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British Sugar Weeds
Seminar

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EU Reset what are the implications for sugar beet

EU Reset

Labour Government committed in its manifesto to ‘reset’ UK’s relationship with the EU following Brexit

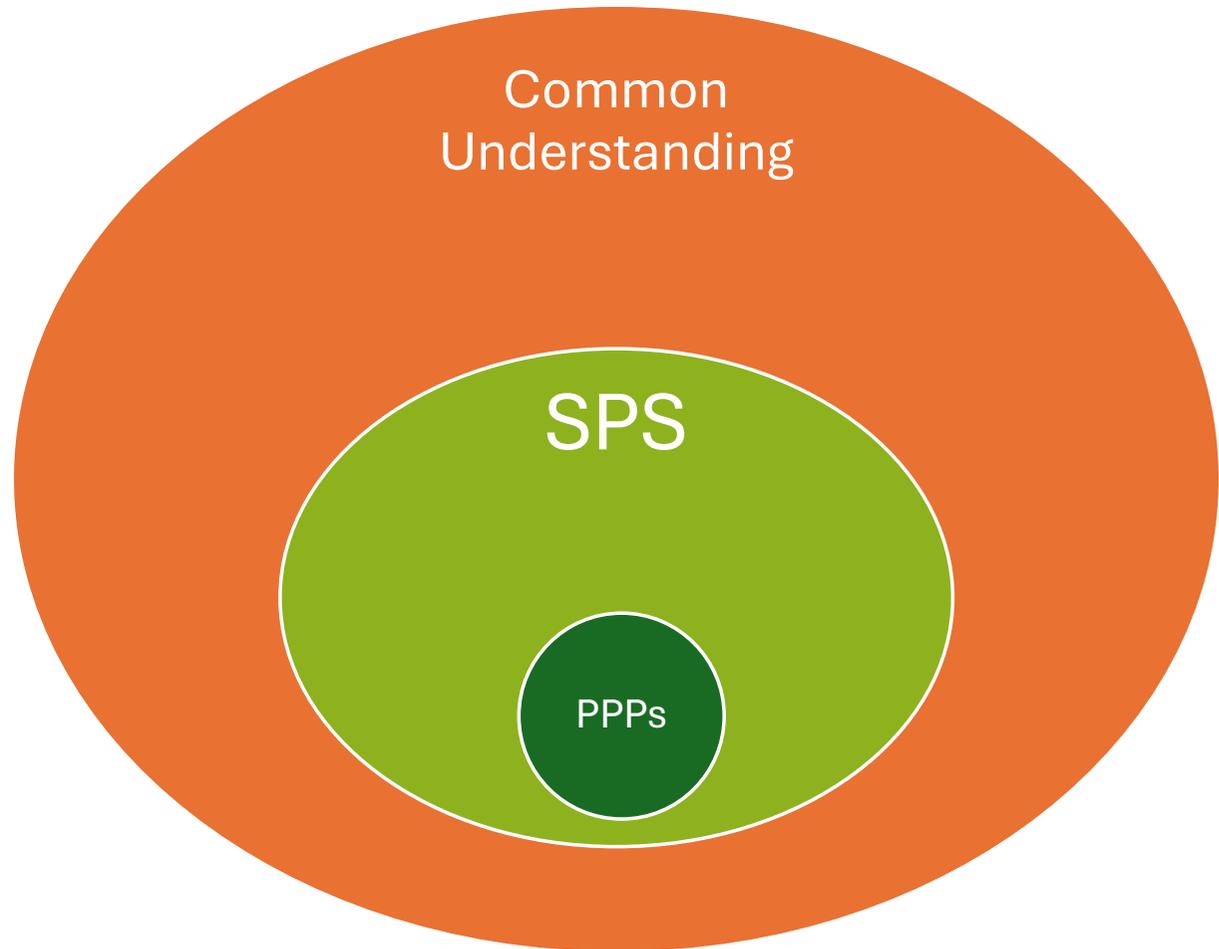
The UK-EU summit on 19 May 2025 was the first major milestone in the reset process.

