

EARLY EVALUATION TRIAL PLOTS 2025



**SCOTGRAIN
AGRICULTURE**



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Each year at Scotgrain Agriculture, in partnership with Soufflet Bairds Malt, we prepare and host our Early Evaluation Programme which allows us to assess the newest and most outstanding varieties of Barley and Wheat coming through the breeder pipeline.

We work in partnership with the major plant breeders across Europe, with the aim to accelerate the introduction of new varieties to the Scottish grower base. The programme is designed to bring forward the best available varieties to benefit growers, the maltster and our distilling and brewing customers.

Scotgrain's unique relationship with Soufflet Bairds Malt allows us to take aggregated samples from the trial sites to the Bairds central lab, where they can be assessed using micro-malt analysis. This enables us to put forward varieties that we as a group consider to have strong potential in Scotland and therefore merit introduction into the wider market.

Our micro-malting programme is run over a series of seasons at incremental levels testing consistency in the field, maltings and distillery. This allows us to help breeders develop varieties that have true scalability within the industry.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gary Mills', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Gary Mills
SEED MANAGER
SCOTGRAIN AGRICULTURE

SOURCING SCOTTISH BARLEY



Scotgrain are a leading Agricultural Merchant covering supply of arable inputs, agronomy, procurement & marketing of grains, oilseeds and pulses.

As a part of the Soufflet Bairds Malt family Scotgrain plays a critical part in ensuring quality supply of Scotland's best malting barley to many of the world's leading distillers and brewers, while also ensuring guaranteed supply chain for growers throughout Scotland.

Scotgrain's activities cover the whole scope of farm activities supplying seeds, fertilisers, agrochemicals, animal feeds, agricultural lime and the procurement and marketing of all grains, oilseeds and pulses.

Operating throughout the eastern seaboard of Scotland, Scotgrain's field staff are trained experienced individuals able to offer professional advice on the market in addition to the products and services we can offer.

EARLY EVALUATION 2025 ASSESSMENT

IN 2025, 31 DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF SPRING BARLEY AND 21 WINTER WHEATS WILL BE ASSESSED IN THREE OF SCOTLAND'S MOST IMPORTANT ARABLE AREAS. WE ARE ALSO CONDUCTING TRIALS TO ASSESS NEW SEED TREATMENTS, FOLIAR PRODUCTS & NUTRITION WITH OUR TARGET TO OPTIMISE LAND USAGE AND REDUCE OUR OVERALL CARBON FOOTPRINT



MYRESIDE FARM, INVERKEILOR

- Early evaluation varietal plots Barley
- Seed treatment trials
- Foliar Nitrogen trials
- Nutrition trials (OEP)



CAIRNFECHEL FARM, UDNY

- Early evaluation varietal plots Barley
- Early evaluation varietal plots Wheat
- Companion crop trials



