



## NEWS RELEASE

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### SURVEY SHOWS VALUE PLACED ON CROFTING SYSTEM

A survey published today by the Crofting Inquiry highlights the importance attached to the crofting system by all people living in crofting communities.

SCF Chairman Norman Leask said, “This survey of attitudes towards crofting is one of the most comprehensive undertaken, I believe, in decades. It is fascinating for many reasons, but principally because it shows the level of support for the crofting system and the crofting way of life, both by crofters and non-crofting neighbours. Concerns are very evident that crofting food production is not getting the return needed, the system is becoming eroded by market pressures and therefore access to crofts is too difficult for young people. I think it is incredible that under these pressures the large majority of crofters are still not willing to sell-out, thank goodness.

“As we have been saying all along through the Crofting Bill debate, there is an appetite for better regulation of the crofting system, although, as the survey shows, emphasis differs slightly between the Northern isles, the west coast and the Western isles, as expected.

Leask continued, The role of crofters in looking after the land and the environment rates highly for crofters and others in crofting communities and it is appreciated that crofters should be paid for this. There is a saying that ‘crofters are the original environmentalists’ and this survey reflects this. On this issue, as in almost all others, there is little difference in view between crofters and non-crofters surveyed.

Leask concluded, “It is excellent to have such a thorough survey back up what those of us in the crofting community have been saying for a long time now and we hope that the Shucksmith committee will use this information wisely.”

END

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