

2025 EDITION

SCOTTISH FOCUS

AHDB

YOUR AHDB CEREALS & OILSEEDS AND DAIRY
UPDATE FOR SCOTLAND

**Johne's disease:
Your questions answered**
p. 4

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p.7

Inspiring Scottish learners



p.10

Environmental baselining



p.15

The Big Scottish C&O Conference 2025

Contents

- 2 Welcome
- 3 Reflecting on the past 12 months
- 4 Johne's disease
- 6 Reflecting on Strategic Dairy Farm progress in Scotland
- 7 Celebrating the year of dairy: AHDB and RHET inspire Scotland's learners
- 8 Summer of Sport keeps milk front and centre
- 9 Grain market outlook 2025/26: Opportunities and uncertainty ahead for Scottish farmers
- 10 Environmental baselining: Empowering farmers, strengthening an industry
- 12 Introducing small positive habits
- 13 The AHDB Letterbox
- 14 Arable Business Groups: Data-driven discussion
- 15 The Big Scottish C&O Conference 2025
- 16 News and updates



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AHDB is a statutory levy board, funded by farmers, growers and others in the supply chain. We equip the industry with easy to use, practical know-how which they can apply straight away to make better decisions and improve their performance. For further information, please visit ahdb.org.uk

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Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Scottish Focus, where we reflect on an exciting year of progress, innovation and collaboration across Scottish agriculture.

From inspiring young minds through the RHET “Journey of Food: All Things Dairy” programme to supporting farm businesses with tools like Farmbench, we continue to promote efficiency, sustainability and knowledge exchange.

As we look ahead to a pivotal year for Scotland's arable sector, we're also preparing for The Big Scottish C&O Conference 2025 this December, an unmissable event packed with insight and innovation. With ongoing initiatives like our Strategic Dairy Farms, Environment Baselining Pilot and consumer campaigns such as MilkGoals, we're proud to support levy payers in building a strong and successful future.



Reflecting on the past 12 months

The past year has been both rewarding and challenging, marked by significant progress in our knowledge exchange across the Scottish agricultural industry. Our focus remains on translating research into practice, fostering collaboration and driving innovation across farm businesses.

Environment Baseline Pilot

We recruited 170 farms across the UK for our baselining pilot, including 35 in Scotland, covering beef, lamb, dairy, and cereal and oilseeds farm businesses. In partnership with QMS, we launched the pilot with a gathering of participating farmers and the AHDB Environment team, encouraging peer learning and shared insights across the industry.

Events

This year at the Royal Highland show, we introduced our new Chair, Emily Norton, to Scottish farmers and stakeholders, with valuable networking taking place during our AHDB reception.

The first Scottish AgriLeader Conference in Kilmarnock (October 2024) welcomed over 180 Scottish farmers. Motivational speaker Marcus Child captivated the room by inspiring everyone to set bold

goals and challenge themselves. The event was one of the highlights of the year for everyone concerned.

Dairy sector highlights

This year, the Dairy team addressed key health and welfare priorities, including mobility challenges and Johne's awareness. On-farm meetings gave farmers the opportunity to learn from experts and see practical solutions first-hand. All three Scottish Strategic Dairy Farms completed their three-year journeys, providing real-world insights and valuable lessons to share with the wider industry.

Cereals & Oilseeds

The Scotland C&O Strategic Farm came to an end in the spring, and we are currently compiling all of the learnings to be shared soon.

Special thanks to David Aglen for all his help during his time as a strategic farmer. We finished the summer season with a successful new Recommended List (RL) event in Fife, where growers saw the latest varieties in the field and heard from the RL team. We are already working on exciting plans for next year's event.

Farmbench

Our Arable Business Group network remains strong, with 10 active groups from the Borders to the Black Isle. This year, groups met to discuss their Farmbench data and wider business topics, such as borrowing and inheritance tax. Moving forward, our goal is to grow the network across Scotland.



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Understanding Johne's disease: Causes, transmission and control

Dr Miranda Poulson, Senior Animal Health and Welfare Scientist, and Doreen Anderson, Senior Knowledge Exchange Manager at AHDB, tell us more about Johne's disease, how it is transmitted and how we can control it.

Johne's disease (paratuberculosis) is a chronic, contagious bacterial disease of the intestine. It affects sheep, cattle (most commonly dairy cattle), goats and other ruminant species.

