



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **ANIMAL WELFARE INCREASINGLY URGENT AS COLD WEATHER BITES**

The SCF today commended the urgent efforts being made by the Scottish Government to address the welfare situation of lambs stranded on hills where there is little or no grazing left.

SCF Chairman Norman Leask said, “Proposals are now on the table for a government-backed scheme to take our light lambs, which would normally be exported for the European market. This is urgently needed. In many crofting areas the summer has been fairly non-existent and the growing season even shorter than usual, so grass is running really short. Animal welfare has to be our first consideration.

It is clear that the pressing need is to take these animals off the higher ground. In line with members wishes, we are also advising the Scottish Government that there is a strong desire for this meat, normally destined for consumption on European tables, to be put to good use in this country or frozen until markets can be re-opened.

In ongoing discussions with government, we are also raising the issue of cash-flow shortages. Even in areas where there is still grass, the implications of keeping on livestock that would normally be sold by now means higher feeding bills throughout the winter. Along with many other organisations, we believe it is important to consider making a payment to boost cash-flow to people whose income stream is currently on hold and to provide some much-needed confidence to the market.”

END

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