

PROGRAMME

Farmers and Nature: Promoting success and looking forward

Friday, 18 May 2018 - Battleby Conference Centre

1000-1030	Registration and Refreshments	
1030-1035	Welcome	Ian Gillies: Chair Non-Executive Board Member, SNH
1035-1045	Introduction	Francesca Osowska, Chief Executive Officer, SNH
1045-1100	Regenerative Agriculture at Balbirnie	David Aglen, Balbirnie Estate
1100-1115	The Challenges of Breaking the mould A description of the challenges and triumphs faced by trying to change how our traditional dairy has worked and working with nature to secure a sustainable future for our family and environment.	Bryce Cunningham, Mossgiel Farm
1115-1130	A Croft for the Future Farming with nature to build a sustainable and profitable business from scratch!	Lynn Cassels, Lynbreck Croft
1130-1145	Managing Knock, a Holistic Approach A short description of the diversity of challenges facing us daily and our approach to managing them.	Roger Polson, Knock Farm
1145-1200	Recording Nature on the Farm How recording flora and fauna can help and hinder farm management, now and in the future.	Teyl de Bordes, Whitmuir Estate
1200-1300	Panel discussion	Key issues, opportunities and challenges for supporting environmental action going forward
1300-1400	Lunch & networking	

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David Aglen, Balbirnie Estates



David manages 1200 ha of mixed farmland in Fife with a focus on regenerative agriculture. A series of wet harvests as well as a passion to look after the soil has prompted the shift to smaller machinery and direct drilling technology. Another strategy is moving the suckler cattle herd outdoors year-round with the hope of improving soil through increasing the natural fertility.

Bryce Cunningham, Mossgiel Farm

We are a small dairy farm, selling all products produced directly to consumers and retailers. We have almost completed our Organic certification and will be a fully certified Organic farm by July 1st 2018. We are also using Holistic Management to improve and regenerate our soils.



Lynn Cassels, Lynbreck Croft



We bought Lynbreck Croft in March 2018 in a semi derelict state with no working croft infrastructure. We have a mixture of in-bye (8ha) with woodland (3ha), bog (20ha) and hill ground (30ha). We have been working on a business plan that will deliver short and long term benefits for a small agricultural business where nature will always benefit. Regenerating the soils, improving biodiversity, planting trees, using a range of native breed animals and selling local produce direct are all central themes.

Roger Polson, Knock farm

Roger is a partner in the farming business at Knock Farm, Huntly, Moray. A mixed organic 434 ha farm with suckler cows, breeding ewes, livery horses and 50 ha of spring crop. With years of experience in Agri- Environment and a background as an Agri- Economist he is aware of both the good and bad of schemes and aims to manage Knock holistically whilst acknowledging the challenges.



Teyl de Bordes, Whitmuir Estate



Teyl manages 176 ha of mixed farmland near Selkirk, his varied background in horticulture helped him to record the various plant species that the farm supports. Further recording of mosses, lichens, moths, fungi and birds has taken the farm total to 1400+ species. This has helped support Agri-environment applications for funding but also looking forward may be useful if the current EC trials in Result Based Payments set the tone for future schemes.