
Welcome to

63rd
IALB

13th
EUFRAS

10th
SEASN Conference

10th – 13th September 2024

Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh



Introduction

We are delighted to welcome you to the 63rd IALB / 13th EUFRAS / 10th SEASN Conference 2024 in Edinburgh, Scotland.

I would like to extend a special welcome to those of you who are visiting this beautiful country and our historic capital city for the first time.

As the largest agricultural consultancy conference in Europe, the aim over the next few days is to unite consultants and explore how different countries integrate education, skills and research with advisory services to deliver best practice and innovation.

This year's theme 'Adaption to Net Zero' promises a mix of inspiration, learning, networking, and knowledge for our delegates. Through a range of workshops, keynote addresses, cultural showcases, tourist experiences and networking opportunities, the conference will explore the Scottish agricultural system, and how it builds and leverages relationships between people working in the rural economy (and those in research, education, and advisory) to enhance the sustainability of rural land-use in Scotland.

Scotland's Rural College carries out research in more than 100 countries, and this event provides us with an excellent opportunity to further showcase our own innovative approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

During your visit, you will find out more about GreenShed – a revolutionary project which uses cattle waste products to power a methane-capturing system and grow indoor crops, while our advisors, policy experts and scientists are looking forward to sharing their expertise with you over the coming days.

We are honoured to host this prestigious conference and I am sure that you will find numerous opportunities to engage with and learn from Scotland’s innovative agri–food landscape.

The conference seeks to be not only a platform for professional growth but also a celebration of our shared commitment to advancing agricultural practices across Europe.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities to learn, share, and connect as we explore the many sights, sounds, tastes, projects, systems, and experiences that contribute to Scotland’s rich agricultural heritage.

I wish you all a rewarding and memorable experience here in Scotland.



Professor Wayne Powell,
Principal and Chief Executive at SRUC

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Conference Schedule

Tuesday 10 September 2024 – Day 1

08.00 – 09.15 (1 hr 15 mins)	Registration and Coffee Stratosphere
09.15 – 09.20 (5 mins)	Welcome to Day 1 – Andrew Bauer, Conference host
09.20 – 09.30 (10 mins)	Welcome from IALB, SEASN and EUFRAS – Regine Wiesend, IALB – Rui Almeda, EUFRAS – Igor Hrovatič, SEASN
09.30 – 09.45 (15 mins)	SRUC and the Scottish System – Wayne Powell, CEO and Principal, SRUC
09.45 – 10.15 (30 mins)	Keynote: The role of advice in supporting European agriculture to thrive – Nigel Miller
10.15 – 11.00 (45 mins)	Comfort break, coffee and poster session
11.00 – 11.25 (25 mins)	Agriculture and agricultural policy in Scotland – Professor Steven Thomson, SRUC
11.25 – 11.30	5 minute Q&A
11.30 – 11.55 (25 mins)	SAC Consulting’s mission – Mary Thomson, SRUC
11.55 – 12.00	5 minute Q&A
12.00 – 12.25 (25 mins)	Key programme case study (Scotland’s Farm Advisory Service) – Chloe McCulloch, SAC Consulting
12.25 – 12.30	5 minute Q&A
12.30 – 13.30 (1 hr)	Lunch Stratosphere

13.30 – 16.00 (2.5 hrs)	Workshops (1–6) *Includes 30-minute comfort break and networking and coffee from 14.30 – 15.00 in Stratosphere
Workshop 1	Advisory approaches for climate and resource Biosphere Green
Workshop 2	Agricultural dialogue with society Salisbury
Workshop 3	Diversification, agritourism and consumer trends adding value to farm businesses Biosphere Blue
Workshop 4	New technology & data – tools for advisors Ozone
Workshop 5	Building resilience in the livestock sector Boardroom
Workshop 6	Safeguarding and enhancing our natural resources Hutton
16.00 – 19.00 (3 hrs)	Retreat time

