

Seed Handling

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POTATOES

SEED HANDLING

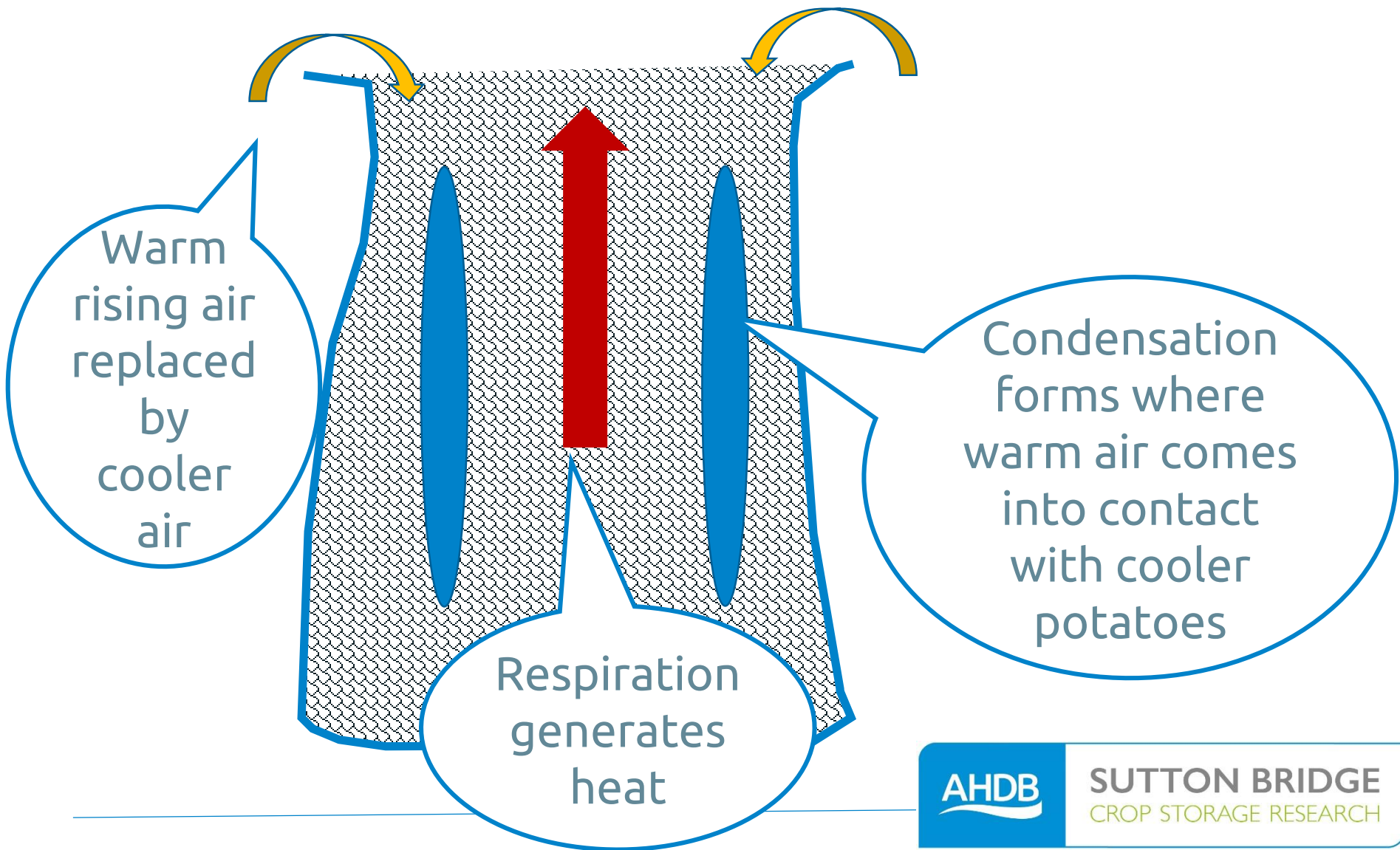
- Best Practice for Seed Handling and Storage
- Why should we bother?
- What are the risks?
- Are we contributing to the problem?
- Can we reduce the risks?
- Summary

STORING SEED IN BAGS!