What causes Johne's disease?

The disease is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *Paratuberculosis*, often referred to as MAP.

What are the clinical signs?

Due to ongoing control strategies, we rarely see overt clinical signs other than increases in other infectious diseases such as lameness and mastitis and impacts on fertility and milk production. Infected cows often test positive and are managed out of the herd before clinical signs appear. Untested cases eventually lead to weight loss and severe diarrhoea.

How is the disease transmitted and spread?

Most infections occur in the first few days of a calf's life by ingesting contaminated faecal material, such as dirty bedding or faeces on the dam's udder when they suckle.

Less common routes include through contaminated milk or colostrum or transmission across the placenta during pregnancy.

Is the disease more likely to affect adult or young animals?

Calves are usually infected in the days after birth, but as Johne's develops slowly, it is uncommon to see clinical signs before cows are three years old. They're likely to test positive before you see clinical signs.

How is the disease diagnosed?

The disease can be diagnosed by looking for antibodies to the bacteria in milk (most common) or blood or by looking for the DNA of the bacteria in faeces.

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Upcoming Johne's events

We will be focusing on a range of support over the next year to help dairy farmers tackle Johne's in their herds. For more information, visit ahdb.org.uk/events

Due to the nature of the tests, infected animals can test negative. It is better to identify risky animals and manage them appropriately rather than relying on culling test-positive animals. Always discuss test results with your vet.

Can it be prevented?

Johne's disease cannot be cured, so the best defence is preventing calf infection.

Key measures include:

- Separating calving areas for positive and negative cows
- Maintaining strict hygiene in calving pens
- Avoiding pooling colostrum and feeding from infected cows unless it has been pasteurised
- Using Johne's test results to make breeding decisions, avoiding breed replacements from cows which have tested positive
- Putting a red tag in the ears of cows that have tested positive for easier identification and management

What about vaccination?

There is a vaccine for Johne's, but it offers limited protection as most calves are infected before vaccination. It cannot prevent infection or stop an infected cow shedding the bacteria in her faeces. However, it does extend the length of time before an infected cow shows clinical signs, so she has a longer productive life.

Vaccination should not be used as the sole control method. Only vaccinate if you have a clear exit strategy and understand the implications of vaccinating. Once a herd is vaccinated, it is difficult to spot infection because the tests cannot tell the difference between antibodies from infection and antibodies from a vaccine.

Where can I find out more about Johne's disease and how to control it?

Red Tractor-assured farms in Great Britain must have a National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP), developed with a BCVA-Accredited Johne's Veterinary Adviser (BAJVA) and reviewed annually. Six tailored strategies are available, depending on your system, herd status and farm priorities.

The dairy industry has made excellent progress in controlling Johne's disease over recent years. A new phase of the NJMP, Phase III, was launched on 31 March 2025, which included updated testing requirements and a national Johne's Control Index figure. The national Johne's Tracker database also means we can track national progress over time.

To find out more about the NJMP, Phase III, the control strategies and to find your nearest BAJVA, visit actionjohneuk.org



Reflecting on Strategic Dairy Farm progress in Scotland

Our Strategic Dairy Farm programme is made up of farms across Scotland, England and Wales, offering farms the opportunity to collaborate, share knowledge and improve their businesses.

Over three years, participating farms work with a steering group to identify challenges, set goals and implement practical changes aimed at improving resilience and performance within the dairy sector.



Millands Farm

Brothers Wallace and James Hendrie joined our Strategic Dairy Farm programme in October 2020, running 600 spring block-calving Holstein Friesians across two sites. Calving begins in mid-February, with most cows calving within the first six weeks.

They aimed to reduce their herd's empty rate to below 10% by improving heat detection and conception rates. Other goals included improving youngstock growth rates, hitting 340 kg bulling weights in 95% of heifer calves, enhancing grass growth and quality with clover and herbal leys (targeting over 12 t/ha DM), and improving herd genetics.

A key challenge was mastitis. Tightening the calving block and improving fertility led to more early-season calvings, increasing new dry period mastitis infections to 28%, well above their target of <10%. Since completing the programme they continue to address this issue.



Potstown Farm

The Owen family operate Potstown Farm as a fully housed, all-year-round calving system. Since the first two Lely robots were installed in 2012, the farm has seen significant transformation.

