Foreword

There have been a number of significant developments over the past year as we (the Pesticides Forum) put in place the priorities identified in our 2004 and 2005 business plan.

The Pesticides Safety Directorate involved us at an early stage in developing the Government’s draft proposals for a UK-wide strategy for crop-protection products. A project group looked at this in detail in May and made a number of recommendations, which we accepted.

We prepared two major reports in 2004. The first covers ways to share information from new research. A project group reviewed our 1997 proposals and set new priorities and recommendations for the future. The second is our annual report of measures of the effects of pesticide use (also known as ‘indicators of use’). Both of these reports will be published in spring 2005.

During the year, we also considered revisions to the code of practice on pesticide use and getting rid of waste pesticide containers. We have sent our recommendations to the Pesticides Safety Directorate and other organisations who have an interest in these areas.

We also looked at our areas of responsibility. We recommended to ministers that our responsibilities should be widened to cover pesticides being used in private gardens and public areas such as parks, roads, railways and golf courses. I am pleased to say that ministers accepted this recommendation. They have invited the Amenity Forum to appoint a member to the Pesticides Forum from February 2005.

In August I sent a questionnaire to members asking for ideas on improving how we are run. Most members were happy with the way we carry out our business, although they suggested that the project groups should be opened up for any member to take part. This was agreed and now each member is invited to take part in any group that interests them. By doing this, I hope to make sure that members, and the organisations they represent, feel they are more involved in our work.

We set ourselves challenging targets for 2004. I am pleased to say that most have either been completed, or at least we are well on our way to completing them by the end of the year. We have updated our business plan and included, for the first time, notice of our agendas for the coming year. These may change but they provide a good guide to the topics we will be covering over the next 12 months.

I would like to thank the chairmen of the three project groups, James Clarke, Keith Dawson and Tom Bals, for the valuable work they have supervised. Without their help we would have not been able to complete so many tasks during the year. My thanks also to the members for their valuable contributions to our discussions and to the secretariat for their help and support throughout the year.

Ed Gallagher
Chair
Pesticides Forum
December 2004
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Terms of reference (limits of responsibility)

• “To bring together the views of those concerned with the use and effects of pesticides”.
• “To identify their common interests”.
• “To assist the effective dissemination of best practice, advances in technology, and research and development results”.
• “To advise Government on the development, promotion and implementation of its policy relating to the responsible use of pesticides”.

You can find more information on our website at www.pesticides.gov.uk/pesticides_forum_home.asp
You can also contact the secretariat (see page 17).
Introduction

1.1 This is our eighth annual report, covering our meetings and activities during 2004.

1.2 We were set up in 1996 to bring together a range of organisations with an interest in the use of pesticides and their effects on the environment. Our role is to support government policy on using pesticides responsibly. This policy aims to reduce any harmful effects pesticides may have on the environment, while providing adequate protection for crops. We aim to look at the use of pesticides, taking account of the need for farming to be profitable and the need to protect the environment.

1.3 Our members are taken from 23 organisations covering the farming and pesticide industries, environmental and conservation groups, education and training, consumer interests, trade unions and organic farming. Representatives from the four government departments responsible for pesticides in Great Britain, plus the Department for Trade and Industry and the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland, come to Pesticides Forum meetings to provide advice. Members and advisers are listed in annex A.

1.4 In 1999, we wrote a framework of objectives which confirmed our members’ desire for a more active role in taking issues forward at our meetings. These objectives are set out in annex B.

1.5 With these objectives in mind, members dealt with the priorities identified in our business plan for 2004 and 2005 (see annex D). Section 2 of this report is a summary of our activities in 2004. The main items discussed were:

- the development of the Government’s proposals for a national strategy for plant-protection products;
- proposals for removing the barriers to sharing research, aimed at reducing the negative effects of plant-protection products;
- the Pesticides Safety Directorate’s proposed revisions to the Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides (also known as the Green Code);
- widening our role to include encouraging responsible use in private gardens and public places such as parks, roads, railways and golf courses; and
- progress with the Voluntary Initiative for pesticides.

1.6 At the beginning of the year we agreed that three project groups would be set up to focus on particular areas of work. Section 2 includes a summary of the work of these three groups, which looked at:

- best practice and the draft national pesticides strategy for plant-protection products for the UK;
- our range of indicators measuring the effects of using pesticides; and
• widening our role, considering revisions to the statutory Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides (also known as the ‘Green Code’) and getting rid of waste plastic pesticide packaging.

