size has further impacted marketable yield. Demand is likely to exceed supply with values for good quality open market crops potentially as high as £600/t ex farm, although there are thought to be few, if any, available.

Contracts for 2023 are available with various values, with the very realistic opportunity to receive £570/t ex farm.

Yellows - Opportunities in the flour and protein sectors have seen demand for yellows rise and, as long as they pass soaking and cooking tests, up to £330/t ex farm is realistic.

Diary Dates:

Pea and Bean Conference 9th November - Boston

<https://britishgrowers.org/events/uk-pea-bean-conference-9th-november-2022/>

CropTec 23rd+24th November- Peterborough (Descriptive List for pulses 2023 released)

<https://www.croptecshow.com/>

TRAIT PROTECTION SCHEME

BSPB has introduced the Trait Protection Scheme to support breeders who are bringing new traits to seed varieties that suit UK conditions. The seed royalty on certified or farm saved seed will remain the same. However, growers will need to pay an additional trait fee for varieties in the scheme. BSPB will make sure to let everyone know what varieties are in the scheme to ensure that growers are aware of which varieties carry a trait fee.

For more information please contact the BSPB team on **01353 653200**.

BSPB ONLINE DECLARATIONS

Not only are online declarations faster and easier, they also save a lot of unnecessary paperwork. BSPB has built a new website with a new portal to reduce paper waste. The website allows you to complete your FSS declaration quickly and complete returns for combinable crops and potatoes. Over the last 12 months, 64% of royalty declarations have been made digitally, significantly saving the amount of paper and packaging previously used. For more information, and to make your declaration, visit: <https://returns.bspb.co.uk/>

A big thank you to those who have already signed up and helped us to reduce paper use.



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