In 2020 the Owen family shifted their focus towards Jerseys. Since then, through strategic planning and a strong commitment to improvement, they have enhanced profitability, improved herd fertility and optimised cow health.

Having completed the programme, the Owen family are now planning phased expansion. Under a new contract they are milking 180 Jerseys, with plans to grow this number to 280 over the coming year.



Low Ballees Farm

The Campbell family joined the programme in July 2022, milking 130 cows in a fully housed, all-year-round robotic system. By the end of the programme, they had expanded to 180 cows and installed a fourth robot.

Working with AHDB, they identified development priorities including soil health, fertiliser use, genomic testing and infrastructure upgrades. Now part of the Environment Baseline Pilot, they continue working on sustainability and carbon reduction.

Join the Strategic Dairy Farm programme

If you're a forward-thinking farmer ready to boost resilience, performance and showcase best practice, this opportunity is for you.

Find out more at ahdb.org.uk/farm-excellence/sdf-2025

To learn more about our Strategic Dairy Farms, visit ahdb.org.uk/farm-excellence/dairy



© RHET

Celebrating the year of dairy: AHDB and RHET inspire Scotland's learners

Scottish dairy levy payers can be proud of the role they played in inspiring the next generation of consumers and producers through our sponsorship of the Royal Highland Education Trust's (RHET) "Journey of Food: All Things Dairy" initiative. Delivered across the 2024/25 academic year, this dynamic programme brought Scottish dairy to life for thousands of school pupils through classroom resources, farm visits, competitions and digital content.

Bringing dairy into the classroom

At the heart of the initiative was a year-long educational theme on dairy production, sustainability, and nutrition. The sponsorship enabled RHET to develop and distribute free learning packs, including the innovative Moo Maths programme. Using real data from adopted dairy cows, this interdisciplinary tool helped teach maths in a meaningful and memorable way, reaching over 338 users and generating more than 1,500 online interactions.

Farm visits and hands-on learning

One of the highlights was the Design a Dairy Cow competition, which led to a farm visit and cheese-making workshop for the winning school. This hands-on experience reinforced classroom learning with real-world insights into farming and food production.

Strategic impact for the dairy sector

The sponsorship supports our strategic goal to educate future consumers and promote the reputation of British agriculture. RHET's national coverage and trusted presence in schools gave us a powerful platform to share fact-based, classroom-friendly information about dairy farming.

Digital reach and engagement

The campaign's digital engagement was impressive:

- Social media: Over 100,000 views across Facebook and Instagram
- Website: 1,579 views and 3,667 interactions on the All Things Dairy page
- Newsletters: January 2025 edition saw a 31.5% open rate and nearly 6,000 clicks

Popular events like Meet the Calves, a live classroom livestream, and the Design a Milkshake competition, helped deepen engagement and encouraged healthy eating aligned with the Eatwell Guide.

Supporting educators

Our sponsorship also enabled RHET to deliver professional learning for educators. Workshops in Edinburgh and Dingwall focused on STEM and sustainability in dairy. These sessions helped teachers embed food education into their curriculum with confidence and creativity.

A lasting legacy for Scottish dairy

Thanks to our investment, thousands of young Scots have gained a better understanding of dairy's role in our food system. The resources developed will continue to be used beyond the academic year, ensuring a sustained legacy for dairy education.

Summer of Sport keeps milk front and centre

Our MilkGoals consumer marketing campaign shone a light on the nutritional benefits of milk for footballers to coincide with the women's Euros. Now, as part of our wider Summer of Sport activity, our focus shifts to rugby ahead of the Rugby World Cup.

Partnering with women's rugby

We teamed up with the University of Liverpool's women's rugby team to show how milk can support training, recovery and performance in high-intensity sport.

The campaign continues to drive awareness of the role milk plays as part of a healthy, active lifestyle, especially among younger audiences.

Building on strong campaign foundations

This activity builds on the momentum of our existing Let's Eat Balanced and Milk Every Moment campaigns, which work to secure long-term trust in dairy through evidence-based messaging and relatable, engaging content.

Bringing farmers and players together

At the University of Liverpool, we brought together players and dairy farmer Jack Allwood (@mootrition_official) to highlight milk's benefits.

The session, captured in a series of upbeat Instagram posts, focused on how milk's high-quality protein and naturally occurring vitamin B12 contribute to muscle maintenance and energy release; nutritional qualities that are particularly important for young athletes.

