

The Scottish Society for Crop Research

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The Society has a role in raising awareness of items of interest and concern to the agriculture, horticulture and forestry industries. This is partially achieved by funding the Annual SSCR Lecture immediately following the Annual General Meeting. This year's AGM was held on Wednesday 27 May and the Annual Lecture was given by Professor Annie Anderson of the Centre of Public Health and Nutrition Research, the Division of Therapeutics and Medicine at the University of Dundee Ninewells Hospital and Medical School. The title of the lecture was, 'The challenge of achieving a healthy and sustainable diet in Scotland'.

The Society currently supports research on a range of topics, including research into differential cultivar response to soil physical constraints in winter and spring barley, integrated pest and pathogen manage-

ment in raspberry, the possible exploitation of avoidance cues used by vine and clay coloured weevils, the genetic cause of crumbly fruit in raspberry, and a long running programme of support for raspberry breeding. Other work supported includes training in methods of barley transformation, the assessment of the effect of adverse weather conditions on distilling quality in wheat and support for a study of techniques to reduce pollution from tramlines in combinable crops. Funding continues on a biennial basis for a keynote speaker at the Crop Protection in Northern Britain Conference next to be held 23–24 February 2010.

All meetings organised by the Society were well supported, in virtually every case attracting greater numbers than in previous years.

'Cereals in Practice' was held on 9 July 2009 at the Institute's new Balruddery Farm, and was attended by 207 visitors. This combined event with SAC included static demonstrations of machinery as well as variety and other plant demonstrations.

The 'Fruit for the Future' event held on 16 July 2009 attracted 120 breeders, growers, end-users and processors. The increased attendance was so large that existing facilities are no longer adequate and alternatives are being considered for future years. Research on raspberries, strawberries, blackcurrants and gooseberries was displayed, and a useful opportunity provided for the tasting assessment of prospective new varieties of raspberry.



Fruit for the Future, 2009.



Cereals in Practice, 2009.

'Potatoes in Practice' was held on 13 August, also located at the new Balruddery Farm. This was attended by over 650 growers, breeders, scientists and advisers, which probably represents about the maximum numbers for such an outdoor event in northern Britain. Support was again provided by Potato Council Ltd, SAC, CSC Crop Protection Ltd, SCRI and the Society.



Potatoes in Practice

Demonstrations on cultivars, agronomy and related research on pests and diseases of the crop, continued to be major features, along with a further increase in static demonstrations of potato crop machinery and other equipment.

The Potato and Soft Fruit Crop Sub-Committees held other half day meetings during the year to provide information on current research and permit interaction between end users, growers, processors and scientists.

The Combinable and Energy Crops winter event at Battleby on 17 February attracted over 70 delegates who listened to an excellent series of presentations on matters of current concern to the cereal industry, including the dramatic changes to pesticide availability.

In the year ahead, the Society will be reviewing its remit, to ensure that it is fit for the 21st century and continues to meet the objectives and aspirations of its members.