

Support for Crofting Agriculture What Next?

A One-day Conference organised by Skye & Lochalsh
Environment Forum, the National Trust for Scotland and the
Scottish Crofting Federation

Plockton Village Hall

9:00 am to 5:00 pm on 12th December 2011

The European Union recently launched a public consultation on their proposals for review of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which will come into effect in 2014. The CAP underpins all state financial support mechanisms for agriculture in the EC and has over the past ten years or so been embodied by Single Farm Payment, the Scottish Rural Development Programme and previously the Rural Stewardship Scheme. Crofting agriculture is agreed generally to be at best marginal, and typically uneconomic, but at the same time it sustains rural populations across a large part of Scotland and maintains nationally and internationally important landscapes, habitats and species. Recent support structures have been criticised as being unwieldy, overly bureaucratic and poorly targeted for application at the crofting scale. This conference aims to debate how best to effect change to ensure appropriate support measures are in place to protect and enhance crofting agriculture in the next CAP period.

Come along and have your say. It really does matter!



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Programme

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| 9:00 – 9:30 | Registration & Refreshments |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | Welcome (Iain Turnbull - NTS) |
| 9:45 – 10:05 | CAP Reform – the European Context (Rosi Waterhouse – Scottish Government, Head of the CAP Reform and Crop Policy Branch) |
| 10:05 – 10:25 | Scottish Government Thinking (Rob Gibson MSP – Convenor of the Scottish Parliament’s Rural Affairs, Climate Change & Environment Committee) |
| 10:25 – 10:45 | Effectiveness of Previous Agri-Environment Measures (Alan Boulton – Freelance Consultant) |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | Tea & Coffee Break |
| 11:15 – 11:35 | Alternative Methods of Support for Uneconomic Agricultural Systems Report (Andrew Barnes – SNH) |
| 11:35 – 11:55 | An Example of an Alternative Approach (NTS Traditional Croft Management Scheme - Iain Turnbull) |
| 11:55 – 12:30 | Crofters’ Experiences of Agri-Environment Measures (John Gillies/Alastair Nicolson) |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Buffet Lunch (Focus on Local Produce) |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | “Question Time” – Your chance to pose questions to the panel of speakers – Chaired by John Laing Chair of HC’s Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Tea & Coffee Break |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Summary of “Question Time” debate |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Final Questions & Next Steps |
| 16:30 | Close of Conference |

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Booking Form

Name:

Organisation/Area:

Email:

Phone:

“Question Time” Questions

If you have a burning question you would like to put to the panel during the “Question Time” session please add it below. We cannot guarantee to take all questions that might be submitted but will do our best to ensure that the most common themes are addressed. You will of course be free to ask questions from the floor during the conference. We suggest you keep a record of your question in case you need to refer to it on the day.

Question:

Send this form to:

Iain Turnbull at the National Trust for Scotland, Lochalsh House, Balmacara, Kyle of Lochalsh, Ross-shire, IV40 8DN or email it to Balmacara@nts.org.uk . Meanwhile, if you have any queries please contact Iain on 0844-493-2233.

Please note: numbers will be limited so please return your booking form as soon as possible to avoid being disappointed. The deadline for booking is 8th December 2011

Directions to Plockton Village Hall

By Road

Take the A87(T) to Kyle of Lochalsh, follow the signs for Plockton from the centre of the village. Follow this minor road until you reach Duirinish, at the T-Junction by the old bridge turn left over the bridge and follow the road into Plockton As you approach the shore in Plockton turn left along Harbour Street until you come to the junction with Cooper Street, the Hall is on the corner (see the map below). . Parking should be available on the street in the general vicinity of the hall, or you can use the main car park on your right at the start of Harbour Street and walk along to the hall or you can use the following Google Maps link:

http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?saddr=Stoney+Rd&daddr=Harbour+St&hl=en&ll=57.309002,-5.67976&spn=0.07102,0.15398&sl=57.33449,-5.651522&sspn=0.035485,0.07699&geocode=FS4KagMdQNaow%3BFRTlagMdpC2p_w&vpsrc=6&mra=prev&t=p&z=13

By Rail

Take the Inverness to Kyle train, getting off at Plockton Station. You will then have to walk down to the village and along Harbour Street to the hall, which is located at the junction of Harbour Street and Cooper Street (see the maps below).

