A bit of healthy competition never did anyone any harm and that’s as true for training and qualifications as it is for pest control distributors and product manufacturers.

This new initiative between NPTA and Lantra, long time trainers and awarding body in the farming and land-based sectors, will provide a modular approach to pest control training. It will also allow pest controllers to specialise in particular activities. Great idea. If you’ve broken a leg you’d much prefer to have an orthopaedic surgeon deal with than a gynaecologist!

As NPTA chairman Adam Hawley told me: “If all of your business is in rodent control, why do you need to learn about stored product insects? What you want is in-depth training on rat and mouse control, a Level 2 qualification in rodent control and opportunity to study for higher levels in rodent control. Also for many spending a whole week in the classroom is not the best way of learning. Let’s face it most pest professionals are not academics, they are practical people who will learn and retain far more if it’s broken down into bite-sized chunks. And, once qualified, wouldn’t keeping up-to-date be a lot easier if you could do a training module at home in the evening without having to take time off from your business?”

Adam also explained that this is a two way relationship. Lantra is updating its pest control modules and NPTA is providing rodenticide expertise to help Lantra meet the training needs of farmers as stewardship kicks in.

Speaking at PestTech, Oliver Madge of Pest Train who is working with Lantra and NPTA on this project described how the ‘modular’ approach offered by Lantra would suit many in pest control.

So far so good. But closer examination of the Pest Passport reveals that it’s a rival to BASIS Prompt, so another way of proving you are up-to-date and of recording Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This will only serve to confuse customers who still haven’t got their heads around Prompt. Yes, competition is healthy and I applaud the modular options for training and certification, but do we really need two CPD systems? I think not.

Oliver Madge of Pest Train is working with NPTA and Lantra to develop the new training modules