A digital-first approach

This work is digitally led through our Let's Eat Balanced social media channels – Instagram and Facebook – with the aim of influencing parents, teens and young adults.

These channels allow us to speak directly to the audiences we most want to influence, showing them how British milk fits into modern, active lives.

Delivering value for levy payers

Together, this work demonstrates how we continue to deliver value for dairy levy payers by keeping milk relevant, credible and resonant with the consumers of today and tomorrow.

To find out more about our Let's Eat Balanced campaign, visit ahdb.org.uk/letseatbalanced



Grain market outlook 2025/26: Opportunities and uncertainty ahead for Scottish farmers

Scotland's arable sector faces a pivotal year in 2025/26, as grain markets are shaped by global pressures, climate variability and evolving consumer demands. The grain market outlook for the coming season presents both significant challenges and emerging opportunities for Scottish growers.

Global market pressures and price trends

Global grain supply and demand balance is expected to remain tight into 2026, though for major exporters is comparatively heavier than the five-year average. A tighter wheat balance is partly offset by more stability for maize, with abundant US supplies expected.

Harvest pressure from the Northern Hemisphere is currently weighing on prices, with currency fluctuations also playing a part. Longer term, focus will switch to crop development in the Southern Hemisphere. Wheat and barley prices, already subdued through 2024/25, could remain flat.

Input costs remain a concern in Scotland. Although fertiliser prices had seemed to be stabilising from the peaks of 2022, they are currently up on last year's levels, while energy costs, labour shortages and interest rates continue to squeeze margins.

Sustainability and changing consumer demands

The rise of regenerative agriculture and sustainability schemes is another critical factor. Supermarkets and processors are increasingly demanding traceable, low-carbon grain, and Scottish farmers may benefit from aligning with these standards. Participation in environmental land management schemes could also help diversify income but comes with its own administrative and agronomic complexities.

Policy uncertainty and domestic concerns

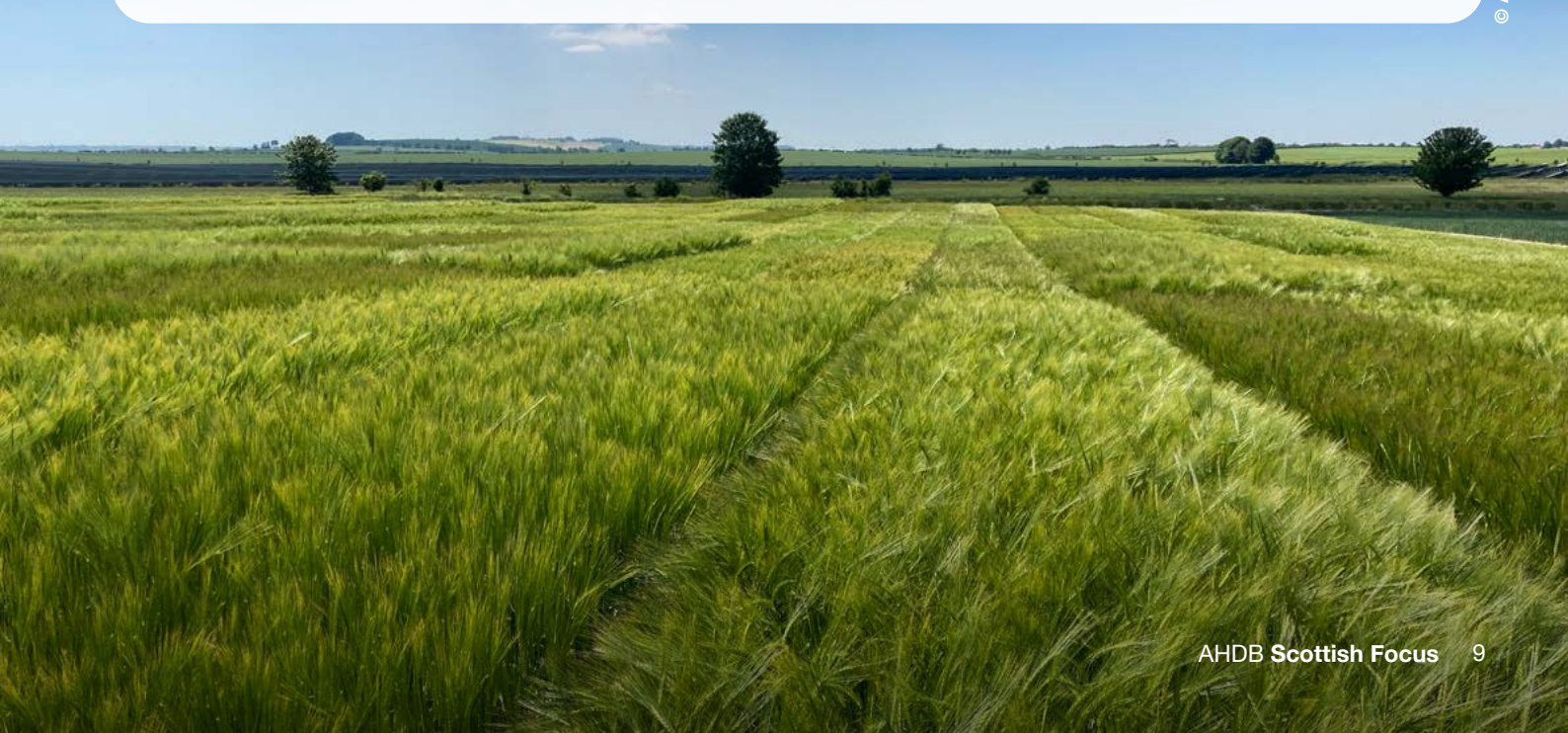
Uncertainty around future UK agricultural policy remains a sticking point. While there has been some progress on the Scottish Government's new agriculture bill, many producers remain unclear on the details of future support.

