

# Potato company founder honoured

## SECTOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING WORK

THE founder of one of Britain's biggest potato businesses has been recognised.

Mike Higgins, the chairman of the Higgins Group, is the recipient of this year's British Potato Industry Award for his outstanding contribution to the sector over the last 50 years.

Higgins is involved in every stage of the industry from producing seed and mini-tubers at its operations near Elgin through to growing and processing.

The award is presented by the Potato Council. Its chairman, Allan Stevenson, said Mr Higgins had been at the forefront of innovation and change and in pushing the boundaries of potato marketing.

Mr Stevenson added: "Mr Higgins has been instrumental in creating a stable and secure market for potato growing by developing fixed-price contracts, long-term storage regimes and new market opportunities for UK potatoes."

Higgins is based in Doncaster and remains wholly family-owned. It entered the Scottish market after buying from the receivers Fochabers-based Gordon & Innes, which collapsed in 2000 with debts in excess of £8million.

The business, which processes more than 250,000 tonnes of potatoes annually, also has an office in France.

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