

# 2026 RHASS INNOVATION AWARDS

**Entries accepted until Friday 27th March**  
**Entry Cost: £230**



**CONVENOR OF JUDGES: Andrew Rennie, Aberdeenshire.**

## LIST OF JUDGES:

### RHASS COMMITTEE JUDGES

Christo Sheperd, Aberdeenshire  
Robert Livesey, Borders  
Gordon Gray, Borders  
Philip Benzie, Aberdeenshire  
Martin MacDonald, Highlands  
Hugh McClymont, Dumfries and Galloway  
Lyle Laird, Fife  
Alistair Dixon, Argyll

### EXTERNAL ADVISERS

Brian Sangster  
John Mackie  
Ross Robertson



## RHASS INNOVATION AWARDS

The RHASS Innovation Awards is our oldest competition, and are pivotal to the progression and future of Scotland's Agricultural Industry. The awards aim to recognise innovation within the agricultural sector and promote trail-blazing innovations that have a positive impact on Scottish Agriculture.

## INNOVATION ENTRY CATEGORIES

### ENTRIES CAN BE MADE IN THE BELOW THREE CATEGORIES:

- **Mechanical and Engineering Advancements:** Machinery, Robotics and Automatic Solutions.
- **Digital and Management Solutions:** IT and Computing solutions & Livestock and Arable management. Can include but not limited to Apps, Electronics, GPS Software, Farm Software, Livestock and Arable Management.
- **Crop and Animal Feed Advancement:** Chemical or technical advancement within crop production or animal feeds. To include advancement of breeding programmes or innovation to arable crops during their production cycle and enhancement to animal nutrition.



*Digital and Management Solutions, and Crop and Animal Feed Advancements are sponsored by AGRii.*

**ENTRIES SHOULD BE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE, OR BE PROTOTYPES IN DEVELOPMENT AT POINT OF ENTRY.**



## AWARDS

### INNOVATION AWARDS

Awards will be made only where the judges consider the entry to be of sufficient merit. Awards may be made as follows:

- Certificate of Commendation for which the exhibitor will receive a certificate\*.
- Silver Award for which the exhibitor will receive a Silver Award. A Silver Award winner may apply for a Gold Award after 3 years.
- A Gold Award will only be presented to a previous Silver Award winner that is of outstanding merit and has shown significant success, influence and effect in the marketplace. A Gold Award entry will not entail any further fee.

*\*A Certificate of Commendation award winner may re-apply for a Silver Award after 1 year and if further developments have been made to the original entry.*

The exhibitor of an innovation to which an award is made will receive a supply of self-adhesive stickers that identify the status of the award and the year in which the award was made. These stickers must be affixed only to production models of the award winning equipment.

An electronic award will also be available to award winners to allow them to promote the product online or on packaging.

## ENTRY DOCUMENTS AND FEES

Entries should be made via [the online entry system](#) found on the Royal Highland Show website.

All details required will be specified on the entry form.

### NEW FOR 2026

*A video will be required to be submitted to outline the innovation, how it works and its features.*

Please note a demonstration of the product may be requested.

*A non-returnable fee of £230 must accompany each entry.*

February: Entries open to applicants for the RHASS Innovation Awards 2026

- March: Entry deadline for the 2026 awards.
- May: Awards announced
- 18–21 June: Royal Highland Show

## AWARD GUIDELINES

### GUIDELINES FOR GOLD AWARD

- Gold award winners must have previously won a Silver Award in the RHASS Innovation Awards.
- The product or innovation must demonstrate significant success in the marketplace, showing substantial impact and growth.
- Winners must have had a notable influence on their industry, driving change or setting new standards.
- The innovation should exhibit a proven track record of effectiveness and practical benefits for its users.
- Gold Award applicants must show evidence of sustained success, including a clear and measurable effect on market trends or outcomes.