CULLAIRD FARM, INVERNESS

- Early evaluation varietal plots Barley

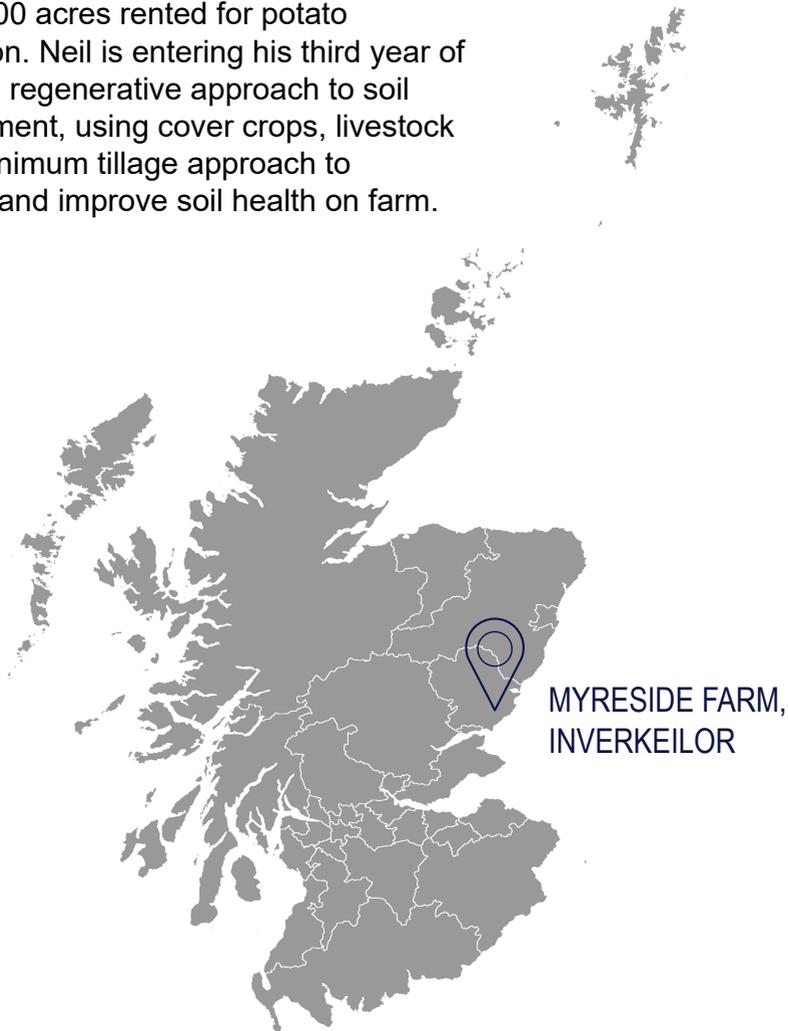


**SCOTGRAIN
AGRICULTURE**

2025 ANGUS TRIAL PLOTS



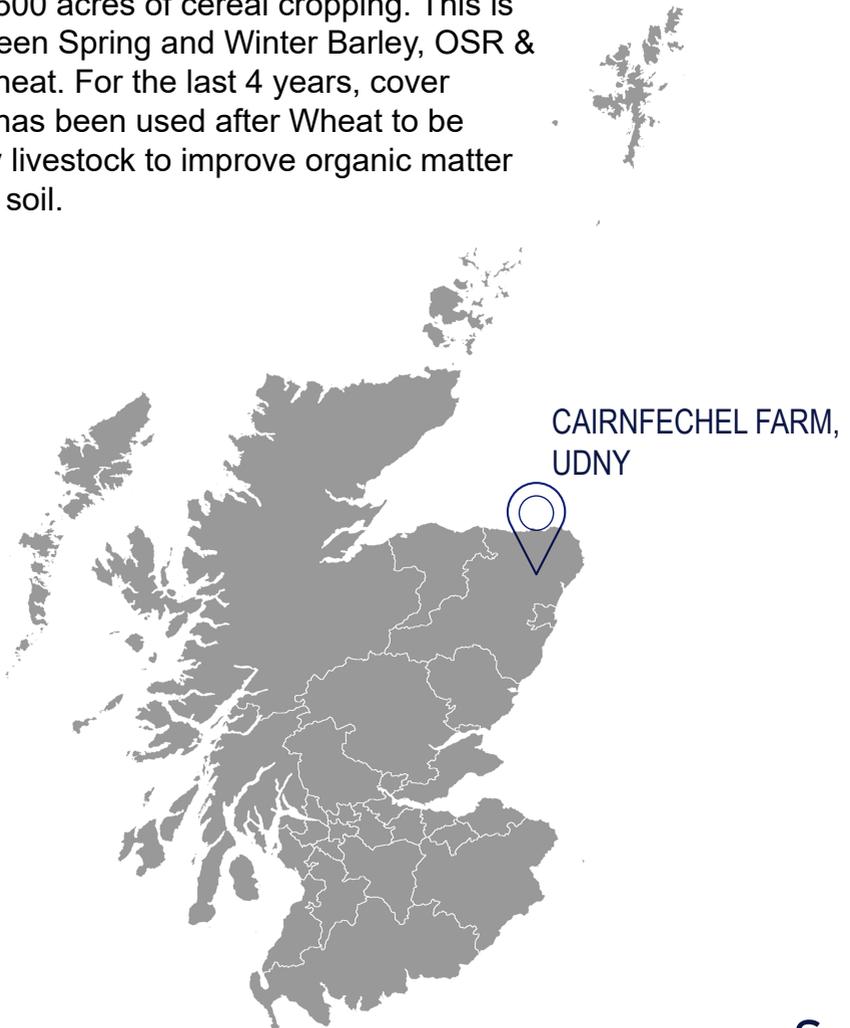
Neil McEwan and his family have been farming at Myreside, Inverkeilor since 2016. The farm consists of 500 acres of cereals, peas and grasses as well as a further 100 acres rented for potato production. Neil is entering his third year of trialling a regenerative approach to soil management, using cover crops, livestock and a minimum tillage approach to manage and improve soil health on farm.





