

NFU Scotland / SAYFC National Hustings event – Panellists



Scottish Liberal Democrats: Alistair Carmichael was elected to Parliament in 2001 as MP for Orkney and Shetland, and since then has campaigned on a range of farming, crofting and other rural issues. In September 2024 he was elected unopposed as Chair of the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee. His parents were hill farmers rearing sheep and cattle and he is now a partner in the family farm there.



Reform UK Scotland: Richard Fairley grew up in Larbert and went to Oatridge Agricultural College. He has farmed in Larbert, Denny and other parts of the Falkirk area and has run his family mixed animal /arable farm business since 2018.



Scottish National Party: Jim Fairlie was the SNP MSP for Perthshire South and Kinross-shire since 2021, and the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity since 2024. Before entering politics, he ran a livestock farm in Perthshire, and a hospitality business, giving him hands-on experience of agriculture and rural enterprise.



Scottish Conservatives: Jamie Halcro Johnston was a Highlands and Islands MSP since 2017. He was previously the Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism and Shadow Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise. He was brought up at his family home in Orkney.



Scottish Greens: Mags Hall is Head of Strategy and Campaign for the Scottish Greens, and a lead candidate for Mid Scotland and Fife. She led on developing the Scottish Greens manifesto for the 2026 Holyrood election and has previously led on developing food and farming policy for the Scottish Greens.



Scottish Labour: Jack McConnell spent years as a diplomat, working across four continents with his politics rooted in faith and community. He helped set up the church's food bank, campaigned for affordable housing as a community organiser, and volunteered in a night shelter. As a Cooperative Party member too, he believes in real community power from energy to land.