1.7 Section 3 records many of the member organisations’ activities that they have been involved in over the year to achieve our objectives.

1.8 Annex C includes a list of papers presented at our meetings during 2004. You can get copies of these on our website at www.pesticides.gov.uk/pesticides_forum_home.asp

You can also get them from the secretariat at:

Room 317, Mallard House
Kings Pool
3 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX.
Our work in 2004

2.1 During 2004, we worked on a number of issues identified in our 2004 and 2005 business plan (see annex D). We summarise these in this section.

Proposed European strategy for the use of pesticides and the proposed UK national strategy for plant protection products

2.2 At the February meeting, David Williams of the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) said that our input to the draft plan during 2004 had been extremely helpful. We had contributed towards the development of the Government’s draft strategy on the effect of measures that could be introduced to encourage people to use plant protection products without harming the environment.

2.3 This draft was discussed at our Knowledge Transfer Group meeting in May. Members said they were pleased to see that the Voluntary Initiative (VI) for pesticides had good coverage, as we had suggested many of the options adopted by the VI. At the June Pesticides Forum meeting, the chairperson thanked PSD for letting us be the first to see the draft strategy.

Consultation

2.4 We discussed the Government’s public consultation on the effects on bystanders (that is, residents living next to land where agricultural pesticides are used), but did not reach any specific conclusions. At the October meeting, it was reported that the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) was considering this issue. Members agreed to wait and see RCEP’s conclusions before considering whether they needed to deal with this topic again.

The Green Code

2.5 PSD’s proposed revisions of the Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides on Farms and Holdings (Green Code) were considered by a project group chaired by Tom Bals of the Agricultural Engineers’ Association (AEA). The group made a number of comments on the draft, which we discussed and agreed and then sent to PSD. For example, it was recommended that the code should include more reference to three main areas – the VI, using appropriate dose rates and biobeds (these are pits up to two metres deep filled with organic material and soil and covered with turf, on which sprayers can be filled and cleaned without contaminating the surrounding ground). The consultation closed at the end of October 2004 and we expect PSD to publish a revised Green Code in mid 2005.

Voluntary Initiative (VI) for pesticides

2.6 We and our member organisations continued to fully support the aims of the VI. Anne Buckenham of the Crop Protection Association kept members up to date with progress of the VI, which is now in year 4 of its five-year plan.
2.7 In February, members questioned whether there were any plans to bring in more incentives for farmers to take part in VI schemes. The chairperson wrote to Defra to ask for more points to be given under the proposed new Entry-Level Scheme (ELS) for carrying out a crop protection management plan (CPMP). In response, Defra advised that they would be monitoring how many farmers adopted CPMPs under the ELS and would review the weighting if necessary. For more information on the ELS (part of Defra’s new farm support measures), see http://defraweb/erdp/schemes/es/els.htm

Proposed Food Standards Agency (FSA) action plan on reducing residues in food as far as possible

2.8 The FSA kept us up to date with the development of its action plan to reduce as far as possible pesticide residues in food. The FSA explained that despite being told about the safety controls that exist to protect them, consumers still wanted their food to be completely free of residues. The FSA will continue to consider how complex messages about residues can be put across better to the public.

Questionnaire

2.9 In summer 2004, the chairperson sent a questionnaire to members asking for feedback on areas where we could improve our business management. Most members were happy with the way we were run.

2.10 However, some members felt that we should expand our role to cover use in private gardens and public places such as parks, railways and golf courses (also known as ‘amenity use’). We have since taken this into account. Members were happy with the number of meetings held each year. Carrying out work objectives in smaller groups was popular, and it was recommended that in future all members would be invited to Pesticides Forum project group meetings. We have now put all these recommendations in place.

Visit to Rothamsted Research Centre

2.11 In July, members visited Rothamsted Research in Hertfordshire. The main themes of the day were developing alternatives to traditional pesticides and trying to prevent pests from becoming resistant to pesticides. The visit included:

- presentations and practical demonstrations of work on herbicide and fungal-pesticide-resistant processes;
- developing pheromones as a way of controlling pests; and
- a field visit to discuss work on using plants that host predator insects or attract pests away from the crop.

2.12 There was something of interest for all members, whatever their background and experience. There were 10 speakers altogether, all experts in their own area, providing answers to the many questions members asked.
The Indicators Project Group

2.13 This group continued to develop and monitor our information for measuring the effects of pesticide use (also known as ‘indicators of use’). Apart from looking at existing measures, the group discussed and recommended that we include a range of new measures that were being developed for the VI. Our 2004 indicators report has been published as a separate document. You can find a copy on our website or ask for a hard copy from the secretariat (see page 17).

