I am proud to present our latest Annual Report following a year when once again our significant contribution to the future of rural businesses and communities was highlighted. Our students and clients were at the heart of our activities, and I must express my thanks and gratitude to our staff across all the Divisions for their commitment to supporting them.

Last year was a successful one for research with the gratifying news that in the UK Research Excellence Framework assessment the agricultural and veterinary research we submitted scored highly for its impact. A very high percentage of the work was judged world leading or internationally excellent, making it the most powerful in the UK and already this recognition is beginning to help in the competition for research funding. Our research reputation is also being enhanced through our involvement with the innovative and influential UK Agri Tech strategy.

Our REF submission was made jointly with the University of Edinburgh and in last year’s report I referred to our ongoing discussions exploring the opportunities for closer alignment. After significant consideration it was decided that while we would continue to work closely together it would be as independent institutions focusing on strengthening our already productive relationships such as in veterinary medicine.

You will read in this report that, in what for their farmer and crofter clients was a most challenging period, our staff in SAC Consulting completed one third of the country’s IACS forms. In education our Assistant Principal David James chaired the committee on behalf of the Scottish Funding Council which recently published the National Strategy for Land-based Education charting a way forward for both colleges and industry.

SRUC now faces the future in good heart following our improved financial performance. We continue to develop our agenda for growth and recognise investment across all of our key activities as a priority. While we will focus on efficiency measures to deliver cost savings we will continue to maintain a sustainable SRUC based on the close alignment of our academic, commercial and infrastructure strategies.

In addition to acknowledging the work of the staff I also wish to thank my fellow Directors on both the SRUC Board and the SAC Consulting Board. Some of them will step down this year, including our long serving Chairman Lord Jamie Lindsay. He has made an outstanding contribution to the success of SRUC, provided clear direction and leadership and been a much valued colleague. The Board and I have truly valued his support and will miss his wise counsel. We thank him greatly for his contribution.

Janet Swadling
Acting Chief Executive
Our Mission

Committed to excellence in the advancement, communication and translation of knowledge throughout the rural sector.

Our Vision

Leading innovation and sustainable development in agriculture, land and the rural sector.

Our Global Aims

To create SRUC academic resources which have local delivery, national impact and global influence.

To be an international leader in land-based research, education and consultancy services.

To be a sustainable, well-resourced organisation with exemplary credentials and real ownership amongst students, staff and stakeholders.

To continue to build on our assets and reputation.
Our Values

SRUC’s Shared Values were created by staff to shape the way we behave within the organisation and to describe how we deliver our services to customers and stakeholders.

Our Shared Values are summed up by the acronym RISE:

RESPECT everyone’s contributions
INNOVATE for success and
SUPPORT each other to
EXCEL in everything we do

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SRUC strives for continued excellence. The achievements of our staff and students help build our reputation for success.
New food and drink networks supported by SAC Food and Drink, through the Scottish Governments’ “Think Local” initiative includes the Cold Pressed Rapeseed Oil Group. Ayrshire Potatoes join growing list of Protected Food Names. Elmwood chefs develop new products for SMEs.

A Scottish Funding Council report into Further Education finds 71% of SRUC full-time students successfully achieve qualifications (national av 66%) with 86.7% part-time (av 77%).

Professor Mike Coffey appointed to the UK Farm Animal Genetic Resources Committee and the Council of the European Association for Animal Production.

Professor Fiona Buret takes chair of Fungicide Resistance Group-UK with industry, policy and research representation.

Consultant Douglas Bell and researcher Steven Thomson jointly win the RC Stewart Prize for methodologies and programmes helping explain the implications of the latest CAP reforms.

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Five students from Oatridge campus and two from Barony celebrate nine different awards at Lantra Scotland’s Land-based and Aquaculture Learner of the Year Awards.

Standing Out

Veterinary epidemiologists and SAC Consultants are the first tenants of the new Inverness campus.

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SRUC reaches out to rural businesses and communities in Scotland and beyond, helping them respond to change through the benefits of our research, education and consultancy.
SRUC provides business and training advice for a Cuban project generating renewable energy from a weed harvested on abandoned sugar plantations.

Our “Fieldfare” training service in northern England increased the numbers of BASIS approved courses delivered, including land and nutrient management.

SRUC expertise with students contributing to Scotland’s “Farming with Dyslexia Working Group”. Ayr student Kirstie Baird is the campaign’s first Ambassador.