2025 ABERDEENSHIRE TRIAL PLOTS

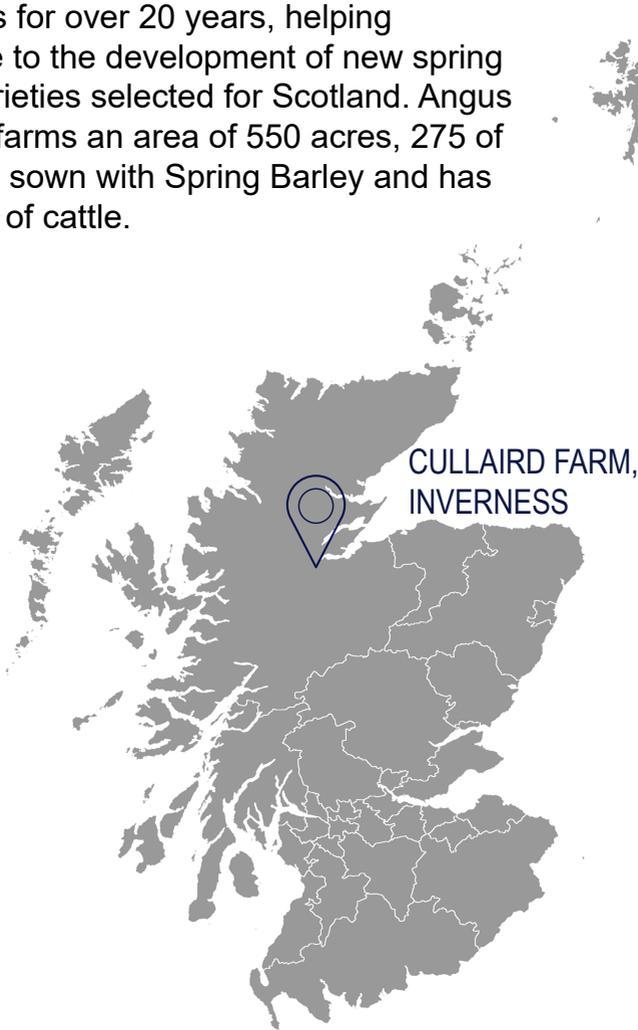
JKR Farms Ltd (Jim, Kevin & Ryan) have been farming in Aberdeenshire since 2019 where they purchased their first farm, Cairnfechel at Udney. Since then their farming enterprise has expanded to include new farms at Cairnadailly, Nether Auquadailie & Bogehead with a combined total of 1,500 acres of cereal cropping. This is split between Spring and Winter Barley, OSR & Winter Wheat. For the last 4 years, cover cropping has been used after Wheat to be grazed by livestock to improve organic matter within the soil.



2025 INVERNESS TRIAL PLOTS



Angus MacLaren's family have been farming at Cullaird since 1964 and were one of the first families to send Golden Promise barley to our Inverness maltings back in 1969. As well as supplying high quality barley, Angus has also hosted Scotgrains early evaluation trials days for over 20 years, helping contribute to the development of new spring barley varieties selected for Scotland. Angus currently farms an area of 550 acres, 275 of which are sown with Spring Barley and has 100 head of cattle.



THE JOURNEY OF A SEED

YEAR 1

Cross of 1st generation seed (F1) sown & harvested in the UK. The 2nd generation seed (F2) is then sown in the Southern Hemisphere.

YEAR
2-5

Seeds are sown in both the Northern and Southern hemisphere over a 5 year period to multiply the seed generations. In year 5 the 8th generation seed (F8) sown in National List 1 in UK & harvested. First cut of variety selection after considering Distinction, Uniformity, Stability (DUS), yield & quality. This can be the first year when the seed is assessed in our Early Evaluation Programme.

YEAR 6

9th generation seed (F9) varieties usually named & sown in NL2 in UK & harvested. At this stage Bairds are looking more closely at varieties in the early evaluation programme and making a selection as to what will be taken forward.

