



## NEWS RELEASE

Use: **Immediate**

Date: **2/10/07**

### CONSULTATION ON EXTENSION OF CROFTING COUNTIES WELCOMED

The Scottish Crofting Foundation today welcomed the decision to consult on the possible extension of the Crofting Counties. The proposed consultation, announced by Crofting Minister Michael Russell, will invite views on whether parts of the HIE are currently outside the crofting counties should be included.

SCF Director Donald Linton said “There has been a lot of interest in some areas, particularly Arran, about what crofting tenure might mean for smallholders and farmers. Lots of effort has gone into getting this debate going - people in Arran have been discussing this for at least 2 years. Government encouragement to consider all the issues can only be good news.”

Throughout the whole process of the Crofting Reform Bill, the SCF has advocated extension of the benefits of crofting tenure to other areas where this is what the community desires.

END

<b>Contact:</b> Donald Linton, SCF Director	Tel 01631 564719
Neil MacLeod, SCF Vice- Chairman	Tel 01851 702673 / 07765 251953
Donald Murdie, Land Use Projects Manager	Tel 01851 612 484 / 07921 059396

#### Notes to editors

Picture can be found at: [http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/index.php/contact\\_headoffice](http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/index.php/contact_headoffice)