An introduction to

SASA

SASA – part of the Scottish Government

- Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) is a Division of the Scottish Government Directorate for Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities (DAFRC). Its primary role is to provide scientific services and advice in support of Scotland's agriculture and wider environment.
- SASA occupies a world class laboratory, glasshouse and experimental farm facility on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Although much of its work is in support of arable agriculture it also provides services in food safety, wildlife management and crime whilst providing specialist advice to Scottish Ministers.
- It consists of a community of more than a hundred life scientists and analytical chemists, with its expertise in life science ranging from botany, plant pathology, zoology through to molecular biology.

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HEAD OF SASA
Kevin O'Donnell

HEAD OF SEEDS, VARIETIES & PESTICIDES BRANCHES
John Kerr

Variety Testing	OSTS	Seed Certification	Pesticides
Tom Christie	Valerie Cockerell	Mike Parker	Mike Taylor

HEAD OF POTATO & PLANT HEALTH BRANCHES
Gerry Saddler

Diagnostics, Wildlife & Molecular Biology	Potato	Virology & Zoology	Plant Biosecurity & Inspections
David Kenyon	Denise A'Hara	Jon Pickup	Jane Chard

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT SERVICES

Administration	Photography	Library	Farm	Horticulture	ITS	Quality Assurance	Scientific Services Support Unit
Janice Elvin Tracy Leslie	Sylvia Breslin	Jill Tivey	Robert Campbell	David MacIntyre	Caroline Longley	Craig Douglas	Alex Russell

Seeds, Varieties & Pesticides Branches

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Seeds, Varieties & Pesticides Branches

Variety Testing

- Is the UK centre for potato DUS testing, the co-ordinating centre for UK VCU trials and the Scottish site for VCU agronomic and disease susceptibility tests
- Tests new varieties, submitted for Plant Breeders Rights and addition to the UK National List, for Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS)
- Administers the Scottish Landrace Protection Scheme

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Seeds, Varieties & Pesticides Branches

The Official Seed Testing Station

- Undertakes or supervises all tests made for seed certification purposes
- Undertakes tests on the health of cereal seed produced in the UK
- Provides Government and the trade with advice and information on seed testing and seed quality

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Seeds, Varieties & Pesticides Branches

Seed Certification

- Administrates and provides technical support for the certification of cereal seed in Scotland
- Organises and supervises inspections of growing crops
- Examines control plots of certified cereal seed
- Responsible for the certification of seed of species other than cereals or potatoes
- Conducts trials to evaluate and select breeding lines of grasses and clovers

The GM Inspectorate for Scotland provides:

- Advice to Scottish Ministers
- Monitors seed imports at risk from containing adventitious GM seed
- Liaison with other Departments in the UK

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Seeds, Varieties & Pesticides Branches

Pesticides & Wildlife

- Identifies and measures pesticide residues in a range of sample types, in support of the Food and Environment Protection Act
- Organises the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme in Scotland
- Provides other sections of SASA, and other organisations and institutes in Scotland, with a comprehensive analytical service
- Monitors the use of pesticides in Scotland in accordance with legislation

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Potato & Plant Health Branches

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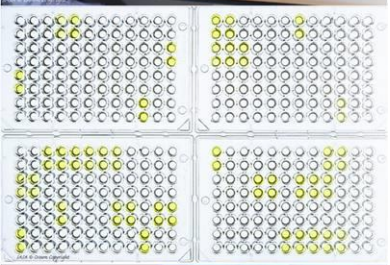
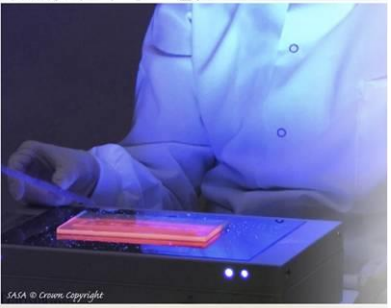
Potato & Plant Health





Diagnostics, Wildlife & Molecular Biology

- Develops PCR-based diagnostic methods for plant pathogens (and GM material)
- Develops DNA fingerprinting/sequencing methods for identification of plant varieties and in support of wildlife crime investigations
- Develops monoclonal antibodies for use in serological diagnostic methods such as ELISA
- Bacteriology – *Dickeya,* brown rot and ring rot surveys and SPCS support
- Provides Government and other interested bodies with advice on a range of topics where conflict arises between vertebrate wildlife, farming and conservation interests
- Participates in contingency planning for wildlife control in the event of rabies outbreak

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Potato & Plant Health

Potato

- Manages, administers and provides scientific support and advice for the Seed Potato Classification Scheme, in which Scotland takes the lead for the UK, and provides training in crop inspection
- Controls initial propagation material
- Potato Export Liaison

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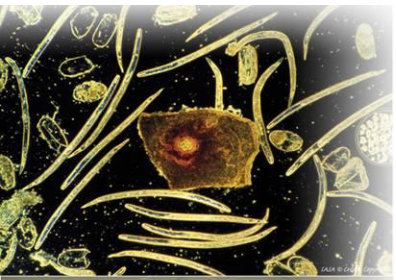
Potato & Plant Health



Virology and Zoology

- Provides a testing service for potato cyst nematodes and other nematodes damaging to crop plants
- Provides a testing service for potato viruses
- Monitors the build-up and movement of aphids
- Examines bees for diseases controlled by legislation
- Provides a diagnostic service for non-indigenous invertebrate pests

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Potato & Plant Health

Plant Biosecurity & Inspections

- Responsible for the protection of plants and crops in Scotland, through statutory and regulatory control of pests and diseases
- Provides comprehensive quarantine facilities for potatoes through the UK Potato Quarantine Unit
- Provides a pathological diagnostic service for non-indigenous pests
- Horticulture Inspectorate
- Marketing Regulations enforcement

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