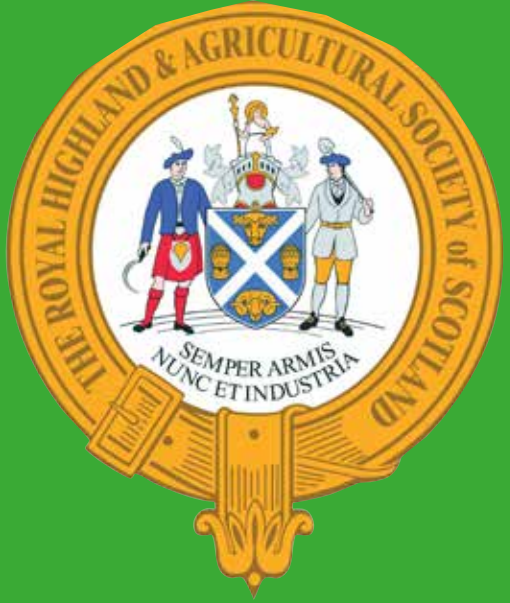




Peer recognition of excellence in Agriculture via CARAS

UK Council for Awards of Royal Agricultural Societies



RASE / RHASS / RUAS / RWAS sponsoring Royal Agricultural Societies



This poster summarises some impacts of the scheme for peer recognition of outstanding contributions to agricultural progress within the UK begun in 1970. The Council for Awards (CARAS) is sponsored by the four national Royal Agricultural Societies (RAS) of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. CARAS awards Associateships (ARAgS) and Fellowships (FRAGS), under a Constitution reframed in 1984, revised in 1990. Potential Associates are invited to apply by National Panels in the four nations, provide 2 sponsors, and then 2 Assessors are appointed to interview & prepare a joint Report is then considered by a Moderator's Panel of CARAS, which approves Associateships (ARAgS). Advancements to Fellowship (FRAGS) are conditional upon further outstanding contributions to UK agricultural progress based on citations to CARAS. The Paper reviews diverse benefits hypothesised for those thus recognised and some collective activities of members. It seeks to evaluate the impact of these awards in motivating excellence for UK agricultural progress and public benefit by analysis of responses from almost 600 recipients of the awards. An eventual 52% response to the survey was elicited.

What outcomes might follow public recognition of Agriculturalists by their peers?

- Consumers gaining quality assurance of the producer not just the product
- Recruitment of young and new entrants fostered
- Fellowship channel for existing leaders
- Solidarity of competence in varied aspects
- Credibility and coherence of experience and skills to approach policy-makers and public
- Boosted morale of those engaged in agriculture
- Being part of a voluntary scheme to shape the future rather than have it shaped for us

Entry Procedure of CARAS Scheme in UK

- Candidates invited to apply by the National Panel of the UK nation where they live
- Candidates must be sponsored by two Fellows (FRAGS)
- Applications are subject to approval of National Panels
- Two Assessors appointed by Council interview candidate
- Assessors prepare a joint Report of their interview
- Assessors' Report to Moderator's Panel of the Council
- Positive outcome results in Associateship (ARAgS)
- Certificates are presented at appropriate events of participating Royal Agricultural Societies
- Advancement to Fellowship (FRAGS) is not automatic
- FRAGS depends on further outstanding work after ARAgS

Presentations appreciated!



Rosie Carne, FRAGS: CARAS Chairman 2015-17 at The Farmers' Club, London



Field meetings and seminars valued



Collectively, members of the Fellowship across the UK act as independent custodians of the cause of agricultural and rural progress, bringing together those from diverse sectors - farming, research, government, commercial, communication - in all four nations of the UK. www.royalagriculturalsocieties.org