YEAR 7

At this stage we bring forward the best varieties in tier 1 of our Macro-scale malting evaluation, which is the 1st part of MAGB approval process.

YEAR
8-9

Tier 2 and Tier 3 of our Macro-scale malting evaluation takes place, this allows us to reference performance over multiple malting batches and in partnership with customers who trial the malt in their production cycles.

YEAR 10

A full mainstream roll-out of the variety takes place, introducing the malt to the wider market.

Having gone through rigorous testing over decade, only a limited number of varieties make it to this stage.



Sustainability has become a key focus in recent years as a result of the governments wider targets to hit net zero by 2050.

Agriculture has the potential to make a significant contribution towards achieving this goal. That said, this must be achieved in a manner that compliments British agricultural systems and aligns with the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative's three pillars of sustainability: People, Planet & Profit.

As such, it is important that we work together as a supply chain to collaboratively explore methods that allow us to optimise our carbon sink potential and reduce our carbon emissions.

Scotgrain Bairds Malt have developed a programme of activity in Scotland aimed at exploring which activities will help us to contribute to these targets without compromising the integrity of our farming systems.

While carbon remains the key focus for many, we believe it is crucial that biodiversity and soil health play an equally important role in our work.



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME 2025

Clover & Barley Companion Crop Trials

Plot based trials looking at whether we can successfully reduce synthetic nitrogen applications in spring barley by sowing into an established clover ley. **(Aberdeenshire)**

Winter Wheat & Winter Bean companion Crop Trials

Looking at whether we can successfully reduce synthetic nitrogen applications in winter wheat by companion cropping with winter beans. **(Aberdeenshire)**

Biological control of Septoria in Winter Wheat

Trials to investigate whether we can get successful control of septoria in winter wheat when replacing traditional chemical fungicides with biological products. **(Aberdeenshire)**

Cultivation Trials

Plot based trials investigating the impacts of different cultivation techniques on barley production. Monitoring yield, disease pressure, soil structure and weed burden. GHG emission chambers to be overlaid to monitor actual emissions from each plot. **(Aberdeenshire)**

Regenerative Agriculture Trials

3 farms in Angus and The Black Isle. Trials include:

- Tillage
- Pollinator strips
- Carbon mapping
- Predictive modelling sensors
- Cover cropping

SCOTGRAIN AGRONOMY 2025

Scotgrain has a long history of agronomy services covering the east coast of Scotland. 2024 has seen us looking after spring barley, winter barley, winter wheat, oilseed rape, oats, peas, beans and potatoes from Inverness down to the Borders.

Partnered with Hutchinsons and ICM Gardiner for chemical provision means we have access to a multitude of crop protection and nutrition products, with depots from Alnwick up to the north of Scotland.



Whilst low nitrogen spring barley remains our primary focus, our business structure supports and promotes the identification and marketing of new and niche varieties. Whether this is a new high nitrogen Winter Barley or a new high extract Winter Wheat our data driven trials process allows us to provide an integrated approach to agronomy with variety specific programmes available for even the most niche varieties.

In order to support our agronomy services and ensure we are making informed decisions for our farmers, it is crucial that we understand our soils and the associated nutritional needs. With access to full lab analysis facilities for soil, leaf tissue and manure sampling analysis we are able to ensure our agronomy programmes are bespoke and tailored to the individual.



Understanding the health of our soils and the nutritional demands of different crops means we are focused on creating integrated crop management systems, partnering and supplementing traditional agronomy with biological and cultural controls.

SCOTGRAIN FERTILISER

Working closely in partnership with Yara, Origin, CF and Omex, Scotgrain offer competitive supply from an extensive range of:

- **Compounds**
- **Blended products**
- **Nitrogen / Nitrogen+ S / CAN**
- **Urea**
- **Straights**
- **Liquids**

Tailored to supply grower's needs and meet crop demands with a comprehensive soil sampling and analysis service to make informed choices whilst ensuring crop safety and following current protocols achieving good farming practice.

Through our relationships with suppliers, Scotgrain are able to offer a full advisory service across all fertiliser supply and arrange delivery of recommended products direct to the grower. Where soil analysis demands we are also able to provide supply of bespoke blends specific to the needs of each grower.

On farm soil sampling should be undertaken regularly for current soil status of major & minor elements. Our farm traders are able to offer a free soil analysis service to help a grower identify the nutritional needs for each field and crop.

