



NEWS RELEASE

Use: Immediate

Date: 15/07/09

CROFTERS WELCOME SHEEP TAGGING CONCESSIONS

The Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF), the only member-led organisation dedicated to promoting crofting, has welcomed the concessions gained by the Scottish Government in Europe over the 'unworkable' sheep identification rules.

SCF Chairman Neil MacLeod said "We have fought hard and long to have these ridiculous proposals to tag sheep with electronic tags and the individual tagging of sheep relaxed. They were never going to work and would put many producers out of business over-night. This concession will go some way to making this bitter pill easier to swallow."

Electronic tagging and individual identification of sheep rules are due to come into force at the beginning of 2010 by order of the European commission and have been bitterly opposed by the Scottish sheep industry. Some Scottish proposals to reduce the burden have been agreed in Europe. This will mean animals' electronic tags are scanned at markets or abattoirs rather than on farms and crofts so farmers and crofters will not have to buy their own tag readers.

Mr MacLeod again "At last there is some common sense but there is still a long way to go to make these rules work properly, especially for the small producer."

END

Contact: Neil MacLeod, Chairman	01851 702673 / 07785942222
Norman Leask, Parliamentary Spokesman	01595 693714 / 07957 936831
Patrick Krause, Chief Executive	01599 566 387 / 07739 941199

Notes to editors

- The Scottish Crofting Foundation is the largest association of small-scale food producers in the UK.
- Pictures can be found at: <http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/index.php/home>