The recent news that the Basic Payment Scheme reduction will not be as much as many first feared was a relief for many growers looking at reduced margins this year due to lower-quality spring barley.

Grain marketing strategies will need to be more dynamic than ever. Forward selling a portion of the crop while remaining open to any late-season price rallies could help reduce risk. Collaboration through cooperatives and supply chain partnerships may also strengthen profitability.

Navigate with caution and flexibility

The 2025/26 outlook suggests a cautious approach. Those who invest in agronomic efficiency, quality assurance and market awareness will be best placed to thrive in an increasingly premium-driven market. Those with the ability to be flexible may fare considerably better in the coming year.



Environmental baselining: Empowering farmers, strengthening an industry

Our Environment Baselining Pilot continues to move forward and bring us closer to our goal of assessing the environmental impact of farms across Great Britain.

Launched late last year, the pilot aims to help 170 farms across England, Scotland and Wales gain a clearer understanding of their environmental impact. Led by AHDB and supported by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), the pilot will measure carbon stored in soil, trees and hedgerows. It will also include run-off risk maps as well as a carbon audit and action plans.

The farms in the pilot span a variety of soil types and landscapes and include producers of dairy, beef, lamb, pork, cereals, and oilseeds, ensuring the data reflects the diversity of the farming industry in Great Britain. Sampling and data collection have continued throughout the year, providing insights into carbon stocks, greenhouse gas emissions and sequestration/removals which will support informed, future-facing decision-making.

Advanced mapping and analysis with LiDAR

Key activities are now well under way. High-resolution LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) scanning of the pilot farms is now largely complete. LiDAR produces three-dimensional points to create point clouds. These point clouds are analysed and interpreted to provide three-dimensional maps of the landscape and create detailed models of the land's surface and vegetation. This allows us to identify landscape features such as trees and hedges, enabling estimates of carbon stored in above- and below-ground biomass. They also highlight areas at risk of water run-off, all of which will be shared with the farmers.

Soil sampling

Soil sampling has already been carried out on many of the farms and goes beyond surface-level testing. Most changes in carbon levels happen in the top layers of soil, but samples are taken at four different depths to understand where and how much carbon is being stored and how that may change with different land management.

These metrics will provide valuable insight into soil carbon and, combined with the above-ground LiDAR data, will give each farm a more complete picture of its carbon stocks.

Every participating producer will receive support from a dedicated consultant to carry out a carbon audit in years one, three and five, with action plans

developed in years one and three. The plans will draw on the farm's carbon audits and wider data from the soil sampling and LiDAR scans, when available, to help producers identify practical steps to reduce emissions.

