

# New Entrants to Farming Gathering 2016



Tuesday 9th February 2016

Perth Racecourse, Scone Palace Park, Perth, PH2 6BB

## Speaker Short Biographies



### **Kirsten Williams, Beef & Sheep Consultant**

By day, a Beef & Sheep Consultant with SAC Consulting based in Turriff. With responsibility of the Scottish Governments new entrants to farming programme activities.

By night and weekends a Forestry Commission starter farmer. Upper Tullochbeg is 110 acres of grassland on a 10-year tenancy, we specialise in producing pedigree sheep for the commercial and pedigree markets including Beltex, Kros (Beltex X Charollais) and Blue Faced Leicester.



### **Gordon Caldwell, GC Growers**

Gordon Caldwell grows seasonal and local vegetables at Dowhill Farm, on the coastline just north of Girvan. The fertile soils and (usually) favourable climate combined with Gordon's passion for growing fresh vegetables make quite a combination.

Gordon specialises in growing 'hale and hearty' produce that is suited to the Scottish climate and diet! Main crops are Carrots, Leeks, Turnips, Beetroot, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Romanesco, and Parsley.

<http://tasteayrshire.co.uk/gc-growers.html>



### **Andrew Tullie, young farmer**

I am 26, and farm near Hawick in the borders. Since leaving SAC with a degree in Rural Business Management in 2011, I worked as a shearer and self-employed shepherd before taking on a contract farming operation three years ago.

I recently gained a 25-year tenancy of another unit and, also, still work with my father on the family farm. In total, now farming 2500 ewes and 100 cows across four units.

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### **John Campbell OBE, Glenrath**

Son of a Greenock butcher evacuated during the war. Father secured the tendency of a farmhouse in Argyll and then later secured a tendency of this hill farm.

I left school at 15 and came home to the farm. I was joined by my brother in 1950. Unfortunately, our father died that same year and mother gave us one year to prove we could farm the farm – we did succeed. We purchased the farm in 1957 as sitting tenants; to this day it was the best deal we ever made. We split the farm in two and went our separate ways. I married a poultry farmer's daughter in 1957. Catherine started rearing pullets.

I sold up and purchased Glenrath in 1961, borrowing all the landlords capital and sold 70 of the best acres – we were in business. The rest is history. We are now Scotland's largest farmers – we own and farm 15,000 acres with a turnover in the excess of £50m.

[www.glenrathfarms.co.uk](http://www.glenrathfarms.co.uk)



### **Gavin Dick, AHDB Cereal & Oilseeds, Manager (Scotland)**

Gavin has a broad working experience in agriculture. Having been brought up on the family farm, he went on to study agriculture at SAC in Aberdeen, before taking on the role of farm manager on a 400-acre arable farm. Gavin then moved to Mackies in Aberdeenshire where he managed a large farming enterprise including combinable crops, seed potatoes, pigs and poultry, although the focus was on the 650 dairy cows producing milk for ice-cream. During his time at Mackies, Gavin was responsible for consolidating the farming enterprise around the dairy herd, including introducing robotic milking.

He then moved to manage an in-hand estate in Perthshire specialising in pedigree beef production and combinable crops, as well as various diversified enterprises including a country house hotel with shooting and fishing interests. Before joining AHDB, Gavin spent some time as a business specialist with SAC working with farmers to broaden their business management skills. He is currently based at AHDB's offices near Edinburgh.

<http://cereals.ahdb.org.uk>



### **Jimmy McLean, RBS Chairman, Agriculture**

Jimmy McLean is Chairman, Agriculture at RBS. He also represents the bank on a number of agricultural groups within the wider financial sector (e.g. British Bankers Association, Committee of Scottish Clearing Bankers).

He holds a number of other positions within the industry, including Trustee and past Chairman of the Farmers Club, London, non-executive director SAC Consulting. He has a BSc (Hons) in Agriculture from Edinburgh University and is a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Societies.

Prior to joining RBS in 1995, Jimmy spent 16 years working in consultancy, with SAC, initially as an Agricultural Adviser, then Farm Business adviser and latterly as Head of the **Rural Business Unit**.

<http://www.business.rbs.co.uk/business/start-ups/business-guidance/financial-expertise-by-sector/agricultural.html>



### **Rupert Shaw MBE; Vice Chairman of NFU Scotlands Legal and Technical Committee. Owner, Gledpark**

Proud to be the third generation of his family to have a military career since his Grandfather left Newton Stewart for war service.

A New Entrant farmer on retiring from the Army in Nov 2012. While a military career is not necessarily relevant to farming, whilst serving he deployed to Longtown during the foot and mouth epidemic of 2001 and had oversight of the MODs farm in his final appointment.

Gledpark was the 6th farm to be showcased in the RDI and he spoke at All Energy Glasgow. His suckler herd is QMS assured and enrolled in the PCHS. Gledpark is the first UK business to become a BDFPA/SFQC Park Assured Venison producer and was selected to be a Scottish Government Deer Farm Demonstration unit for 2015.

[www.gledpark.co.uk](http://www.gledpark.co.uk)