



## **‘CROFTING’**

A ten-session induction course designed for new entrants, recent assignees, aspirant crofters and anyone wishing to know more about crofting today.

This course was devised and first introduced by the Scottish Crofters Union (now renamed Scottish Crofting Federation) in 1999 when the Crofters Commission also endorsed it. The course has proved to be very popular and acclaimed by past students and tutors alike. It is organised and provided by the Scottish Crofting Federation and funded by government departments year on year. Course tutors are drawn from organisations having statutory and advisory responsibilities in crofting, environment or small business. There is no assumption of prior knowledge and participants will be led from the most basic level to a point that gives a broad, informed and up to date view of present day crofting. Each student will be provided with supporting handouts, brochures/leaflets and recommendations for further reading, help and advice. A certificate is awarded to students who successfully complete this course.

Every effort will be made to keep to the published programme and all sessions will be covered. However, last minute session changes may occur from time to time.

### **Acronyms used in Crofting Induction Course / Synopsis**

<b>CAP</b>	.....Common Agricultural Policy
<b>CC</b>	.....Crofting Commission
<b>CCAGS</b>	.....Crofting Counties Agricultural Grants (Scotland) Scheme
<b>CHGS</b>	.....Croft Housing Grants Scheme
<b>EID</b>	.....Electronic Identification
<b>EU</b>	.....European Union
<b>FCS / FA / FE</b>	..Forestry Commission Scotland / Forest Authority / Forest Enterprise
<b>FWPS</b>	.....Farm Woodland Premium Scheme
<b>HIVSS</b>	.....Highlands & Islands Veterinary Services Scheme
<b>IACS</b>	.....Integrated Administration and Control System
<b>LMO</b>	.....Land Management options
<b>LFASS</b>	.....Less Favoured Area Support Scheme
<b>P&amp;L</b>	.....Profit & Loss
<b>QMS</b>	.....Quality Meats Scotland
<b>RDC</b>	.....Rural Development Contracts
<b>SAC</b>	.....Scottish Agricultural College
<b>SAC</b>	.....Special Area of Conservation
<b>SCF</b>	.....Scottish Crofting Federation [2009] (formerly Foundation [2001] / formerly Union [1985]) / formerly ...
<b>SEPA</b>	.....Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
<b>SFGS</b>	.....Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme
<b>SFPS</b>	.....Single Farm Payment Scheme
<b>SGRPID</b>	.....Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate
<b>SRDP</b>	.....Scottish Rural Development Programme
<b>SSSI</b>	.....Special Site of Scientific Interest

## COURSE SYNOPSIS

**SESSION 1. Times past - times present.** How did crofting evolve? What is crofting? Where is it today? How to acquire a croft. An introduction to crofting law and regulations. The purpose and work of both Crofting Commission and HIE (strengthening communities). SGRPID and Forestry authority (FCS).

**SESSION 2. Support mechanisms.** Grants schemes – SRDP, CHGS; CCAGS; FWPS / SFGS, LFASS, etc; Mutual support including Machinery Rings, Machinery Groups, Training Groups, etc.

**SESSION 3. Land & environment.** From seashore to a high place – soils, wet, wind and weather. The benefits of shelter & drainage. Forage area - use of inbye/common grazings. The Grazings Committee, Clerk/Constable. Grazings Regulations, Duties of grazing shareholders. Waste management & SEPA. Use of artificial inputs. Going organic.

**SESSION 4. Crofting Livestock.** Entitlement to premia; Single Farm Payments (SFPS), Land Management Options (LMO's). Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). Livestock records – sales and movements records. Livestock identification (EID)

**SESSION 5. Wildlife, habitats & landscape.** Relevance of crofting to the protection of habitats and the natural environment. Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Natura 2000. Designations - SSSI's, SAC's, etc. Consequences of human activity. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Relationship of the environment to tourism and the wider economy of the Highlands & Islands.

**SESSION 6. Croft business - Finance & marketing.** Business Gateway, Highland Opportunities. Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE), Banks & Credit Unions. Alternative economy. Business plans; cash flow; P & L forecasting. Health & Safety. Practical Training. Diversification and some alternative / beneficial uses of land and resources.

**SESSION 7. Animal health & welfare.** Buying, selling and transporting of animals. H&I Veterinary Services Scheme (HIVSS). Breeding regimes of sheep & cattle. Common ailments in sheep, cattle and other crofting livestock. Notifiable diseases. Disease prevention and vaccinations. Whole Farm Health Plans. Livestock quality schemes (QMS, etc).

**SESSION 8. European dimension.** The affect of EU membership on crofting agriculture. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The outlook for similar small producers / farmers throughout EU member states.

**SESSION 9. Community.** What is a community? Individual responsibility and your place within that community. Township / Grazings committees. Community Council. Empowerment and capacity building and how communities can achieve goals. Community buy-outs of land - Why? When? How?

**SESSION 10. And finally...** Presentation of course certificates. The format for this session is largely left to the discretion of the Local Course Director and can be tailored to meet the needs of course participants. This will be followed by an informal get together in a social setting with an opportunity to meet some of your session tutors and other experienced local crofters. Finally, an evaluation of the course.

**Scottish Crofting Federation**  
**[www.crofting.org](http://www.crofting.org)**