

Our ref : EC153

December 2018

To all Licensed Seed Companies in Scotland

## UK SPRING FIELD BEAN, SPRING OAT AND NAKED OAT SEED DEROGATION

The very dry weather conditions during the 2018 growing and harvest season have resulted in lower than average yields of spring field beans, spring oats and naked oats and significantly reduced germination levels. Many seed lots are unlikely to meet the minimum germination requirement (80% for field beans, 85% for spring oats, and 75% for naked oats). Consequently, to allow businesses to meet the expected market demand and contractual obligations for seed this spring, Defra has requested a temporary marketing derogation from the European Commission. If accepted, this will permit the marketing of:

- 7,000 tonnes of certified category spring field bean seed of popular varieties such as Lynx, Vertigo, Fuego, Fanfare, Tiffany, Mallory, Cartouche and Boxer, at a reduced germination level of 70%;
- 4,330 tonnes of certified category spring oat seed of popular varieties such as Canyon, Yukon, Delfin, Elyann, Aspen, Firth and Elison at a reduced germination level of 75%;
- 170 tonnes of certified category naked oat seed of popular varieties such as Oliver, at a reduced germination level of 70%.

These varieties are not exhaustive and other varieties suitable for spring sowing in the UK may be considered.

If the UK derogation request is successful, the Commission will authorise the marketing of a specified quantity of seed which will take into account any suitable offers of seed from other Member States. The purpose of this letter is to invite interested businesses to bid for a proportion of the specified quantity. While Scottish Government and DAERA may issue their own Seed Certification Information letters, AIC will coordinate allocations on a UK basis, treating bids from AIC and non-AIC members alike. If total bids exceed the available quantity, pro-rata reduction will be applied across the board.

All bids should be directed to Catherine Barrett at AIC, stating company name, quantity required and variety. Company names and allocations will be included in a formal authorisation document to be prepared by Defra and only those companies named in the schedule will be authorised to place on the market for the first time the allocated quantities of derogated seed. If you are submitting a bid to AIC on behalf of your company but intend to allocate quantities to other companies, AIC will also require the names of these companies.

Bids must reach AIC by e-mail no later than 12:00 noon on 6 December 2018:

Catherine Barrett  
Sector Manager  
AIC (Agricultural Industries Confederation)  
Confederation House  
East of England Showground  
Peterborough PE2 6XE

Tel: 01733 385230  
E-mail: [catherine.barrett@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:catherine.barrett@agindustries.org.uk)

To avoid duplication (and to limit the possibility of having to scale back the final allocation amount), applications should be made by the seed business which will be certifying the seed. In the case where the seed business who will be certifying the seed is not known, applications may be made by "As-grown wholesalers", however for full traceability at the point of certification this should be made clear. The crop ID must be provided in all applications.

We have started this bidding process in advance of permission from the European Commission to allow derogated seed to be marketed as soon as possible. However, no seed of spring field beans, spring oats or naked oats may be marketed below the minimum germination capacity prescribed in the Regulations until formal authorisation has been issued. The authorisation will specify conditions for marketing, including labelling requirements. AIC will aim to inform companies of their allocations, and to provide information about the authorisation letter conditions on 10 December.

Yours sincerely

**MIKE PARKER**  
*Seed Certification*

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