



## **Minutes of the Forty Second Board Meeting held on Monday 12 May 2014**

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2014 were approved.

### **MATTERS ARISING (and not on the agenda)**

Members were advised the new sub-group for Technical is being pulled together, aiming to hold the first meeting in September 2014. One member highlighted the need for this as soon as possible given a new AgriTech project which AHDB needs to take part in.

A paper is being drafted outlining the deliverables which would be needed to satisfy producers and vets that CCIR information has utility compared with BPHS. The report will be available by the end of May and will be circulated to the Board.

Members were told the new labelling on packs comes into effect from April 2015. This defines country of origin as being born, reared and slaughtered within one country. BPEX is seeking clarification from Defra re: flags to understand if this is the same.

A CAP reform briefing was circulated to the Board. Implications for outdoor producers are being monitored as further information becomes available.

### **BPEX GOING FOR GROWTH STRATEGY AND DISCUSSION WITH PETER KENDALL**

The Board was told the productivity gap with our main EU competitors is improving but there is still a lot of work to do. The challenge is to close the productivity gap whilst protecting our price premium. The BPEX vision is “a growing English pig production and primary processing industry” and the BPEX mission is “to help English pig production and processing businesses become more competitive and profitable”. From this, a five point plan has been devised – Close the gap, Protect the Environment, Enhance welfare, Safe and traceable pork and Help sell more pork.

Peter Kendall introduced himself to the BPEX Board. After eight years as the Chairman of the NFU, he has now been successful in being appointed as the Chairman of AHDB. He explained that his main aim is to raise the profile of AHDB with levy payers. As one organisation, we can achieve more than six separate sectors (e.g. Horizon 20/20, AgriTech). We need to have tools in place to grow the food and farming industry. The forecast is for the UK to grow to 70 million people by 2030. Levy payers are our customers and we need to give them the tools to grow their businesses to meet this demand.

### **ASSURED FOOD STANDARDS 3 YEAR PLAN – RED TRACTOR**

The three-year Red Tractor strategy was presented to the Board. The Technical strategy is due to be renewed in September 2014. There is a large focus to improve compliance with the standards with a view to retraining assessors. Red Tractor is also looking at spot checks between routine assessments, particularly for those farms with poor compliance records. They are also looking at making the assessments more efficient and avoid repetition.

The communication and marketing strategy aims to have clear and simple communications whilst developing and growing the use of the Red Tractor logo.

The Board welcomed the update and reiterated its support for AFS and RT Pigs in the coming years.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

Members were told the Russian market had been closed. The export certificate was originally issued by the EU Commission, therefore the whole of the EU has been affected despite the UK being an uninfected area.

Following a recent visit to China by the CVO the report was circulated to the BPEX Board. The board was told the Minister is confident that China will organise an inspection visit to the UK in August 2014. If this visit happens, it can still take a long time for trading to start, but we are hopeful that this will happen by the end of 2014.

Some of the main points on the final budget for 2013/14 were highlighted.

## **COST OF PRODUCTION**

The background of the cost of production report was explained. The industry average COP estimate is calculated by Agrosoft and BPEX purchases this data. The figure is calculated monthly based on costs for energy, feed etc.

There was a challenge on whether or not we should be publishing this data. The advantages and disadvantages were highlighted. This was opened to the Board for their thoughts and to discuss whether or not this should be produced and/or published.

One member said that he believed this document should be produced but not published as widely as it is on a regular basis. Opinions were sought from the board to make a decision.

It was decided that the estimated average COP report should continue to be produced but published on a quarterly basis using published Agrosoft data rather than monthly estimates as is current.

## **PREPARING FOR PIG DISEASE**

The board was told of a fact-finding mission on PEDv to the US and Canada. PEDv is probably the biggest news at the moment in the pig industry. It kills suckling pigs and is spreading quickly across the US and Canada. PEDv was initially confirmed in May 2013 and is now affecting 29 states in the US as well as other countries such as Mexico, Taiwan, Japan and Canada.

An industry roundtable was held in Ottawa identified areas which require focus to eliminate PEDv. Biosecurity needs to be stepped up particularly in vehicles.

Europe needs to keep virulent strains of PEDv out and we have stepped up preparedness. S Houston was in Brussels last week and advised the Board that the EU Commission are still saying PEDv is endemic and are not recognising that this is a different strain. The French have put a ban on plasma, semen and live pigs. The EU Commission has firmed up import protocol for plasma but PEDv is still not a reportable disease.

One member asked about the lorry wash project. He was told the project has been rolled out via the BMPA and the industry has been made aware of how important this is and how to wash lorries thoroughly.

The board was told of the recommendations that came out of the Exotic and Emerging Disease Roundtable which was held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Six main sections were identified from the 72 recommendations and proposed lead organisations have been allocated to each of these. The main recommendations are to focus on improvements in planning, assessment of risk, skills development

and more structured approaches to biosecurity, early identification of disease and containment and elimination.

One member said the key thing missing from these recommendations was communication – it is very important to keep momentum going on this. We need to improve our biosecurity to protect our export business. He was told this project is the sole focus for one member of staff for the next six months but recognises that some of these projects will run on for longer than this therefore we need to consider additional resources. The £100k proposed additional spend for this project was unanimously agreed. Members agreed that should more funds be required this should be discussed with the Board via email to ensure no delay between meetings.

It was suggested that this strategy/contingency plan be presented at the PVS meeting and NPA Producer Group meeting which will be held in the next 4 weeks. This was agreed by the Board.

### **CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING SERVICE FOR ASSURED PIG UNITS**

The board was told there was a proposal for a confidential reporting service to be piloted to enable staff on assured units to highlight concerns with regard to welfare of pigs on a unit in confidence. Three preferred suppliers have been identified and a recommendation was put to the Board for a 12 month pilot commencing in September 2014. This was approved by the BPEX Board.

### **DEADWEIGHT PIG PRICE REPORTING**

The APP (GB) was introduced following previous meetings to run alongside DAPP and we have had 4 full weeks of published reports. The DAPP is currently published from 61-63k of pigs per weeks, whilst the APP is currently 68-71k pigs per week. The aim is to gain additional pigs from a marketing group which is currently not included which would increase the sample to approximately 90k pigs.

For the SPP, BPEX looked at the possibility of a UK price to include Northern Ireland but this was not possible therefore the SPP will also be a GB price. It is hoped that the SPP will be running and publishable by the end of May.

The DAPP will be continued for 6 months from 5<sup>th</sup> April per the previous agreement by the BPEX Board.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The board was told that the Pig and Poultry Fair starts tomorrow at Stoneleigh Park and BPEX have a large stand as well as seminars taking place over the 2 days.

Members learned the next BPEX Innovation Conference has been organised for 24<sup>th</sup> June and will be held at Stoneleigh Park.