The Institution of

Agricultural Engineers

Founded 1938 – Incorporated 1960

**Award of Merit 2017**

## Duncan Russell

## MIAgrE

Duncan left AEA on Tuesday the 20th December after 17 years with the Association. Known to everyone in the sector, Duncan has been one of the absolute pillars of the AEA, in particular synonymous with the National Sprayer Testing Scheme or NSTS as it is known.

Joining the AEA on 1st of February 1999 to run the AEA Sprayer Testing Scheme and organise Tillage and ScotGrass, Duncan has exponentially developed the Sprayer Testing scheme, taking sprayer testing under his stewardship from some 150 machines per year to now testing approximately 16,500.

NSTS has now become an integral part of UK agriculture.  As a requirement of the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) and of Crop Assurance (who demand an annual test), the NSTS stands as the independent and impartial body with the authority to assess and accredit national test centres and issue valid test certificates to machines. As part of the SUD, the NSTS hold responsibility to test all pesticide applications including slug pellet applicators.

Duncan's knowledge and practical implementation of testing requirements is very much supported and appreciated by machine owners, the sprayer industry and legislators alike, and the AEA fully recognise

the credence and validity Duncan has brought to the NSTS and its reputation. This is highly valued and appreciated alike by all at the AEA.  In 2015 Duncan was instrumental in launching the National Spreader Testing Scheme. Based on the realms of good practice and efficient resource management, it is expected that fertiliser spreading and the testing of spreader equipment will grow to become a fundamental part of farm management.

For the last two and a half years, Duncan has been working with Ian Forman at the AEA. Ian will now take over the management of both the National Sprayer Testing and Spreader Testing schemes working alongside Angie Mullins, also a key member of the NSTS and AEA team.

2016 year saw the 50th Tillage-Live event and Duncan's 27th event. Duncan’s responsibility within the AEA has been for Tillage-Live and Scotgrass and his organisational as well as his personal and working relationships with the land owners, exhibitors and contractors to the event will be very much missed. ScotGrass as well as Tillage-Live are both industry recognised events and continue to be an important part of the sector’s promotional calendar. Both events have benefitted from Duncan's dedication and sheer hard work.

Duncan has also been secretary to the Chemical Application Group, Education & Training Committee and also the Landbased Engineering Training & Education Committee (LE-TEC).