



## **IAN CRUICKSHANK, SAUCHENLOAN - CREAM OF THE RNAS CROP**

Ian Cruickshank, Sauchenloan, Rothienorman has triumphed with his crop of Blackstoi winter wheat, winning the overall championship in this year's Royal Northern Agricultural Society (RNAS) cereal growing competition.

Sponsored by agricultural merchants McCreath, Simpson and Prentice, this annual competition fulfils one of the aims of the RNAS - to improve agricultural production – through promotion, recognition and reward for good husbandry practice in crop growing. Each standing crop is scored for disease, weeds, uniformity, mechanical operations, crop density and size of ears.

Regional sales director Robb Milne said "McCreath Simpson & Prentice is delighted to continue this event sponsorship, which helps to demonstrate best practice in the north east of Scotland. As an industry, it is very important - especially in a year like 2025 where crops have struggled with lack of water - that best techniques are studied and shared to benefit the whole cereal sector."

Commenting on this year's competition, convenor Mike Morrice said "It is an important showcase for the excellent crop husbandry in this area and it's good to see previous entrants coming back to the competition and some new names in the prize list too. Of the 49 entries, we had an increase in the oats section, particularly with winter oats which are becoming more prevalent for rotation with wheat crops."

Succeeding a crop of oilseed rape, Ian Cruickshank's Blackstoi wheat was sown on 2 October 2024, with an application of chicken muck pre-ploughing. All nitrogen applied was in liquid form and the agronomy programme was carried out by Andrew Dalgarno, Frontier. Yield was 4.71 tonnes/acre.

His crops of winter wheat (Blackstoi, Skyscraper), winter barley (Tardis, Kingsbarn) and oilseed rape are marketed through Aberdeen Grain. Highly renowned for his seed potatoes, Ian grows 170 acres on an eight year rotation with production concentrated on the north African and English markets.

Judge John Veitch awarded reserve championship to Stracathro Estates with Extase winter wheat and the LFA winner was John Sim, Rorandle, Monymusk with Sassy spring feeding barley.

The full results are as follows:

|                        |          |                    |                                |            |
|------------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b>1 WINTER BARLEY</b> | <b>1</b> | AJ Duncan          | Muirden, Turriff               | Tardis     |
|                        | <b>2</b> | Greengrowers LLP   | Cushnie, Turriff               | Lightning  |
|                        | <b>2</b> | David Green        | Craigiewell, Woodhead, Turriff | Kingston   |
| <b>2 WINTER WHEAT</b>  | <b>1</b> | Ian Cruickshank    | Sauchenloan, Rothienorman      | Blackstoi  |
|                        | <b>2</b> | Stracathro Estate  | Brae of Pert, Laurencekirk     | Extase     |
|                        | <b>3</b> | Alexander Norrie   | Woodside of Wrae, Turriff      | Collosseum |
| <b>3 WINTER OATS</b>   | <b>1</b> | I & N Campbell     | Kirkton Farms, Kinellar        |            |
|                        | <b>2</b> | Alexander Norrie   | Woodside of Wrae, Turriff      | Cromwell   |
|                        | <b>3</b> | Ednie Farms        | Ednie, Peterhead               |            |
| <b>4 SPRING OATS</b>   | <b>1</b> | Stracathro Estates | Brae of Pert, Laurencekirk     | Conway     |
|                        | <b>2</b> | Kevin Adams        | Netherton, Garlogie            | Merlin     |
|                        | <b>3</b> | Ednie Farms        | Ednie Farms, Peterhead         |            |
| <b>4 SPRING MALT</b>   | <b>1</b> | K P Duncan         | North Sandlaw Farm, Banff      | Laureate   |
|                        | <b>2</b> | I & N Campbell     | Kirkton, Kinellar              | Divine     |
|                        | <b>2</b> | John Dick          | Northton, Cullerlie, Echt      | Laureate   |
| <b>5 SPRING FEED</b>   | <b>1</b> | Ross Bros          | Wardhead, Strichen             | Skyway     |
|                        | <b>2</b> | Daniel Skinner     | Faerview, Inch                 | Firefoxx   |
|                        | <b>3</b> | Ron Farquhar       | Tewel, Stonehaven              |            |

The next RNAS competition is the turnip and fodder beet competition, with entries to be submitted online by November 14<sup>th</sup> at <https://showingscene.com/events/rnas-turnip-and-fodder-beet-growing-crop-competition-dec-2025>.

The next event on the RNAS calendar is the annual awards lunch which will take place at the Leonardo Hotel, Aberdeen Airport on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://tickets.rnas.org.uk/events>

## Notes to Editors

***Photograph attached of Ian Cruickshank, pictured at Sauchenloan Farm, Rothienorman in a crop of Tardis winter barley at 32 days.***

The Royal Northern Agricultural Society (RNAS) was founded in 1843 by progressive farmers and landowners in North East Scotland, an area renowned throughout the world for the

quality of its livestock and the stockmanship of its farmers. The Society aims to “improve agricultural production and the rural economy in all its branches.” It is best known for a range of activities including the acclaimed annual Spring Show, competitions for growing cereals and turnips, awards for outstanding service to agriculture and encouragement of good farming practice. The Society has also been able to give assistance to some very worthwhile causes, particularly countryside education for young people. To find out more, visit [www.rnas.org.uk](http://www.rnas.org.uk)