Best Practices Project Group

2.14 Over the year, a project group chaired by Tom Bals of the AEA looked at various issues, including providing advice on PSD’s proposed revisions to the ‘Green Code’, and looking at widening our role to cover use in private gardens and public places such as parks, roads, railways and golf courses. We approved these recommendations and also recommended that ministers should invite the VI’s Amenity Forum to join the Pesticides Forum. The Minister of State then wrote to the Amenity Forum, which has agreed to join from the February 2005 meeting.

2.15 At their May 2004 meeting, the group prepared a paper on getting rid of waste plastic pesticides packaging. Among the issues raised, they questioned whether incinerators already in use could be modified, and looked at ways to encourage people to use biodegradable packaging. They also asked whether systems for getting rid of waste packaging in other countries had been looked at. Members’ concerns on this issue were raised by the chairperson, who wrote to the Agriculture Waste Stakeholder Forum expressing our views.

2.16 It is clear that whatever measures we adopt, getting rid of waste packaging is going to have a big effect on farmers. Our aim is to encourage measures that help to solve these problems. We will deal with this issue again in 2005.

Knowledge Transfer Project Group

2.17 The group provided advice to members on the Government’s draft proposals for a national strategy for plant-protection products. The group continued to revise its 1997 report on barriers to sharing knowledge. (Our revised recommendations on sharing knowledge will be published on our behalf early in 2005). It also considered whether the Scottish Natural Heritage’s (SNH) Targeted Inputs for a Better Rural Environment (TIBRE) handbook could be adapted for use in England.

Revised 2004 and 2005 business plan

2.18 Towards the end of 2004, members revised our business plan for 2004 and 2005. A revised plan for 2005 is included in this report in annex E. This includes draft agendas for each of our main meetings in 2005. We will consider a new business plan for 2006 and 2007 towards the end of 2005.
3.1 This section highlights a number of the main activities members have carried out during 2004.

3.2 Throughout 2004, ADAS continued to be involved in a wide range of relevant projects. They published and mailed ‘Crop Action’ (an advisory newsletter) to advisers, farmers and the press, and also made it available on the internet. They continued to work with the crop-protection industry to develop web-based pest and disease incidence reports, which help to improve how pesticides are used. ADAS is also the lead organisation in a major project aiming to encourage wildlife within a profitable farming system.

3.3 The Sustainable Arable Farming for an Improved Environment (SAFFIE) project is part of the Voluntary Initiative for pesticides. The project has shown the benefit to skylark populations of leaving unsown patches within winter wheat. Other work includes margin management. See www.saffie.info for more details and ongoing information. ADAS also continues to develop and spread the message about systems to help farmers to decide their crop-protection measures, under a wide range of funding provided by the LINK scheme, Defra, the Home Grown Cereals Authority and private companies. During 2004, ‘Wheat Disease Manager’ was released. This was a programme of support and training leading to 150 users in its first year. ADAS is also involved in projects developing systems to improve decision-making on managing weed in winter wheat (www.wms.net) and oilseed-rape pests and diseases.

3.4 In autumn 2004, ADAS led a group of companies that was successful in winning two contracts from Defra for delivering advice. These will be delivered with the help of many of our members and aim to encourage farming practices that reduce pollution and protect the countryside. Much of the work on these will start during 2005.

3.5 A study on pollution from approved use on the crop (that is, diffuse pollution) began in September 2002 in Northumberland. The ADAS-led Whittle Dene project is funded by Defra, the Environment Agency, the Crop Protection Association and the UK Water Industries Association, with extra support from Northumbrian Water Ltd and the National Farmers’ Union. The project is also sponsoring a PhD student at Newcastle University. The project has collected a wide range of information on soils and drainage, agronomy and water quality (pesticides, nutrients and faecal indicators), and is working with the farmers concerned to set up a practical strategy to improve water quality.

3.6 Cambridge Environmental Assessments, a business group of ADAS, is involved with pesticide-related activities for both the Government and industry. These activities include the following.

- For the Pesticides Safety Directorate: looking at how typical to the UK are the FOCUS models for predicting concentrations of pesticides in the water environment. FOCUS – the Forum for Co-ordination of pesticide fate models and their Use (see also http://viso.ei.jrc.it/focus/).