Low Ballees Farm

Of the 170 farms taking part, 35 are in Scotland, including Low Ballees Farm in Ayrshire, run by David, Tom and Marion Campbell. The farm spans 125 ha, including 13 ha of unimproved peatland and 10 ha of winter cereals grown for whole crop wheat silage and barley feed. They also milk 180 cows and, until recently, were an AHDB Strategic Dairy Farm.

Even before joining the pilot, they had shown commitment to improving biodiversity on farm. Trees were widely planted across the farm, and a constructed wetland provides a habitat for birds and waterfowl. A local beekeeper maintains six hives on the farm, and a wide variety of bird species was recorded during the recent RSPB Birdwatch event. The farm's unimproved peatland serves as a valuable wildlife habitat and a historic carbon store, something the Campbells are committed to preserving.

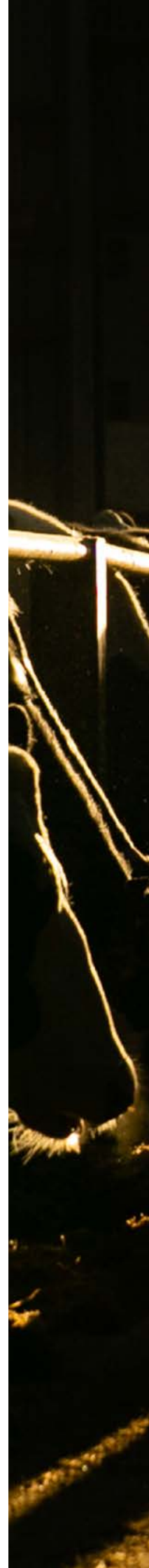
Soil mapping was completed earlier this year as part of the pilot, but it is something they first did in 2022. The initial analysis enabled them to create a tailored plan for lime application, improving soil pH, soil health, crop performance and input efficiency.

David said "Protecting and improving farm soils can make your business more profitable – you have to measure to manage. By understanding the variable rates required for each field, we've been able to optimise our inputs."

Once the new pilot results are available, they can compare them with the 2022 data to assess changes in soil pH and refine their fertiliser strategy.

The farm also underwent LiDAR scanning in winter last year, when the leaves had fallen from the trees and hedgerows, as that is the basis of the algorithms used to predict the carbon stocks in woody biomass.

Find out more about the baselining pilot at ahdb.org.uk/baselining





Introducing small positive habits

In her report for British Dairying, Ruth Wills highlights the key messages from the AHDB AgriLeader Forum, emphasising the importance of making small, positive changes to drive long-term progress.



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Farmers are incredibly resilient, but in increasingly tough times, how can they continue to grow and thrive? According to speakers at the AgriLeader Forum, the key lies in mindset.

We are only limited by ourselves and our thoughts. The brain processes around 70,000 thoughts at any one time. “Most of the thoughts we have every day are negative, and most of them are actually the same thoughts as yesterday,” says Kat Thorne of The Morning Gamechanger.

Our brains seek evidence to support beliefs, which informs behaviour. But remember, thoughts aren’t facts and can be changed to encourage a happier, healthier approach.

Small positive changes

Farming relies on daily routines, but how mentally and physically ready are we for the day? Think about your first thoughts when you wake up in the morning. Are they stressful or negative? Do you press snooze too many times? If you’re starting the morning stressed, it will be detrimental to your performance.

This is where introducing small positive habits can make a big difference. “It all starts with one small change,” explains Kat. Around 80% of people check their phones within 15 minutes of opening their eyes. Instead of waking up and scrolling, what if you read a book or set some intentions for the day?

It’s very easy to stay in comfort zones, but they often hold us back. In the book *Atomic Habits*, it says “your life is essentially the sum of your habits”. Even five or ten minutes spent on something uplifting, whether it’s running, reading or self-care, can benefit the body and brain.

Fuel your tank

Consider the things you know make you feel good but you might struggle to prioritise. These are often the things that support high performance and wellbeing.

Success starts with you. Before you can lead a great team, you need to make sure your own tank isn’t empty. Try a positive habit for 21 days and notice the difference.

From good to great

- Don’t be afraid to fail – learn and share
- Think about where autopilot is holding you back
- Control what you can
- Ask for help
- Growth happens outside of your comfort zone
- Small changes lead to big impacts
- Surround yourself with positive people

The AHDB Letterbox

It's been a difficult year for farming, with challenges spanning from policy changes and market volatility to crop protection, drought and climate resilience. Since its launch in late 2024, the AHDB 'Letterbox' has provided a direct line for farmers, advisers and industry to have their voices heard and help guide Cereals & Oilseeds sector activity.

