

# The Scottish Society for Crop Research

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The Society currently supports research on a range of topics, including research into novel resistance to Potato Virus Y2 in *Solanum phureja*; testing for virus resistance in raspberry; assessing the effect of changes in the Late Blight population on resistance of commercial cultivars, Commonwealth Potato Collection accessions and potential breeding material to the disease; and analyses of Institute weather records over the past 54 years for changes in the pattern of rainfall and other meteorological characteristics. Ongoing support is provided for the development of the Fruit Gateway website, and for the breeding of new raspberry cultivars through the Raspberry Breeding Consortium. Funding for a keynote speaker at the Crop Protection in Northern Britain Conference continues on a biennial basis.



Fruit for the Future, 2008.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 27th May 2008, and was followed by the Invited SSCR Lecture which was given by Professor Ian R Crute, Director of Rothamsted Research, whose subject was Science and the Land-based Industries in a Changing Environment.

SSCR is continuing its dialogue with the Office of the Scottish Regulator of Charities on the precise status of the Society. While there is no pressure on the Society to change from its existing Friendly Society status, no new such bodies are being brought into existence. The Society already complies with all the charity requirements on audit and the submission of its accounts to the Financial Services Authority, so it may well be that no changes are required to its existing position.

Knowledge Transfer continues to be a major interest of the Society and is achieved through the sponsorship and organisation of crop events, which are open to the general public as well as members, and half day technical meetings.

'Cereal Solutions', was held on 15 July 2008 at the Institute's Gourdie Farm and attracted 60 visitors. The demonstrations included plots of the Recommended List varieties of barley and wheat, genetic fingerprinting of barley, samples of barley bread and the use of wheat for distilling purposes. This will be the last such event under the current format as it will be replaced in 2009 by a joint SSCR/SCRI/SAC event to be entitled 'Cereals in Practice'. This will be held at the new SCRI farm at Balruddery on 7 July 2009.



Cereal Solutions, 2008.

The 'Fruit for the Future' event held on 17 July 2008 attracted 80 breeders, growers, end-users and processors. Existing Institute seminar room facilities are now inadequate to cater for the numbers attending and alternatives will have to be considered in future years. Research on raspberries, strawberries, blackcurrants and gooseberries was displayed, with prospective new varieties of raspberry available for tasting assessment. The occasion was used for the official launch of the new SCRI raspberry variety, Glen Fyne, by the Chief Executive and Director of SCRI, Professor Peter Gregory.

'Potatoes in Practice', held on 7 August 2008, continues to enjoy great support from the industry, with

well over 700 people in attendance. It is now the largest such outdoor event in the UK. Support is provided by the Potato Council, SAC, CSC Crop Protection Ltd., SCRI and the Society. Demonstrations on cultivars, agronomy and related research on pests and diseases of the crop continued to be major features, along with the steadily increasing demonstrations of potato crop machinery.

The Potato and Soft Fruit Crop Sub-committees held other half day meetings during the year to provide information on current research and interactions with processors and end users. The decision was taken to hold the Combinable and Energy Crops winter event at Battleby, on a biennial basis.

The Society's membership has now stabilised following a downturn over several years. A number of existing members have taken advantage of the recently introduced Life Membership category. The Committee of Management remains keen to encourage growers and processors to join the Society, and to participate not just in the various crop based meetings but also in the management of the Society and its various Sub-committees.



Potatoes in Practice