- For the Environment Agency: gathering environmental information on harmful chemicals and creating a user-friendly Microsoft Access database.

- Carrying out risk assessments for the crop-protection industry, including assessing possible effects of pesticides on surface water and groundwater.
3.7 The Agricultural Engineers’ Association (AEA) is a partner of the VI and manages on their behalf the National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS). The NSTS test for machinery used to spray pesticides developed by the AEA and its members. The NSTS tested over 5000 machines during the year (to March 2004) and is well on the way to achieving the targets set for the year (to March 2005). A network of over 400 test centres has been developed covering the UK, with qualified machine testers who have the necessary specialist equipment for carrying out the NSTS test.

3.8 The AEA and its members are heavily involved with improving standards for machinery, which will be particularly relevant within a European strategy for pesticides. Its members also continue to develop new ways of applying pesticides, with more emphasis on environmental concerns, and encourage pesticide users to use them.

3.9 2004 has been a year of great activity for BASIS (Registration) Ltd. This is partly due to the Biodiversity and Environmental Training for Advisers certificate (BETA) being introduced. This began in December 2003 with six advisers, and by the end of 2004 almost 400 candidates had taken the examination. The pass rate so far is about 85%.

3.10 Under the VI there is a need to develop standards of competence for farm managers, foremen, amenity managers and supervisors. That is, those who supervise spray operators and control their activity, but who do not actually do the spraying. Plans are underway for introducing a new course and certificate called POWER (Protection of Water, the Environment and Recommendations). This project is being put together with the support of the National Farmers’ Union. It will be accredited through the National Proficiency Test Council and examined to standards set by BASIS. It is expected to be in place early in 2005.

3.11 Other BASIS courses and examinations held throughout the year covered Integrated Crop Management, Amenity Pest Management, Crop Protection Management and agrochemical delivery driver training. Three seminars have been held jointly with the Agricultural Industries Confederation to tell businesses about the changes to the Carriage of Dangerous Goods Regulations. A booklet with advice has also been prepared and issued.

3.12 Throughout 2004 the Environment Agency (EA) put into practice its Chemicals Management Strategy, which was published in October 2003. This included producing briefing for those pesticides of most concern and monitoring where information on levels in the environment was limited or unknown. As part of its work on River Basin Characterisation (RBC), under the European Water Framework Directive, the EA published maps on risks posed by pesticides to surface and ground waters. The strategy and RBC maps are available online at www.environment-agency.gov.uk

3.13 The EA provides advice to the Government on the environmental aspects of approving the use of pesticides through its role as an adviser to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP). In 2004, the EA presented further information to the Environmental Panel (subcommittee to the ACP) on the possible environmental risks of mixtures of pesticides.

3.14 The EA is a member of the VI steering group and has provided written and oral evidence to the parliamentary Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee enquiry into pesticides. During 2004, the EA carried out considerable work to provide a better indicator of levels of pesticides in surface waters that can be used to measure the success of the VI. This led to a consistent set of statistics showing that levels of pesticides in 2003 were 23% lower than the average level for 1998 to 2002. As part of the VI, the EA is funding the biological and pesticide monitoring of three of the VI’s indicator farms.
3.15 The EA played an active role in advising on the content of the proposed national strategy for plant-protection products and made a major input into revising the Green Code, particularly on managing waste and protecting groundwater. Work continues on providing better guidance on mixing and handling pesticides, washing sprayers, and using biobeds (see an explanation at 2.5).

3.16 In 2004, the **Game Conservancy Trust** (GCT) worked on:

- a research project looking at changes in bird food chains to species other than the grey partridge; and
- another research project looking at reducing the need for insecticides by developing and improving levels of non-chemical pest control in cereal and vegetable crops.

3.17 GCT worked on the Sustainable Arable Farming for an Improved Environment (SAFFIE) project (see also 3.3), which aims to develop crop management systems that reduce the negative effects of intensive farming. They have also been working on a Defra project looking at risk assessment for wildlife on agricultural and horticultural farmland.

3.18 Biodiversity and Environmental Training for Advisers (BETA) training sessions were held at the GCT’s Loddington farm for agronomists. They also held ‘responsible use of pesticides’ sessions for farmers. A specialist field adviser, funded by Defra’s Environment Action Fund, provided advice to farmers on reducing the use of pesticides. Over 1000 visitors to Loddington were able to see how wildlife conservation and modern farming can exist together successfully.