Celebratory Dinner	
19.00 – 19.30 (30 mins)	Drinks reception Stratosphere
19.30 – 21.30	Dinner and Welcome from Dennis Overton (SRUC) Stratosphere
21.30	Ceilidh Biosphere

Wednesday 11 September 2024 – Field Trips

Field Trip 1: Uplands, Wildlife & SRUC Hill Research

Field Trip 2: Environmental Initiatives, Organics & Diversified Farming

Field Trip 3: Arable, Vegetable Production & Regenerative Farming

Field Trip 4: Diversification, Tourism & Farm Food Production

Field Trip 5: Beef, Sheep, Deer and Dairy

Field Trip 6: Technology & Improving Livestock Business Performance

Friday 13 September 2024 – Additional Sightseeing Trips

Field Trip 1: Loch Lomond, Argyll & Trossachs Loop

Field Trip 2: Highland Perthshire Loop



Thursday 12 September 2024 – Day 3 (Half Day)

08.30 – 09.00 (30mins)	Arrival and Coffee
09.00 – 09.15 (15 mins)	Welcome to Day 3 – Andrew Bauer, Conference host
09.15 – 09.40 (30 mins)	Scottish seed potatoes: Global challenges and growth – Patrick Hughes, SAOS
09.40 – 09.45	5 minute Q&A
09.45 – 10.00 (15 mins)	2025 Events Update – Regine Wiesend, IALB – Pablo Asensio, FÜAK – Beate Formowitz, LLH
10.00 – 10.30 (30 mins)	Keynote: Scottish agriculture: Balancing food production, rural livelihoods and sustainability – Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture, Scottish Government
10.30 – 11.00 (30 mins)	Comfort break and coffee <i>Stratosphere</i>
11.00 – 12.30 (1.5 hrs)	Learnings from our workshops – Nominated spokespeople
12.30 – 12.45 (15 mins)	Closing and thanks – Florian Herzog, IALB – Rui Almeida, EUFRAS – Igor Hrovatić, SEASN – Andrew Bauer, Conference Host
12.45 – 13.45 (1 hr)	Lunch <i>Stratosphere</i>
13:45 – 16:00 (2 hr 15 mins)	Informal networking time and EUFRAS/IALB Meetings – EUFRAS Meetings <i>Salisbury</i> – IALB Meetings <i>Ozone</i>

Conference Speakers

Day 1 Speakers



Prof. Wayne Powell

Principal and Chief Executive, SRUC

Welcome and the Scottish System

Professor Wayne Powell is Principal and Chief Executive of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), the UK's leading agri-food-environment, tertiary education Institution.

His previous roles include Chief Science Officer at CGIAR, a global agri-food partnership, Professor & Founding Director of the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS), Aberystwyth University, Deputy Director of the Scottish Crop Research Institute and CEO & Director NIAB, Cambridge. He is a Senior Fullbright Scholar and worked for the DuPont Company in Wilmington, Delaware, USA.

Professor Wayne Powell has more than 30 years' experience working in the field of contemporary plant genetics and has extensive experience leading organisational and cultural change programmes.



Nigel Miller

Livestock Farmer and Moredun Research Institute Board Member

The role of advice in supporting European agriculture to thrive

Nigel Miller is a livestock farmer and former vet from the Scottish Borders. Over a 12-year period, Nigel held several key positions within NFU Scotland, including Livestock Committee Chair, Vice President, and President, with his tenure culminating during the final Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Reform and Scotland's Independence Referendum.

Nigel also served as co-chair of the Farming for 1.5°C Inquiry and is on the board of the Moredun Research Institute.



Prof. Steven Thomson

Professor of Agricultural Economics & Policy, SRUC

Agriculture and agricultural policy in Scotland

Professor Steven Thomson is an applied agricultural economist, considered an expert on agricultural policy in Scotland. He provides independent evidence and policy insight, as well as thought leadership for government officials and stakeholders as they look to evolve Scottish agricultural policy. He leads a programme of research on Rural Economies at SRUC lead in the Scottish Government's 2022–2027 Strategic Research Programme and is building an integrated research data platform to enhance modelling and analytical capacity in Scotland. He is also currently involved in assessing future support options in Wales through an all-farms modelling approach.