Operating throughout the arable areas of Scotland, Scotgrain's FACTS qualified advisers are fully trained experienced individuals offering an extensive fertiliser portfolio and professional advice on all aspects of fertiliser and crop nutrition.



SPRING BARLEY



KWS Sassy – (Concerto x Publican)

A non GN producing spring malting barley which services the Scottish low nitrogen distilling market. Earlier to mature with moderate resistance to lodging, Sassy also performs well when it comes to skinning, consistently out-performing other varieties in the market. Through our early evaluation programme, Scotgrain helped identify this variety several years ago as being ideally suited to the Scottish growing environment.

Laureate - (Sanette x Concerto)

Fully approved for brewing and malt distilling, it currently holds over 50% of the UK spring malting barley market. A well-established variety in both the UK and Europe, Laureate has been a consistent performer across variable growing seasons, giving the grower confidence that it will perform on farm. Having a relatively stiff straw it has a high resistance to brackling & mildew, Laureate has been a mainstream variety of ours since 2016.

Maronis - (Diablo x Arellia)

On the candidate malting variety list in 2022. Maronis has been in trials with us over the last 3 years – a variety that we are watching closely. Similar maturity to Laureate with an even stronger disease resistance profile and ability to tiller. This variety has demonstrated high agronomic yields in the Northern region with a score of 105 in comparison with both Diablo and Laureate at 102.

SY Tennyson - (Splendor x Diablo)

Tennyson sits alongside Laureate on the recommended list in terms of agronomic yield and has performed consistently in this aspect over the last three seasons, showing a maturity similar to that of Laureate. Tennyson is now fully approved for malt distilling and brewing.

The breeder is positive about this variety continuing to grow over the next couple of years to occupy a significant portion of the market with distilling quality being a real strength of this variety.

Winston - HDP (Laureate x Origin)

Winston is a spring variety that reached the candidate status on the recommended list in 2021 and has been progressed in Ireland as a feed variety. It has demonstrated strong, consistent yields on farm and in trials similar to that of Laureate. Winston has been highlighted for its ability to fix nitrogen and to exhibit high levels of enzyme activity, particularly alpha amylase, making it a strong candidate as a High Diastatic Power variety.

WINTER BARLEY AUTUMN 2025

SY Vessel - Versatile end markets

SY Vessel is the only non-GN winter malting barley in the UK market. It is a variety that demonstrates potential for malt distilling and in particular grain distilling due to its high enzyme package it offers. SY Vessel has comparable yields to Craft with high specific weight.



LG Caravelle - Feed

LG Caravelle was the highest yielding 2-row winter barley on the AHDB Recommended List 24/25. The variety has very high yield potential across all regions of the UK along with high untreated yield.

Buccaneer - Malting Barley

Buccaneer is the highest yielding winter malting barley on the recommended list and has shown consistency across the UK. This variety has a strong agronomic package and early maturity making it a great option to spread pressure at harvest.

WINTER OATS AUTUMN 2025

No longer 'just' a low input break crop, the strong demand for this high profile healthy food means attractive returns for growers. Our partnership with Morning Foods provides a premium market place for the Scottish grower.

Dalguise

Dalguise is a high yielding (103% UK), consistent variety. Its yields and early maturity continue to make it a popular variety on farm.

Cromwell

Cromwell combines all of the attributes desired by the millers – high yields, excellent kernel content and specific weight, high hullability with the added benefit of short, exceptionally stiff straw.



WINTER WHEAT

Wheat variety choice is extremely important for the grower in Scotland. Changes in plant protection products and marketing considerations play a vital role in maximising your profit.

Scotgrain has close relationships with end users in the distilling, milling and feed sectors, and we can help you target the right market for your produce. Discussions before sowing are crucial for identifying potential premium markets that we can help you access.



WINTER WHEAT AVAILABILITY AUTUMN 2025

Bamford - Group 3 Soft

Bamford has consistently delivered high yields across the UK over the last couple of years showing particular strength in the northern region. This exceptional variety tops the list as a high-quality Group 3 that has produced quality soft flour. Suitable for both domestic milling and export, Bamford has some of the widest market options available.