How it works

You tell us your biggest challenge and we respond:

- If we already have the knowledge, we'll share it. You'll see it in Agronomy Focus, on our website, in a direct email to you or as a topic at an event near you
- If it's a big challenge and many levy payers face the same issue, it feeds into our research and knowledge exchange process. It may highlight the need for new research or for more effective tools and services. Your concerns help set priorities for new AHDB-funded research

The impact so far

Since November 2024, the Letterbox has received over 1,800 submissions, directly influencing our activity across research, guidance and knowledge exchange.

On the research side, submissions have led to a new five-year project on cabbage stem flea beetle (CSFB) management in oilseed rape, biopesticide efficacy trials and further work on nitrogen use efficiency in winter wheat. Submissions also prompted work on the risks of hybridisation between rye-grass cultivars and weed forms.

In terms of practice and farm management, Letterbox submissions have driven updates to ergot management guidelines, reviews of nutrient management guidelines (RB209), and informed tailored nutrition trials within the Strategic Cereal Farm network.

When it comes to knowledge exchange, your input has inspired a wide programme of events. Regional meetings have covered business planning, crop husbandry and soil health, while national initiatives such as the Natural Capital Roadshow responded to queries about nature markets and investing in biodiversity. Your submissions are also shaping the upcoming winter events, with themes on micronutrition, resistance management and on-farm resilience.

Get involved

Anyone can use the Letterbox:

- Fill in a slip at one of our events
- Search 'AHDB Letterbox' online
- Send us an email:
research.ideas@ahdb.org.uk
- Speak to your local AHDB KE Manager, Adrian James

Submit before 9 January to influence our Cereals & Oilseeds activity in 2026.



Arable Business Groups: Data-driven discussions

Farmbench

Farmbench is our online benchmarking tool that helps you compare your farm enterprises with similar businesses. Seeing how your farm compares with the regional and national benchmarks can help you identify where you can improve efficiency and increase profits.

Knowing the cost of production for each enterprise is more crucial than ever before. Thousands of AHDB levy payers have already entered their data into the secure, free-to-use online tool, creating a robust source of anonymised farm-performance data.

Farmbench can also highlight areas for improvement and set a clear direction for your business.

For further information, visit ahdb.org.uk/farmbench

Arable Business Groups

While you can use Farmbench independently, the most valuable lessons are often learned among peers.

Across the UK, there are over 40 AHDB-supported Arable Business Groups (ABGs), including 10 in Scotland, from the Borders to the Black Isle. Some groups have been operating for over 10 years, originating from our Monitor Farm Programme. These like-minded farmers meet throughout the year, occasionally on farm.

Meetings provide facilitated discussions to help farmers improve their business management skills. Together, attendees get to grips with production costs, learning how each enterprise contributes to the overall business profitability. No topic is off the table, with the debate driven by group interests.

Common topics of discussion include inorganic vs organic fertilisers and machinery replacement policies. For example, members review their fertiliser application strategies or determine whether it would pay to use contractors (instead of using their own machinery and equipment).

Lessons learned

From last season's meetings, feedback from 111 attendees showed 60% of respondents had made changes to their business after attending an ABG meeting. These changes included:

- Crop and rotation management
- Succession planning
- Reviewing labour and staffing
- Data-driven decision making

Feedback also showed that 62% intended to make changes to their business going forward. Plans included:

- Tighter cost control
- Reviewing the enterprises they have in their business
- Reviewing machinery and their rotation

The groups are a safe space for farmers and growers to learn from each other and discuss the successes and challenges they are having in their businesses.

Why join an ABG?

- Learn from and alongside your peers
- Develop your skills
- Identify best practice
- Understand the costs of production
- Investigate pricing strategies

We are always recruiting new members to join our ABGs across Scotland and the UK. For information on your local group, contact Julie Clark:
julie.clark@ahdb.org.uk
07778 144273

The Big Scottish C&O Conference 2025



On 11 December, a brand-new conference will be held in Scotland: The Big Scottish C&O Conference 2025 – a packed day of insight, innovation and discussion, bringing together leading voices in farming, technology and environmental science.