Steven is SEFARI Gateway knowledge broker, is a Just Transition Commissioner, as well as a member of the Scottish Government Academic Advisory Panel to support the Agriculture Reform Implementation Oversight board.



Dr. Mary Thomson

Vice Principal, SRUC and Head of SAC Consulting

SAC Consulting's mission

Dr. Mary Thomson is Vice Principal of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), the UK's leading agri-food-environment, tertiary education institution. Mary is the executive lead for SRUC's SAC Consulting; veterinary services, commercial education and skills programmes. Mary is a board member at Lantra UK, the land-based sector skills council, board member for South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) and also sits on the board of Countryside Learning Scotland. Until recently she was a Postgraduate Dean for the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and continues to provide input to RCVS education and accreditation panels.

Mary is SRUC's executive lead for widening access and participation, Emily Test and Fair Work First and Chairs the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee.



Chloe McCulloch

Principal Consultant and Farm Advisory Service Programme Leader, SAC Consulting

Key programme case study (Scotland's Farm Advisory Service)

Chloe McCulloch is an advisory services specialist at SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). She leads the Farm Advisory Service (FAS), Scotland's national programme of one-to-many advice for farmers, crofters and land managers. She studied with SRUC and after graduation trained as an agricultural consultant, working in both South East England and Scotland across a wide range of farm types.

Chloe has extensive experience of farmer-facing advice provision from a twenty-year career as a consultant, advisor and leader. Since 2021 she has been responsible for setting the strategy for the design, delivery and ongoing innovation in this highly successful programme.

Day 2 Speakers



Patrick Hughes

Strategic Services Director, SAOS

Scottish seed potatoes: Global challenges and growth

Patrick has almost 30 years' experience across the agri-food sector in designing, delivering, and implementing projects on an International, UK and Scottish level. Patrick leads on identifying, understanding and developing new opportunities for Scottish Agricultural Exports and the delivery of Scotland Food & Drink Supply Chain Security work programme. He works with the Scottish potato, cereal, fruit and vegetable sectors to maintain the current market position, provide strategic direction while also exploring further opportunities overseas.

Previously Patrick was the Head of Seafood Scotland which markets, promotes and develops market opportunities for seafood from Scotland.



Jim Fairlie MSP

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity, Scottish Government

Scottish agriculture – balancing food production, rural livelihoods and sustainability

Jim Fairlie was born in Perth and has lived and worked in the area all his life. He began his career as a shepherd before becoming a hill farmer. He built a successful food and events-based catering business and has extensive experience in urban and rural affairs. He was elected to represent Perthshire South and Kinross-shire at the 2021 Scottish Parliament election.

Jim was appointed Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity in February 2024.

Workshops

Workshops

Workshop 1

Climate and Resource Friendly Agriculture: Advice, communication, and practical approaches for climate-friendly agriculture

Agriculture both influences and is affected by climate change. Ambitious goals such as achieving a climate-neutral Europe by 2050 require practical adaptation and mitigation strategies. To develop such strategies, advisory services for bringing together the right knowledge in an applicable way are essential. Communication and the relationship between advisors and farmers are becoming increasingly important and should be linked to technical-practical solutions for the transition to climate-friendly agriculture.

In this workshop, three projects addressing the challenges of climate change in advisory services and practice will be explored.

- The EU Project ClimateSmartAdvisors (CSA)
- The EU Project Climate Farm Demo (CFD)
- Slow Water

Speakers



Sarah Erbanova
SAC Consulting



Annelie Bernhart
FüAK



Michael Billensteiner
Styrian Chamber
of Agriculture



Michael Mayer
FüAK



Ruth Moser
Agridea

Workshop 2

Agricultural Dialogue with Society

Agriculture faces a variety of challenges in communicating with society. Appreciation, trust and good cooperation are created through dialogue and an exchange at eye level. Agriculture and society need to talk more with each other instead of about each other. The future viability of agriculture in Europe is closely linked to the social acceptance of its way of farming. It is important to find the right formats to be understood.