### GUIDELINES FOR SILVER AWARD

- The product or service must demonstrate notable innovation, introducing new concepts, designs, or techniques that improve upon existing products.
- The innovation should offer practical applications that benefit end-users, such as farmers, landowners, or businesses in the rural Industry.
- It must show economic benefits, including reducing costs, increasing productivity, or providing long-term value for money.
- A clear path to commercial success is required, with strong market potential for adoption by the agricultural sector or related industries.
- The product should positively impact sustainability by reducing energy consumption, waste, or resource use, and be robust and reliable for long-term use.

### GUIDELINES FOR COMMENDATION AWARD

- A Commendation Award recognises innovations that are promising and have demonstrated merit, but may not yet match the advancement or market impact of Silver Award recipients.
- The product should present a new concept or idea with potential benefits for the agricultural or rural sector.

- There must be evidence of improvements in performance, design, or operation compared to existing products, though these improvements may be less significant than those recognised for a Silver Award. While long-term reliability may not yet be demonstrated, the product should show signs of potential durability for its intended application.
- The innovation should have the potential for future growth or success in the market once further improvements are made.

## **DISPLAY OF WINNING ENTRIES AT THE ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW**

All award winners are requested to display their winning entry in a central display area during the Royal Highland Show.

All award winning entries must also be displayed on the exhibitor's stand if he/she is exhibiting at the Royal Highland Show. The Innovation Award Entry Card or Award Card provided by RHASS must be displayed.

## **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

Each exhibitor who has gained an award will receive notice of the presentation ceremony. A representative of the company will be invited to attend the ceremony that will take place during the 2026 Royal Highland Show.

## **JUDGES**

The Board of Directors of RHASS shall appoint suitable Judges with sufficient experience of the equipment/industries being judged. The Judge's decision shall be final.

## AWARD PROMOTION

### RHASS

RHASS is committed to showcasing the winners of the Innovation Awards, and will follow up with those who have received them before and after the Royal Highland Show. To help demonstrate the impact that winning the RHASS Innovation Awards has on your business/organisation, we will ask you to complete a follow-up report later in the year.

### AWARD RECIPIENTS

When displaying your award on the winning implement, attachment or improvement, you must use the wording and branding provided by RHASS. Any written announcement or display must state the year of the award and the exact nature of the improvement, or of the attachment to an implement, for which the award has been made.

## ACCEPTANCE OF ENTRY

Entries will be accepted at the discretion of the judges. Their decision will be reported by email to the entrant who, for the purposes of these regulations, will hereinafter be termed “the Exhibitor”. Entries may be submitted by the inventor, designer, manufacturer or one of their agents. If between the date an entry form is completed and the date of the announcement of the judges’ decision the manufacturer and/or exhibitor ceases or transfers his interest in the entry, or there is any material alteration to the specification provided to RHASS, the exhibitor shall immediately inform the Competitions Team, (which administers the Award on behalf of RHASS) of relevant information. In such cases RHASS reserves the sole right to approve the continuance of the entry, or otherwise.

## OBSERVANCE OF STATUTORY REGULATIONS

RHASS holds the exhibitor fully responsible for the observance of statutory regulations and obligations governing the safety of the entry.

Equipment is accepted for adjudication on the understanding that it complies with current Agricultural, Health and Safety Requirements and Road Safety Legislation where applicable. The CE mark must be on display at all times.





## DISPUTE OF ENTRY

If a notice in writing that an entry is considered to be an infringement of the right of another person, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Society prior to the announcement of the judges decision on that entry, the Innovation may still be considered by the judges. If the Innovation is found to be of sufficient merit an award may be made, subject to it being withheld by RHASS pending the outcome of the dispute between the parties. If litigation does not proceed within six months or such other reasonable period, as RHASS shall determine from the date of receipt of the notice, or if the action is withdrawn at any time, the award shall then be absolute. If litigation does proceed, the award will be held pending the outcome of the court action which RHASS will take into account in determining its final decision.

## INSUFFICIENT TRIALS FURTHER ASSESSMENT

On the recommendation of the judges, any entry which cannot be sufficiently tried or which is capable of further development may be re-assessed at a later date. Should any additional assessments be required the Exhibitor will be charged a nominal fee, at the discretion of the committee, to cover any costs incurred.