

US Trade Tariffs Consultation

Scan me for further information



In this Issue

New AIC Scotland Chair

The Scottish Budget

Precision Breeding

Climate & Nature Industry Leadership Group

AIC Scotland has been busy over the winter months, working on a range of issues from new policy development to key changes in personnel.

On that note AIC Scotland has elected Graeme Logan of Glasson Fertilisers as its new Chair. Mr Logan was elected by Members at AIC Scotland's Annual General Meeting held late in 2024, and he will serve through to 2026. He succeeds Sarah Bell of Cefetra, who stood down after completing her two-year tenure as Chair.



His leadership is set to further strengthen AIC Scotland's mission to work in support of modern, sustainable, commercial agriculture and represent the Scottish agricultural supply industry, which includes businesses in the

Animal Feed, Combinable Crops, Crop Protection & Agronomy, Fertiliser, and Seed sectors.

Mr Logan said: "I'm honoured to be elected as Chair of AIC Scotland and look forward to working with our Members to continue advancing our industry as a fundamental part of the agriculture, food and drink industry which is so vital to the Scottish economy. I would like to extend my thanks to Sarah Bell for her exceptional leadership and dedication over the past two years and to build on the excellent work of AIC in helping to shape the future of support for Scottish agriculture."

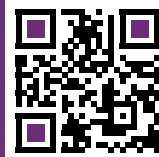
AIC Scotland spring meetings

Members are invited to book to join AIC Scotland's spring meetings on 30 April 2025, at McDiarmid Park in Perth.

Tea & coffee will be served at 9:15, with the joint meeting starting promptly at 9:45. AIC Scotland Chair Graeme Logan will give an introduction, followed by an update on activity and key issues from AIC. The meeting will conclude at 13:00 with lunch provided.

Sector Committees for Animal Feed, Combinable Crops and Seed will be held from 10:15.

Please find details and the booking link here



AIC Dinner & Conference

11-12 November

AIC Scotland Meeting and AGM & AIC Scotland Dinner

27 November



Precision Breeding

In October 2024, AIC Scotland, NFU Scotland and GB potatoes came together to urge the Scottish Government to unlock the potential of precision breeding for crops by passing legislation equivalent to that already enacted in England in January 2023.

In his response, Jim Fairlie the Minister, recognised the challenges that have emerged as a result of the divergence in approach within the four nations of the UK, and what it means for the Internal Market. Most significantly, the Minister agreed with AIC Scotland that an independent expert working group is needed to understand precision breeding in the Scottish perspective.

To that end, a roundtable meeting to discuss precision breeding in Scotland was established by Scottish Government, to which AIC Scotland was invited. The meeting took place in the last week of March 2025, and saw farming unions, food and drink associations and researchers in attendance. The attendees, including AIC, stressed the potential lost opportunities by not establishing a more positive precision breeding policy.



Climate and Nature Industry Leadership Group

AIC attended the inaugural meeting of the Climate and Nature Industry Leadership Group in January which consists of a mix of government and industry stakeholders including Scottish Red Meat Roundtable Group and Quality Meat Scotland (QMS).

It is one of several industry leadership groups QMS is convening to support the delivery of their sector strategies. Three themes will be developed by the group:

- 1 The importance of a strong evidence base.
- 2 Right messaging to the right person at the right time.
- 3 Harmonising practices between farming and nature.

Scotland stakeholder engagement

In early 2025, meetings were held with the sustainability leads for NFU Scotland (NFUS), Scottish Whisky Association (SWA), the Scottish Government and various researchers at the James Hutton Institute (JHI) to introduce **AIC's Sustainability Action Plan**.

Both NFUS and SWA are in the process of considering or developing their own plans. The focus for the Scottish Government's climate team is developing their climate change plan following the CCC's advice due in May. Meetings with JHI have created connections with their International Barley Hub and National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre.



Scottish Budget

In December, the Scottish Government set out its Budget for the year ahead, with agricultural spending now entirely within its control.

£660 million has been allocated to farming and crofting for 2025/26 through crucial schemes such as Basic Payment Scheme, Greening, Less Favoured Area Support and Voluntary Coupled Support. £46 million had been previously deferred from agricultural funding, and of this, a timetable has been given which would expect to return £20 million in 2025/26 for capital expenditure with the remaining £26 million a year later.



New Policy Manager for AIC Scotland

AIC is delighted to announce Ian MacDougall joining as new AIC Scotland Policy Manager from 28 April. Ian joins at a pivotal time in the lead up to Scottish elections in May 2026. Members will have the opportunity to meet Ian at the spring meetings in Perth on 30 April, and at other events including the Royal Highland Show.