



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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GROWING THE COMMONWEALTH

RASC CONFERENCE 2024

June,
20-27
2024

Scotland, United Kingdom

Some 80% of Scotland's land mass is under agricultural production, making the industry the single biggest determinant of the landscape. Food and drink is Scotland's largest manufacturing sector, delivering a gross value of £3.4bn to the economy.



Growing the Commonwealth

The 2024 conference will deliver four themed sessions:

RELEVANT
Why do societies do, what they do? The purpose of societies to their members, their country and to the Commonwealth.

ADAPTABLE
How do societies pivot and adapt to new legislation, policy changes, industry and member demands.

SUSTAINABLE
What do societies need to do to be sustainable for the future. Financially, environmentally, society (people).

CONNECTED
How do people connect societies, rural and agricultural economies, communities and the Commonwealth.



Hello.

We are delighted to be hosting the RASC 30th Biennial Commonwealth Agricultural Conference in June 2024, an event that we have sorely missed over the last few years. Hosted in Scotland, we will bring together some of the finest speakers, sessions and topics from across the Commonwealth leaving you inspired and informed. It will also coincide with the Royal Highland Show, hosted by the Royal Highland Agricultural Society, which annually welcomes over 200,000 visitors across three days.

The only organisation to support and promote agriculture across the Commonwealth, RASC plays a pivotal role connecting and forming new networks. With delegates from almost fifty show societies across twenty one countries, there really is no event quite like it.

Our Next Generation and CEO sessions offer a chance to learn from each other, supporting individual leadership potential, and I am thrilled to see both of these return to the conference agenda.

Whether you are an individual looking to attend, or a society looking to support some members, we hope this programme preview provides you with a teaser of all that is to come in June 2024. And if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I look forward to welcoming you to Scotland.



Sir Nicholas Bacon Bt. OBE
RASC Chairman



Edinburgh, Scotland



Programme.

Thu 20 June

Pre-Conference Tour

The pre-conference tour is an optional extra and offers a wide variety of visits to farms and business across Scotland. See following page.

Fri 21 June

Pre-Conference Tour continues

The tour continues with a range of landscapes, livestock and food across Scotland.

Sat 22 June

Royal Highland Show

A full day at the Royal Highland Show, enjoying some of Scotland's finest livestock, food and entertainment.

Sun 23 June

Free day, Conference Registration & Cocktail Reception

A full date free for you to explore Edinburgh. continue visiting the Royal Highland Show or catch-up with friends, before registering for the main conference. An evening cocktail reception will kick-off your RASC Conference experience.

Mon 24 June

CEO and Next Generation Sessions

For delegates attending either of these sessions, a full day of activity is in store along with an informal dinner in the evening, hosted in or near Edinburgh.

Tue 25 June

CEO and Next Generation Sessions continue

A morning sessions to reflect and discuss the learnings.

Main Conference Opening and Welcome

The conference commences with session 1 - Relevant

Wed 26 June

Main Conference continues & Gala Dinner

Session 2 - Adaptable Session 3 - Sustainable

The evening will be a chance to get dressed up for the RASC Gala Dinner, hosted at the Royal Highland Showground, overlooking the venue's main ring.

Thu 27 June

Main Conference continues and Wrap Up

Session 4 - Connected

Following the wrap-up, delegates are invited to attend the 2024 RASC AGM.



Pre-Conference Tour.



Lucinda Russell Racing

Well-known Scottish Racehorse Trainer, Lucinda Russell OBE, trained the 2017 Grand National winner One For Arthur and 2023 Grand National winner Corach Rambler. Their yard includes 140 horses, training gallops, equine spa and walkers. Lucinda was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 2018 for her services to horse racing.



James Hutton Institute

This world-leading scientific organisation encompasses a distinctive range of integrated strengths in land, crop, water, environmental and socio-economic science. The tour will include their vertical farm, Integrated Growth System and brand-new barley growing facility.



Geordie Souter, Kingston Farm

A traditional Aberdeen Angus breeder, now exporting genetics all over the world. This includes some of oldest breed lines of Aberdeen Angus in the world. The tour will include Kingston Farm and close of up of the prize animals.



James Porter, East Scryne

100 acres of soft fruit; Strawberries (Magnum), Blueberries (Liberty) and Blackberries (Caracus). Supplier of Lidl, M&S, and Waitrose, as well as selling fruit via their own seasonal farm shop. Tour will include viewing of the packing lines and cold stores, as well as visit to his herd of Blue Grey cattle.



Arbikie Distillery

2,000 acres of farmland, producing peas, potatoes and cereals - some of which are used in the production of their whisky, gin and vodka. Their first whisky was distilled in 2015 and will be bottled in 2030.



Balcaskie Estate

3,000 acres of organic farming; including 300 Lincoln Red Dam cattle, and clover and chicory grass mixes. Farm includes range of 'start-up' businesses trading from converted farm buildings called The Bow House. On-site butchery, selling the Estate's own beef, pork, and venison.



Pricing and Booking

Please note: these costs are indicative, but final prices will be confirmed for when bookings open in November.

Society Delegate (Member):	£840
Society Delegate (Non-Member):	£960
CEO Delegate (Member):	£1020
CEO Delegate (Non-Member):	£1140
Next Gen Delegate (Member):	£780
Next Gen Delegate (Non-Member):	£840
Next Gen Delegate (Alumni):	£720

These costs do not include the pre-conference tour, which is at an extra cost. All rates are inclusive of VAT.

All Pre-Tour, Conference and Gala Dinner Tickets will be available to purchase through Ticketsrv, via our website www.therasc.com

Hotel accommodation for the main Conference will be available to book through the RASC directly.



F.A.Q



Where will I be staying?

RASC has secured a number of venues next to, or within a short distance of Edinburgh Airport. These are offered on a first come basis. Bookings after March will need to find their own accommodation so we recommend booking early.



Will I need a VISA?

Those who require VISAs to visit the UK are encouraged to apply as soon as possible through the UK Government website, as some VISAs can take up to 6-months for approval. If you require a letter of confirmation that you are attending the conference, please do get in touch.



Are bursaries available to help with my costs?

Next Generation bursaries of £150 are available by successful application, but these only apply to first-time NGs who are members of Member Societies that pay £300 or more for membership of the RASC.



How do I get to Perth to attend the Pre-Conference Tour?

The best option is to take the Train from Edinburgh Waverley or Edinburgh Haymarket to Perth – there are direct trains running.



Will there be a guide for those not attending the conference but travelling with delegates?

Yes, a detailed plan will be available for partners of delegates nearer the time. This will include the best of Edinburgh's attractions and eateries (with discounts and suggestions).



How will I receive my tickets?

All tickets purchased will be emailed electronically through Ticketsrv. Should you need any further assistance, please contact us via email.



What is the closest airport and train station?

The closest airport is Edinburgh Airport, and the closest train station is Edinburgh Waverley, which also has direct links via the Tram network to the hotels selected for the conference.



Royal Bank of Scotland

Partner of the Royal Highland Show since 1981

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ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

Scotlife Edinburgh Hospitals