

## TOPICS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS MADE BY THE AHDB RECOMMENDED LISTS PROJECT BOARD 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 AT THE PGRO, PETERBOROUGH

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### **Board members present:**

Peter Gregory (Chair)  
Greg Dawson (Chair of Oilseeds Crop Committee)  
Marion Self (Chair of Barley, Oats and other Cereals Crop Committee)  
Patrick Stephenson (Chair of Wheat Crop Committee)  
Chris Piggott (AIC)  
Louise Everest (BSPB)  
Chris Guest (BSPB)  
Jenna Watts (AHDB)  
Lisa Black (Independent)  
Mark Ineson (MAGB)  
Richard Summers (BSPB)  
Russ McKenzie (AHDB)

**Apologies:** Alistair Gale (UKFM)

**Observers:** Steph Spiers (BSPB)

### **Key items discussed:**

#### **1) Reports from the crop committees**

##### *Oilseeds*

The value and relevance of continuing with a spring oilseed rape descriptive list was discussed. To be reviewed in the spring.

Poor condition of the trials sown this autumn was discussed. This mirrors commercial experience and is similar to some recent years. Trials will not be abandoned before spring stem extension unless significant numbers of plants have been lost. Flea beetle is the main issue again.

##### *Barley, Oats and Other Cereals*

Use of special use categories by the MBC and how they tie in with the RL malting categories was discussed. The crop committee will continue to monitor developments to ensure that the two systems align as much as possible, to avoid confusion amongst growers and to enable growers to see independent data on the performance of relevant varieties.

The committee will review the relative importance of some characters, including untreated yield and mildew resistance, and the target specification for specific weight.

##### *Wheat*

Improvements in the calculation of disease ratings, especially septoria were discussed. Provision of lodging data for spring wheat was discussed.

#### **2) RL Key Performance Indicator update**

KPIs for the RL Board's 5-year strategy were reviewed.

Good progress has been made in some areas, including increasing awareness of the RL among levy payers and promotion of the RL App.

# RECOMMENDED LISTS

Areas where progress has been limited are in reduced views of the RL pages and in developing a regional programme of RL events.

Declines in the views of RL pages on the AHDB website mirror other areas of the AHDB website. The cause is uncertain.

High rates of staff turnover in the AHDB Knowledge Exchange team have made making progress on increasing the delivery of RL KE through the regional teams challenging.

Progress on other KPIs, such as improving disease ratings and untreated yields through careful setting of the requirements for varieties to be recommended require more time to see if they are being effective.

### **3) Calculation of disease ratings**

Potential improvements to the way disease ratings are calculated were discussed. Aspects of the statistical methods used to create the ratings can cause the ratings to drift upwards over time. Resetting the ratings provides short term fix, but a longer-term solution is required. Different options are being investigated and the Board supported this work.