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Applications for 2026 RHASS Innovation Awards now open

Agri-entrepreneurs and businesses from across the country are invited to submit their applications to enter the 2026 RHASS Innovation Awards from today (Thursday 5th February).

The RHASS (Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland) Innovation Awards, previously known as the Technical Innovation Awards, is the oldest competition run by RHASS, with awards presented annually at the Royal Highland Show to highlight the trail-blazing innovations driving progress across the agricultural sector.

This year, RHASS is encouraging entries for the Crop and Animal Feed Advancement category, as no entries were received in 2025. The category is designed to demonstrate innovation in crop production, breeding programmes, animal nutrition and feed efficiency - areas that are critical to the future sustainability, productivity and resilience of Scottish agriculture.

Award categories for 2026 are:

- Mechanical and Engineering Advancements (Machinery, Robotics and Automatic Solutions).
- Digital and Management Solutions, sponsored by **Agrii** (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, sponsored by **Agrii** (Chemical or technical advancement within crop production or animal feeds. To include the advancement of breeding programmes or innovation to arable crops during their production cycle, and the enhancement of animal nutrition.

Katy McFadyen, Competitions Executive at RHASS, said: "The Innovation Awards are one of our longest-running competitions at RHASS and bring to light the incredibly talented individuals and innovations that help shape the future of Scottish agriculture.



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“We’re really excited to see the range of businesses and ideas that come forward this year, and we’re particularly keen to see more entries within Crop and Animal Feed Advancement, where innovation is vital to the industry’s future.

“Our thanks go out to Agrii for kindly sponsoring two of our awards categories this year, supporting the continued legacy of the awards.”

Winning entries will be awarded either a Certificate of Commendation, Silver Award, or the coveted Gold Award, which recognises innovations that have demonstrated exceptional marketplace success and industry influence.

In addition to the accolades, award winners will be invited to display their winning entry in a central display area during the Royal Highland Show and will have the opportunity to work with RHASS to help showcase their products to a wider audience.

Last year, four applicants received gold awards, with the winners' innovations being displayed within the agricultural zone during the Royal Highland Show. These included:

- Merlo UK for their electric telehandler ew25.5 which boasts an innovative new cab and hydraulics.
- Grintek UK for their baby portable grain dryer, the smallest mobile dryer in the world
- New Holland for their T6 methane power tractor, which gives a sustainable way of working
- SoilEssentials Ltd for their SKAi spot spraying system, which gives a much more sustainable way of spraying as it detects and sprays only where needed

Gold Awards may be applied for by entrants who have previously won a Silver Award, provided they can demonstrate their product or innovation meets the following criteria:

- Had significant success in the marketplace, showing substantial impact and growth
- Had a notable influence on their industry, driving change or setting new standards
- A proven track record of effectiveness and practical benefits for its users
- Evidence of sustained success, including a clear and measurable effect on market trends or outcomes.



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For 2026, applicants will also be required to submit a 20–30 second video, alongside existing application requirements, outlining their innovation, its purpose and its impact. This will support the judging process and help RHASS showcase shortlisted and winning innovations more effectively.

Andrew Rennie, Convenor of Judges and RHASS Director, of John Rennie & Sons (Farmers) Ltd in Turriff, added: “RHASS has a proud history of supporting agricultural innovation, and it’s a privilege to be part of that legacy. The awards play a key role in highlighting just how important innovation is to our sector.

“For anyone considering applying, this is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your work, demonstrate its real-world impact and gain recognition at the Royal Highland Show.”

The competition invites entries from across the agricultural spectrum, including prototypes and commercial products in areas such as machinery, equipment, apps, and data platforms.

Greig Baird, Head of Agronomy Teams, Scotland, Agrii said: “Real progress in agriculture comes from solving real problems, and that starts with innovation that’s been tested, proven and provides on-farm solutions. The RHASS Innovation Awards give those ideas an important platform, reaching farmers, growers and agri-businesses who are actively shaping how the industry operates.

“By supporting the Digital and Management Solutions and Crop and Animal Feed Advancement categories, we’re proud to help shine a spotlight on innovations that are delivering practical benefits, driving efficiency and shaping the future of Scottish agriculture. There really isn’t a better stage than the Royal Highland Show to showcase the work that’s making a genuine difference on the ground.”

The deadline for applications is Friday 27th March. Applicants will be informed if they are successful in May, with awards presented at the Royal Highland Show 2026, which takes place at the Royal Highland Centre from 18th – 21st June.

For more information and to submit your entry, visit www.royalhighlandshow.org

Ends

For further information please contact Muckle Media on 0131 229 9713 or by email: rhass@mucklemediagroup.co.uk



Notes to editor

About the RHASS Group

The RHASS Group is made up of Scotland's agricultural charity, RHASS, Scotland's premier outdoor venue, the Royal Highland Centre (Highland Centre Limited), and the UK's largest agricultural gathering, the Royal Highland Show.

About Royal Highland Show

Supported by the Royal Bank of Scotland, the next Royal Highland Show will take place at the Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh, Thursday 18 to Sunday 21 June 2026.

The first show was held in 1822 on a site that is now home to the Scottish Parliament. Today, it is Scotland's biggest outdoor event attended by 200,000 people per year. Run by the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS), it is regarded as one of Europe's best agribusiness shows.

About RBS

Royal Bank of Scotland's support of the Royal Highland Show is the longest partnership in our 300-year history.

One of the key moments to celebrate the value, importance and pride the agricultural sector offers to the country, the bank's long tradition of service to the industry has made the event as important to our colleagues as it is to the customers we serve. The biggest lender to farming in Scotland, we are close to the people and businesses who help the sector thrive and understand what they need today to make sure they can achieve their goals for tomorrow.