KWS Solitaire - Group 3 Soft

New for drilling autumn 2025, Solitaire brings you one of the most complete agronomic packages available for the soft winter wheat market along side excellent grain quality. Solitaire has an excellent combination of early maturity and strong yield, 108% in the northern region. This is a high tillering variety with good straw offering versatility on farm due to its relatively wide sowing window.

KWS Flute - Group 3 Soft

KWS Flute is a true early sowing variety available for autumn 2025, which makes it a great option for growers in the northern region. Excellent option as a second wheat potential with high specific weight and an overall strong disease resistance package.

RGT Hexton - Group 4 Soft - BIPO registered

Hexton is the highest yielding variety on the RL this year with an incredible 111% over controls in the northern region, although based on early/limited data. Hexton is an early sowing variety that thrives particularly well on lighter soils however is slightly later to mature owing to its massive yield (+2). Early indications show that hexton is particularly well suited as a second wheat.

Zealum - Group 4 Soft

KWS Zealum is a high yielding, stiff strawed variety that is ideally suited to the north of the UK. Its stiff straw means it is ideally suited to heavier, more fertile soil and it combines this with an excellent disease resistance package. These characteristics make it a great, early sowing option.

OILSEED RAPE

Oilseed Rape is an excellent choice for growers looking for a non cereal break crop which not only benefits rotation but spreads the harvest window. In Scotland Clubroot is a persistent issue. Liming can mitigate the effects, but agronomic control requires the choice of a variety resistant to the different pathotypes. We offer a range of Clubroot varieties that will do the job as well as the newest, highest yielding hybrid varieties on the Recommended list.



HYBRID CLUBROOT VARIETIES

CROME - 95% Yield vs Control, high oil content combined with good stem stiffness and outstanding vigour. Strong resistance to lodging.

CRUSOE - 101% Yield vs Control. New variety with high seed yield and oil content. High resistance to stem canker and Lodging. TuYV resistant.

SCORPION - National listed variety with very robust disease package. Very vigorous autumn and spring growth. Pod Shatter and TuYV resistant



HYBRID VARIETIES

LG ADAPT- Highest yielding variety on the RL (108% North). Very high oil content and resistant to stem based diseases. Pod shatter and TuYV resistant.

AURELIA - Tried and trusted variety offering fantastic yield stability (102% North). Strong early vigour and growth habit offering a wide sowing window.

LG AVENGER - True northern performer (106% yield). Flea beetle resilient with exceptional autumn and spring vigour. Pod shatter, TuYV and sclero-flex resistant.

ATTICA - Consistent variety across all regions/conditions. Strong stem stiffness. TuYV and pod shatter resistant.

Get in touch with your local trader for Autumn 2025 prices

FARM SAVED SEED DRESSING

Farm saved seed represents a significant portion of cereal seeds planted in Scotland each year and is a strong option to growers offering benefits in cost and flexibility.

At Scotgrain we recognise the benefits farm saved seed offers, however, we also strongly recommend that farm saving should be integrated with certified seed to ensure maintenance of optimum genetics, purity and quality.

Our mobile seed dressing fleet covers the main arable areas in Scotland and are operated by skilled and experienced operators. The services we offer include:

- Single purpose dressing applied as standard using low dose Redigo Pro to ensure strong establishment & high yield potential.
- Nutritional seed treatment options, offering a blend of micro-nutrients to offset soil deficiencies. Our range of products will help speed of germination, root establishment and save costs on future foliar applications.
- Re-clean your seed with no chemical applications if you simply want to enhance the quality of your seed.

Contact your local farm trader for all seed dresser booking enquiries



FIND YOUR LOCAL FARM TRADER

Aberdeenshire

Scott Reid - 07436 272818

Lisa Ross - 07879 521106

Andrew Cheetham - 07879 519730

Angus

Gavin Walker - 07435 780295

Mark Cessford - 07970 765527

Inverness/Ross-shire

Kevin Robb - 07876 132432

Borders

Alan Davidson - 07896 309083

Morayshire

Nicola Anderson - 07425 632240

Stirlingshire/Fife

David Bowe - 07464 677908

Management Team

Owen Southwood (UK Procurement Director and SBM Scotgrain General Manager) - 07879 662884

Gary Catto (Head of Merchating) - 07435 784923

Mark Cessford (Fertiliser Manager) - 07970 765527

Gary Mills (Seed Manager) - 07711 493298