3.19 For **Linking Environment and Farming** (LEAF), 2004 was a busy year. Four more demonstration farms were launched during the year. 10,000 people visited over 70 LEAF demonstration farms across the UK, of whom 40% were farmers.

3.20 With support from Ordnance Survey, LEAF has produced a directory of all their demonstration farms and innovation centres. Over 20,000 copies have been sent out by LEAF’s many partners.

3.21 LEAF continued to launch its ‘Speak Out’ campaign, introduced to bridge the communication gap between farming and the public. The campaign will continue for a second year with Vocational Training Scheme support from Defra.

3.22 LEAF followed its ‘Innovation Centre’ conference in autumn 2003 with a highly successful field day in May 2004, bringing together some of the best researchers in the UK. The day was very well received, with over 270 farmers coming to hear the latest messages from experts on soil management, biodiversity, education and the latest requirements from Defra.

3.23 In June 2004, the LEAF trademark celebrated its first birthday. Throughout the year, many LEAF farmers and staff have been involved in delivering training and talks, and sharing information.

3.24 LEAF continues to support the VI. Farmers doing a LEAF audit do not have to complete a VI crop protection management plan. LEAF published a report based on the last 10 years’ results of the LEAF audit. The results showed that farmers were strongly committed to change, and that they had a better understanding of issues and environmental improvements on the farm.
3.25 LEAF was a founding member of EISA (European Initiative for Sustainable Agriculture) and now has a representative in Brussels to raise the understanding in Europe of balancing inputs and outputs of farm production, known more familiarly as integrated farm management.

3.26 Throughout 2004, the National Farmers’ Union (NFU) continued to take part in many of the projects that are part of the VI. New membership targets have been set for farmers enrolling in the National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS) and the National Register of Sprayer Operators. The NFU has been active in encouraging its members to join these schemes and, through training, to gain the necessary continued professional development points by going on courses on the safe use of pesticides and environmental protection. The NFU is responsible for crop protection management plans (CPMPs) set up under the VI.

3.27 The VI’s water catchment projects are beginning to show reductions in the levels of pesticides found in the rivers. There is still a long way to go, but the NFU welcomes and encourages this progress.

3.28 Farmers are coming to terms with the ban on burning plastic waste under the proposed Agricultural Waste Regulations. The NFU is working with other organisations in producing plans for collecting and re-using or recycling various types of waste plastic. The NFU is keen to help create a scheme that will be efficient and cost-effective in collecting rinsed containers for recycling or recovery. A number of similar schemes are currently being tested in Europe and the rest of the world.

3.29 The NFU took part in the government consultation on possible residential buffer zones (that is, an unsprayed piece of land between a treated area and neighbouring houses) and the need to give people notice about spraying. They have put forward evidence to the investigation by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution on the possibility of bystanders (for an explanation see 2.4) being exposed. This has highlighted the lack of public knowledge and understanding of the role of pesticides in modern agriculture, and how their licensing, manufacture, transport, storage and use is regulated and controlled. Telling people about the benefits, as well as the risks concerned with the use of pesticides, is a problem that the NFU is dealing with.

3.30 A further concern for the NFU during 2004 has been the loss of pesticide products through various aspects of the regulatory process, such as the loss of the Long-Term Arrangements for the Extension of Use, and withdrawing products due to the European Commission’s (EC) review of products under the EC Directive 91/414. As a result, the NFU is concerned about the extra pressure being put on the availability of products, especially for use on minor crops (crops on which a relatively small amount of pesticides is used). The NFU is pleased that the problem has been recognised by PSD and that a practical process (where a chemical ingredient approved for use in one EC country is accepted for use in another EC country) with particular conditions has been announced.

3.31 In March 2004, with Holme Lacy College in Herefordshire, PAN UK (Pesticides Action Network) held a practical conference to help farmers reduce pesticide use. The objective was to start a process to support a UK pesticide reduction plan, and to encourage more farmers to use practical alternative approaches to controlling pests and disease. More than 70 people reflected the wide range of people who are interested in dealing with the health and environmental problems arising from using pesticides, including farmers, food companies, supermarkets, crop advisers, agrochemical companies, regulators and researchers. Ed Gallagher gave an introductory presentation to the conference.
3.32 In 2004, PAN UK provided information and advice to consumers on pesticides being withdrawn from the home and garden pesticide market, and the importance of safely getting rid of products that can no longer be legally used in the UK. A PAN survey showed that only 5 to 10% of household pesticide waste goes to specialised facilities at a local-authority waste site. PAN UK developed a website that provides a list of council facilities for getting rid of pesticide waste (www.pesticidedisposal.org/). In December, PSD announced that it had ordered a study to work out costs and identify how a waste site and arranging publicity for residents would help to meet targets. This approach was adopted by Hampshire County Council.