Speakers



Simone Hunziker
Agridea



Dr. Malte Rubach
FüAK



Anna Gindl
Chamber of Agriculture
of Lower Austria



Dr. Christian Thalmann
Bernern Fachhochschule

Workshop 3

Diversification, agritourism and consumer trends – adding value to farm businesses

The workshop will explore the success of diversification and agritourism in Scottish agriculture. It will illustrate how Scottish farmers and crofters are strengthening relationships with consumers, adding value to their produce and natural assets, and providing additional income streams to their family businesses.

Vicki Miller, CEO Visit Scotland, will cover consumer trends and Scottish tourism at a macro level, Riddell Graham, Chairman of Scottish Agritourism, will focus on Agritourism in Scotland highlighting the national strategy, the work of Scottish Agritourism, the organisation that's leading on its development, the GoRural consumer facing brand, and hugely successful monitor farm programme. Claire Sloan, Ardross Farm, will share her farming and agritourism story from a family business viewpoint, and Calum Johnston, SAC Consulting, will illustrate how we provide consultancy services to diversifying farm and rural businesses.

Speakers



Claire Sloan
Ardross Farm Shop



Riddell Graham
Scottish Agritourism



Calum Johnston
SAC Consulting



Vicki Miller
Visit Scotland

Workshop 4

New technology, digital & research – tools for advisors

The workshop explores cutting-edge agricultural technologies and research. Speakers Mazdak Salavati, Scott Davies, Julian Bell, Jim Wilson, and Daniel Robinson will showcase innovative tools and insights from SRUC, Agrecalc, Soil Essentials, and Eurofins, respectively. From harnessing Digital Twin technology in dairy research, identifying opportunities for resource efficiencies on individual farms, precision agriculture, to soil and crop analyses that provide insight into health, fertilisation, feed value and food safety, technology and interconnected data systems can facilitate advisors' day-to-day tasks.

Attendees will gain valuable knowledge on leveraging these advancements to enhance agricultural practices and identify future opportunities in the field.

Speakers



Mazdak Salavati
SRUC



Scott Davies
Agrecalc



Julian Bell
Agrecalc



Daniel Robinson
Eurofins



Jim Wilson
Soil Essentials

Workshop 5

Building resilience in the livestock sector

Livestock are key drivers for sustainable development in agriculture. They contribute to food security, nutrition, poverty alleviation, and economic growth. Through the adoption of best practices, the sector can reduce its environmental impacts and become more efficient in the use of resources. There is a need to strengthen the knowledge and evidence-base towards sustainable livestock, the assembly of datasets and the analysis towards sustainable livestock agri-food systems.

The workshop will look at how livestock resilience can be built. It is essential to explore ways to support the livestock sector in becoming more sustainable and resilient in the face of various local and global challenges. Consideration will be given to implementing both technical improvements and applying knowledge gained from research.

Speakers



Prof Carol-Anne Duthie
SRUC



Gavin Hill
SAC Consulting



Dr. Markus Rombach
Agridea



Robert Neil
Upper Nisbet Farm

Workshop 6

Safeguarding and enhancing our natural resources

Covering the challenge of balancing enhancement of natural capital such as biodiversity and carbon, with commercially viable food production. Globally agriculture is facing three primary challenges: to reverse biodiversity declines, to tackle climate change and to support the world's food requirements. This workshop will delve into the risks to agriculture associated with depleted natural capital, climate change and inefficient use of inputs and explore solutions to mitigate these risks.

An overview will be provided on how one farm is addressing these multiple pressures and building resilience into its farming system. The session will conclude with the introduction of new open-source training resources in nature-based solutions for advisors.

