



PRESS RELEASE

RHASS Awards Five Silver Medals For Technical Innovation

The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland has awarded five silver medals and five certificates of commendation under its Technical Innovation Awards Scheme for 2008.

In a reflection of trends within the industry, three of the main awards have gone to the use of new technologies, including data based livestock information, a scanning system for nitrogen application and auto-steering for tractors, the latter two from the same entrant, Soilessentials of Brechin, Angus.

The RHASS Technical Innovation Awards encourage and recognise innovation in the design and manufacture of machines, equipment and appliances which advance the effective and efficient practice of agriculture, horticulture, equestrian, forestry and estates services.

Chairman of the assessment panel, RHASS Director Douglas Fowlie, Milhill, Longside, Peterhead, said: “The 2008 awards endorse our move last year to broaden the scope of the scheme to embrace a much wider spectrum of products. It is encouraging that many of these new technologies are being recognised alongside more conventional products, all of them benefiting the industry.”

The silver medal awards are as follows:

Pearsons Cattle Handling System Inc “UK Spec” Squeeze Crush

American Squeeze Crush Systems Ltd., Glebe House, Aldborough, near Boroughbridge, North Yorks. Contact: Edward Penty. Tel: 01423 322326
Full cattle handling system to suit any size or breed of cattle, including multiple access gates making typical operations safer and simpler. Built in the USA for both cattle and bison with extra strength and weight of steel.

qboxanalysis - Suckler Monitor

Innovent Technology Ltd., Harbro Building, Markethill, Turriff, Aberdeenshire.

Contact: Martyn Colebrook. Tel: 01888 545217

Allows suckler producers to access slaughter data from their animals without direct contact to the abattoir assisting in making informed decisions on genetics, management and health issues. Also available for pigs and lambs.

The Roundhouse

Roundhouse Building Solutions, Harmire Enterprise Park, Barnard Castle, Co.Durham. Contact: Geoff Simpson. Tel: 01833 690379

Designed to allow one person to manage up to 150 cattle, safely and easily. The Roundhouse’s ventilation provides a near perfect atmosphere, reducing respiratory illness and the unique design blends well into the farmscape.

CropCircle Mapping & VRA System

Soilessentials, Hilton of Fern, Brechin, Angus. Contact: Jim Wilson. Tel: 01356 650307

A sensor system designed to scan crops and apply variable nitrogen rates to increase efficiency of the crop and reduce wastage. Invented in the USA, the single sensor system is one third of the price of competing systems.

Mojo RTK

Soilessentials - details above

A new, cheaper entry into the agricultural tractor auto steer market. To allow for Scotland's "braes", an additional eight sensor measurements provide superior terrain compensation. Settings can be adjusted or problems diagnosed in the field via the internet.

Certificates of Commendation have been awarded to the following:

Dairymaster UK Ltd., Buntsford Hill Business Park, Bromsgrove, Worcs, for their MooMonitor dairy cattle heat detector. Contact: Dave Pennell. Tel: 01527 878505

Ecorider Ltd., Unit 9, Balmakeith Business Park, Nairn, for their Ecoquad 90 mpg diesel quad bike. Contact: Manocher Salek. Tel: 01667 459988

Paxton Agricultural, Leafield Industrial Estate, Corsham, Wilts, for their polyethylene rust and rot proof drinking troughs. Contact: Katie Green. Tel: 01225 816500

Solway Recycling Ltd., Rigghead Farm, Shawhead, Dumfries, for their Solway Sheep Pen made from re-cycled farm plastic. Contact: Derek Foruer. Tel: 01387 730666

Watapot Ltd., PO Box 687, Tudor House, The Bordage, St Peter Port, Guernsey, for their planters and pots feeding water to the base of the plants and sucking back surplus water. Contact: Brett Allen. Tel: 01481 715918

Judges for the awards, in addition to Douglas Fowlie, were: Tom Arnott, Haymount, Kelso; William Ferguson, Rothiebrisbane, Fyvie; Hugh Fraser, Kinchyle, Scaniport, Inverness; Bill Gray, Rosemains, Pathhead; Colin Lowrie, Blegbie, Humbie; John Mackie, Dalfibble, Parkgate, Dumfries, and James Muir, The Learig, Ruskie, Stirling.

Ends

Note to Editors: The RHASS Technical Innovation Awards will be presented in the Board Room in Ingliston House at 4 pm on the Saturday (June 21) of the Royal Highland Show (June 19-22).

Further information:

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Society website: www.rhass.org.uk

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