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Set at the renowned James Hutton Institute in Dundee, the event will tackle the pressing challenges and opportunities facing Scotland's cereals and oilseed growers in 2026 and beyond.

Championing practical innovation

With a sharp focus on the future of cereal crop production in Scotland, the 2025 conference promises forward-thinking yet practical content tailored for growers and industry stakeholders. Delegates will gain access to the latest research, expert market analysis and real-world case studies aimed at helping farms thrive in an era of environmental and economic pressures.

Keynote: Farmer Tom Martin

Renowned for his energetic advocacy of sustainable agriculture and public engagement through initiatives like #FarmerTime, farmer and communicator Tom Martin will headline the event. Drawing on his experience managing a progressive mixed farm in Cambridgeshire, Tom will explore how UK growers can embrace innovation while maintaining profitability and public trust.

Technology in the spotlight

As farming currently stands at the crossroads of tradition and technology, the conference will concentrate on what tomorrow will look like. In a session not to be missed, learn more about the pioneering technologies designed to take Scottish arable farming into the future with increased productivity and reduced environmental impact.

Barclays: Agritech

As a conference partner, Barclays will discuss their involvement in the future technology coming into agriculture.

Panel sessions

Two dynamic panel discussions will provide a platform for honest and informed debate:

Balancing sustainable systems: Profit and the environment – as environmental schemes evolve and input costs rise, this session will examine how farmers can meet sustainability goals without sacrificing profit.

Grain markets: What buyers want – with volatile global and internal markets, shifting trade flows and new geopolitical realities, this session will look ahead to 2026 and beyond. The panel will offer insights on grain quality, traceability, assurance, crop marketing strategies and supply chain management and expectations.

Networking and collaboration

The conference will also offer opportunities to connect with other growers and industry leaders. Whether you're looking to benchmark your farm's performance, learn about cutting-edge trials or shape the future of UK agriculture, The Big Scottish C&O Conference 2025 is the place to be.

Register your interest

With places expected to fill fast, early registration is recommended. Visit ahdb.org.uk/events for full details and to secure your spot.

NEWS & UPDATES

Empower your farm and assess bluetongue risk with your vet

The Battle Bluetongue campaign, led by AHDB and Ruminant Health & Welfare (RH&W) in collaboration with industry.

The campaign provides a comprehensive range of practical resources to support farmers and vets in any decision to vaccinate. Tools include the Bluetongue Movements Checker, Vaccine Comparison Tables, and Vaccination Finance Calculators for sheep, beef and dairy and are available on the AHDB and RH&W websites.



Your one-stop shop for BTB

The TBhub provides evidence-based bovine tuberculosis information. Hosted by AHDB and backed by over 15 organisations, including Defra, APHA, NFU, BCVA and the TB Advisory Service, it brings together practical advice, tools and support in one place.

Whether you're managing a current TB breakdown or looking to reduce the risk of one, TBhub has the resources you need including information about:

- Support and guidance
- Prevention and planning
- Policy and resources
- Latest data

Visit tbhub.co.uk to find out more

Dates for the diary: Cereals & Oilseeds events winter 2025/26

2025

4 November	Cover crops: Lessons from a Scottish Field
19 November	Grain markets analysis seminar at AgriScot
21 November	Agroecology Roadshow
11 December	The Big Scottish C&O Conference 2025

2026

8 January	Scotland Agronomy Roadshow
13 January	Scotland Agronomy Roadshow
15 January	Scotland Agronomy Roadshow
27 January	Resistance Roadshow
24 February	Arable Scotland conference
3 March	Micronutrients Roadshow
5 March	Micronutrients Roadshow

All dates correct at time of publication. Further events will be added later in the year

For the latest information on events and to register, visit ahdb.org.uk/events

Visit us at AgriScot 2025

Come and visit us at our stand at AgriScot on 19 November. Meet the team and catch up with what we've been up to over the last few months and what we have planned for the coming winter.

We will also be hosting a seminar on the day discussing the latest market outlook for Scotland, what sustainability means to Baird's malt, the NFU's view on the Scottish Ag policy and what the future holds, followed by a panel session.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Recommended Lists app

Delivering the latest variety data to your fingertips

RL

Now includes a variety compare feature.



ahdb.org.uk/rl

Available on Google Play and App Store