3.33 PAN UK provided evidence to the government investigation into the risk to bystanders and neighbours from agricultural spray drift, and then gave evidence to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, who were asked to provide the Government with guidance on dealing with this issue.

3.34 In 2004, SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage) completed its review of the TIBRE (Targeted Inputs for a Better Rural Environment) arable handbook. The updated handbook highlights a range of technologies that help improve pesticide use and reduce negative effects on the environment as far as possible. SNH will launch this new handbook in early 2005.

3.35 SNH is a member of the Scottish implementation group of the VI and has a representative on the LEAF (Scotland) committee.

3.36 Throughout 2004, WFU (Women’s Farming Union) continued to provide a link between producers and consumers. Their main aim over the last 25 years has been to provide a balance between the views of both sides. WFU also responded to many government consultations on using plant-protection products.

3.37 WFU researches the views of both consumers and producers. It is in a unique position to do this through agricultural show events, talks to groups and membership of many discussion forums. The WFU also carries out retail and consumer surveys on pesticides and their use.

3.38 In 2004, WFU set up a new ‘Farming in the Classroom’ project, with 120 members trained to go into schools to provide a resource for teachers and pupils on all aspects of farming (including pesticides). The project is aimed at all age groups, with older children having the opportunity to debate current farming issues such as sustainable production (balancing agricultural inputs and outputs) and pesticide use.
## Members of the Pesticides Forum
(as at 31 December 2004)

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## Members of the Pesticides Forum

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<td><strong>Fresh Produce Consortium and British Retail Consortium</strong></td>
<td>Tony Palmer (John Foley until September 2004)</td>
<td>New Tesco House Delamere Road Cheshunt Hertfordshire, EN8 9SL Phone: 01992 632222 E-mail: <a href="mailto:tony.j.palmer@uk.tesco.com">tony.j.palmer@uk.tesco.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Game Conservancy Trust (GCT)</strong></td>
<td>Dr Alastair Leake</td>
<td>The Allerton Research and Educational Trust Lodddington House Main Street Lodddington Leicester, LE7 9XE Phone: 01572 717220 E-mail: <a href="mailto:aleake@allertontrust.org.uk">aleake@allertontrust.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)</strong></td>
<td>Chris Butler</td>
<td>The National Agricultural Centre Stoneleigh Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ Phone: 024 7641 3911 E-mail: <a href="mailto:chris.butler@farmline.com">chris.butler@farmline.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member organisation</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>Contact details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>National Farmers’ Union (NFU)</td>
<td>Julian Hasler</td>
<td>Agriculture House 164 Shaftesbury Avenue London, WC2H 8HL Phone: 020 7331 7200 E-mail: <a href="mailto:julian.hasler@farmline.com">julian.hasler@farmline.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pesticides Action Network – UK</td>
<td>Dr Clare Butler-Ellis</td>
<td>PAN UK 56-64 Leonard Street London, EC2A 4JX Phone: 020 7065 0905 E-mail: <a href="mailto:clarebutlerellis@pan-uk.org.uk">clarebutlerellis@pan-uk.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAC</td>
<td>Dr Keith Dawson</td>
<td>Principle Consultant SAC Bush Estate Penicuik Midlothian, EH26 9AJ Phone: 0131 535 3030 E-mail: <a href="mailto:drkpdawson@aol.com">drkpdawson@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFU Scotland</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)</td>
<td>Dr Peter Pitkin</td>
<td>12 Hope Terrace Edinburgh, EH9 2AS Phone: 0131 446 2215 E-mail: <a href="mailto:peter.pitkin@snh.gov.uk">peter.pitkin@snh.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU)</td>
<td>Mike Ward</td>
<td>Transport House 128 Theobalds Road Holborn London, WC1X 8TN Phone: 020 7611 2520 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mmikeward@onetel.co.uk">mmikeward@onetel.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife and Countryside Link</td>
<td>Jim Densham</td>
<td>C/o Royal Society for the Protection of Birds The Lodge Sandy Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL Phone: 01767 680551 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jim.densham@rspb.org.uk">jim.densham@rspb.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Farming Union (WFU)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Members of the Pesticides Forum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Departmental observers of the Pesticides Forum</th>
<th>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland</th>
<th>Ian McKee</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Phone: 020 7215 1262</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Secretariat

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|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
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Our objectives

Since 1999 we have developed objectives which we use to plan our actions for encouraging the responsible use of pesticides. These are set out below.