SAC Consulting successfully delivers project aligning Moldovan food standards with EU.

SRUC thermal imaging skills track temperature changes during rare first flowering of a giant Titan Arum at Edinburgh’s Royal Botanic Gardens.

Over 13,000 people from 159 countries register online for chicken behaviour and welfare course for backyard poultry keepers organised together with University of Edinburgh.

Aberdeen pig production module for NC Agric students forges links with local pig industry.

60 professional golf and sports coaching students study in Spain and Sweden on EU Erasmus+ Mobility project.

At Elmwood First Minister Nicola Sturgeon meets some of over 1400 US students on our American summer exchange programme.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation supports African PhD students’ work at Crichton Royal Farm. In Malawi a visiting SRUC team trains students and staff in research techniques.

SRUC staff talk science with over 700 visitors to events in Edinburgh and Inverary. Other links with schools includes taking secondary science and maths classes and providing tractor power helping primary “field to fork studies” in Aberdeen.

SRUC researcher works with Kenya’s International Livestock Research Institute on genetically based programmes to improve dairy cattle in developing countries.

Edinburgh Zoo’s exhibition of life-size animatronic dinosaurs set in a landscape of plants from the Jurassic, designed by Oatridge horticulture students.
Communication, through our publications, events and advice, makes a difference. Based on our close ties with the rural sector, good working relationships with research partners and the respect of policy-makers.
New round of Scottish Government funded Farming for a Better Climate initiative. Nine farms focus on efficiency, with three in a Highland network. Of those attending 88% would make changes from knowledge gained.

Communication, career and community are central to new partnership agreed with SRUC Students Association, helping students maximise their experience and achieve their potential.

SAC Consulting invests in new people – Managing Director Mike Wijnberg; Potato Consultant Euan Fraser; Dairy Consultant David Keiley plus nine Consultants, 10 technical support staff and three student summer placements.

Post referendum “Rural Scotland Refocused” event invites academics, NGOs and MSPs to debate where rural Scotland should be by 2035.

Scottish pilot of NFU Mutual “Yellow Wellies” programme at Barony involves young farmers in farm safety demos. With Police Scotland SRUC delivers innovative safe driving course.

The SRUC-led National Strategy for Land-based Education and Training urges closer engagement among industry, colleges and schools to ensure opportunities are highlighted and employment needs met. More work placements, and part-time and online courses suggested.

New C-QAS analyser assessment service for vet practices from SRUC’s Capital Diagnostics.

SRUC a key contributor to the first “UK One Health” report. Its combination of data on antibiotic use, sales and resistance in humans and animals declared an important first step.

New SRUC Dairy Academy a comprehensive one-stop service to industry utilising expertise across our Divisions. Meetings for hard pressed sector held in NE, SW and Kintyre.

Epidemiologists in Inverness contribute to EU Space Agency funded LymeMap project, developing a Tick Warning app highlighting Lyme Disease risks.

Over 7,000 members of the public visit SRUC premises for open days and events. New farm visits code of practice introduced.
Finding Out

SRUC is committed to developing practical solutions to problems facing people, their livestock, crops and environment. Our research and teaching equips rural people with the knowledge and skills needed for the future.
With UK & EU industry partners, SRUC develops tools that use mid infra red spectra of milk to routinely predict health and fertility in cows and fatty acid content of milk. To date over 1.5 million samples tested.

Launch of new Monogastric Science Research Centre focusing work on pigs and poultry.

SRUC expertise in imaging and scanning contributes to new research seeking improved production and better eating quality of home-grown UK lamb.

With Roslin, AHDB Dairy and Genus, SRUC is helping enhance food production from livestock by integrating whole genome sequence data into dairy breeding programmes.

Our scientists produced over 167 publications of which 98 were new refereed papers.

Crop & Soil Systems Trials Team combines over 7,000 research plots, appoint a modern apprentice and invest in a new specialist combine harvester.

Our Crop Protection team publishes genome of newly important barley pathogen “Ramularia”.

For consultants and managers we launch our unique, on-line, post-graduate Diploma or Masters degree in Agricultural Professional Practice.

First students begin modules in Scotland’s only RICS accredited BA in Rural Business Management.

Workshops by SAC Consulting Vets in the Marine Animal Strandings Scheme train volunteers to collect data and samples from stranded whales, dolphins and seals.

SAC Consulting in England selected to deliver UK Dairy Industry’s “Action Johnes Initiative”.