Speakers



Dr. Lorna Cole
SAC Consulting



Rory Christie
Dourie Farm and SAOS



John Farquhar
SAC Consulting



Christian Werni
Styrian Chamber
of Agriculture

Field Trips

Field Trips Itineraries

Field Trip 1: Uplands, Wildlife & SRUC Hill Research

- 8.00am: Depart Dynamic Earth
- **Farm Visit at Lerrocks Farm, Doune** – Past Agritourism Monitor Farm. Red kite viewing area and site of beaver translocation.
- **See Doune Castle** – Outlander and Monty Python filming location
- **Lunch at Blairdrummond Smiddy Farm Shop** – Diversified rural business (own estate, safari park, forestry business, shop & café).
- **Farm Visit at SRUC Hill & Mountain Research Centre** – Upland research farm visit; environmental research, hill farming
- **Afternoon tea**, provided by Artisan Café & Deli
- 7.00pm: Arrive Dynamic Earth

Field Trip 2: Environmental Initiatives, Organics & Diversified Farming

- 8.00am: Depart Dynamic Earth
- **Farm Visit at Portnellan Farm** – An organic, diversified farm on the shores of Loch Lomond
- **Lunch at The Inn at Kippen** – Local village inn
- **Visit Flanders Moss Nature Reserve** – Lowland raised peat bog under restoration. Boardwalk (flat) + viewing tower.
- **Visit Old Leckie Farm** – Mixed livestock and arable farm with diversification and environmental initiatives
- **Afternoon tea at the Smiddy Farm Shop** – Diversified rural business (own estate, safari park, forestry business, shop & café).
- **See Stirling Castle**
- 7.00pm: Arrive Dynamic Earth

Field Trip 3: Arable, Vegetable Production & Regenerative Farming

- 8.00am: Depart Dynamic Earth
- **Farm Visit at Balbirnie Home Farms** – Arable, Regenerative Agriculture, Soils
- **Visit Kettle Produce** – Processing – Kettle Produce Factory Tour + field veg harvesting
- **Lunch at Loch Levens Larder**
- **Farm Tour and refreshments at Rotmell Farm** at Ballinluig, Pitlochry – Nuffield Scholar and Soil Farmer of the Year
- 7.30pm: Arrive Dynamic Earth

Field Trip 4: Diversification, Tourism & Farm Food Production

- 8.00am: Depart Dynamic Earth
- **Farm Tour at Craigies Farm Shop** in South Queensferry
- **Visit and have lunch at Balgove Larder** for farm tour and farm shop
- **Visit St Andrews** – Home of Golf
- **Visit Diversified Farm at Balcaskie**
- 7.30pm Arrive Dynamic Earth

Field Trip 4: Diversification, Tourism & Farm Food Production

- 7.30am: Depart Dynamic Earth
- **Farm visit and Lunch at SRUC Barony and Crichton Royal Farm** – Dairy/ research/education visit
- **Farm Visit at Drumcork Farm** – Livestock farm utilising tech for efficiency and autonomy
- **Farm visit and afternoon refreshments at Clonhie Farm** – Red deer, beef & sheep farm and a QMS Monitor Farm
- 7:00pm: Arrive Dynamic Earth

Field Trip 6: Technology & Improving Livestock Business Performance

- 8.00am: Depart Dynamic Earth
- **Farm Visit at Bielgrange Farm** – 2018 AgriScot Beef Farm of the year
- **Farm Visit plus lunch at Bowhill Farm** – Precision monitoring techniques used for health & welfare monitoring, AD Plant, heat & calving detection, as well as research projects with AHDB, Sainsbury's, plus is an Agri-EPI Satellite Farm.
- **Refreshments at Kailzie Botanic Gardens** in Peebles
- **Farm Tour at SRUC Easter Howgate** – including tour of facilities and research projects at GreenShed, GreenCow, GreenSheep
- 7:00pm: Arrive Dynamic Earth

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Notes

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