



**SCOTTISH
QUALITY CROPS**

END OF YEAR ROUND-UP

December 2025



The SQC Board recently met at the International Barley Hub on the 11th and 12th December.

Firstly, from everyone at SQC, we wish all our assured growers a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

It's been another year of challenges with imports remaining high on the discussion agenda – along with demand and supply issues across the grain trade aligned to political and economic uncertainties both domestic and overseas.

But, for SQC, our priority remains about ensuring that our growers can continue to access as wide a market as possible for their grain via assurance and certification.

SQC wise, it's been a busy year with the publication of the Farm Assurance Review report and associated recommendations which have triggered requirements for change across the farm assurance sector. One thing it has highlighted for us is a need to continue to engage with – and strengthen – our working relationships with growers and all stakeholders across the supply chain. We need to increase awareness and understanding

of the processes which sit behind our crop assurance scheme; the differences between scheme owners, levy boards, marketing and lobbying organisations; what SQC is responsible for (and where we cannot become involved) and the importance of the distinction between SQC and our Certification Body, FIA. On that final point – I also want to thank FIA once again for all their efforts that go unseen to ensure smooth delivery of SQC assessments and certification.

And, whilst we are always keen to stress that SQC cannot lobby on behalf of our assured growers, it should still be noted that we support the work you and the industry do. SQC currently sit on around 15 stakeholder representative groups and this year have attended over 130 stakeholder meetings.

In addition, we continue to increase our visibility through other agricultural

shows and conferences, giving us the opportunity to speak with our members and inform others about what we do – for example, we presented an update to new members of the Scottish Corn Traders Association earlier in the year.

Internally, we held over 140 meetings – ranging from meetings of the SQC Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Standards Setting Committee, comms sub group, Scottish Crops Supply Chain Hub and SQC Assessors Consultation Group. And, we continue to work closely with Jane Craigie Marketing to develop better engagement. We were again in front of the camera with others within the supply chain – watch this space for the launch of a new video. And, we will also be launching a new website in the new year – with the aim to provide a 'one stop shop' for 'all things SQC', giving you easier access to all the information you need. Huge thanks to Susannah and the full team at Jane Craigie Marketing for their ongoing guidance and support.

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Our last big job of this year is to complete a SQC Standards justification and benchmarking report – the first step in the full Standards review. With regards to the first three weeks of the New Year, we already have 10 meetings in the diary with key stakeholders to ensure full engagement and consultation as part of the Standards review process. These meetings include AIC, Scotch Whisky Association, NFUS, Maltsters Association and UK Millers. These discussions will help to inform us what Standards are relevant to each area of the supply chain and to further justify why they are there – ensuring that all Standards are required and fit for purpose. Consultation will also identify any gaps within the Standards. The review will also look at 'how' we undertake assessments and

how we can improve the process for SQC members.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank the SQC Co-op members – Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC), Maltsters Association GB (MAGB), NFU Scotland, Scottish Agronomy, SAOS, SRUC, Scotch Whisky Association (SWA), and UK Flour Millers and their associated representatives on the SQC Board of Directors for their work and commitment – including sharing of expertise and guidance which we could not do without.

And finally, a thank you to each and every SQC member for your continued support. As always, we welcome your views and input – so please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Teresa Dougall,
SQC Managing Director



We'd like to wish our growers and stakeholders a rest over the festive season and a good growing year to come.

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