



A conference for the Scottish Red Meat Industry Supply Chain

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**Scottish Red Meat
Industry Conference**

25.02.20

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QMS

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



 **Fergus Ewing MSP,**
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity

Fergus Ewing is the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy. Prior to that, He was the Minister for Community Safety and then the Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism. He is MSP for Inverness and Nairn, and was first elected in 1999, having been re-elected on four occasions. He is the elder son of Winnie Ewing, and his sister Annabelle is also a Minister in the Scottish Government.

Educated at Loretto School, he graduated in law from Glasgow University before serving his apprenticeship and then running his own legal practice. After decades of bagging Munro's, completing marathons and serving as a member of Lomond Mountain Rescue Team, he now engages in more sedentary pursuits such as the piano, listening to jazz and doing crosswords.

 **James Withers, Chief Executive of Scotland Food & Drink**

Scotland Food & Drink (SF&D) was set up in 2007 to grow the value and reputation of Scotland's food and drink industry. In March 2017, SF&D led the development of Ambition 2030 - a strategy to drive the responsible growth in the value of the sector to £30bn by 2030.

Prior to joining the SF&D in 2011, James was CEO of the National Farmers Union Scotland where he promoted the interests of the nation's agricultural industry. Amongst several other roles, James sits on the Scottish Government Board of Trade and is a Director of the Scottish Tourism Alliance, working to enhance Scotland's world class tourism industry.



 **Dr Frédéric Leroy, Vrije Universiteit, Brussels**

After having studied Bio-engineering Sciences at Ghent University (1992-1997), Frédéric obtained a PhD in Applied Biological Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in 2002, where he continued his academic career at the research group of Industrial Microbiology and Food Biotechnology (IMDO) as a post-doctoral fellow of the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO).

Since 2008, he has held professorship in the field of food science and (bio) technology. In addition, Frederic interests relate to human and animal health and wellbeing, as well as to elements of tradition and innovation in food contexts.

 **Dr Jude Capper, Livestock Sustainability Consultant**

Dr Jude Capper is a leading independent Livestock Sustainability Consultant based in the UK. Passionate about the role of animal agriculture in sustainable food production, her current research and knowledge exchange work communicates the global importance of livestock production, while also improving the understanding and knowledge of stakeholders within food production from farmers and retailers to policy-makers and consumers.





🐾 Dr Rod Polkinghorn, Beef Q Eating Quality

Dr Rod Polkinghorn is Chairman of Meat Standards Australia (MSA) Pathways Committee (1996 to date) which is independently responsible for the science which underpins Meat Standards Australia. Rod is an Adjunct Professor of Meat Science at the University of New England and has led collaborative consumer research projects for red meat in Japan, Korea, USA, Northern Ireland, Ireland, France, South Africa and New Zealand.

From his own herd, Rod developed a paddock to plate branded beef production method. Rod's unique technical capability and hands on approach have delivered domestic and global innovation and revenue growth at an industry and company level.

🐾 Robert Fleming, Castle Sinniness, Beef and Sheep Farmer, Scotch Beef Farm of the Year 2017

Robert Fleming farms at Castle Sinniness and associated farms near Glenluce in South-West Scotland. His farming enterprise comprises 240 hectares of grassland on the coast, stocked with suckler cows, 600-1000 growing cattle, 400 finishing cattle and Roussin sheep. Robert utilises a paddock grazing system, with the focus on home grown forage. Robert is a 2015 Nuffield Scholar and the title of his Nuffield study was 'Efficiency Gains Through Improved Beef Genetics'.



🐾 James Wylie, Pig Farmer, East Lothian



Jamie Wylie is Managing Director of the family business, Ruchlaw Produce Co Ltd, stretching to 555 hectares (ha) across four farms – Ruchlaw Mains in East Lothian, another farm in the Borders and two in Lanarkshire – employing 40 members of staff. The main enterprises are pigs, arable, sheep and renewables.

Jamie is also a director of the pig marketing co-operative, Scotlean Pigs, and sits on the newly reformed QMS Ruminants Industry Group.

🐾 Laura Ryan, Meat Business Woman

Laura is the founder and global Chair of Meat Business Women which launched in 2015. Laura joined the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) in 2007 after successfully launching premium beef & lamb brands within a large butchery business in the North East of England. Working her way through the ranks she was appointed as Sector Strategy Director for Beef & Lamb Board in 2015.

This year Laura successfully launched Lavenpark, her own consultancy business which is working with levy boards, government and commercial companies to achieve greater success through improved industry insight, connectivity, business development, marketing, and communications.



🐾 Steve McLean, M&S Head of Agriculture



Steve joined M&S in 2008 as Agriculture Manager for red meat and dairy supply chains and was appointed Head of Agriculture & Fisheries in 2012. In 2017, Steve added raw material supplies across the M&S food business to his responsibilities. Prior to joining M&S, Steve was Chief Executive of the British Texel Sheep Society, a manager with the ANM Lamb Marketing group, and a development officer with the Highlands & Islands Sheep Health Society.

 **Federico Stanham, President of the National Meat Institute Uruguay**

Federico Stanham is President of the Uruguay National Meat Institute. Uruguay is the smallest country in South America with 3.4 million people and 12 million head of cattle. Sixty five percent of beef production goes to service export markets.

Federico graduated from the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of the Republic as an agricultural engineer and has spent his career managing companies in the fresh food supply chain before specializing in management training of agricultural and agribusiness companies. He has been in his role at the National Meat Institute since 2011.



 **Kate Rowell, Chair of Quality Meat Scotland (QMS)**

Kate Rowell took up the post of chair of Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) in October 2018. A fifth-generation farmer, she operates a hill and upland farm near Peebles in the Scottish Borders with her husband Ed. A qualified vet, Kate worked in a mixed practice in the North of England for eight years before she returned home to take over the reins of the family business. The Rowells run 75 suckler cows and around 800 sheep on the 750-hectare Hundleshope farm on the Haystoun Estate, where the family have been tenants for 150 years.

As well as being a past QMS monitor farmer, Kate has been a member of the QMS board since 2015. She completed the Scottish Enterprise Rural Leaders programme in 2016 and was chosen as an Emerging Leader by the Oxford Farming Conference in 2018.

 **Alan Clarke, Chief Executive of Quality Meat Scotland (QMS)**

Alan is from Northern Ireland and has lived in Scotland for the last 9 years. Alan joined Quality Meat Scotland in May 2017, prior to that he was Chief Executive of Scottish Bakers from July 2010.

His career started when he was 16 and he opened his first business at the age of 21 and at 29 was appointed Chief Executive of the Wholesale & Retail Training Council in Northern Ireland, a position he held for 10 years. Directly before joining Scottish Bakers he was Director of Lifelong Learning UK responsible for a £30M programme in England aimed at creating better links between businesses and the providers of learning. Prior to that he had his own business for 5 years providing training and 3D content development services.

Alan has an MBA and Post Graduate Diplomas in Management Studies & Human Resource Management. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development.



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