• Provide advice to the Government on developing, promoting and putting into practice policy on using pesticides.
• Promote effective ways of helping farmers, growers, advisers and crop consultants to use techniques which reduce the risk and negative effects of pesticide use, and improve how quickly information can be shared with pesticide users.
• Promote practices and technologies that are most effective and practical for reducing the negative effects of pesticides on the environment.
• Encourage discussions between ‘traditional’ and organic farming interests to make sure that non-chemical techniques for pest control are introduced into ‘traditional’ systems where it is realistic to do so.
• Encourage crop-assurance schemes which promote responsible pesticide use.
• Continue to review wider developments in agriculture (such as the influence of genetically-modified crops) which may affect pesticide use, and offer advice to ministers.
• Contribute to improving information to farmers about the negative effects pesticides may have on the environment.
• Consider how the effects of minimising pesticide use can be monitored by using indicators of environmental risk from pesticides.
• Encourage everyone who uses, advises on and sells pesticides to keep their knowledge of pesticide products and their use up to date through continuing professional development.
• Encourage the uptake of relevant new technologies to reduce the negative effects of pesticides on the environment.
• Promote comprehensive education in integrated crop management (balancing inputs and outputs of farm production) and more generally on reducing the negative effects of pesticides.
• Encourage discussions between researchers and research funders, and between farmers and advisers, to make sure that research projects and research results relevant to pesticides have the most influence on practical farming.
• Tell funding organisations about any significant gaps in research and development.
• Prepare and publish an annual report of our activities and maintain a close working relationship with the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.
List of papers we considered in 2004

Plain English Campaign’s Crystal Mark does not apply to this Annex.

February 2004

PF 142 – Improving Methods of Knowledge Transfer

PF 143 – 2004 and 2005 Business Plan
  Proposals for allotting individual topics to project areas

June 2004

PF 142 rev – Improving Methods of Knowledge Transfer

PF 144 Final – 2004 and 2005 Business Plan
  Proposals for allotting topics to project groups

October 2004

PF 145 – Widening the remit of the Pesticides Forum
Extract from the business plan for 2004 and 2005

Plain English Campaign’s Crystal Mark does not apply to this Annex.

Introduction

This annex is an extract from the 2004 and 2005 business plan summarising our priorities for 2004.

Our priorities for 2004 were to:

- Contribute to the development of the Government’s response to the proposals for a European strategy for pesticides and the development of a national strategy for the sustainable use of plant protection products;
- Consider if a use reduction policy for pesticides would achieve the aim of reducing negative effects on the environment;
- Review and advise PSD [Pesticides Safety Directorate] on the development of a research strategy to support and promote reductions of negative effects from pesticide use;
- Develop proposals for removing barriers to knowledge transfer of research aimed at reducing the negative effects of pesticides;
- Review progress with the Voluntary Initiative and ways in which the Forum and its members can support it;
- Continue to develop ways to make the public aware of why pesticides are used and what the issues are arising from their use;
- Continue to develop and monitor indicators of the effects on people and the environment arising from pesticide use;
- Provide advice on PSD’s proposed revisions to the Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides (the ‘Green Code’);
- Look at the implications of the EC review of active ingredients and EC Directive 91/414;
- Develop a response to the ACP [Advisory Committee on Pesticides] proposals on alternative approaches to pest control;
- Follow up the outcomes from the Food Standards Agency’s Working Group on the Risk Assessment of Mixtures of Pesticides (WiGRAMP) report;
- Develop a strategy for widening the Forum’s role to include encouraging responsible use in the amenity and home garden sectors.
Business plan for 2005

Plain English Campaign’s Crystal Mark does not apply to this Annex.

Introduction

At the 6 October 2004 meeting the secretariat circulated a paper summarising progress with implementing our 2004-2005 Business Plan. This showed that most of the priorities that we had set ourselves to do in 2004 had been completed. It was agreed that the items not covered would be picked up in 2005.

During the year a number of others topics arose which members wanted to look at in 2005. This Annex summarises the outstanding Business Plan issues and sets out possible Agendas for 2005, which take account of these and any priorities agreed since the Business Plan was published.