Finding Out

- SRUC a key party to the UK Agri-Tech Strategy establishing companies for the transfer of knowledge and data to help business develop innovative, market-led solutions to the challenges facing the food and agricultural technology industries.

SRUC Research Income 2014/15
Total Income £15.71m

- RESAS Programme
- RESAS Underpinning
- TSB
- Research Councils
- EU
- Other RESAS
- Industry
- DEFRA
- Other Government
- SFC
- Levy Bodies
- Other

Crichton Royal Farm part of COSMOS UK project using cosmic rays to monitor weather, soil moisture and emissions.

All courses in Animal Care previously delivered by North East Scotland College transfer to SRUC at Craibstone.
A Sustainable SRUC

Reducing our environmental impact
Together with MSPs SRUC and five other leading colleges and universities in Edinburgh launch eCycle electric bike sharing initiative. Two eCycles available for staff at Edinburgh campus.

SRUC and its Student Association fully accredited for commitment to sustainability and social responsibility under NUS Responsible Futures initiative. It embeds sustainability and social responsibility into our curriculum, practices and key documents, audited by specially trained students.

SRUC met the ambitious target of 5% savings in energy consumption with plans to maintain progress.


Launch of first staff and student travel survey to inform the SRUC Travel Plan Strategy and individual Campus Travel Plans.

SRUC Chairman and Acting Chief Executive sign recommitment of Universities and Colleges’ Climate Commitment for Scotland, a programme for monitoring and reporting carbon emissions and wider sustainability activity.

Switching to using 100% recycled, unbleached paper for all printing, saves 25% on costs, supports our commitment to sustainability and is easier for dyslexia sufferers to read from.

Introduction of Europe’s smallest personal safety device, incorporating the latest GPS and GPRS technologies for protecting lone workers and at risk individuals.

SRUC unveils plans for all its farms to be audited in support of campaign by Scottish Government, NFUS, NFU Mutual and the Health and Safety Executive to reduce annual deaths and serious injury on Scotland’s farms.

Training programme to build health and safety competence and ownership, addressing key issues threatening the safety of our people and our continued success.

Student accommodation at Aberdeen campus is the first of its kind to win Visit Scotland’s “Taste our Best” award for serving quality Scottish Produce.

SRUC signs the Scottish Government’s 50:50 by 2020 pledge to increase diversity in the Boardroom.

SRUC launches “Equality and Diversity in the workplace” online staff induction training. Staff mentoring programme relaunched enabling knowledge transfer and supporting career progression.

New SRUC induction programme reaches all new employees wherever they are based.
SRUC has recognised excellence in making awards to:

**Personal Professorships**
- Dr Fiona Burnett – Professor of Applied Plant Pathology
- Dr Jos Houdijk – Professor of Animal Nutrition and Health
- Dr Gareth Hughes – Professor of Plant Disease Epidemiology
- Dr Raphael Mrode – Professor of Quantitative Animal Genetics and Genomics
- Dr David Roberts – Professor of Dairy Farming Systems.
- Dr Sarah Skerratt – Professor of Rural Society & Policy
- Dr Eileen Wall – Professor of Integrative Livestock Genetics

**Readerships**
- Dr Spiridoula Athanasiadou – Reader in Gastrointestinal Health
- Dr Klaus Glenk – Reader in Environment and Resource Economics
- Dr Kenny Rutherford – Reader in Animal Welfare Science

**The RC Stewart Prize for Consultancy**
- Douglas Bell, Senior Agriculture Policy Consultant
- Steven Thomson, Agricultural Economist

**The Inverarity Prize**
- Professor George Gunn, Head of Veterinary Epidemiology

**Sir Stephen Watson Staff Prize**
- Tom Karas, Lecturer, Barony campus; Darren Watt, Head of Research Support Office

**Visiting Professorships**
- Dr Donagh Berry – Visiting Professor of Livestock Computational Genetics
- Dr Alan Duncan – Visiting Professor of Tropical Livestock Systems
- Dr Nicolas Friggens – Visiting Professor of Biological Modelling
- Professor Timothy Gondwe – Visiting Professor of Tropical Applied Animal Breeding and Production Systems

**Excellence in Teaching Award**
- Brian Connolly, Barony campus and Phil Lusby, visiting Lecturer (Head of the School of Horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh)

**Principal’s Award for Lifetime Achievement in Teaching**
- Joy Gladstone, Ayr campus
www.sruc.ac.uk

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