Three documents which set out a direction of travel to a new phase in the UK – EU relationship

Included agreed including a ‘Common Understanding’

Negotiations between Commission and UK Government commenced November 2025

The Common Understanding



SPS Agreement – benefits for GB

- Improved market access to EU and Northern Ireland for GB
- Lower costs for businesses - no SPS and export health certificates
- Reduced complexity for exporters and importers - harmonisation of standards (MRLs, contaminants and marketing standards)
- Access to PPPs approved for use in EU, not currently approved for use in GB

SPS Agreement – challenges for GB

- Dynamic alignment with approved EU active substances
- Loss of influence on key decisions (SCoPAFF)
- Transition periods, especially where there are EU and NI / GB divergence
- Limited scope for exemptions

What does alignment to EU PPP list and EU MRLs mean?

- Withdrawal of actives approved in GB since EU exit
- Withdrawal of actives which EU have made non-renewal decisions on since EU exit. (GB hasn't developed an active substance renewal programme, so many continue to be available in GB)
- Changes in use of actives renewed in the EU since EU exit. (Different rates, timings, scenarios of use)
- Access to actives approved in EU since EU exit, but not approved for use in GB
- Alignment with EU MRLs. May mean – GB permitted uses restricted if exporting treated produce

Actives impacted

Herbicides

Bixlozone

Cinmethylin

Flufenacet

Metribuzin

Triflusulfuron-methyl

S-metolachlor

Fungicides

Benthiavalicarb

Dimethpmorph

Dimoxystrobin

Ipconazole

Isoflucypram

Isopyrazam

Mepanipyrim

Prochloraz

Pydiflumetofen

Penthiopyrad

Insecticides

Clofentezine

Fenpyrazamine

Spirotetramat

What have stakeholders being doing?

Meeting with Government, Government officials and representatives regularly to explain the pros and cons of different scenarios in implementation of the SPS agreement

- timing of implementation
- what's in and out
- unintended consequences

CropLife Andersons report

'Analysis of the Impact on UK Crop Production of GB Aligning with EU Rules and Decisions on Plant Protection Products'

Models worst case scenario and suggests two alternative approaches

Assesses impacts of loss of 18 active substances and change in use of 5 active substances across 14 crops in year one

Yield loss (range across crops 0-10%)

Economic losses based on 2022 – 2024 rolling average market prices

Total income from farming change ranges from -7% to -11%

Crop area and output changes from base of average between 2022 – 2024.

Area other cereals increase by 25%, wheat decreases by 10%, winter barley decreases by 12%

Output Reductions: wheat 16%, OSR 14%, brassicas 12%

CropLife UK Andersons report : headlines

TIFF would fall between £500 – £810 million

GVA for food and drink sector could be -2% equates to £740 million, if mirrored in workforce = 9000 job losses.

Alternative approaches

- Two-year transition period for alignment with PPPs and MRLs
Allow time for planning and for new GB actives to be approved in EU?
- Managed alignment- GB approvals stand until assessed under EU when decision applies bilaterally
Little change from current GB situation

CropLife Andersons report specifics for sugar beet crop

Yield loss estimated at 2-4% due to loss of triflusaluron-methyl

Economic losses (based on 2022 – 2024 rolling average market prices)

Estimated at £2 million – £9 million for sugar beet

Crop area increases by 1 – 2%

Exemptions?

Timelines

Government aims to have measures in place by end of 2027

Not clear what transition periods will be agreed and what they will apply to

Will require legislative changes to be agreed by UK Parliament (changes to 1107/2009 and 396/2005 MRLs legislation, others?)

Note that changes to PPP legislation in scope of EU reset in EU between now and the end of negotiations will apply in GB (EU simplification omnibus, active substance withdrawals, first approvals ...)

Industry asks

Managed transition so that the supply chain has sufficient time to use up stocks of withdrawn PPPs

Avoids PPP disposal costs and unnecessary PPP use

Allows time for cost-effective alternative approaches to be tested

Managed transition so that produce treated with withdrawn PPPs can move through the processing chain

Avoids disposal costs and trade friction

UK to be included in decision making – attendance at and vote at SCoPAFF

Thank you