HDRF Conference 2026

Next Generation **Responsible** Dairying

Hannah Dairy Research Foundation

Journal of Dairy Research

Edinburgh, November 9th and 10th, 2026

PROGRAMME

JDR PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION	
Monday 9th November 2026	
09:30	Arrival and registration for pre-Conference JDR Session. Coffee available. Online portal open
10:15 – 10:30	**Introduction, Prof Nick Jonsson. Editor, JDR**
Short oral communications. Chair: Prof Nick Jonsson	
10:30 – 10:45	**Paul Campbell, University of Glasgow.** *Genome-wide responses to macrocyclic lactone treatments in Ostertagia ostertagi*
10:45 – 11:00	**Joana Lima, SRUC.** *Exploring faecal microbiome signatures associated with milk drop syndrome in dairy cattle during suspected mycotoxin exposure*
11:00 – 11:15	**Victoria Harris, Aberystwyth University.** *A study to consider the prevalence of pelvic axial rotation in dairy cows and it's use as an objective indicator of lameness taking into consideration other cow-level and management factors*
11:15 – 11:30	**Maha Shalaby, SRUC.** *From assay development to real-sample testing: an extraction-free LAMP-lateral flow workflow for rapid detection of dairy-associated bacteria*
11:30 – 11:45	**Holly J. Ferguson, SRUC** *Animal-mounted technologies can reduce GHG emissions intensity on commercial dairy farms*
Plenary	
11:45 – 12:30	**Dr Manuela Renna, University of Turin, Italy.** *Insect-derived products in ruminant nutrition: Current knowledge and future prospects*
Close of Session, Lunch.	

MAIN CONFERENCE PROGRAMME	
Monday 9th November 2026	
12:30 – 13:10	Arrival and Registration for Conference. Lunch available.
13:10 – 13:15	**Welcome and Introduction. Prof Dave Roberts, HDRF Executive Officer**
Opening Plenaries. Chair: Prof Dave Roberts	
13:15 – 14:00	**Dr Joe Neary, University of Liverpool.** *Who is responsible for Responsible Dairying? Putting the animal at the centre.*
14:00 – 14:45	**Prof Nicola Randall, Harper Adams University.** *Regenerative agriculture and circular food systems: is there evidence that this is a responsible way forward?*
Bulletin Board Scottish Dairy Innovation.	
14:45 – 15:00	**Katharine S. Denholm, Glasgow University.** *Associations between calf serum total protein concentrations and subsequent survival, milk production and fertility using data from three UK clinical veterinary practices.*
15:00 – 15:15	**Thomas Tzelos, Moredun Research Institute.** *Identification and validation of a microRNA panel for detection of bovine respiratory disease in calves*
15:15 – 15:30	**Rebecca E McHugh, University of Glasgow.** *Discovering antibiotic-producing bacteria in the bovine gut: exploring the potential of Streptomyces to manage calf scour*
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee, Posters and Meet the Presenter Session
Plenary. Chair: Dr Ali Haggerty, HDRF Trustee.	
16:00 – 16:45	**Prof Mizeck Chagunda, University of Edinburgh.** *Harnessing the power of global genetics through responsible dairy breeding.*
Oral Communications.	
16:45 – 17:00	**Jessica S. Cooke, Volac Milk Replacers Ltd.** *Growth and health of dairy calves fed milk replacer at different feed rates*
17:00 – 17:15	**Joanna Urbaniec, University of Liverpool.** *Nasal shedding of bovine coronavirus during commingling is associated with reduced average daily gain and lung lesions in weaned seropositive calves*
17:15 – 17:30	**Farsan S. Rahman, University of Liverpool.** *Commingling intensity is associated with distinct temporal systemic transcriptomic trajectories in weaned Angus × Holstein calves*
Close of Session	

Conference Dinner
Whisky Experience Castlehill Room, Royal Mile. 7.30 for 8.00

Tuesday 10th November 2025	
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival, online portal open
Bulletin Board Scottish Dairy Innovation. Chair: TBC	
09:00 – 09:15	**Laura Shewbridge Carter, SRUC** *The Grass is Greener: Cow behaviour on and preference for multi-species swards*
09:15 – 09:30	**Victoria Heyraud, Edinburgh Napier University.** *Routine ELISA histories, hidden infection burden and future Johne's disease risk: evidence from simulated dairy herds*
09:30 – 09:45	**Margaret D. March, SRUC.** *Defining pathways towards sustainable production for the UK dairy sector*
Plenary.	
09:45 – 10:30	**Prof David Rose, Harper Adams University.** *Pasteurising the promise: From techno-optimism to responsible innovation in Digital Dairy Futures*
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee, Posters and Meet the Presenter Session
Plenary. Chair: Bruce Mackie, HDRF Trustee.	
11:00 – 11:45	**Prof Chris Knight, University of Copenhagen** *Having responsibilities, and being responsible. Dilemmas for dairy, and dairy research.*
Oral Communications.	
11:45 – 12:00	**Nisha Tucker, University of Surrey.** *Use of a faecal microbiome signature to determine health status and productivity in dairy cattle*
12:00 – 12:15	**Joana Lima, SRUC.** *Exploring faecal microbiome signatures associated with milk drop syndrome in dairy cattle during suspected mycotoxin exposure*
12:15 – 12:30	**Akke Kok, Wageningen University and Research, the Netherlands.** *Reducing the carbon footprint of milk on Dutch dairy farms: how far can we go?*
Plenary. Chair: Prof Julie Fitzpatrick, HDRF Trustee.	
12:30 – 13:15	**Rachael Madely-Davies, AHDB.** *From Roadmaps to Responsible Reality*
Closing remarks	
13:15	Prof Julie Fitzpatrick, HDRF Chair
Close of Conference, Lunch and Meet the Presenter Session. Buses depart for post-Conference visit at 14.00	

Posters
Rowan Cook, SRUC. *Genetic variation in resilience to reduced milking frequency in dairy cattle*
Loubna Abou el Qassim, SRUC. *Pasture diversity modulates the milk fat microRNA profile in grazing dairy cows*
Simon Kealey, University of Glasgow. *Survey of the parasite distribution of an island population of first grazing season dairy youngstock*
Hollie Leighton, University of Liverpool. *Water availability, bedding substrate and surface transfer of environmental mastitis pathogens in a synthetic slurry model*