

TOPICS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS MADE BY THE AHDB RECOMMENDED LISTS PROJECT BOARD 28TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT THE PGRO, PETERBOROUGH

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)
Samantha Brooke (BSPB)
Chris Guest (BSPB)
Jenna Watts (AHDB)
Lisa Black (Independent)
Mark Ineson (MAGB)
Richard Summers (BSPB)
Jeremy Widdowson (BSPB)
Russ McKenzie (AHDB)
Alex Waugh (UKFM)

Apologies: None

Observers: Ken Boynes (AHDB)

Key items discussed:

1) Reports from the crop committees

Oilseeds

The market for specific recommendation variety types and described varieties was discussed and their continuing relevance. To be reviewed in the spring for 2024.

Barley, Oats and Other Cereals

Oat quality requirements of the milling industry was discussed. Quality requirements for oat milk are not clearly established. AHDB to organise a meeting with the oat milling industry to discuss.

The oat millers are concerned about over reliance on Mascani in case it should suffer a significant disease breakdown.

BSPB members noted that oat quality requirements for the UK are different to the rest of Europe, making it difficult for breeders to breed specifically for the UK market.

Wheat

The importance of Soil-borne Mosaic Virus was discussed, but there is no data to establish the value of resistance.

The committee proposed to sow a large number of candidates into trial. This has implications for trial cost and the ability of UKFM to test all the varieties. It was questioned whether some breeders were allowing more varieties to go forward than they could support commercially.

2) RL Review update

The board discussed the priorities for development agreed by the Cereals & Oilseeds Sector Council.

- Improve communication
- Provide information on the performance of varieties under lower inputs
- Better recognise the importance of pest and disease resistance

The Board agreed it is important to build awareness of the RL and to emphasise it is much more than just a list. The data available to construct the RLs, and the questions that can be asked of it, should be promoted to help farmers make the decisions most appropriate to their business.

Some actions require limited additional resources and are already under development, others require additional resource and will be dependent on a levy increase.