

A B PRODUCE PLC

SUPPLIERS OF POTATOES AND PREPARED VEGETABLES



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 31st July 2012

Over the last four months A B Produce have installed a new dewatering plant which has represented significant further expenditure for the company in its waste management systems. This revised system is designed to remove more solids from the used water which goes to the lagoons. A consequence of the reduction in solids going to the lagoons will be that there is less matter to decompose and potentially cause an odour problem. This new system is subject to a rolling commissioning programme as settings are fine tuned to match production levels.

Due to the current wet weather conditions and the ongoing commissioning of the new plant, more water than usual has had to be stored in the lagoons at a time when the opportunity for utilising the lagoon water for land enrichment has been severely restricted.

The company have plans to carry out further work to try to eliminate the odour problem and do have the appropriate permission in place for these works however the works cannot be undertaken until after the harvest and the surrounding land is less sodden. The company is currently exploring another capital investment project involving renewable energy technology which has the potential to remove the need for the lagoon system altogether.

The company is committed to working with the both the Environment Agency and NWLDC's Environmental Health team to continue to develop water treatment and waste management solutions. The company is also keen to keep the local community fully informed of the positive steps being taken to protect and improve the environment surrounding its premises in Measham.

A B Produce are mindful of their environmental responsibilities to the local community and continue to do everything within their control to minimise the impact on local residents. Water treatment and waste management generally, remain a high priority for the company as clearly evidenced by their ongoing investment programme in this area.

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