

Help us help them – supporter appeal (winter 2017/18)

Join our Supporter Scheme and make a big difference to people struggling to cope in Scottish agriculture. People like:

Michelle - a widow who has worked in agriculture since she was 16 years old and is now in her early forties. Michelle devoted her working life to agriculture and is now experiencing serious ill health.

An RSABI case officer visited as a matter of urgency as Michelle had no income and quickly established her entitlement to benefits for sickness and housing and also council tax reduction so her rent did not fall into arrears. Help was also provided to apply for a Personal Independence Payment. RSABI then organised a payment of £250 to be placed into Michelle's bank account to allow her to manage her food and essential costs until her benefits were paid. She now receives £244 per week and is delighted with the support that RSABI has provided.

Allan - Suffering from severe depression and working alone the illness took its toll on Allan and others around him. Over a number of years, he expressed thanks for the skill and dedication of trained and experienced RSABI helpline operators who played an invaluable part in Allan's attempt to get his life back and turn his thoughts away from taking his life.

Allan commented, "The opportunity to speak to someone on the helpline allowed me to talk about things that had gone wrong as I was taking it personally, thus affecting how I was feeling about life - the helpline provided some sort of closure, allowing me to move on".

David was working full-time on a farm when he suffered a stroke at the age of 26. Although he returned to work, he suffered with poor memory and concentration and eventually lost his job. He also lost his home as he lived in tied accommodation. David's condition was eventually diagnosed as a progressive neurological disorder and he has been advised he will never work again.

David contacted RSABI after being given information about RSABI at an agricultural show. Living in unfurnished accommodation, RSABI was able to help David purchase carpets and white goods. David became an annual beneficiary and the payments he receives enable him to keep his car on the road, which is his lifeline to get out and about.

David says "Don't be afraid to ask RSABI for help. Help is there if you look for it."

RSABI helps many hundreds of people like David, Michelle and Allan throughout Scotland, providing important emotional, practical and financial support. Some names are changed to preserve anonymity.