

Women in Agriculture Conference 2026



**Farm
Advisory
Service**

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Time	
10:00 - 10:25am	Tea/coffee arrival
10:25 - 10:35am	Welcome from the Chair - Mary-Jane Lawrie
10:35 - 11:00am	Speaker - Farm safety and legacy, Katie Brisbane
11:00 - 11:30am	A Life in Leadership - Kate Rowell, QMS
11:30 - 12:50pm	Breakout sessions 1 and 2
	All attendees will attend all the breakout sessions. The four breakout sessions are:
	Land – Land values: What lies beneath with Emily Grant, Forrit Farming & Consultancy
	Land – Making the most of your farm biodiversity with David Brown, SAC Consulting
	Legacy – Succession planning with Jenn Stewart, Johnston Carmichael
	Legacy – Financial planning with Gareth Allan, Azets
12:50 - 1:45pm	Lunch
1:45 - 3:05pm	Breakout sessions 3 and 4
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	Land – Land values: What lies beneath with Emily Grant, Forrit Farming & Consultancy
	Land – Making the most of your farm biodiversity with David Brown, SAC Consulting
	Legacy – Succession planning with Jenn Stewart, Johnston Carmichael
	Legacy – Financial planning with Gareth Allan, Azets
3:05 - 3:35pm	Speaker - Jillian Kennedy, SAYFC
3:35pm	Close. Tea/coffee

Meet the Speakers

Katie Brisbane

Farmer and Keynote Speaker

A bit about Katie:

Katie was born on a small mixed farm near Stirling. She studied at SRUC to gain a qualification in Leisure Management and after her father's suicide when she was only 20, she helped her family to diversify their farm into The Farmlife Centre.

3 years later she married Alan, an arable and beef farmer and raised a family. On September the 15th 2023 an accident on the farm took Alan's life.

Katie has remained resilient and used her experiences to teach and inspire others.

As well as helping on the farm Katie has worked with RHET for 8 years and loves telling her farming story.



Katie will be speaking about Farm Safety and Legacy to inspire and support you with her Keynote speech titled: *“///story.club.imposter”*

Kate Rowell

Vet and Chair of QMS

A bit about Kate:

Kate has run her family beef and sheep farm near Peebles for over 20 years and spent 7 years as a veterinary surgeon. Chair of QMS, she leads in the organisation's strategy, financial oversight, governance and stakeholder engagement.

Kate also sits on the Board of Moredun Research Institute, is a member of the Scottish Government's Agricultural Reform Implementation Oversight Board and is a Commissioner on the UK Government's Trade and Agriculture Commission.

In her spare time, Kate is a Past President of Peeblesshire Agricultural Society and a Girl Guide Leader.



Kate will be speaking about her experiences of Land, Legacy and Leadership. As a working farmer, as well as in her varied industry roles, these are all issues in which she takes a keen interest.

Emily Grant

Forrit Farming and Consultancy

A bit about Emily:

A missed generation farmer, Emily started farming with a handful of ewes on a rented field.

With a strong interest in genetics and performance recording, she partnered with Innovis to develop the farm into a dedicated Abertex and Abermax ram growing unit.

Emily also works in farm consultancy and facilitation. She founded her own business supporting beef and sheep producers to develop sustainable, pasture based farming systems.

In 2018 she was awarded a Stapledon Trust Innovation Fellowship and travelled to NZ to learn more about pasture innovations and mixed species swards. She is also a former Farmstrong Scotland Trustee.



Emily will be running a workshop titled 'Land values: What lies beneath'. She will talk about values and how these affect our land decisions.

David Brown

Environmental Consultant, SAC Consulting

A bit about David:

David's consultancy work involves completing applications to agri-environment schemes, the undertaking of Whole Farm Biodiversity plans and providing training and advice to SAC colleagues on environmental and conservation matters.

Prior to joining SAC, David spent over 20 years providing consultancy services on agri-environment schemes as well as carrying out practical conservation management work on a broad variety of different habitat types throughout Scotland.



David will be speaking about all the good things going on on farms. Showing you easy wins for conservation; simple, low cost things you can do for wildlife and apps to get more enjoyment out of the wildlife on your farm.

Jenn Stewart

Partner & Head of Rural and Landed Estates, Johnston Carmichael

A bit about Jenn:

Jenn is an alumni of the Worshipful Company of Farmers and a licensed Restructuring Practitioner. She advises owner-managed businesses across the UK and brings deep technical expertise alongside a practical, commercial approach to helping businesses navigate change and achieve long-term success. With a strong specialism in succession planning and strategic advisory work, she supports clients to plan for the future. Brought up on her family farm, Jenn now farms alongside her husband and family. She has a genuine understanding of the challenges and opportunities for rural businesses, making her a trusted adviser to agri-related enterprises.



Jenn will be running a workshop providing her extensive expertise when it comes to succession and legacy planning for your business.

Gareth Allen Financial Planner, Azets

A bit about Gareth:

During a 20 plus year career working in Financial Services including 6 years working in cross border tax in Portugal, Gareth joined Azets Wealth Management as a Financial Planner in September 2023 when he returned to his native Scotland.

Gareth works across Azets' Edinburgh Perth and Inverness offices, and works with SME's and Private Clients creating outcome led holistic financial plans through the use of pensions, investments, protection and estate planning. In his time away from work he enjoys spending time with his wife and playing football with his two young sons



Gareth will be running a workshop providing his financial planning expertise to help you manage your business finances and legacy.

Jillian Kennedy National Chair of SAYFC

A bit about Jillian:

Jillian is a senior forest manager with Scottish Woodlands Ltd., and is National Chair of the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs (SAYFC). Growing up on a Perthshire hill farm with a passion for all parts of rural life, she has taken a step into forestry while still advocating for agriculture and young farmers. She has been a young farmers member for over half her life having come through club, district, and regional office bearer positions before stepping up to National Chair of the organisation in April 2025.



Jillian is going to share her journey through various leadership roles within young farmers, and a few other side shoots in between.

Useful resources



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