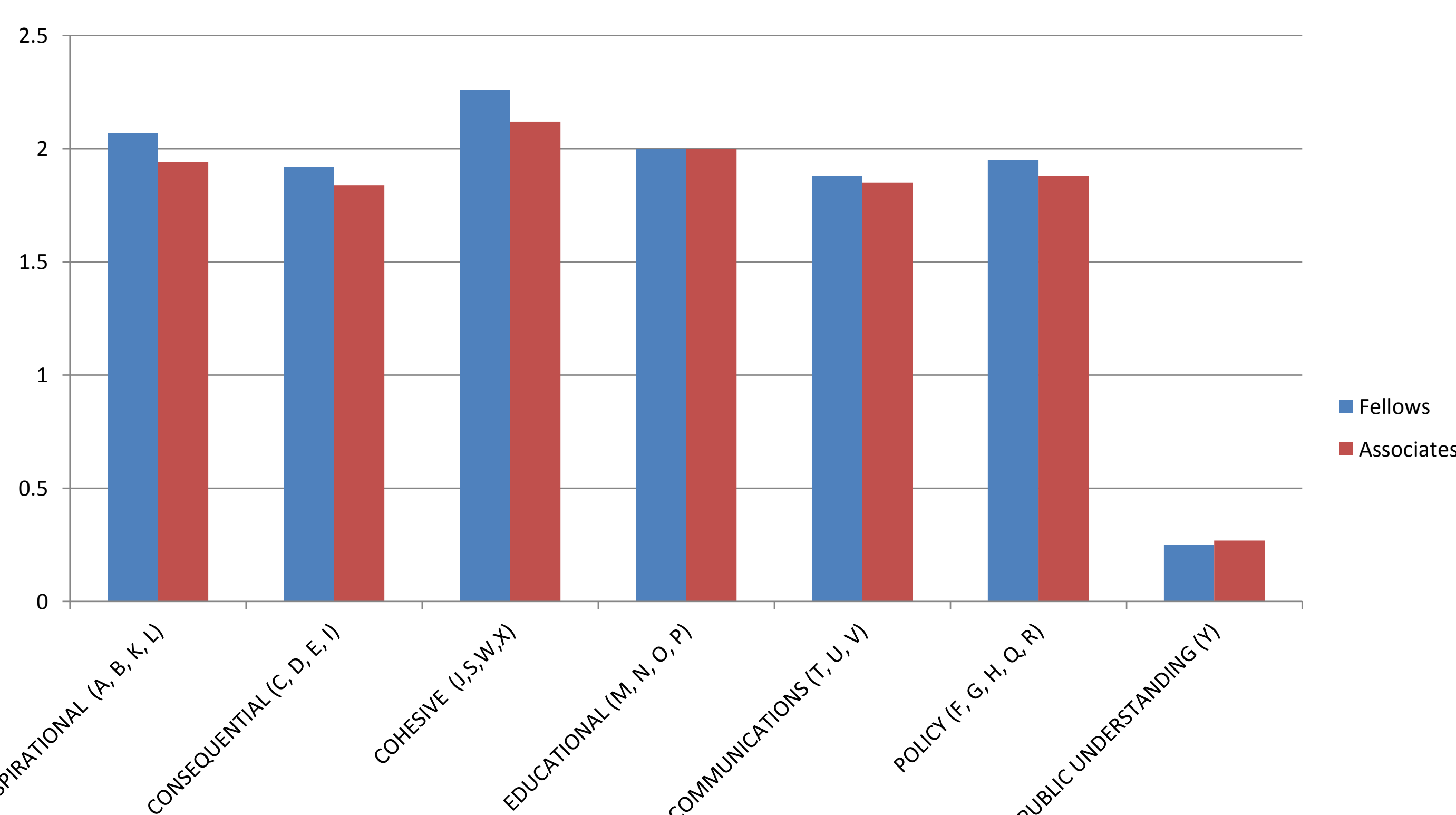
AV. PERCENTAGES Agree + Strongly Agree	n = 450	n = 143
* see Note below	Fellows	Associates
Topics on which your opinion is sought:		
A. Possible CARAS recognition inspired me	73.7	72.2
B. My CARAS recognition encourages me still	85.5	90.7
C. CARAS motivates me to collaborate with others	69.7	71.0
D. CARAS motivates me to promote Agriculture plus	79.5	79.5
E. CARAS scheme is for ultimate Public good	81.2	74.0
F. Advancing A to FRAGS needs far more extra output	56.7	40.5
G. CARAS must stick to its core Awarding role	71.5	66.0
H. It's good CARAS recognises Agric. Plus other rural	83.0	86.7
I. CARAS motivates better work standards	64.2	73.5
J. CARAS fellowship is enjoyable	94.5	87.0
K. CARAS involvement stimulates creative thinking	84.0	82.0
L. CARAS involvement stimulates positive action	77.0	79.2
M. CARAS widens my Agric./Rural understanding	82.7	81.5
N. CARAS exposes me to other Agric. opinions	89.7	88.7
O. CARAS sharpens my resolve to learn more	69.7	79.5
P. CARAS urges me to contribute more to life	65.7	76.0
Q. CARAS standards are kept with rigour	72.7	75.2
R. CARAS policy to invite applicants is right	86.5	81.7
S. CARAS members' varied Agric. links are good	93.7	88.7
T. CARAS website is a welcome development	82.2	77.2
U. I intend to use CARAS website	69.7	76.0
V. CARAS March & July mailings are enough	77.5	68.7
W. CARAS should celebrate its Jubilee in 2020	90.5	89.0
X. Members should attend their National Panel events	76.2	63.5
Y. CARAS scheme is well understood by outsiders	6.7	4.7
% Providing Website entry	83.2	85.2

Factor Categories from grouped responses

**Note: Associates = A; Fellows = F; and E, NI, S, W = England; N Ireland; Scotland; Wales.

FACTOR CATEGORIES (with Questions)**	EF	NIF	SF	WF	AV.F	EA	NIA	SA	WA	AV.A
Inspirational (A, B, K, L)	3.95	4.20	4.07	4.05	4.07	3.82	3.80	3.95	4.20	3.94
Consequential (C, D, E, I)	3.85	4.12	3.75	3.97	3.92	3.62	3.80	3.85	4.10	3.84
Cohesive (J, S, W, X)	4.12	4.48	4.20	4.25	4.26	4.02	4.05	4.12	4.30	4.12
Educational (M, N, O, P)	3.80	4.37	3.87	3.95	4.00	3.75	4.10	4.02	4.15	4.00
Communications (T, U, V)	3.93	3.80	3.83	3.97	3.88	3.93	3.43	4.03	4.03	3.85
Policy (F, G, H, Q, R)	3.90	4.08	3.82	4.02	3.95	3.86	3.90	3.84	3.94	3.88
Public Understanding (Y)	2.10	2.30	2.20	2.40	2.25	2.20	2.00	2.50	2.40	2.27

Relative Strength of Grouped Responses: Fellows (n= 450) & Associates (n =143)



Conclusions of Survey

- Concern to maximise 'reach' of the Fellowship
- Concern to help younger people in agriculture
- Desire to recognise excellence at younger age
- Concern to influence policy via experience
- Satisfaction with the scheme is high
- Desire to make it better known to outsiders
- Appreciation of the recognition is very high

A Case Study Paper of this work is in press as:-
Stansfield, J.M. & Wibberley, E.J. (2017) Peer Recognition of outstanding achievement towards UK Agricultural Progress.
International Journal of Agricultural Management Vol.6 (2)