Our revised priorities for 2005 are to:

- Develop a response to the ACP [Advisory Committee on Pesticides] proposals on alternative approaches to pest control; **February**
- develop proposals for removing the barriers to knowledge transfer of new research aimed at reducing the negative effects of pesticides; **February**
- continue to develop and monitor indicators of the effects of pesticide use; **February**
- update progress on the follow up to the Voluntary Initiative for pesticides (VI); **June**
- consider how to promote the use of the VI environmental information sheets; **June**
- look at the implications of the EC review of active ingredients and of EC Directive 91/414; **June**
- continue to contribute to the development of a national strategy for the sustainable use of plant protection products; **June**
- follow up the outcomes of the report on the cocktail effects of plant protection products by the Food Standards Agency’s Working Group on the Risk Assessment of Mixtures of Pesticides (WiGRAMP); **June**
- review and advise PSD [Pesticides Safety Directorate] on the development of a research strategy to support and promote the reduction of negative effects of pesticide use; **June**
- contribute to the development of the Government's response to any proposals for a European strategy for pesticides; **October**
- continue to develop ways to make the public aware of why pesticides are used and what the concerns are arising from their use; **October**
- how can decision support systems, which aim to help farmers improve their pest and disease control measures, be improved and encouraged; **October**
- how can pesticide application technology help reduce the negative effects of pesticides on the environment; **October**
Taking into account this revised plan, and some additional items agreed in 2004 for discussion during 2005, the Agendas for 2005 could look like this:

**February**
- ACP Alternatives paper
- Disposal of waste farm plastic consultation*
- 2004 Indicators report *
- 2004 Annual Report *
- Crop Protocol session *

**June**
- Garden products presentation *
- Pesticide resistance*
- National pesticides strategy
- Follow up to VI and promotion of Environmental Information Sheets
- Impact of EC Review
- Update on progress of WiGRAMP recommendations
- Business Plan 2006/07 – first thoughts *

**October**
- EU Thematic Strategy
- Communication and public awareness
- Promotion of Decision Support systems
- Application technology
- Business Plan 2006/07 *

* Items not included in the original 2004-2005 business plan.

### 2003/2004 (£ 000)

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<td>Fate and behaviour of pesticides in soil and water</td>
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<td>Pesticide residues and analytical methods</td>
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<td>Strategic research on crop protection with alternatives to chemical controls</td>
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<td>Strategies to avoid resistance to pesticides (see note 2)</td>
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<td>Human risk assessment</td>
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Note 1: Includes a LINK-funded project on spray behaviour at reduced doses.

Note 2: Includes £50,000 to support a LINK-funded project on a Weed Management Support System (WMSS) for weed control in winter wheat, and £50,000 to support a LINK-funded project on a Sustainable Arable Farming for an Improved Environment (SAFFIE).

### 2004/2005 (£ 000)

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<td>Pesticide application and operator safety (see note 1)</td>
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<td>Pesticide residues and analytical methods</td>
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<td><strong>Total cost (£ 000s)</strong></td>
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Note 1: Includes a LINK-funded project on spray behaviour at reduced doses.

Note 2: Includes £38,000 to support a LINK-funded project on a Weed Management Support System (WMSS) for weed control in winter wheat and £50,000 to support a LINK-funded project on a Sustainable Arable Farming for an Improved Environment (SAFFIE).
Glossary of abbreviations

AEA Agricultural Engineers’ Association
AIC Agriculture Industries Confederation (formerly UKASTA)
BETA Biodiversity and Environmental Training for Advisers
CPMP Crop protection management plan
Defra Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA Environment Agency
ELS Entry-Level Scheme
FSA Food Standards Agency
GCT Game Conservancy Trust
Green Code Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides on Farms and Holdings
IFM Integrated farm management
LEAF Linking Environment and Farming
LINK General name given to joint Defra-industry funded research projects
NFU National Farmers’ Union
NSTS National Sprayer Testing Scheme
PSD Pesticides Safety Directorate
RBC River Basin Characterisation
RCEP Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution
SAC formerly the Scottish Agriculture Colleges
SAFFIE Sustainable Arable Farming for an Improved Environment
SNH Scottish Natural Heritage
TIBRE Targeted Inputs for a Better Rural Environment
UK United Kingdom
VI Voluntary Initiative for pesticides
WFU Women’s Farming Union
The Pesticides Forum is sponsored by Defra. It brings together farmers, industry, consumers, environmental groups and others and advises the Government on issues concerning the promotion of responsible pesticide use.