**Condensation + potatoes +
fungi/bacteria = disease**

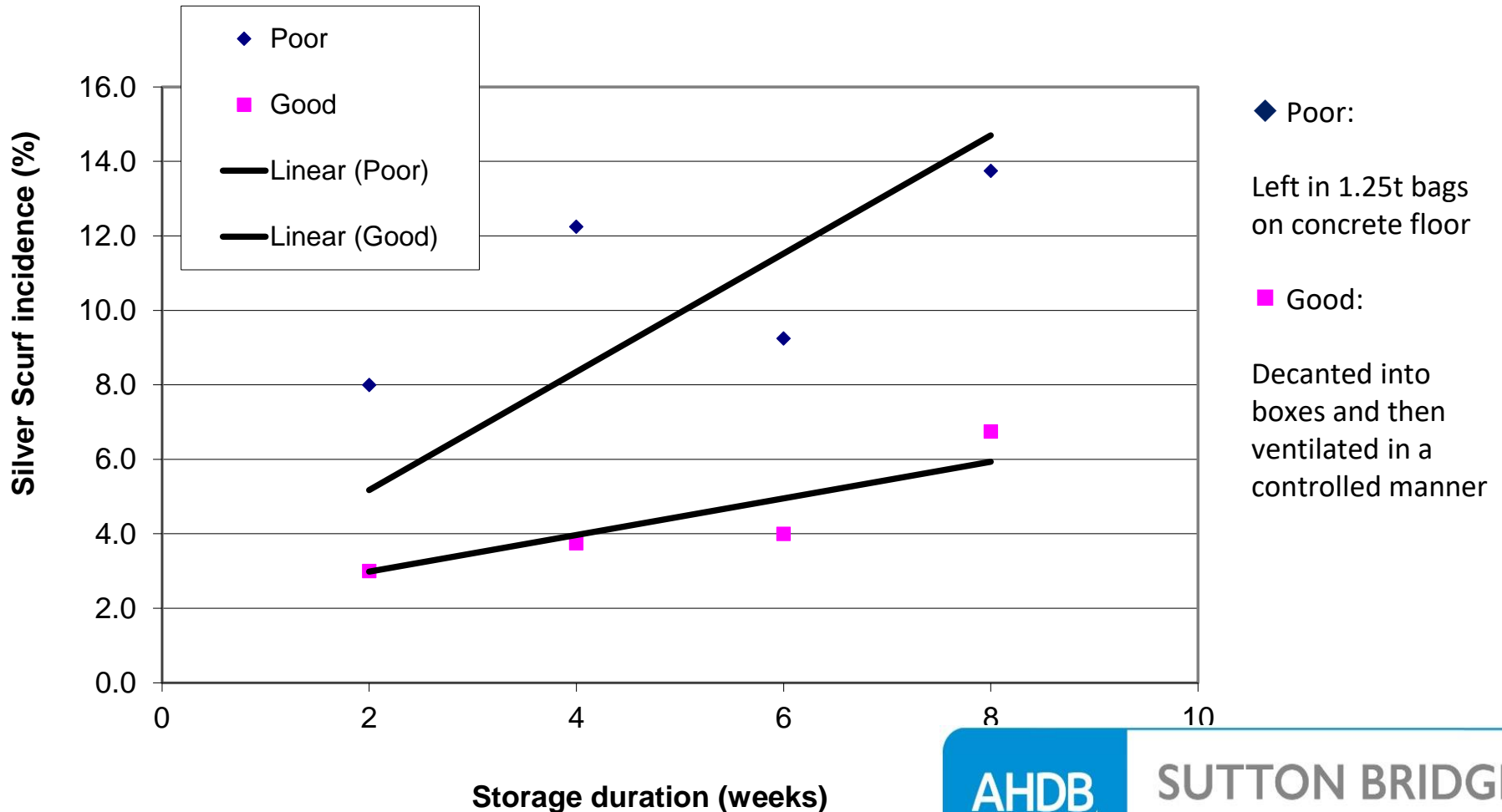
- **Blackleg**
- **Silver Scurf**
- **Sprouting**

STORING SEED IN BAGS!?



Control of disease in seed during storage

Storage regime and silver scurf development



Are we contributing to the problem?

- Many PB growers have invested in drying facilities – can we go further?
- Timing of delivery - new seed in late March/ early April in big bags?
- Seed decanted into boxes on delivery or kept in bags?
- Is the seed either in bags or boxes then dried and stored in a refrigerated store
- Has the seed been uplifted and delivered promptly after grading?
- Delivery in boxes?
- By leaving seed grading until late in the season are we forced to take what's left?
- Are we putting too much pressure on PB growers by ordering late – are corners cut as delivery pressure increases?

What does best Practice look like?



Can we reduce risk?

- Seed source?
- Growing crop reports & visits?
- Graded into boxes?
- Self Store?
- Earlier grading?
- Safe Haven Scheme?
- New boxes?
- No Split stocks?
- Only handle once during storage?

Summary

- Avoid condensation occurring
- Ventilate and dry seed on arrival if necessary, but good well ventilated cold storage should suffice
- Arrange earlier grading of input seed stocks and delivery if it suits you.
- Move away from bags to boxes for input seed
- Where possible gain a bit more knowledge about the stock you are buying